

A Tragedy of Errors at A and T College

Was there cause for rejoicing or weeping when the board of trustees at A&T College renamed Dr. Warmoth T. Gibbs as president of North Carolina's largest Negro educational institution for another year at its recent meeting? This is the question that must and will be answered in the ensuing months that is certain to see an explosion if the ground-swellings now existing at A&T College continues.

In a speech to the Greensboro Rotary Club recently, Dr. James Daniely, President of Elon College pointed out that a University of Michigan study indicates that the best ways to attract good faculty members are: (1) allow faculty members time for research and writing; (2) give them higher pay, and (3) offer opportunities for promotion.

In a day when emphasis is on excellence in teaching, there could be no other course of action, whether in a private school, or in a state-supported institution. It is our belief that most institutions of higher learning in North Carolina are striving to achieve this ideal. Evidence and reliable information, however, reveal the fact that this is not the case at one of our more prominent institutions of higher learning—A&T College in Greensboro. Although none of the above factors are in evidence at A&T College, our attention here is to be focused on items 2 and 3 above.

A&T College is one of the North Carolina institutions which has not yet been approved by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. One of the reasons for non-accreditation has been the sub-standard salary paid to faculty members, especially professors. To this end a concerted effort was made in the spring to induce the legislature to make the necessary appropriations. Indications are that this was done, for, in the words of Rep. George R. Uzzell of Rowan County, "Schools of higher education received adequate appropriations to enable them to retain competent professors and to meet the requirements necessary to be accredited schools."

And now The Tragedy of Errors.

A&T College is today, without doubt, a big operation, at least to the tune of \$20,000,000. Certainly an operation much too large for one man to administer. Yet, for all practical

purposes, this is the condition. The amounts of salary offered to the faculty at A&T College are based primarily on the decision of the President alone, without the proper consultation and advice from his Deans and department heads.

Secondly, the A&T College Board of Trustees has established a salary schedule as follows: Professors: \$7,554.00 - \$10,500; Associate Professors: \$6,226.00 - \$7,500.00; Assistant Professors: \$5,155 - \$6,500, and Instructors: \$4,280 - \$5,500.00. Yet the President has the audacity to offer contracts which disregard this schedule altogether.

Thirdly, in the distribution of money for salaries, the President apparently has failed to take into consideration such things as length of service, time in grade, professional training, and professional ratings, with more weight apparently being given to across-the-board increases.

Fourthly, the President also appears to have failed to act with dignity, integrity and statesmanship in the matter, treating it as a highly secret and confidential matter, and refusing to take the faculty into his confidence.

Fifthly, there is apparently no objective basis on which the present amounts have been offered, since there appears to be all sorts of unfair discrepancies with the various ranks, particularly in the full professional ranks.

Now, when all these things are considered one gets a picture of higher educational administration that is, to say the least, poor, at a time when the most competent leadership available is needed. And in an institution such as A&T College, where the enrollment ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 there is certainly no room for an incapable administrative head.

It is a peculiar kind of logic which reasons that by over-rewarding incompetents, misfits, and instructors of lesser status, training and experience, an educational institution is going to achieve accreditation.

It is high time that A&T College took her rightful place among the higher educational institutions in North Carolina. This can be expected when, and only when, the powers that be recognize the fact that competent leadership comes first.

A Possible New Avenue of Employment

We have noted with a degree of interest the recent article appearing in the Durham Morning Herald by Suzanne Jones, relative to the shortage of secretaries and clerical workers in Durham. Whether the writer was referring only to the shortage that exists within the white race or not, we feel that there is a great possibility of such jobs becoming available to competent Negro secretaries, clerks and stenographers. We would like to emphasize the word competent, however, because it is within this area that the breakthrough is going to take place if and when it does come.

Our greatest fear is not that the opportunity will eventually come but that the type of training now being received in many of our so-called business schools and colleges is just not up to standard, or should we say the type of product that most of them are turning out is not up to standard. Our impression is that the majority of these schools are more interested in getting their hands on the students' money than adequately preparing them for efficient service as a secretary, clerk or stenographer.

In far too many instances the graduates

of Negro business schools and colleges lack the basic or elementary training in grammar, spelling and other important subjects. That these schools will issue a diploma or certificate to such persons is an indication that there is something decidedly rotten with their method of training, guidance or integrity.

What we would like to see is more competent secretaries, stenographers and clerks turned out of all our schools. Such persons ought to be familiar, not only with the fundamentals of grammar but they ought to have at least passing familiarity with words that are now in common use in science, business and other fields of endeavor. Quite frequently much of this can be remedied by intensive reading of good newspapers, magazines and other literature beyond that which is required in the schools attended.

In any event, the increasing demand for efficiency in the secretarial field is certain to open up a new source of employment if Negroes will adequately prepare themselves. Most successful businessmen are not too interested in the race of an individual. What they want is a secretary, clerk or stenographer who has ability and can deliver.

Bessie Alberta Johnson Whitted

Once in a generation there flits across the stage in the drama of human life one who plays such an important part in shaping the lives and destiny of mankind that his or her exit prompts more than the customary note that attends the demise of a majority of us human beings. So it was with Bessie Alberta Johnson Whitted, whose "going home" on August 1 saddened the hearts of all of Durham.

We have said in these columns before that one ought to live so in a community that his or her funeral will not have to be held on Sunday to get some pallbearers. "Bess"

Whitted lived that way as was attested to by the people from all walks of life who took time out on Monday morning to pay a final tribute to this good woman who had done what she could to enrich and ennoble the lives of so many of her fellow human beings.

When "Bess" Whitted first saw the light of day is Charlotte, the Negro had been out of bondage only about a quarter of a century. What schools that were available for her were few and of less than mediocre quality, except those established and maintained by northern missionaries. It was one of these that "Bess" attended and graduated—Barber Scotia Seminary at Concord—now Barber Scotia College. In spite of it all she rose from humble parentage and obscure circumstances to one of the highest and most responsible positions attained by a Negro business woman in America, that of assistant treasurer and cashier of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, the world's largest Negro business.

Her full life touched and influenced every phase of endeavor among her people, including the young and the old. Let it be truthfully said in her passing that the race, the community and the nation have sustained a distinct loss, one that cannot be filled by those whose lives are not truthfully dedicated to the betterment of mankind.

Their Grip Can Be Broken With Effective Civil Rights Laws



WATCH ON THE POTOMAC

By ROBERT SPIVACK



Africans Won't Take U. S. Policy Based on What Europeans Want

THOSE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES—As they say in horse racing, Tom Mboya is a man to watch.

At 28, he is a member of the Kenya Legislative Council, secretary general of the Kenya Federation of Labor and served as chairman of the first All-African People's Conference in Accra last December. He is considered one of the most brilliant (and certainly one of the most feared by colonialists) of the new crop of young African nationalists.

As such, he made a lot of American sit up in their chairs recently when he bluntly told an audience at Howard University that the Prime Minister of South Africa's reply to a United States request to stop apartheid would simply be "go back home and deal with Mississippi."

Unlike many of the touring foreign dignitaries who habitually make a stop in this city, Mboya did not pull any punches about the plight of his country, Africa as a whole, or the American foreign policy in that area.

Africans are depressed and disappointed by a number of United States foreign policy positions he told a press conference.

Mboya feels that American leaders must take note of the fact that developments in Africa

are as significant, or more significant, than developments in Europe. He pointedly took note of the fact there are now nine African states in the United Nations and that next year there will be 14.

Africans will not be content with an American foreign policy toward Africa based on what London, Paris or Brussels wants, he added. "We believe that Africans generally support freedom for Africans; yet your government does not seem to."

That's what he told the annual convention of the Americans for Democratic Action in Washington.

COMMUNISM IN AFRICA—He told the same audience that he would have liked to avoid any mention of the "Cold War" and to turn directly to the "warm heart" of Americans toward Africa, but that he felt that he would have to take up at least one aspect of the East-West struggle.

"Frequently I hear African spokesmen accused of using the struggle between the Communist bloc and the West as a means to blackmail the West by threatening to seek help from the Soviet if Western assistance is not forthcoming," he said.

According to Mboya, this assumes both a "political subtlety and a lack of discrimination"

which most African leaders can rightfully deny.

"The cold realities of the situation in Africa, however, do not leave the leaders much room to maneuver."

He feels that Africans need help desperately to fight disease, poverty and ignorance and to bring to the average man the minimum decencies of life which the people in the West take for granted. "They do not want theories or excuses; they want results," he told the ADA.

Africa looks to America for support of six well-defined issues according to Mboya.

They want support in the UN with "target dates" for partial and total independence for trust territories; help for colonial areas in gaining their independence; more help on non-military projects; elimination of apartheid; new and creative measures to bring South West Africa under international control; and support for demands at the UN that Spain and Portugal report on their African colonies.

The goal of the black African is independence without violence. He explained:

"Our urgent hope in this struggle is that the United States will not only understand but help and contribute toward the attainment of our objectives."

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

By REV. HAROLD ROLAND



Joy is Main Theme of Christian Experience, Known to All of God

"And the disciples were filled with joy . . . Acts:52
 Joy, spiritually, is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Joy is a dominant mark, therefore, of the soul that is born of the spirit of God. It is a fruit of the spirit's work in the redeemed soul. Christian joy, in its very nature, persists through all of the changing circumstances of this life. Christian joy is matchless, incomparable, and burns with a brightness and radiance amid the ordeals, trials and difficulties of this life. We see Christian joy in its dazzling brilliance as the Epistle to the Philippians is written by a Christian from a Roman prison.

Joy is a mark of the noble company of daring souls who have walked in the footsteps of Christ, the Master. This joy has sustained noble souls in the great hours of trial. This joy gave an angelic brightness to the countenance of Stephen as he died the death of a martyr without the gates of Jerusalem.

This joy illumined Bedford's jail for John Bunyan. This joy sustained the great Christian who died in the Boxer Rebellion in China. It keeps the Christian now; and then there is the hope of the final fulfillment with all of its rich, dazzling splendor.

Christian joy gives light for the dark, trying scene of this life. In Christ we have this joy and it keeps us moving amid the dark scenes we must face. It gives a spiritual anchorage for the soul in the dark hours of testing. Joy keeps us steady . . . Joy is an assurance against the despair and discouragement. This joy comes from Christ who is the light of the world. It makes us constant, dependable . . . And the disciples were filled with joy." The light of joy in their souls kept them and led them through the dark ordeals of their earthly existence.

Christian joy keeps us moving toward the goal despite the

tribulations we may encounter. We need this inner spiritual power as we move against the hostility of powerful forces.

Early Christians meet hostility with joy in their souls. Now, we, too, must encounter hostile forces. In Christ, we, too, have the blessed gift of joy. And, thank God, we, too, are fully prepared to meet and overcome hostile forces when the spirit sheds abroad joy in our souls.

The spirit of God with its gift of joy in our souls will prepare us to become the masters of all hounding circumstances as we move towards our God-appointed aims and goals for the kingdom of God.

Finally, the Christian has the hope of sharing in the perfection of joy one day as we shall have it in its full splendor around the dazzling throne of God. Here it's partial—there it will be complete.

VITAL INFORMATION — II

Some Examples of How Knowledge of Technology Can Be Beneficial

Editors note: This week, Dean S. C. Smith, of the A and T College Technical Institute, discusses the personal advantage of a knowledge of technology. The second of a series on the importance of technology in the lives of North Carolinians, Dean Smith's discussions will be carried regularly.

There is a lady who can make minor repairs on her car and is able to detect the trouble on parts that she cannot repair herself. It would be difficult to "put one over on her" about the car. It goes without saying that she has saved many dollars with this knowledge. Can you do this?

There is a man who, aside from his regular job knows how to build, and he built a garage from scrap brick which he hauled from another city, and saved himself over \$2,000. Could you have done this?

There is a lady who has learned short cuts to painting and decorating. She painted her house and made her drapes. The total project cost no more than \$50.00. Wouldn't you like to have done that?

There is a boy who has learned enough about photography to go

into business. Imagine having your own business or being a photographer for a paper, magazine, or research firm. Photography for example is useful in any field.

The uses for trades is endless and employers are seeking people who know how to do these things, not speculators. One of North Carolina's main industries is furniture. Beautiful furniture from our State is sent to major stores all over the nation. Upholstery is also a phase of furniture. In many cities, communities would welcome a neighborhood shoe repair shop.

(Knowledge of these things is as close as your telephone. Write or call Dean S. C. Smith, Technical Institute, A & T College, Greensboro, N. C. telephone BRoadway 3-1773, Ext. 74.)

PART II

Too Many Negro Teachers

Editors note: This is the concluding portion of an article reprinted in two installments from the Wall Street Journal. Because of the importance of the subject under discussion, the TIMES invites readers' comments and will publish articles on the same subject with different points of view.

(Continued from Last Week)

Dr. George Gore Jr., president of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University at Tallahassee, Fla., has similar trouble: He has difficulty selling students on other things besides teaching," says Dr. Gore of his 2,800 students. "They don't want to change and neither do their parents want them to." Dr. Gore adds that 90% of the 340 members in the class of 1959 went into teaching, or tried to. "By comparison," Dr. Gore says, "We don't have nearly enough graduates in nursing or pharmacy."

But not all the blame falls on the students. The colleges generally lack placement services. "We have no placement officer, and so some of these offers don't get proper attention. Somebody loses out."

Many Negro colleges delegate placement to already overworked teachers. At Tuskegee, Dr. Foster says: "As of now, the deans have to make the important contacts with employers."

Also at work perpetuating certain deficiencies in Negro colleges: Southern Negro colleges created under land-grant charters from the states are obliged by law in many cases to emphasize such trade-school courses as plastering and dress tailoring rather than advanced intellectual subjects. "Programs in these basic skills should be tapered off as we try to spark an interest in the sciences," says one Negro college administrator. "But these basic courses are kept on at full strength in too many cases, bit-

ing into budgets and channeling interests into traditional grooves," he adds.

Students sometimes complain about the lack of guidance they get from college officials. Listen to Miss Gene Hopkins, a 1959 graduate of Florida A. & M., one of some 500 applicants jockeying for the 40 Negro classroom opening in Jacksonville: "If I had guidance when a freshman, I'd probably have studied something else." Some Negro Universities, belatedly aware they are behind times, are busy these days remodeling curricula, expanding staffs in science departments and upgrading physical plants.

Negro colleges and industry are beginning to get together to improve training. Fifteen Negroes from the Lockheed plant at Marietta, Ga., completed courses recently in I. B. M. accounting at Atlanta University, for example.

And within the last few weeks, Florida A&M asked Martin Co. officials for advice in curriculum changes in the university's two-year, technician's training course. This will train Negroes in sub-professional technology, and the graduates, if qualified, could be hired on the Martin production line, in laboratories or as draftsmen.

"We started training in basic electronics last year—the same time we dropped clothes tailoring," says Dean Maxwell Thomas, of Florida A. & M.'s vocational technical training institute. "We had four graduates this year. Next fall we expect about 25 students to enroll."

"Porgy" Seen Race's Triumph

"There is only one thing more beautiful in the Samuel Goldwyn production of 'Porgy and Bess' than the Gerawin music; and that is the Negro race.

Although we cannot claim to have seen all of the great motion pictures, we suppose we have seen most of the great ones; and we would say that this is the greatest . . . more beautiful than "Wuthering Heights," more moving than "Grapes of Wrath," more absorbing than "Gone with the Wind," more stimulating than "Dead End," more eloquent than "Dodsworth," or "Stella Dallas," or "The Little Foxes."

This picture has not one dull, even unexciting moment, not one in which the audience is not on the "qui vive!" not one in which you are not absorbed, enthralled, moved to joy or tears. And without a doubt, the underlying reason why . . . its great music notwithstanding, is that a whole race is starred therein, a whole way of life vindicated as full of human values, like love dignity, and work and struggle against the elements, and compassion, and human helpfulness, and joy, and laughter.

The star of "Porgy and Bess" is the saga of the survival of the

Negro race on thousands of catfish rows for a hundred years. — It is the strength of the Negro . . . the vitality of the Negro . . . the compassion of the Negro . . . the song of the Negro . . . the realism of the Negro, and the lovingness of the Negro.

It is all there in the movie, which is, in itself, a miracle. This reporter has never been so proud of being a Negro, so thoroughly pleased at a presentation of the Negro race . . . has never felt so secure from the indignity of racial stereotype as when the lights came up and we moved, tranquility from the Carthay Circle theatre after Monday's press preview.

Although we opposed it, and were so brash as to suggest that Mr. Goldwyn put "Porgy and Bess" in a bottle and throw it out to sea, we say unconditionally now that it would have been a great tragedy had Sam Goldwyn not made "Porgy and Bess" into a film.

It asserts powerfully the dignity of the Negro race, its beauty, its unshrinking, unboastful vitality, the full dimensions of its humanity.

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 Los Angeles Tribune

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