

Scholastic Records Accurate Forecast

Tens of thousands of young people will have graduated by the time this article is printed.

A few graduated summa cum laude, a larger number magna cum laude, and still larger number cum laude. The vast majority of students who graduated this month completed their work without honors. This does not mean that those who were graduated without honors will not make their mark in the world.

There will always be the exceptional few who graduate without honors, but will do better than those who graduated with honors. On the other hand, it is no doubt true that the percentage of honor roll people who will do exceptionally well in the world will be higher than the percentage of those who did not graduate with honors.

This will be true in part because students who graduated this June with honors are those students who applied themselves more diligently than many of those who did not graduate with honors.

And yet, there will be some boy or girl who was considered average in college, but will put rings around some of those who made high marks. What the future will reveal, no one can predict with certainty.

One fact is clear and that is the foundation for whatever these graduates will do in the

next 50 years has been laid.

By the time a person reaches 21, his or her habits are pretty well fixed. It is not impossible to change study and other habits after 21, but it is exceedingly difficult to do so.

With all too many students, reading is a burden and a weariness of the flesh. If this is so at 21, it is likely to remain so throughout the student's life.

One fact is clear, as Housing Administrator Weaver implied in his commencement address at Morehouse, "the Negro graduate of the future will not be able to use segregation as a justification for mediocrity and inferior performance." As he ably pointed out, "equal opportunity implies equal performance."

It is still a puzzle to the college administrator that although we are graduating more college students than ever before, it is still exceedingly difficult to find an exceptionally able teacher who is available.

If 200 Negroes had graduated this June with Ph.D. degrees from first-rate universities in this country, all 200 could be placed in Negro colleges; with a shortage of Ph.D.'s, they could be absorbed.

Too few Negroes are pursuing graduate work in English, sociology, psychology, modern languages, mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. Something must be done to increase the number of competent people in every area.

I wish the graduates success and trust that their work will be constructive in building the kind of world that mankind must have if civilization is to survive in a nuclear age.

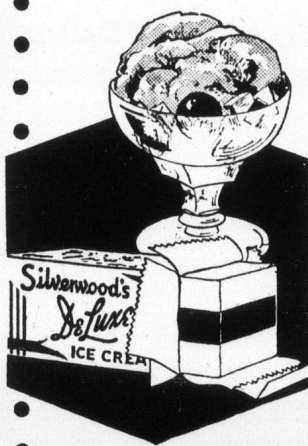
Dr. Benjamin E. Mays.

Sermonette

"Behold, I have set before thee a door opened, which none can shut"—Rev. 3:8.

When you believe that God keeps a door opened for you, there is no fear in your heart of disaster. Because you know if trouble closes one door, God opens another farther down the line. No one can shut God's doors. Only you, and you alone, may cause a door to seem shut. You yourself can make a curtain go up before the door so that it looks closed. You can hold yourself back from the open door of opportunity, of health and happiness, just by disbelieving in God's powers. Once you believe, and know what He can do, nothing can stop you. Have confidence in Him and in His word; that is all you need to move upward and forward. Not with tongue in cheek, nor inwardly scoffing, but believing with all your heart. know God, believe in Him and He will prove that you are His child; that when you ask, it will be given. What you seek, you will find . . . in God's time and in His manner, not in your manner. Just remember that an open door is always set before you in time of prosperity and in time of trouble.

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Negroes Now Being Accepted At Several Top Universities

There is so often so much unpleasant news in the papers that it must give many people a pleasant feeling to hear of something uplifting and encouraging.

For instance, next fall the graduate schools of Duke University, Durham, N.C., will enroll three Negroes for the first time in its 123-year existence.

A week earlier it was reported that twenty Negro students had been accepted for admission to the summer session of the University of Miami (Florida) which began June 15.

Then there was the good news from the United States Military and Naval Academies at West Point and Annapolis where respectively two and three young Negroes were graduated, and one of the latter, Ensign Mack Johnson Jr., of Glenham, N.Y., has been recommended to teach Russian in the foreign languages department of the Naval Academy.

Interestingly, Ensign Johnson was given a certificate as an official Navy interpreter last year to accompany President Eisenhower on his proposed trip to Russia, which never materialized.

One cadet, Reginald Brown, was a member of the staff of The Pointer, the Military Academy's magazine and specialized in French, while the other, Kenneth L. Quinn, specialized in Spanish.

Another young man you once heard of in the news is Jimmy Johnson who went from Chicago to Washington to get a House page boy's job, and didn't get it; but now he is finishing fourth in a class of eighteen from the Capitol page school, and has received two awards and a scholarship.

Incidentally, his remaining in Washington and attending

the school was because five white Congressmen pooled their interests and each gave him a job one day a week which paid for upkeep and tuition.

This is something we think the newspapers abroad should copy.

Mark Ayres

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