

TO BE A NEGRO IN A DAY LIKE THIS

J. Warren Whitten.

(Dedicated to Negro History Week)

There are problems which the race must face, but the greater number of these problems are caused by the lack of confidence in ourselves and our fellowmen.

To be Negroes in a day like this, we must have a backbone, a backbone to demand our rights, a backbone that will force us not to be slackers, but will cause us to be up and doing. To be a Negro in a day like this, it demands confidence in one's self enough confidence to feel that we can attain the uttermost height. We must remember that the foot of the ladder is the place that is crowded, but at the top there is plenty of room.

To be Negroes in a day like this, we must learn to encourage our people in whatever step they take for the advancement of the race; let us not be crab-like, but always be willing to grant him aid who desires it. If one is aspiring for a high position, let us give him our co-operation. We have had men in the city councils and also in the Senate. Why have we no men in these positions now? The reason is, because we have no backbone to support them; our confidence in ourselves and our fellowman is failing. But to be a Negro in a day like this one must have an un-failing confidence in ourselves and our fellowmen, or else he will never be able to come into his own. To be a Negro in a day like this, one must learn to acquire—acquire those things which cause a man to be recognized in the world.

To be a Negro in a day like this, one is compelled to have courage—courage to ask for what we want; courage to stand our ground and not stand back and be too ready to give way to the other fellow. We cannot afford to be procrastinators, because time and tide wait on no one.

To be a Negro in a day like this, we are to expect blow after blow, but instead of dodging we must strike back, and never give up the goal. We must expect disappointments, oppressions and discouragements, but yet let us strive to win the race.

To be a Negro in a day like this, we must live to help the man who tries to keep us down; greet him with a smile who greets us with a frown, and be too big to view the things that others do to us. We should not be contented to sit and wait for opportunities to present themselves to us, but we should go out into the world and make opportunities, and if the door of opportunity fails to open to our polite knocks, let us kick it open and grasp everything there is in life to make the best of it.

We are living in an age which forces us to pave our own way or else the same shall not be paved. We must not go through life feeling ourselves inferior to any race; but let us endeavor to attain success and surprise others, thereby stimulating ambition for generations to come. As a man thinketh so is he; therefore let us think that we can succeed and we will succeed. Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them. There are very few of us who are born great, and fewer still who have greatness thrust upon us; so unless we achieve greatness we will not be great. Frederick Douglass, one of the world's great liberators, had his oppressions and discouragements, but he made his way; likewise did Paul Laurence Dunbar, Roland Hayes, Nathaniel Dett, Booker T. Washington and other great men of our race. Lives of great men all remind us, how far from great we are."

To be a Negro in a day like this, we must do less talking and more actual work. We cannot make ourselves satisfied with simply getting by, but we need to continue

to prepare ourselves to face the world and the many problems which are confronting us each and every day. We must come up to the standard or else we will not be able to stand the test which the world requires.

To be a Negro in a day like this means the patronizing of our own enterprises; we must learn to confide in our people, and feel that they can give us the same service that any other people can, and in that service there is quality and quantity.

To be a Negro in a day like this, last but not least, we cannot afford to forget our God; we must not forget that without his help we can never attain the desired heights. Trusting and having confidence in God, we can say, as has been said by the Great Liberator, "I have seen dark hours in my life; I have seen the darkness gradually disappearing and the light gradually increasing. One by one I have seen obstacles removed, errors corrected, prejudices softened, proscriptions relinquished and my people advancing in all the elements that make up the sum of general welfare. I remember that God reigns in eternity, and that whatever delays, disappointments and discouragements may come, but truth, justice and humanity must prevail.

ALTRUISTIC SOPHOMORES

"Fats" Whitehead.

The 'Sophs' have recently undergone a mental strain, striking at the balls and strikes, pitched by "Prof." like "G. G. M." and "Ole Identity." The game started Monday, January 23rd, and the last inning was over the 27th when the class fell a victim to the pitching of a certain French "Prof." All of us were found out—no man got on first. We knew this "Prof." as a teacher; but his pitching showed that he was an athlete also. The game is over, the diamond is clear again, and we are able to say, "Audentis Fortuna Juvat."

This semester finds us with a heavy program on our slate, and we are putting forth strenuous efforts to that end. The class is working in corroboration with the University Annual Project, and it cannot be doubted that the "Soph" section will be the hottest in the book. Here, allow us to extend our appreciation to Professor Brown, Founder and Legal Adviser of the Project.

Hitherto we have been proud of our class, even in "dog days" for its loyalty, sincerity, ideals and congeniality; but now that "Idawise" Vick, "Crump Watkins" Dunmore and "Zickie" Dusenbury are taking philosophy, we have an inferiority complex in comparison with these good chaps. Nevertheless, we are sure that the Socratic Doctrines, syllogisms, inductions and premises will tend to give them the idea that they are to wear a cap and a gown in June. The advice of the class is, "don't mistake '28 for '30, but stay in there and fight—you will win—why not?"

Charlotte is fortunate in being able to offer the theatre goers such productions as "Rose Marie," and "Zeigfield's Follies." If more "Ziegs" and "Rose Maries" come "Naps," "Red," "Klem" and "Jack" will be dropped from the University for the lack of text books. It's a shame to let book money go this way, boys!

We regret to announce that "Pap" Williams did not get a chance to wear his 'frat' pin long enough to become acquainted with its looks, before allowing it to decorate the breast of a "fair damsel."

"Pap," it is hard to support two. We hate for you to leave us; but in parting we say, "Luck to you and your lady fair."

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