

Naomi's View
**NAOMI
McLEAN**



For the year 1983,
We can resolve to live with zest,
To bring to every task our best,
To greet each day with faith and hope,
To give our lives their fullest scope.

At the beginning of this New Year, we shall all do well to resolve to cultivate genuine enthusiasm; then put our resolution into effect day by day. When we put our heart and soul into any task, not only will we find excitement every day, but people will believe in us as they believe in electricity when they see it at work all around them.

Enthusiasm is contagious. If we are enthusiastic, we will awaken the minds and quicken the spirits of other people. However, we must remember that enthusiasm is an acquired quality. It is the outcome of deep, honest thought and hard, persistent work.

One of the great blessings of life lies in our ability to forget disappointments and difficulties of the past and to fix our thoughts on the future. By our own actions and attitudes we can — to some extent, at least — control the future for ourselves. To make things come our way, we need to believe in ourselves with a deep conviction. Enthusiasm is the only key to the development of that conviction, and faith lies at the foundation of our lives.

Genuine enthusiasm is the dynamics of personality. Without it, whatever abilities we have lie inactive. We may have all kinds of knowledge and skills; but no one will know about that knowledge and those skills until we discover how to put the heart into thought and action. We cannot go wrong in our work or any task when we bring genuine enthusiasm to it, and whether we realize it or not, our tasks are done in the spirit of faith.

During this time of widespread frustration, fears and anxieties roam the atmosphere. If a person is to make life meaningful for himself, he has to develop within himself attitudes which will enable him to face each day with zest and confidence. Life is neither productive nor satisfying without worthwhile attitudes.

For 1983, we should try earnestly to cultivate faith — faith in ourselves, faith in our fellow men, faith in the ultimate triumph of the good and the true over the evil and the wrong. With a power not wholly our own, we shall need to find our way, sustained by faith, hope, courage, confidence, enthusiasm and friendships we develop as we travel the highway of life together. Thus sustained, we shall find our tasks more interesting and more satisfying.

May all the days of the New Year bring you increasing happiness, and a constantly growing enthusiasm.

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Delaware State and Maryland's Bowie State had more than one-third white students, and Kentucky State's student population was 49 percent white.

A number of white faculty at black colleges brought lawsuits against their institutions, charging that "patterns and practices of racial discrimination against white persons" were present. At Alabama State University, for example, a white federal judge ordered \$209,000 in back-pay awards to 57 white faculty and staff who claimed "reverse discrimination." As one bewildered black critic declared, "This is a strange racial phenomenon, as it was only 14 years ago that various white institutions in Alabama, including the educational, systematically excluded blacks as buyers, consumers, participants and employees."

This month, the 1982-83 college enrollment statistics have reached my desk — all confirming the alarming acceleration of the attack against black higher education. A few of these facts include the following:

- Black enrollment at both white public and private institutions has dropped off sharply in the past 12 months. At Cornell University, black enrollment is down to 650, from over 1,000 a decade ago; at the University of California-Berkeley, the black student population has dropped from 1,200 down to barely 350 in a decade.
- The overall enrollment at the 42 historically black colleges which belong to the United Negro College Fund has dropped 3.7 percent since 1981-82, and freshman enrollment dropped 12 percent in only one year.

•Black enrollment in white professional schools has also declined. At Tennessee public medical schools, for example, only 12 out of 969 students are black this year.

Institutional racism and Reaganomics have combined to attack the very centers of black learning, both inside traditionally black schools and in white universities. Unless the black movement addresses the war against black higher education immediately, there is every indication that the basis for black learning beyond the public schools will be irreparably damaged, if not destroyed.

Dr. Manning Marable is director of the Race Relations Institute, Fisk University. His syndicated column, "FROM THE GRASSROOTS," appears in 140 newspapers across the United States and in England.

Letters From Page 4

George Booie.
I want to thank you for the wonderful work you are doing through the medium of *The Chronicle*. Obviously, you are a man who knows the difference between zeal and fanaticism, and therefore, you not only do a "good job," you make a marvelous contribution.

George G. Matthews
Los Angeles

**BUILDING ON
YOUR ROOTS**



Miss Bayou Classic

Budweiser Light spokesman Lou Brock, former Major League base stealing king and an alumni of Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., presents "Miss Bayou Classic" trophy to LeJune Eglen of Grambling University. The presentation was made at the Bayou Classic President's Scholarship Ball recently in New Orleans prior to the Southern-Grambling football game. The Jaguars of Southern downed Eddie Robinson's Grambling Tigers 22-17. It was Southern's second consecutive win and third in the last four years, after a string of losses to Grambling.

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is important that there are still those who care about the welfare of others, people who are willing to lend a helping hand to those who are less fortunate. In doing so, they give the greatest gift — they give of themselves.

But we must also be aware that the churches and the charities are only successful in their efforts because of the magnanimous contributions of the general public. We are only able to conclude that most of us do care about one another, that beneath the masks of desolation we wear there remains a strong element of humanity and good.

In the long view, then, the 1982 holiday season may be a "hard Christmas" only in terms of the problems that are being caused by the nation's current economic state. When we look about us and see people helping people during this difficult period, sacrificing their time and labor to put a smile on the face of a child, we know that the spirit of the season and the abounding kindness of the human heart prevail over the hardness of the times.



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