On Being Negro
In The Ivy League

Robert F. Engs ’65

Two years ago there appeared in the pages of ‘Esquire’ a most interesting debate on the place of the Negro in the Ivy League. One youthful Harvard product argued from his own experience that only in the Ivy League, with its “liberal” atmosphere and good manners, could the Negro undergraduate completely realize his social potential. A recent Yaleman, on the other hand, wrote he was simultaneously lionized and patronized to such an extent that finally he contemptuously withdrew from college. Here is Princeton’s contribution to the debate, written with dignity and integrity, a perceptive analysis of one aspect of “liberal” behavior here; it appeared in the ‘Nassau Lit’ and is reprinted with permission. Robert Engs graduated with honors, is now working in Nassau Hall with the Cooperative Schools Program, and next year hopes to attend the Stanford Graduate School for a Ph.D. in American history and a career in college teaching.—E.n.

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have quietly expressed an interest in religion and the good that can be done by religion on campus. These Deacons, however, may be as doubt-
tormented as any other student. At no time are they asked to make a doc-
trmental statement. They serve as a link between the Chapel Deans and the student body, not between God and man at Princeton.

This emphasis on intellectualized commitment as opposed to simple faith characterizes religion on campus. While students may scoff at evangelical
brochures and sentimentalized religion, more than 2,500 Princetonians attended the memorial service for President Kennedy. If the Princeton student can be said to have a religion, it is a religion resting not on contemplation, but on action.

The Ivy League Negro
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ification in the minds of white Ameri-
cans of the Negro as someone differ-
ent just because he is a Negro (whether
this identification leads to special con-
sideration and respect or overt hos-
tility) that I hate. What Princeton
undergraduates are trying to do to me
is wrong for themselves and for me.
If I accept their treatment—if I let
them make me a Negro—then I won't
have to work twice as hard to get as
much. I can get what I want and
scream 'racism! bigotry!' when I want
more. Do you realize how temptingly
easy this can be when things don't go
the way I'd like? To me this is where
the Negro movement fails. Where
does it leave the individual? What
room is there for individual integrity
and ability when, as some more ex-
treme groups demand, 15% of every-
thing should be done by Negroes and
I happen to be part of that 15%? The
whole attitude towards the Negro in
this country has forced Negroes to
turn to this type of solution. The be-

CLASS NOTES

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L. H. SHEARER
Mountain Ave.
Princeton, N.J.

Paul Bedford came home from the hospi-
tal this week after four and a half months
having made a very good recovery from his
broken hip.

Franklin Upshur died at his home in
Berlin, Md. on Aug. 13.

99

EDGAR M. GIBBS
158 Fifth Avenue, E.
Roselle, N. J. 07203

A generous gift to Annual Giving in the
name of '99 has been presented as a tribute
and memorial to our late beloved Stever by
a lifelong friend, Henry A. Houston 1911.
It is a privilege to share this honor with
our Edith, Steve's former devoted and lov-
ing wife for the past 56 congenial years.

Mary Lou Harmon Wells, our late be-
loved Harry's daughter, has added a fam-
ily photograph to our '99 gallery, which
includes herself, her husband, Bob, dau-
ghter, Sherry and son, Bruce. This makes a very
happy addition to our interesting and val-
uable collection.

No doubt many of us can lay claim to a
few minor operations and possibly one
major. Just read this record: we hear that
Watt Marshall and his family have under-
gone major open operations in the last 30
years! Now we wonder whether anything
is left to be removed either from person
or pocketbook.

Kathryn and Dick Webster are can-
didates for our sincere sympathy and con-
cern. Dick is laid up with a bad-acting
back which causes much pain. Kathryn is
chief nurse and faithful companion. We all
hope for better news in the near future
and in the meantime assure both that they are
constantly in our thoughts.

Our class roll is slowly being depleted.
We all are saddened by the death of Nate Reeves on Sept. 11. Another useful life is
ended but its influence lives on and on.

EDWARDS T. CASEY
138 Irving Avenue
South Orange, N.J.

By the time these notes are printed, the
football season will be well under way, and
Alex Smith and I are hoping that we will
see some of our class back in the black at Palmer
Stadium on Saturdays this fall.

Dwight Marvin recently received a letter
from Walter Howell who is living in the
Miami area. He and Mabel reside in one
of those modern institutions for retired
folk and Walter says that they are both
pretty well for "old people." Walter's son,
who is an acknowledged expert in the
treatment of arthritis has just returned
from a long stay in Sweden in pursuit of
his practice.

WALTER F. HOLLENBACK
88 Summit Avenue
Jersey City 4, N.J.

ALLER GUTEN DINGE SIND DREI

Earle Anderson, Vice-President and Re-
union Chairman, has spent the month of
September with his daughter and family,
Mrs. and Mrs. Weeks, in Winston-Salem, N.C. His
grandson, Dan Daly, wife and two sons,
who is stationed in Buenos Aires as man-
ger of one of the large metropolitan banks,
are spending a splendid year there also. It
was indeed very pleasant for him to greet
them whom he had not seen for several
years.

Your scribe and good wife Kathryn have
returned to their Jersey City home after
spending two months at the Perkiomen
School, occupying their apartment in the
Hollenbach Science Hall, Pennsburg, Pa.
While there they had the delight of cele-
brating their 50th wedding anniversary
in the presence of the faculty and summer
session students. They entertained on oc-
ocasion Mrs. Morris Hitchkelt, who is fol-
lowing with great interest the activities of
the members of our Class as recorded in
the issues of the ALUMNI WEEKLY.

Walter Boswell reports that Douglas
Dowell is enrolled this fall in college and
plans to become a veterinarian. He spent
his vacation as a guide and ranger conduct-
ing campers and fishermen into the back
country of the Sierra Mountains.

The October birthdays are: Colt, the
4th; Lantz, the 9th; Jenvy, the 13th;
Sper, the 19th; Ebeling, the 29th; and
Jack, the 30th. Send them greetings in
their waning years to bring them cheer.