

# To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

In the past several weeks I have spoken at commencement exercises at six black colleges and universities in the south, and it has been an exhilarating experience. Just standing on the platform and looking out at the sea of bright faces of graduates, their proud parents, and their friends is a moving experience. So too, is the realization of what that great moment means to those youngsters, who have struggled to complete their education in the face of a lifetime of poverty, hardship and discrimination.

Most are poor: 70 per cent come from families whose total income is less than \$5,000 per year, and the overwhelming majority are the first in their families to graduate from college.

Even without statistics, you know this from the faces of their parents. Their look of joy and the tears of pride welling in their eyes tell the story of the sacrifices made and dreams fulfilled. You can see the faces etched with the lines of time and struggle breaking into joyous smiles as their beloved children clutch that degree that marks the passkey to a better life.

For many white families of college graduates, the majority probably, a college degree is a continuation of a family tradition or a long taken-for-granted event. But for the parents of these black youngsters graduating from the black colleges of the south,

that degree means their children will be freed from the burdens of field labor, of hard, brutal physical labor, of powerlessness.

There is not question but that our society views a college degree as an entry permit to the middle class, an exit gate from the prison of poverty. The young men and women graduating today have far more opportunities than their forebearers. I can recall, as recently as 1960, graduating from Howard Law and getting a job that paid \$35 a week. Today, corporate recruiters are common on black college campuses and opportunities have grown. That college degree is now a ticket to an instant living wage.

But while the opportunities for these young people have expanded, they still have to deal with racism. They graduated at a time when the country seems to be turning its back on the evils of discrimination and racism; at a time when they must not only swim against the tide of overt discrimination, but also of that neglect and indifference which is often even more insidious.

My impression of these young people is that they are fully aware of the challenges and that they've developed a toughness in dealing with issues of race that their elders could well envy. They're a sophisticated group that knows it has a charge to keep and a duty to perform that goes well beyond the merely personal strivings so common to our society.

This was perhaps best

summed up for me at Tougaloo College, in Mississippi, where the senior class valedictorian said that "we end to begin." He meant that he and his fellow-graduates were ending their stay at Tougaloo, but were now embarking on the beginning of a lifetime of service to their black brothers in the urban and rural ghettos of the land.

This consciousness of using their education on behalf of all black and brown Americans and thus for the benefit of the entire nation is among the most inspiring aspects of these commencements. You get the feeling that while so many Americans are hung up on an orgy of consumerism, or cut themselves off from concern about their society, that here are the best of America's youth avidly grasping the challenges facing them and their country.

It's fairly common these days to hear people make disparaging remarks about the struggling black colleges of this land. But if there are any doubters as to the value and importance of the black colleges, let them come to any doubters as to the value and importance of the black colleges, let them come to one of these commencements and let them feel how hundreds of souls vibrate as one to the deepest longings of the people. It would take a hard heart and an empty mind to miss the importance and relevance of these schools which constitute a national treasure of the first order.

## Ebony Club provides variety

Jesse Hudson, owner-manager of the Ebony Club, is a 31 year resident of the Portland area. After serving 8 years in the Army, Hudson returned to the Portland area, where he has been involved in the insurance business. Mr. Hudson currently resides in the local community with his wife and 2 sons.

Approximately one year ago Mr. Hudson bought a night club located at 2125 N. Vancouver. He spent from April 1971 until late December totally remodeling the old club. In December, the Ebony Club opened, featuring live music and a tasteful, comfortably decorated interior, designed to produce a relaxed atmosphere for the clientele.

Since its opening, the Ebony has attracted such nationally known artists as B.B. King, the Stylistics, Major Lance, the Maltibu and Soul Explosion. Hudson has also brought in the best in local talent including such artists as Shades of Brown, Greg Smith and Gene Diamond.

Besides providing a friendly atmosphere for their regular customers, Hudson has encouraged group luncheons and functions. The Ebony has hosted such groups as Model Cities, the Black Caucus, Ad Hoc committee, Oregon Women Political Caucus and numerous private parties.



Jesse Hudson, owner-manager of the Ebony Club, shows the remodeled interior of his nightclub and banquet hall on Vancouver Avenue.

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MEMBER OF UNITED GROCERS

## Chisholm works for system change

Representative Shirley Chisholm concedes that because she is a woman, a black, without big name endorsers or large amounts of money, her chances for the nomination are remote.

"What I want to do," she said at a fund-raising party "is to shake things up, within the system." She believes that people are disgusted with politics as usual.

Mrs. Chisholm said that she did not believe that any candidate would be able to win the nomination on the first ballot. As a result, she wants to have a bloc of delegates at the convention so that "when they start wheeling and dealing we can keep them honest."

"We, the people, are going to be a force to be reckoned with at the convention in Miami in July," she says continually. The fiery, 5-foot, 4-inch black Representative said that because she was "un-bossed and un-bought" she could go to the convention to see to it that the Democratic party platform was "a document with meaning."

"I'm going to be heard at that convention," Mrs. Chisholm says. "You'd better believe me."

"This nomination is not a fait accompli," she tells crowds at street corners. "We are going to be asking a lot of questions of the credentials committee about the seating of blacks and women delegates from Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois. "We are going to be asking the front-runners what is going to be your position on having the convention live up to the McGovern rules? What will be your position, not your rhetoric?"

The McGovern rules, adopted by the Democratic National Committee last year following a nationwide study by a committee headed by Senator McGovern in the aftermath of the 1968 Democratic conven-

tion, call for delegate slates from each Congressional District to reasonably representative of the groups living in the area and for women to make up at least 40 per cent of the slate.

Mrs. Chisholm said that she would challenge those delegations that did not live up to these rules.

During her seven months of campaigning, Mrs. Chisholm has been able to bring together a working coalition of feminist groups, white liberals, blacks and church women.

"I was able to go to the campuses and get young people who had turned off completely on the system to try again," Mrs. Chisholm notes. Mrs. Chisholm said she hoped to hold her coalition in 30 states together to become a force for reasonable change in the country.

## Masons set banquet

The Most Worshipful St. Joseph Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. Scottish Rite and Mount Olive Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Oregon will open its 13th Annual Commemorative on July 6, 1972 at 635 N. Killingsworth Court. The Memorial Services will be held at 8 p.m. with Rev. E.C. Wilder delivering the sermon.

The Annual King and Queen Coronation and Banquet will be held at the Thunderbird Motor Inn, 1225 N. Thunderbird Way, Portland, Oregon at 7 p.m. and is open to the general public. Anyone wishing to make reservations may call 281-6618 for tickets. Mrs. Ellen Law, principal of Jefferson High School will be the guest speaker.

## It's Your Navy

Bill B. says "You've been rapping about getting a little more in the Navy. Just what is this little more you're so heavy on?"

Well Bill, it's an overall program designed to give each individual a better deal. The Navy is taking steps to improve the quality of life in the service, and to increase the responsibilities available to its men and women. Recent CNO directives let senior ranking enlisted men fill certain junior officer billets, and allow junior officers to hold certain at-sea and aviation

commands. The goal is to get the job done efficiently and to let every man know he is a vital member of the team.

The Navy has several programs to help make life more enjoyable for the individual, to restore the "fun and zest" of Navy life. They are recreational programs; ample opportunity for promotion; liberalized swap policies; realistic grooming and uniform policies; legal assistance and financial advice at no cost; liaison offices to deal with personal problems;

Family Service Centers; command wife and minority affairs groups.

And then there are the really tough times in life when disaster strikes. The Navyman has the resources of the Navy Relief Society, the Navy Federal Credit Union, the American Red Cross, plus liberalized emergency leave opportunities and chances for humanitarian reassignment or discharge.

There are also programs to insure every sailor the chance of continuing education. The USAFI Program of-

fers over 6,000 courses. The Navy Tuition Aid Program pays up to 75 percent of a student's tuition while he attends classes part-time at a civilian college or university in his duty area.

The long list of "extras" offered through the Navy does not stop with the man in uniform. Several of these benefits and privileges are offered to the serviceman's family, as well.

Besides medical care, other major benefits offered to Navy personnel and their qualified dependents include base exchanges and commissaries. And, of course, for those family vacations, there's 30 days of leave with pay every year.

If you have any questions write or call Merrill at 4008 N.E. Union, 282-5060 or John at 921 S.W. Washington Street, Room 540, 221-3041.



There is now a Vietnamese version of the 4-H Club. It is called the 4-T Broiler Club and it can be found in Thai Lac Hamlet.

The whole idea started with the 222nd Combat Aviation Battalion. The men of the 222nd organized 14 young people into a chicken-raising program. They also provided them with 100, one-day old chicks.

When fully grown, the chickens are sold and another 100 chicks are purchased by the youngsters. Money leftover is split among the club members. It is the hope of the soldiers that the 4-T Broiler Club will be the start of a local broiler industry, providing more jobs and income for the villagers.

### NEW VACCINE

Chalk up another Army medical discovery. As a result of two new oral vaccines developed through Army medical research, two common causes of sniffing, hacking and congestion should be virtually eliminated among basic trainees this winter.

The vaccines, developed at the Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., have proved to be effective against two types of respiratory infection which cause discomfort similar to the common cold.

### ARMY ORDNANCE

This week, we salute the men of Army ordnance. They are responsible for ammunition and explosives, and for repairing and rebuilding wea-

pons. Army ordnance experts also play an important role in virtually every community in the United States. Army explosive ordnance disposal units throughout the nation are on 24-hour call to assist local police departments in handling and defusing bombs and other explosives.

One unit, for example, recently dismantled Union Army artillery rounds that had been resting in a sunken ship in the Gulf of Mexico for more than 100 years. The same unit also was called upon when a truck and trailer containing seventy-two, 500-pound bombs jack-knifed and overturned on a Texas highway. As a result of the Army ordnance handling of the explosives, no one was injured.

### QUESTION

Do both the soldier and his dependents receive free medical care, or just the serviceman?

The serviceman and his dependents are entitled to free medical care at military facilities.

### FACTS ABOUT THE ARMY

Did you know - ... that during the past fiscal year, more than 4,750 officers from 44 foreign countries were trained at Army schools in the United States? ... that Army Ordnance Corps research, during World War II, was responsible for the development of synthetic material that replaced natural rubber?

## Tenant rights

### LANDLORD TENANT

I am sure there are many questions in your mind regarding you as a tenant and your landlord.

The following are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

### REPAIR OF THE PREMISES

When the tenant rents the premises he obligates himself to return the premises at the end of the lease period in as good a condition as it was at the inception of the period, excluding normal wear and tear.

It would be beneficial to the tenant if the owner would agree to the following provisions:

(1) Owner retain control of the roof, furnace and plumbing system unless abused by the tenant.

There is very little the owner must do if there is no written agreement. There is one exception, if corroded water pipes start leaking due to age, the tenant is not responsible.

### TENANTS PERSONAL PROPERTY

When a tenant takes possession of the premises his possession right is basically exclusive. We think the owner should be restricted to inspection during reasonable hours and only upon notice to the tenant or permission from the tenant. If an owner enters a house or apartment, except for extraordinary reasons such as fire, he is a trespasser if he does not have permission.

### ORAL LEASE

Without a written agreement, neither party knows where he stands. But more important no legal obligations can be enforced against the landlord in the absence of a written lease.

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