

Negro History Week — Its Challenge

Negro History Week is sponsored each year by the National Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. It is fitting and proper at this particular time that we pay tribute to those who came before us and have brought us this far in helping to build up civilization. During this celebration we should be in meditation and concentration for the men and women of our race who have achieved and progressed in the world.

We colored Americans, as one of the great divisions of the human family, have as proud an ancestry and as high a civilization as any race. We are proving ourselves as progressive and, with the addition of modern culture, civilization and progress, are building our race to a high point of excellence.

We have bridged the ages, so to speak, and are showing ourselves to be saturated with the spirit of a civilizing evangelization. We are demonstrating every day that we are moving with other great divisions of the human race, toward that high goal of unity that is the evident purpose of God in creating man.

We colored Americans are beginning to realize our destinies and are seizing the opportunities that present themselves for our benefit as well as for the benefit of all men.

As Negroes we should be thankful for our heritage, for the traditions of our people, for a culture which presents such a hopeful contrast to the artificial and material elements now dominant in our modern civilization.

Above all we should be grateful for that inherent spiritual strength, fashioned in the crucible of persecution and suffering—a strength moreover, which must someday succeed in breaking down the walls, the unethical, the unchristian barriers of intolerance which have opposed the normal development of a great people prepared and willing to make an important contribution to the future of America. Thus, the challenge of Negro History Week strives to stress the importance of Negro achievements in the world today. As a means to this, we should take advantage of all possible opportunities for education so as to become trained as leaders in every field of human activity, politics, law, government, and labor. To this we as Negroes must dedicate our knowledge, experience and leadership. Those achievements of the past are not forgotten, but it is for us of the present generation to look forward to making our contributions which our next generation and the generations to come shall enjoy.

Another Chapter In Our College History

The eminent James E. Shepard once said "The college must train its own leaders." This saying became a reality when the trustee board elected Dr. Alfonso Elder to succeed the late Dr. James E. Shepard founder and former president of our institution.

It was not an easy task to secure a person "as nearly like Dr. Shepard." From their choice it seems that the trustees had realized that the person chosen should be one who possessed strong character, a good educational background, and one who could promote racial understanding as well as head the institution. All of these characteristics can be summed up as characteristics possessed by a person who has the possibilities of succeeding in every field of activity connected with the expansion and progress of our institution. Such a man as Dr. Alfonso Elder is worthy of the position.

We shall not say how long ago it was that our new president was born, for years do not matter. What matter is the smile that banished tears, the words that guided many, and the character molded itself into an example of noble and courageous manhood. We know that very often a silent partner can be of untold value to a person. A good fellower can make a good leader. All of these can be said of Dr. Elder. For a span of twenty years he was a good follower of his predecessor.

The selection of Dr. Alfonso Elder as president of our institution begins another chapter in the great books which could be easily called Our College History. This great book represents our institution at large, "NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE AT DURHAM." Its first author was its founder Dr. James E. Shepard, and now upon another author rests the responsibility of carrying on its authorship. What will be recorded in this book depends upon the contributions you and I are making toward the progress and expansion of this institution. May the new author carry on, and may we as students and faculty of this great institution awaken to our respective tasks so that our institution will become one of the greatest in the country. And may we strive to do our best, and may "peace be within our portals, for Shepard, our founder is immortal!"

Shrouds Of Shakespeare

I ask Thee not O Lord for fame
For wealth or power;
Nor that the world may know my name
For one great hour.
But give me love within my soul
For those I meet;
And confidence in Thee will make
My life complete.
That I may do with all my heart
Each daily task
And faithfully may fill my place
Is all I ask.

MEDITATIONS

'Tis a dreary day at N. C. C.
A dreariness that's in my mind
I see I'm slightly forgetting
The goals to which I climb.
I sit staring out the window
On a scene that's misty and gray
Raindrops falling slowly
Taking my happiness away.
Words are like apples, some are sweet
Some are sour and some are so bitter
That the taste never depart.

—W. HERMENIA FITTS

The Quizzer..

By LOUISE JACKSON

Ye Old Quizzer's Question is "What was your reaction to the appointment of Dr. Elder as president? Dr. Elder is well liked by the students because he is friendly and seems genuinely interested in our development. This month's question aroused a fervor of interest and enthusiasm, but we can only give you several of numerous commentaries from various students.

Roy McLeod, Freshman, Montclair, New Jersey, says "I was very favorably impressed when I heard of the appointment of Dr. Elder as president of North Carolina College. I think he is well-suited for the position, well-liked by the students, and he fits naturally into North Carolina College's trend toward growth and development.

Miss Kathryn Whitaker, Junior, Whitaker, N. C. says: "When I heard of President Elder's appointment, I was full of anticipation wondering just what he would be like. So far I can say that he is real 'great'."

"I was immediately thrilled and happy when I learned of Dr. Elder's appointment because I heard that he was a capable person for the position, and I visualized the continued growth of North Carolina College under such capable guidance as his," says Miss Evelyn Ramseur, sophomore, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

William Simms, Freshman, Waterbury, Conn. says, "When I heard that Dr. Elder was appointed president of North Carolina College, I was quite happy. Because since hearing him speak during Freshman Orientation Week, I had decided he would be very liberal. Now I am doubly sure of it because of the few changes he has made since he became president."

E. Preston Mitchell, Senior, Philadelphia, Pa. says: "My reaction to appointment of Dr. Elder as president was one of hope. Realizing that Dr. Elder is well qualified to serve in the office, and understanding that his association with North Carolina College has given him insight into the problems here, I feel that he can and will lead North Carolina College to a higher educational status."

B. F. Creech, Junior, Durham, N. C. says: "I was extremely delighted that Dr. Elder was appointed president. He is a man of great integrity and who is sincerely interested in educating students. I think he is very capable for the office."

"IT'S THE FINEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT BETTER."



TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS:

1. THE RIGHT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON
2. THE RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP AND ITS PRIVILEGES
3. THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND EXPRESSION
4. THE RIGHT OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

National Labor Service

"Labor approves the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights."

Zenith Of Stupidity

The student body of North Carolina College showed in a chapel program, Monday, February 16, that they were not ready for complete democracy. The Student Council, a group chosen by the students whose job supposedly is the governing of student activities appeared to have been voted out of existence. The students did not seem to grasp the latent power the Student Council possessed or that it could come forth while all its magnificent glory if given half a chance.

The students voted to place the task of "rethinking the philosophy of North Carolina College" in the hands of an incompetent and a non-representative group of autocratic heads of student monopolies.

Little do they realize that unless there is a strong student governing body, complete freedom of expression is impossible. To vote against the right of the Student Council to outline a liberal plan of administration is synonymous to vote against the right of Congress to govern the United States.

Fellow students, can't we realize that we have let the greatest opportunity yet afforded us slip through our hands; can't we realize that there is no salvation now; we realize that the only organ strong enough to voice the opinions of an intelligent student body is dead. We have ceased to go forward, we have begun an ill-fated period of retrogression.

Let's look at this thing together so that you can see my logic for I sincerely believe that those students who voted for the presidents of the various organizations voted not so much for them as they did against the Student Council.

A person who is not affiliated with any organization has no chance now of voicing his opinion. We all know that most clubs and organizations are composed of the same "cliques." What chance will the "little man" have now. Whom are they accountable to other than the few who make up their respective clubs.

If this is a showing of the intelligence of an educated race I want no part of it; if this is a policy of the Negro of taking out of command a group just when it is beginning to realize satisfaction for its many months of labor, I'm afraid to think of the depths to which we might descend.

Student wake up, this is no time for retrogressing, your recent act is a travesty upon Democratic thinking. — P. B. G.

Lack Of Philosophy

Here at North Carolina College one of the most capable faculty staffs of any Negro college in the nation is assembled. Some of the most capable graduates are being produced by virtue of such faculty. Graduates who have the necessary knowledge and equipment to enable them to master the fundamentals of their specific fields of endeavor are being molded yearly. However, the faculty fails to instill in the students that vital something that will enable them to cope with the problems of a complex, turbulent world. This vital something is a philosophy.

The lack of a definite philosophy here on the part of the faculty has an adverse effect upon the students. As the situation is the student gets varied philosophies, from different instructors and this is wholly confusing. To confuse a student is to destroy partially his faith in the faculty as a whole, and to hamper his ability to think and reason logically.

Consequently, the student wanders around lost and confused, figuratively speaking, wondering which is the right principle to accept in approaching all problems. There must be a concerted effort on the part of the faculty to instill in the student the need

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THE CAMPUS ECHO

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