

New Directions

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From the Editors Notebook

James E. Cheek

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Reaching More Readers

We are expanding the circulation of New Directions from 28,000 to 40,000 copies per issue.

Since the publication of our Fall issue, we have received requests from individuals and organizations who have expressed interest in our magazine.

Beginning with this issue, the mailing list has been expanded to include parents of students enrolled at the University, key federal agencies, institutions of higher education, and other friends of Howard University.

You Have a Voice

If you turn to page 3 you will see that we have created a new section for you—the reader. It is the Letters to the Editor page. This section is your forum and we hope you will use it to air your comments on issues of importance to you.

As you see, we have already received feedback from a few of our readers. We would like to hear from more of you in the future. Send all communications to the editor.

Good Samaritan

While researching another story, we came upon a small but significant item that captured our attention. It involved a life insurance benefit of \$5887 which was provided for the University by an Army veteran.

The donor, William W. Johnson, was not a graduate of Howard University. In fact, he never attended this institution as far as we have been able to determine. Yet he was generous enough to arrange with the Veterans Administration to turn over to Howard half the money from a life insurance policy, with the stipulation that the funds be used to help students—specifically veterans—in need of funds.

In accordance with the wishes of the late Mr. Johnson, the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment established the William W. Johnson Memorial Fund Emergency Loan for Veterans in August, 1973.

We would have liked to tell you more about Mr. Johnson. The only information that we have about him came in a letter to us from the Veterans Administration Center in Philadelphia. It said:

The information in our records regarding the deceased veteran... is limited in scope.

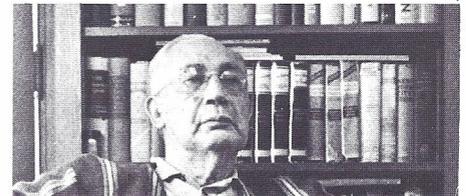
However, it is as follows: William W. Johnson, born: Barbados, British West Indies, March 21, 1903; entered on active duty—U. S. Army 7-31-42; honorably discharged 12-9-45; served overseas with 581st Ordinance Co. as an enlisted man.

The story suggests that Howard carries with it a special meaning for Black people, big and small, even for those who view it from a distance.

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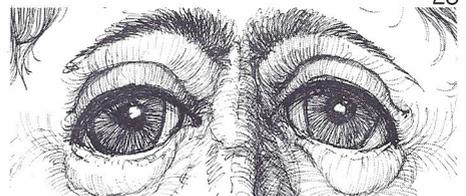
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