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SUNDAY CHICAGO BEE

A BETTER PAPER AT LESS COST

Volume 30, Number 26 | TELEPHONE BOU. 7002 | SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1939 | IN TWO SECTIONS: SECTION ONE

JANITOR SLAIN IN THEATRE

TODAY'S TALK

GRADUATES' FUTURE

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By MARCUS A. MAHONE

THIS is the season for the sweet boy and girl graduates to emerge from the more or less cloistered life of the colleges and a veritable malestrom of problems, struggles, uncertainties, and disappointments. There will be some who will, as always, come through with flying colors—who will acquit themselves honorably and creditably.

There will be others, whose number will be legion, who will be lost in the activities of a work-a-day world, who will discover, all too sadly, that they were not and are not prepared to attack the problems, nor withstand the struggles and perforce must give themselves over to disappointment and bitterness.

The casualties among the Negro youth will be too high! Much too high! Too many educated Negro youths will find themselves in jobs and employments which make no demand on their intellects — dining car, pullman car, station porters, Federal projects, and other static, routine employments will reduce the graduate to little more than a polished hulk.

However, there is a truly glorious opportunity to the graduates of these perilous and turbulent times! It is usually in just such times as these that great reforms are inaugurated and find their roots in soil friendly to their growth. We are in need of a reform movement that can only be inaugurated and carried to fruition by ourselves! We need guidance to show us our sources of power and guidance, to show us how to exploit them to the utmost.

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In this connection, we are reminded of two things. One is Dr. Woodson's "Miseducation of the Negro" and Dr. Washington's account of students at Tuskegee in his "Up From Slavery." In the first, Dr. Woodson very wisely calls attention to the fact that we are peculiarly and disadvantageously situated in the American scene, and that we are in serious need of developing techniques and tools of our very own with which to meet and solve these peculiarities and disadvantages as they manifest themselves in relationship to our hopes, aims, and aspirations.

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In the second, Dr. Washington told of the great difficulty he had in dissuading the early students at Tuskegee from their ideas of pursuing a "classical" course of study which would give them the obvious and apparent attributes of their former masters.

It made no difference to them that the "classical" courses which they wanted were divorced from reality and practicality. They wanted the manners and tastes of gentlemen before they learned to earn their daily bread.

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Something of the same tragedy has persisted even unto this day. We are top heavy with lawyers, doctors, dentists, preachers and professional leaders who don't lead. Such other notable successes as we have had have been in those callings wherein the competition has been at a minimum—undertaking, restaurants, barber shops, etc. Our graduates from the business schools can tell you all about the national debt — how it was created, how it can and should be amortized — can tell you about the work sheets and balance sheets of America's largest corporations and what their fiscal policies are.

But—just you suggest that he go into the grocery business down on his own corner, or open a butcher shop in his neighborhood, or a shoe shop, or clothing store, or hardware store, or any other kind of store out of which he periodically buys, and you will be met with a thousand reasons why such a thing is unattractive and for him unthinkable.

Today, however, we are prepared to welcome efforts in that direction. We are more and more convinced that we've got to lay

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Negro Youth Makes Good at West Point

BEAUTIFUL BRIDE

MRS. THEODORE JONES, nee Bea Mae Howard, whose marriage to Theodore Jones was solemnized on June 17 at Grace Presbyterian church.

ENTERS THIRD YEAR AT RIGID MILITARY SCH.

Scholastic Record Outstanding

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 22—A visitor in the nation's capital this week was Cadet James D. Fowler, who is entering his third year as a student at the military academy at West Point. Fowler, the only colored cadet at the military training school, has finished two years' work and training with credit, and is now taking his first vacation in Washington.

The youth, who was appointed to West Point by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, of the First District of Illinois, July 1, 1937, received his early military training under Colonel H. O. Atwood of the U. S. army. His record in mathematics and engineering at the military academy has been outstanding.

Ostracized First Year

Cadet Fowler says his first year at West Point was the hardest. He was ostracized by many of the white students, but stood the grind and has now reached the point where graduation is practically assured. He says he has about overcome all opposition, and many of his best friends are white boys from the southern states. His visit to the capital, dressed in the uniform of the academy, attracted much attention.

Congressman Mitchell recently appointed another colored boy to West Point. The youth, Robert B. Tresville, Jr., has passed all examinations and requirements, and will begin his course of training July 1. Young Tresville's father is an officer in the 24th Infantry.

Two Vacancies at Annapolis

In an interview a few days ago, Congressman Mitchell told the BEE he has two vacancies at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He cited the extreme difficulty in finding qualified colored youth interested in taking the course at Annapolis, where the literary requirements are more stringent than at West Point.

Entrance requirements state that applicants, in addition to being a high school graduate of high standing, must have at least one year's training in a Class A college majoring in mathematics, Congressman Mitchell stated.

Lambert Says Ward Bosses to Blame for Vice

Blaming ward committeemen for the prevalence of vice and gambling in the southside districts, George W. Lambert, civic leader, also charged "the men higher up" with responsibility in the fact that policy wheels run day and night without fear of legal interference.

Lambert declared that the committeemen control the police because "they elect the aldermen, the sheriff, the mayor and the judges." He pointed out that the "committeeman receives no salary, and the graft is sufficient. "On 38 policy wheels," Lambert charged, "one committeeman received $250 a week and from 14 handbooks $150 a week."

Lambert's charges were made before 50 representatives of community groups on the southside, meeting to perfect plans in a crusade to clean up the policy game racket. The meeting was called to review a two-and-one-half year survey of gambling and to form a committee to take steps toward bringing the condition to the attention of a federal grand jury.

CHICK WEBB BURIED; BAND HONORS LEADER

BALTIMORE, Md., June 22—With members of his band acting as honorary pallbearers, funeral services for William "Chick" Webb, king of drummers, were held here Tuesday from Waters A. M. E. church on Aisquith street.

The grand little maestro of swing died in John Hopkins hospital where he was undergoing treatment for a kidney and spine ailment. He was 32 years old.

The chapel of Waters A. M. E. church was crowded to overflowing as fellow musicians, friends and admirers of the little newsboy who rose to heights as one of the music world's most outstanding drummers, paid tribute to his memory. Ella Fitzgerald, who was carried by him on the upbeat to jazz-band fame, came from Montgomery, Ala., to sing her last song for him.

Manager at Rites

Among the hundreds who filed past his bier were his manager, Moe Gale; Charlie Buchanan, manager of the Savoy ballroom, New York; Miss Fitzgerald and the entire Chick Webb orchestra. Webb is survived by his widow, Mrs. Sallie Webb; a mother, Mrs. Helen Webb; three sisters, grandmother and several aunts and uncles.

The Webb-Fitzgerald combination was one of swing's trademarks. Together Chick and Ella composed "A Tisket, A Tasket". They were featured on the radio and made scores of records—her voice and his band. The alliance began six years ago.

Pays Salary Himself

When Chick decided he needed a vocalist, he heard Ella on an Apollo amateur night program in Harlem and tried to get his manager to sign her. This manager was not impressed with the gawky, 16-year-old orphan who then knew little about dressing or making herself agreeable to strangers, so he refused.

Accordingly, Chick signed her, paying her what he could out of his own salary, and bought her two frocks. Within two weeks she was such a sensation at the Savoy that Chick's manager asked her to sign a contract.

VETERANS ROUT JIM-CROW AT ROCKFORD, ILL.

Measure Banning Color Bar Passed

By JOS. W. ROLLINS

Rockford, Ill., June 22 — Discrimination was routed here when the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Military Order of Cooties met in a three-day encampment June 17, 18 and 19. The time-worn precedent of segregation in public places was abolished when colored delegates were admitted and took active parts in all sessions held in Rockford's most exclusive hotels, the Faust and Lafayette.

The Major Charles L. Hunt Post No. 2024, Veterans of Foreign Wars, were represented by Commander Eugene P. Frierson, and delegates and alternates John Harris, Frederick E. Franklin, William Holman, Jr., Otho Kerr, Albert C. Blue, Earl W. King, Earl Wilson and Joseph W. Rollins. The state encampment will meet in Waukegan, Ill., in June of 1940.

Notables at Meet

All business sessions were held in the grand ballroom of the Faust hotel. Cootie headquarters were in the Lafayette hotel. Among the notables attending were Robert B. Handy, National Adjutant General of the V. F. W.; Dr. Joseph C. Mendez, National Junior Vice Commander; William J. Grace, Department Commander of Illinois.

Col. William J. Warfield, of the State Legislature, and commander of Illinois' Eight Infantry, was unable to attend because of legislative matters which prevented him from leaving Springfield. Colonel Warfield is a member of Hunt Post and Monkey Mountain Pup Tent, Military Order of Cooties.

Military Parade Highlight

The highlight of the encampment was the huge military pa-

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H. U. Alumni Calls Quits in Johnson Fight

WASHINGTON, June 22—Determined to work for harmony among themselves and the university administration, Howard university alumni at their annual meeting at the university Thursday, preceding commencement day, decided to end the long-drawn out fight against Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson.

The decision of the alumni followed a speech delivered by Isaac Nutter, Atlantic City lawyer, main speaker at the four-hour meeting. Nutter urged the alumni to work in harmony with the present administration for the good of the university.

Among the resolutions passed was one which requested that Howard's board of trustee membership be increased from three to six, three of the new members to be selected one each from North, West and East. The other three are to be elected at large. Dr. Greeley Brown of New Jersey was elected general president of the General Alumni association.

Tree Uprooted In Storm, Falls; Woman Killed

A freak accident claimed the life of Miss Nitner Thomas, 25, of 139 E. 55th steet Friday afternoon. Miss Thomas was instantly killed when tree in front of the Indiana Avenue A. M. E. church at 5600 Indiana avenue, was uprooted during a windstorm, falling on her.

The woman's body was crushed beneath its branches. She was pronounced dead at Provident hospital. An examination of the tree showed it was almost completely rotted throughout, breaking off close to the base.

Miss Thomas, witnesses said, was walking north when the accident occurred. The woman's body lay at Provident hospital until Saturday morning when it was identified by an aunt, Mrs. Julia Gray of 5636 Prairie avenue.

47TH STREET MOVIE HOUSE MURDER SCENE

Suspect Vanishes After Slaying

Recommending that police institute a diligent search to apprehend Jerome Butler for the murder of James Hayes, 56, of 3525 Federal street, Deputy Coroner George Proctor closed the coroner's investigation into the slaying at Brown's morgue, Wednesday morning.

Hayes' body was found backstage at the Apollo theatre, 526 E. 47th street Tuesday at 6 p. m. He had been brutally beaten about the head and face, his body trussed up with rope and hidden behind theatrical props. The body was discovered by William Crabtree, brother-in-law of the deceased, and assistant manager of the theatre. Hayes had been dead about two hours, police stated. There were no witnesses.

Suspect Disappears

Suspicion pointed to Butler, believed to have been the last person to see the slain man alive, when he vanished from the theatre around 5 o'clock Tuesday leaving no trace as to his whereabouts. The motive for the slaying is not known.

Crabtree told police he reported to work about 4:10 p. m., and met Butler preparing to leave the theatre. He stated he asked him where Hayes was and received the information that his brother-in-law had left the theatre with a "tall, dark-brown-skinned man, driving a Model A Ford" about 2 o'clock.

Butler, Crabtree stated, said the watchman told him he was going downtown. He also stated the suspect acted as helper to Hayes who, in addition to his watchman duties, also performed janitor's work at the theatre.

Discovers Body

Butler left the theatre shortly afterwards, Crabtree stated. Around 5:30 he went backstage to turn on the lights. He sensed something was amiss, he declared, when he discovered that the watchman's dog, usually kept tied in the rear of the theatre, was missing.

In his search for Hayes' dog, Crabtree said he noticed bloodstains behind the stage, leading to some pictures which had been used for theatrical purposes. Investigating, he discovered the aged man's body stuffed behind them. He was bleeding from a wound in the scalp, and his body had been tied up with ropes. Death resulted from a fractured skull, it was reported.

Dr. L. Reddick Named to N. Y. Library Post

NEW YORK, June 22—(ANP)—The New York public library, through its chief of circulation, Franklin F. Hopper, has announced the appointment of Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick to the position of curator of the division of Negro literature and history, located in the 135th street branch at which Ernestine Rose is librarian.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Dr. Reddick was graduated from Fisk university in 1932, received his M. A. from the same institution in '35; and has this year received the degree of doctor of philosophy in history from Chicago university.

Before going to Chicago, he served as instructor in history at Kentucky State college, Frankfort; and associate professor of history at Dillard university, New Orleans. He has also been associated with the Journal of Negro History as assistant editor.

Mr. Reddick will report on August 1 to take over this important position in the library system of New York City, which was formerly held by the late Arthur A. Schomberg.

DEMAND PROBE AS COPS DENY BRUTALITY CHARGE

Charges and denials marked the latest developments in the alleged police brutality case which has rocked the southside since the death of Dewitt Cannon, property owner and father of four chidren, in his home at 5247 Prairie avenue on June 6.

Civic organizations, aroused over what has been termed a "second John Robinson" case this week took steps to lay the basis for criminal prosecution of Officers Sylvester Washington and Jacob Woods, whom they charge with so severely beating Cannon that death was a result.

Cannon was arrested by the officers on a charge of disorderly conduct on June 2. His trial, set for June 5, at Branch 34, Municipal court, was postponed when the officers were unable to appear because of election duty at the polls. It was to be heard June 9 and Cannon was released on bond. He died the next day.

Launch Investigation

An investigation, occasioned when the family of the deceased charged Officers Washington and Woods with responsibility in Cannon's death, was launched by George F. McCray, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress. McCray was supported by Ira Lattimer, secretary of the Chicago Civil Liberties committee and Irving Krane, secretary of the International Labor Defense.

The latter two organizations led the fight which resulted in the ouster of two, and the suspension of two other policemen who administered a brutal beating which resulted in the death of John Rob-

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ILY KELLY HAS HIS TROUBLES

Poor Ily Kelly.

He has his trouble and you can bet your bottom dollar (not at Keno) he'll tell you it never rains but what it pours.

Ily was hailed into court before Judge Robert C. O'Connell last Thursday morning to explain why he'd failed to dump $700, final payment in his $6,500 alimony settlement, into the lap of glamorous Jessica Anderson, his former wife.

And Ily explained. It seems that a gang of unsympathetic gunmen had raided his popular gambling emporium, the swank Keno club at 104 E. 51st street, and helped themselves to $18,000.

Judge O'Connell was sympathetic. He gave Ily one week to scrape up the $700 and make Jessica happy.

CIVIC GROUPS USE BEE'S BROADCAST

Civic organizations, welfare groups and clubs are taking advantage of the BEE'S Negro News Broadcasts every day over Radio Station W-H-I-P, to acquaint the public with their program, plans and accomplishments. These broadcasts, which are rapidly gaining in popularity are heard from 1 to 1:15 p. m. every day. Tune in to Station W-H-I-P. Hear what's doing on the Negro News Front.

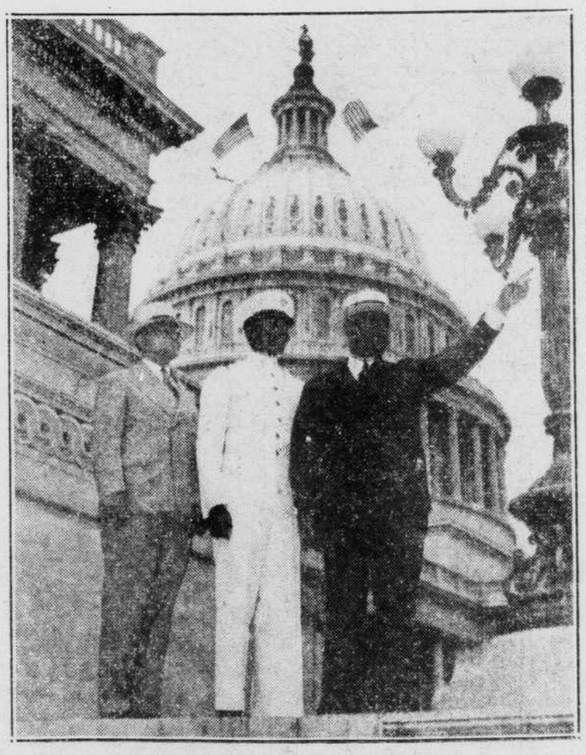
Two Hurt in Head-On Crash In Wash. Park

Two women were injured in a head-on collision in the south drive near 52nd street in Washington Park Saturday evening. The victims, passengers in the cars involved, were Mrs. Jessie Riggins, 2585 Van Buren, Gary, Ind., and Mrs. Rose Harper, 3648 Wentworth avenue. Both were taken to Provident hospital for treatment.

Mrs. Riggins was riding in a car driven by George Fields, also of Gary. Fields was driving south in the park drive when he became confused, police stated, trying to avoid an accident with another car and swerved into the north lane.

Fields' car crashed head on with one driven north by Leon Harper, husband of the other victim. Mrs. Harper suffered a severed tendon of the right hand and bruises. Mrs. Riggins sustained contusions of the scalp and chest and a badly lacerated right eye.

WEST POINTER VISITS D. C.



JAMES D. FOWLER, of Chicago, Ill., the only Negro cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., is shown at the capitol during his visit to Washington, D. C. With Cadet Fowler, who is in his third year at West Point, are Lieut.-Col. H. O. Atwood, U. S. A., left, and Representative Arthur Mitchell of Illinois, who appointed the cadet to the academy. (I. N. Photo).