

# The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

**Melvin L. Shakespeare**

Publisher and Editor

Business Address 2225 B Street Box 2023 3-4085  
If No Answer Call 3-7505

Rudie W. Shakespeare Advertising and Business Manager  
Dorothy Green Office Secretary  
Mrs. Joe Green Circulation Manager

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### EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

## BETWEEN THE LINES

By Dean Gordon B. Hancock  
For ANP

### INTRA-RACIAL CRITICISM

Some years ago the educational authorities of this country decided to take stock of our educational assets and liabilities. They decided as an approach to this momentous question to evaluate our leading universities. They decided upon certain criteria by which the leading universities would be classified.

After years of research the report was ready. It rated Harvard as the nation's leading university with the University of Chicago second; Columbia, third and Yale, fourth.

Of course the final rating did not please any except Harvard devotees; but what stunned the country was the fact that a Yale man headed the committee. Edwin R. Embree, as I remember.

If one makes a visit to Yale university all he can hear is how great Yale is and how great are its history and traditions. Everything a Yale man does is just right. A Yale man can do no wrong. So far as the Yale men are concerned Yale men are faultless and infallible. At least such is the information coming to this writer by men who have been to Yale.

At Harvard it is different. The criticism of Harvard by Harvard men is ceaseless. One gradually gets tired of hearing what Harvard is not from Harvard men. The university is criticized from bottom to top. All the courses and professors are intellectually castigated. When the rounds of criticism are ended one always wonders what led one to matriculate at the ham-fat school.

But in the national rating Harvard not only stood first among the universities of the nation, but numbered among the first four great universities of the world. The point here is, self criticism at Harvard must be a most potent factor in keeping ancient Harvard moving along the educational highway of modern times.

There might be a lesson here for Negroes who are more and more disinclined to face up to the weak points of the race. Since all races have weak points, it becomes incumbent upon somebody to study these.

We are not going to get far unless we learn to constructively criticize ourselves. We obviously have failings and weaknesses, but unless we are willing to look these squarely in the face, and do something about them we are lost already.

It matters little that the white

man is heir to these same faults. They are just as surely a prelude to his destruction, unless corrected, as they are to our own. The point this writer has always tried to emphasize is that if the Negro is to survive he must stand up where the white man falls down.

If the white man has weaknesses it is no sign that we should imitate them. The man who starts behind in the race must outrun those who start in front. Jealousy may serve the white man and his purpose but too much jealousy among Negroes could mean destruction.

The white man can afford to go to his job minutes or hours later, but can the Negro afford it? The white man may be able to lay off after every pay day on a pay day drunk, but can a Negro afford it?

The reason there are Negroes romping the diamonds of the major leagues is just because they are a little bit better.

Just the other day I was talking with a young Negro teacher who was sold on the Negro's infallibility. He had an explanation for every Negro weakness. So had I; but this did not solve the matter.

Explanation is not salvation. It has come about that when a Negro speaker addresses an audience unless he goes heavily on the Negro's longcomings and lightly on his shortcomings he finds himself in bad with his audience.

We are fighting for integration which is our rightful dessert as citizens of this nation. But Negroes should be taught certain fundamentals of citizenship without which his full integration will be independently postponed.

Our attention to personal cleanliness when using the public carriers is far too casual. Our over-loud talk in public too often is embarrassing.

The full weight of the ballot has not been foisted upon us. We too often will stampede to get to some city hall to make a protest but we are entirely too scarce around the ballot box.

How can we overcome our shortcomings unless somebody has the courage to point them out to us? Intra-racial criticism has a place if requisite courage can be found!

### Tuxedo Barber Shop

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by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Each spring during the years of the great overland emigration, thousands of persons headed west homes in California, Oregon, or Utah. The year 1852—just a century ago—was no exception, and in the fall of the year it was estimated that the emigration the past season consisted of 40,000 people, 8,000 wagons, and about 60,000 cattle.

Accounts of diarists at the outfitting places and at strategic points along the trail—ferries, fords, and bridges—give every indication that the trail was heavily traveled in 1852.

The newspaper in St. Louis and various towns up the Missouri reported a great deal of activity. On May 1, a correspondent from Independence wrote that the number of emigrants "passing out from and through here, has exceeded all the calculations we have ever made." The road to the Little Blue was "lined with wagons."

The Kanessville crossing (now Council Bluffs, Iowa) was particularly busy, and some travelers were forced to wait as long as a week to get their wagons across the Missouri River. It is little wonder that the Kanessville ferry was something of a bottleneck—the ferry service consisted of two small scows propelled by two men using oars. The capacity of each scow was two wagons.

One traveler reported: "The current is very swift in the river and accidents happen every day to one or the other scow. The emigrants are pushing and crowding and frequently quarreling and even fighting to get aboard of the scows as they touch the shore."

Similar conditions existed at other ferries along the way in the spring of 1852. E. W. Conyers, headed for Oregon, arrived at the Elkhorn ferry at 12:30, May 22, to find 150 teams ahead of him. He was able to get across about 7:30, however. John T. Kerns, there the same day, had better luck—he got his wagon across after a wait of only two hours.

Conditions were so bad at the Loup ferry that emigrants frequently went on to the ford which though some distance away, was not particularly off the road.

Near Fort Kearny, June 2, Kerns

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## Dr. Ralph Bunche to Address St. Louis U. Graduation Class

ST. LOUIS—(ANP)—Dr. Ralph Bunche, director of the United Nations department of trusteeship and 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will be the principal speaker at commencement exercises of St. Louis university in Kiel auditorium June 3, the Very Rev. Paul C. Heinert, S. J., president of the university, announced last week.

Dr. Bunche, who was chairman of the department of political science at Harvard university from 1938 to 1950, has been top-ranking director of the U.N. department of trusteeship since December, 1947. He served as acting U.N. mediator in Palestine from September, 1948 until August, 1949. Before that he was principal secretary and personal representative of the Secretary-General with the U.N. mediator there.

He served the State department as an expert on African affairs from 1944 to 1947 and was connected with other government offices before that. He holds 35 honorary degrees awarded him in recognition of his outstanding record of public service.

**BUNCHE GETS ALGER AWARD**  
NEW YORK—(ANP)—The Director of the United Nations Trusteeship Division, Dr. Ralph J.

wrote: "The emigrants are crossing over from the south side (of the Platte) on account of cholera. We have heard of twelve cases this evening and all very dangerous ones. I begin to feel like I would rather it was somebody else than me. I believe I could count 5,000 wagons this evening at sight, do not know where all these people intend to make fortunes, but I am going to Oregon myself, so I am, go it while yer young, when old you can't."



DR. RALPH J. BUNCHE

Bunche, gets honors in bunches. The Nobel Peace Prize winner along with six other prominent Americans who rose from humble beginnings was picked by 3,000 educators for the 1952 Alger awards.

The UN official was first in line to be congratulated by Frank Russell, Alger awards national committee chairman.

Dr. Bunche at the same afternoon also officiated at the opening of the first exhibition of portraits ever to be shown of the children of the United Nations International School, painted by Margaret Yard Tyler. The U.N. official was beaming and like the rest of the excited parents said he was looking forward to seeing the painting of his son, Ralph, at the Grand Central Art Galleries.

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