

Gordon Parks addresses conference

by Dreena Birdsall

Before addressing a standing room only luncheon at Howard University's 15th annual Communications Conference, Gordon Parks, award-winning photographer, author and film-maker, mingled in a crowded anteroom, sipping wine from a plastic cup and exchanging quips with his colleagues—the visage of an aging cavalier amid the pomp and prep.

Kansas-born Parks, most known for his photography in Life magazine, and critically acclaimed book and film, The Learning Tree, told the crowd that when he came to Washington to work for Farm Security Administration in 1942, it was "discriminatory hell." He said motivation was the key factor in his success, even though he did not finish high school or college.

Parks recounted several of his experiences in the early days of his career. He said when he left photos with Harper's Bazaar magazine, the interviewer said, "Mr. Parks, this is a Hearst organization, and they do not hire Negroes." Parks said, "Fine, give me my pictures," and he left and went to Vogue magazine where they reluctantly hired him.

Parks recalled another incident in which a writer said that Parks was quoted in a Paris newspaper as saying his accomplishments were achieved because "I forgot that I was black." Parks retaliated with "You don't walk around saying you're a white writer, why should I say I'm a black artist? If I called up the Hearst organization and said, 'I'm a black photogra-

pher," they might say, 'Fine, why don't you come around in February, we can use you in Black History Month.'" Parks said, "You don't wear your blackness on our shoulders."

He attributed his newly discovered creativity in the 1960's to his living in Paris, an area relatively free of racial prejudice. He said he found himself composing prose and poetry, something he had never done before.

Parks stressed the importance of "universality." He told the attentive audience to not confine their accumulation of knowledge to the black culture, but learn as much as possible about other aspects of the world in which we live.

Upon his return to America in the turbulent 60's, a confident Parks was approached to cover a

story on Black Muslims. He was asked if he could do a story with a white reporter, and he said, "No." He was then asked if he could do it with a black reporter, and he said, "I don't know." He ultimately convinced them to let him write and photograph the story, and his exposé of events surrounding Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver, and the Black Muslims have become history.

Parks told the SRO crowd he would like to have 10 of the brightest and most intelligent young blacks for a year, and teach them everything he has learned.

One cannot help but believe that the 73 year-old salty, tenacious Parks, with his face lined with tempered character, could do just that.

Mayor Gantt provides positive steps

by Dwight D. Sharpless

Founders' Day guest speaker Harvey B. Gantt believes that ECSU must strengthen the educational system to insure the success of tomorrow's leaders. Gantt told the audience that he was always intimidated by the academic community since it gives him a strange sense of power.

"Faculty and staff members are the people that shape the thoughts and minds of students, our future leaders," said Gantt.

He listed several concerns he has for the future. Gantt wants to increase the number of black teachers and administrators, but this cannot start until one realizes how many black children leave school at a fifth grade reading level.

"We must be assured that the student comes out with the best training the school can possibly offer," Gantt said. "There is a lot of work to be done and a lot of miles to go, but I have no doubt that ECSU will succeed."

He believes ECSU faces many of the problems the black community also faces, but had many positive thoughts and suggestions to offer:

"Try harder to achieve excellence and enlist the support of the people in this region. Do not falter in your efforts to speak up and support ECSU....do whatever it takes with courage, dignity and perseverance," said Gantt.

He urged high standards for

"everyone who has something to do with ECSU from the janitor to the chancellor."

Gantt is a long time friend of the institution. His architectural firm has designed several buildings for the ECSU campus. He presented Chancellor Jimmy R. Jenkins with a \$7,500 check for the Chancellor's Advancement Scholarship Fund, to help realize many of the goals he set forth in his speech.

Your Horoscope

by Edith Taylor

Aries: March 21 - April 19
A new year has begun and things will start looking up financially and romantically. But, keep a low profile when things seem to get above your head.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20
Your charms will open many doors for you. Be careful not to involve your friends in any problems which you should handle yourself.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Money is the key to your success. Don't take any friendly advice, but handle any problems yourself.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21
Take hold of your emotions, because an old love may turn up. Don't worry, just let your mind be your guide. No serious misunderstandings will arise.

Leo: July 23 - August 22
A nice trip will be good for you at this point when things may be a little hectic. Enjoy life instead of letting things get the best of you.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 23
Be co-operative with everyone you can. You may run into some frustrations but you can handle them.

Libra: Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Encourage a climate of closeness with your mate. Avoid quarrels over any financial situations and curb your spending habits.

Scorpio: Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Romance will blossom this time at its highest peak. Enjoy it and make it last. You won't regret it.

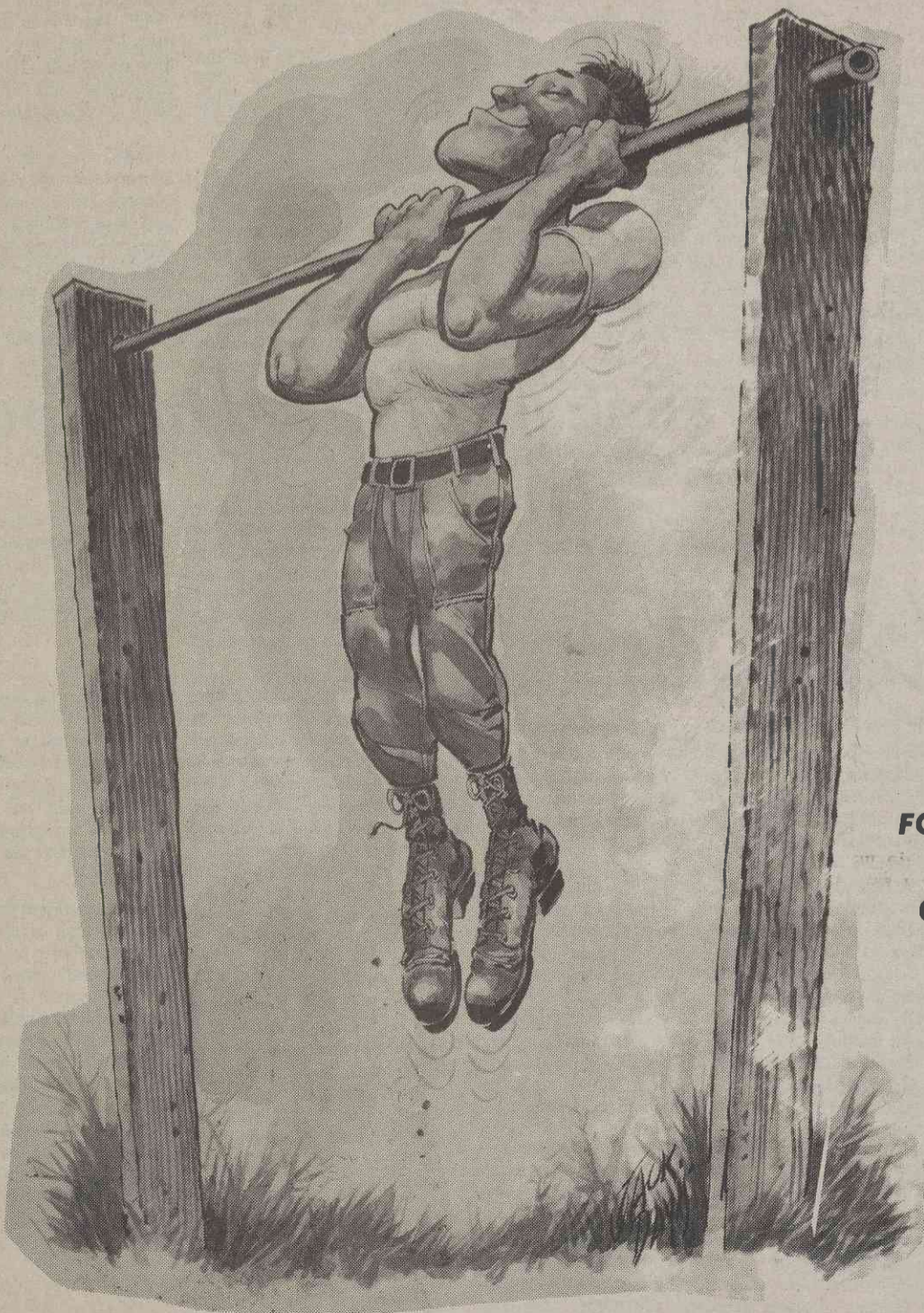
Sagittarius: Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Family problems may arise but you will work them out if you take the time to do so. You may have to stretch your energy to meet demands.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Romantic encounters are especially meaningful at this point in your life. Avoid arguments. If loved ones let you down, try to handle it yourself.

Aquarius: Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Relatives or neighbors help you make important decisions. Don't let domestic arguments interfere with pleasures at home.

Pisces: February 20 - March 20
Be more confident and enthusiastic about yourself. Spend any extra money you may encounter on yourself. Splurge!

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