### **New Directions**

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## **Commencement 1973**

**Editorial Staff** 

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# COMMENCEMENT 1973

"If what you have learned means anything, if the academic degrees that you have won mean anything, if what you have become means anything, it must mean that you are dedicated to the service first of the black community and after that community, to the rest of the world.

"It is my hope fellow students that no matter what you encounter, no matter what places they make for you now that you are members of the middle class, no matter what shop window they show you in as their proud Black face of achievement, no matter what they say to you by way of blandishments, you stand fast in your Blacknessthat you will not be moved, that you will not be corrupted, that you will remember your Jerusalem as the Jews did when they went into slavery and chose to remember their homes even though it costs them their lives."

Ossie Davis



**Playwright Ossie Davis**, commencement speaker and recipient of the Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

The Graduates – More than 2,000 academic degrees, including 36 Doctors of Philosophy, 93 Doctors of Medicine, 85 Doctors of Dental Surgery, and 132 Doctors of Law, were conferred upon the graduates of 1973 at the University's 105th Annual Commencement Exercises, May 12.

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**Dr. James E. Cheek,** President of Howard University, presided at the annual convocation during which **Gwendolyn Brooks**, the nationally acclaimed poet received the Honorary Doctor of Literature degree.

The Honorary Doctor of Literature degree was conferred upon author **Alex Haley.** 

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Jewel Stradford Lafontant, deputy solicitor general of the United States, recipient of the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

## Beginning of New Directions



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