

Black America- 200 Years of Struggle

by Ione Jones
Special to the Chronicle

The Black man's struggle for freedom and an opportunity to build a better world for himself within the existing American society began 157 years before the American colonies won their independence from England in 1776.

While America has become a world power in the few short years since its birth, it has fallen short of the great ideas which are expressed in the

document which begins, "We, the people..." Consequently, the struggle of the black American, particularly in the field of education, has had to continue and will continue until the meaning of Democracy becomes a reality.

Even though the colonies realized the necessity for educational opportunities for their citizens, there were no schools for blacks. By 1776, Harvard College was already 140 years old. The school-

masters and private institutions of learning are legendary in the early history of our country.

Recorded also in our history are the laws forbidding blacks to be educated, yet, at the same time, it was the labor, skills, artistry, and inventions of the black man that were being used to build the cities, towns, and the agricultural economy upon which the survival of the nation depended.

The black man in the bonds of slavery longed to learn to read and write, for that, it seemed to him, was the real basis of the slave master's superiority over him. But it was not until 89 years later, in 1865, that the Civil War ended and the black man was freed from his bondage.

Because of the need to educate black Americans to meet the demands and challenges of a society becoming more and more highly competitive and technological, and to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Afro-American, Johnson C. Smith University came into being.

It was one of hundreds that appeared on the scene during 1867 and the years following. Missionary and church groups were the main sponsors who offered their time and money to educate the freedmen and women.

In the 109 years of Johnson C. Smith's existence, this institution of higher learning has met the above objectives by graduating thousands of men and women who have achieved prominence in all worthy walks of life within the larger society.

They have not only made contributions within the larger society but have been indispensably effective in helping to build a better world for their black Brothers and Sisters. They have been prominent among those who have been instrumental in opening the doors of opportunity formerly closed to blacks.

The need for competence is greater today than ever before. It is imperative to function successfully as viable citizens of a nation such as ours, or of any society in which Americans choose to live.

Two-hundred years: Where do we go from here? We go forward with confidence toward higher and higher educational, cultural, moral, and spiritual goals; ever building upon the experiences of the past, ever chartering new paths that will lead to a better world for ourselves and for all America.

Poetic Dimensions



Compiled by
Azzie Wagner

Readers: October is upon us like the chilliness that hangs in the air from Indian Summer. This is INDEED the month of surprises! This week we'll give our young student writers a week off, look into our "goodies bag" and PULL OUT TWO REAL TREATS! From Brother J.B. Hunter and Vergie Lassiter we learn about...

BLACK
By J.B. Hunter [Edited]

Black is not just a pat on the back--
Black is putting our minds and hearts together
So we all will know where it's at!
Black is onself within luxury
From a cadillac.

To me Black is soul expression
Among all things from within.
Black can't be thrown around
Like a piece of tin.

So to the ones that don't know
The meaning of Black--
Be strong and be cool.
Don't be a fool because we're on our way
To not being used or abused!
Then we don't have to think about what
We have to lose...

MY DAILY CHORES
By Virginia Lassiter

I really enjoy my daily chores,
Making beds and sweeping floors--
Going to school and spelling words,
Playing ball and watching birds.

My chores on Monday are full of fun
Just thinking of the weekend and what I've done--
Tuesdays chores are about the same
Wednesdays chores are full of fame!

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays too--
There are always many chores to do.
Sunday's chores take a different part
I pray to God to cleanse my heart.

I really enjoy my daily chores,
Planning meals and going to stores
Hanging my clothes out to dry,
And watching planes zoom through the sky!

IN PARTING: This is a special call to readers and students alike! Since October is Fire Prevention month and also the time when spooks and goblins frolic, let's get some "Fire and Creepiness" into our column! Send us MORE treats without delay! Love and kisses to all of you and keep the poetry coming, we need it for LIFE!

Chess Tourney Scheduled

The Winston-Salem State University Chess Club in conjunction with The Southern Chess Administration will sponsor the Winston-Salem State Open on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26.

This chess tournament, sanctioned by the North Carolina Chess Association, is nationally rated.

Registration for players will be held on Saturday, October 25 in Hauser Student Union-Ballroom from 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. There will be an entry fee of \$12. - Lower Section and \$18.00 - Top Section.

The first round of play on both Saturday and Sunday will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Ballroom. Observers are welcome at all times without admission. For additional information call Dr. Alan Lipkin at 761-2097.

Black TV Show Looks At Black Aborigines

"Aborigine" means "first inhabitants." And that's what the black population in

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Australia were, where the Aborigines once numbered 300,000 through subtle genocide, there are now only 115,000 left.

SAY BROTHER, Wednesday night at 10 p.m. on Channel 26 talks with Gulpillil, Brandura, Bandilil and Brian Syron - all Aborigines. Their history, music, dance and social customs are part of this fascinating program.

Congressman Parren Mitchell of Baltimore, Maryland, is on SAY BROTHER's Political Notes, and A.B. Spellman, black historian and professor at Harvard offers commentary.

SAY BROTHER is an electronic grapevine - people commenting on what poet Langston Hughes called "the sweet flypaper of life."

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