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# Howard University Journal

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Number 24

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## The Debate in Detail



ON the evening of April 13, the annual inter-collegiate debate between Atlanta and Howard Universities occurred in Atlanta University Chapel. From the very moment that Mr. Leroy E. Moon, of Atlanta, mounted the rostrum it was evident that the contest would be a stiff and heated fight. The subject debated read: "Resolved that the United States should subsidize ships engaged in South American trade as soon as practicable."

### First Affirmative

Mr. Moon, after very skillfully opening the debate by pointing out that there was a scarcity of ships and also that there was great need for the United States to develop South American trade, gave a definition of the question. He at once proceeded to show that subsidy was needed because of the following vital reasons: first, because foreign monopolies compel us to pay exorbitant freight rates; second, because of the fact of insufficient ships and high rates our exports to South America are less than our imports from South America; and third, because United States was dependent upon foreign ships for South American shipments. Mr. Moon in developing this point—the need of subsidy—very forcibly pointed out that present conditions were due to the war and also that operation of American ships costs far more than did the operation of foreign ships engaged in South American trade.

### First Negative

The first speaker on the nega-

tive, Mr. George E. Hall, of Howard, began with a few pointed rebuttal remarks showing that if the freight rates from the United States to South America were slightly higher than freight rates in previous years, such were not due to lack of ships but to lack of war insurance, and to war risks; that these rates were not higher than freight rates from European nations to South America, and that these conditions could not be off-set by subsidy as was affirmed by the affirmative speaker; also, that 70 per cent of the trade between South America and the United States was carried on by vessels of the United States and South America and only 15 per cent by the warring nations on which waters the affirmative claimed we almost entirely depend.

The speaker introduced his argument with a brief history of the trade subsidy bills before Congress, defining Ship Subsidy as government bounties or gifts to all ships under the United States flag carrying on trade between the United States and South America. After giving a brief outline of the points necessary for the affirmative to prove, stating that the affirmative must shoulder the burden of proof, he outlined the arguments of the negative. The point of the first negative speaker was: that present conditions do not demand the unnecessary and dangerous subsidy measure. First, because we have not only sufficient bottoms but a surplus of bottoms for our South American trade; second, because our trade in South America, regulated by the laws of supply and demand, is developing normally and substantially

under our present system; and finally because the United States is not only getting control of the larger majority of ships carrying our trade to South America, but is fastly acquiring merchant vessels for her foreign trade in general without subsidy.

The first contention rested upon statements from such authorities as Mr. Otto Wilson, United States agent of the Department of Commerce, Mr. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, and written statements from shipping brokers in New York and Boston. An outline of our trade carrying facilities to all important ports of South America and authentic statements showing the excess number of ships compared with our trade and proof that vessels were sailing to South America half empty established the first argument.

The second argument rested upon statistical facts showing that both our import and export trade with Argentina, Brazil and Chile, the representative South American Republics, are developing not only normally and substantially without subsidy but developing more rapidly than the trade of European Nations in South America.

The final argument was supported by facts showing that a large proportion of our South American trade is now carried on in bottoms under the United States flag; that more than a hundred large ocean vessels have come under our registry since the war began; that the United States has a firm place in the world's carrying industry; and that shipbuilding concerns are working to their fullest capacity constructing ocean vessels for American

(Continued on Page 4)

## The Second Step

"Caesar's Commentaries" relates a striking incident in the life of Mithridates, a renowned outlaw of Southern Asia. This chieftain's name was heralded throughout those regions carrying with it the imagery of pillage, famine, and death.

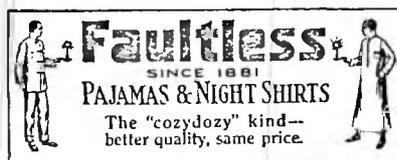
Imperious Rome sent her Pompey, who was well disciplined in this kind of warfare, in order that he might bring an end to the career of Mithridates. The trained legions of Rome crushed with heels of iron the rebel followers of the mighty chieftain. The task was not a difficult one for these rebels were drunk with countless victories and the spoils wrung from those they had oppressed.

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Though defeated Mithridates gathered his scattered forces and with undaunted will and fixed determination addressed them in a fiery, passionate, and soul-rocking oration. Caesar says of Mithridates that he did not consume his energy and time in deriding his soldiers and lamenting the old defeat, but in encouraging them and preparing for a new battle.

This incident has been related in order that I might get to these words: "Not lamenting the old defeat but preparing for a new battle." Whatever his faults, Mithridates showed in making this decision, that he possessed what all the world has sanctioned as a most admirable trait in man, that is, as Tennyson expressed it, "To rise on stepping stones, of our dead selves, to higher things."

Our veteran soldiers on the gridiron have met with a disastrous season. That they acquitted themselves like men, however, all the students at Howard know well; and those who saw the game at Hampton can testify fully to this. We might out-live the defeat; but added to it is the fact, that our rival has taken a solemn oath to come here to Howard, our "Alma Mater," and defeat us on our own campus.

This is the proud and haughty boast of our victors, who, for the second time in the whole history of our gridiron record, tasted the sparkling wine of victory, when the golden cup of Howard, with the white and blue streaming from its handles, was tilted on last Thanksgiving-day, not for the lips of our warriors, but for the open mouths of our enemies.

Now, go where you may, seek work where you will,—but whether you are carrying the "pan" at the sea shore, "slinging sheets" on the Hudson, or "making down" on the New York Central, you shall not—O Men of Howard—escape the taunts of our victors. For Hampton has heralded *her* victory and *our* defeat to every town and hamlet of America and islands of the sea,—even farther,

—across the sea to the Old World.

Shall not we, too, say, as did Mithridates of old, that our task as *real* men is not to lament the old defeat, but to *prepare* for the new battle? But what can we do? The first step has been taken. This step was in the form of a petition, drawn up by the student body, endorsed by the Athletic Council, and was then sent to the Trustee Board. The purpose of the petition is to have the whole Athletic fee of three dollars to be used for athletics only, and not, two dollars, of it to go to the gymnasium fund. We have good reasons for believing that this much needed change will be made.

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upon stars from other schools to come to Howard and fight our battles and win our victories. We must build our teams here on the campus, and then they will have in their hearts the Howard spirit and the Howard life. Then, and then alone, will they meet and conquer all ambitious and haughty rivals, be they Union, Lincoln, or Hampton.

The germ for a Howard team is now in the nucleus. The series of class contests which are being held daily under the competent direction of our physical trainer, Mr. Carroll, will be productive of inestimable good. The system of interclass and interdepartmental rivalry is precisely the procedure that Hampton adopted years ago. Now it has grown to maturity and Hampton has the best *system* and greatest athletic teams in the country. Think what it means to have fellows work together on class teams, then on departmental teams, and finally go forth on the varsity teams and defend the white and blue!

Our defeat has merely given us an opportunity to reveal to all the world the Howard brand of men. Here is a chance to show that we "trust ourselves when all men doubt us," here is a chance "to rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things."

—N. O. Goodloe.

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Friday, April 28, 1916

### The Debate in Detail

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registry.

With a brief summary of the argument the speaker, with an appeal for fairness to agricultural taxpayers of Georgia and other Southern States, who, without profit to themselves, would have to pay the money for a subsidy to millionaire ship owners, closed.

#### Second Affirmative Argument

Mr. Asa Gordon, of Atlanta, made the third opening speech. Mr. Gordon argued that subsidy is the best method to secure ships. He began by comparing subsidy with free ships and pref-

erred upon the fact that the great disadvantage of superior cost of operation, cost of construction and the amount of foreign subsidy made it impossible for subsidy to put United States ships on equal competitive basis. Mr. Temple's second argument was that the experience of foreign countries and the United States itself did not justify the adoption of subsidy. He showed that the Marine of England, Germany and Japan was due to natural economic outgrowth and development, whereas France which rested upon the fact that the great disadvantage of superior cost of operation, cost of construction and the amount of foreign subsidy made it impossible for subsidy to put United States ships on equal competitive basis. Mr. Temple's second argument was that the experience of foreign countries and the United States itself did not justify the adoption of subsidy. He showed that the Marine of England, Germany and Japan was due to natural economic outgrowth and development, whereas France which

subsidy was superior to each of them. He referred to the disadvantages which would be offset by the adoption of subsidies. Then Mr. Gordon maintained with Ex-Senator Depew that  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars of freight rate would be saved as a result of subsidy. Mr. Gordon further argued that the history of colliers has verified this fact. Subsidies he concluded would also furnish naval auxiliary in time of war. His next contention, in support of the fact that subsidies were the best method, was that experience has shown that subsidies produce ships and build trade. This he attempted to prove by citing the history of subsidy in England, Germany, and Japan. In the course of this argument the fact was developed that not only ships and trade resulted from subsidy but that also a naval auxiliary resulted. Mr. Gordon summed up the argument for the affirmative and concluded by saying that the United States should subsidize ships engaged in South American trade as soon as practicable.

#### Second Negative Argument

Mr. Temple, of Howard, made the last opening speech. Mr. Temple first repeated the argument of Mr. Gordon that subsidy was most economical method, and challenged the gentlemen of Atlanta to give exact cost of subsidy if warrantable. He further repeated arguments that greater cost of operation of a ship was reason why subsidy should be given, but that this on the other hand is very strong and conclusive proof that subsidy could not overcome this additional cost of operation plus the amount of subsidy given, by foreign ships. Mr. Temple then set out to show that subsidy should not be given ships engaged in South American trade because subsidies were dangerous and impractical. Mr. Temple defended this contention by first proving that subsidies were not in accord with sound econom-

rested upon the fact that the great disadvantage of superior cost of operation, cost of construction and the amount of foreign subsidy made it impossible for subsidy to put United States ships on equal competitive basis.

Mr. Temple's second argument was that the experience of foreign countries and the United States itself did not justify the adoption of subsidy. He showed that the Marine of England, Germany and Japan was due to natural economic outgrowth and development, whereas France which

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paid the greatest amount of general subsidy of any foreign country had less effective and prosperous marine of any foreign country. Mr. Temple proved how subsidy had been tried in the United States and had failed from the time of its first adoption up to the present day. In conclusion of this argument he maintained that the United States must get ships through natural economic outgrowth and not through any artificial growth such as had proved dangerous and ineffective both abroad and at home.

Mr. Temple's final argument against subsidies was that it was not democratic. He pointed out that subsidies go to two or three large and powerful monopolies, and also that wherever tried it fostered competition. These political evils, he said, though in accord with monarchical and aristocratic governments of Europe

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were not in accord with government founded upon the democratic "Justice to all and special favors to none." After summing up the negative argument Mr. Temple concluded by saying in part "that because trade and ships were developing upon a natural, permanent and substantial basis it would be an infinite outrage for the United States to extort from the American taxpayer a useless, artificial and revolutionary subsidy unjustified by both economics and, lastly, to say nothing of its undemocratic aspects.

### First Rebuttal

The first negative rebuttal began by analyzing the positions that both teams were holding. A pointed contrast of the arguments was made, showing that with a preponderance of evidence and logical arguments the negative had met the strongest points of the affirmative. He then warmed the arguments to these points: Do we need ships for our South American trade? Would the proposed subsidy give us an auxiliary merchant marine. Is any general trade subsidy desired? The first was then cared for by the speaker who by referring to his former argument and producing other evidence showed that we have a surplus of ships for our South American trade.

The second rebuttal speaker was Mr. Moore of Atlanta who attacked the negative argument that there was a sufficient number of ships. In defense of this attack Mr. Moore read several extracts from New York Times relative to trade conditions and ships. Mr. Moore again contended that the gentleman from Howard did not successfully disprove the fact that freight rates were exorbitant because of a scarcity of ships. He pointed out that ships of England, when subsidy was real bad, recently became a part of naval auxiliary and in a brief and pointed way refuted argument that marine of foreign country was not due to subsidy.

The third rebuttal speech was given by Mr. Temple. Mr. Temple very quickly cited authorities from various section of the United States who to a man verified the argument that sufficient ships were engaged in South American trade. He next rebutted the argument of the last rebuttal speaker of Atlanta that freight rates were exorbitant and proved contrary by quoting recent bulletin report of R. G. Dunn and Company, also the statements of various members of merchant marine committee. The naval auxiliary argument was met by giving the testimony of naval experts which showed that trade ships were and would be inadequate for naval auxiliary. After briefly reviewing the history of subsidy in countries upheld by the affirmative, Mr. Temple read a letter from the Secretary of Mr. Redfield, dated March 20, 1916, which said that "under present conditions subsidy for

(Continued on Page 8)



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# ATHLETICS

*Geo. B. Washington, Editor*

## The Interest of the Students towards Our Athletic System

The last weakness of our present athletic system is the lack of interest displayed by the student body towards this branch of our University life. To be successful in athletics there is a duty which the student body, through its Athletic Association, must perform. That duty is to see to it that our athletics are conducted not only on a progressive scale, but also in a manner that shall be worthy of our noble institution.

The interest displayed by the students at present, through their organ, the Athletic Association, can not be called progressive. The Association meets about

three times a year and then we meet only to elect some officers and to argue over some trivial point of procedure. We never discuss questions vital to our athletic life or if we do it is only for the moment that such questions engage our attention and they are soon forgotten. We send representatives from the Association to the Athletic Council but half the time these representatives do not know what the students desire simply because we have not met to give them instructions. Such weaknesses of our system will continue until the students through their Athletic Association remedy these evils. There are many other questions which must largely determine our success in athletics that the Association should consider with great deliberation. Space will not permit us, however, to enumerate these various questions.

Students, let us arouse ourselves to the task which is before us. Let us take a real active interest in our athletics. We are the ones who furnish the money to turn the wheels of our athletic system, let us then be the ones to find out what is the trouble when the wheels of our athletic system do not revolve in the right direction. Our athletics demand the careful consideration of us all, and we have shown that we can arise to an occasion when once we have been aroused.

The athletic life at Howard must be rejuvenated. With an alive Athletic Association which will be zealous in every phase of its work for the honor of old Howard; with a progressive coaching system which will not only give us a Howard System, but also

athletic teams which will bring back to us our former position in the athletic world; and, lastly, with the business side of our athletics upon a firm basis, the pendulum will swing back, victories will replace defeats and athletics at Howard will take their rightful place besides that of debating—at the head of the league.

## Notes

The Varsity baseball team plays Hampton at Hampton on the 30th. The boys have been practicing hard for this contest and hope to show Hampton that Howard is still in the athletic arena. On May the 5th, the Varsity plays the local Y. M. C. A. team at American League Park. This will be one of the big games of the season and as the Y. M. C. A. team is a formidable aggregation, our boys must play some ball to bring home the victory.

The Academy baseball team looks like a sure winner for the scholastic championship of the

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The Howard Student's Friend

District. On last Friday the Preps defeated M Street, 15 to 12, and on Saturday defeated Business High, 20 to 5. In both contests the Academy boys showed great batting strength. In both the fielding and pitching the teams seem to be well fortified. Manager Neal is now arranging an attractive schedule for the remainder of the season.

The rivalry between the Freshmen and Sophomore classes was further intensified, when the basket-ball teams of these two classes composed of girls engaged in a spectacular game on the 15th at the gym. A large crowd was present and class spirit displayed

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itself to a high degree. The game was clean and fast but the shooting of the Sophomore forwards proved to be the deciding factor of the game. The Freshies, though beaten 29 to 7, put up a plucky fight and time and again executed some very clever work. The Sophs displayed a varied attack of team work which the Freshmen girls were seldom able to break up. The game was a credit to the young ladies of these two classes and we hope to see more games of such a caliber next season.

## Glee Club Concert

The annual recital of the University Glee Club took place on the evening of April 14th in the chapel. On this occasion the club was greeted by an appreciative audience of both students and friends of the University. The hardy applause given to the several selections rendered by the members of the club evidenced not only the beauty of musical numbers, but also the artistic manner in which these numbers were sung.

In particular the "Glee Club Informal" and the solo work of Mr. Singleton deserve special notice. Praise must be given also to Professor Tibbs, the director of the Club, for the care he has exercised to give us such a worthy Glee Club. The members of the club as well as Manager Blackburn are to be commended in their efforts to make the Club a success. The following program was rendered at the recital:

### PART I

1. "March of the Men of Harlech," *Brewer.*
2. (a) "My Lady Chlo' (Negro Love Song)," *Leigher.*  
(b) "Women," *Kratz.*
3. "Bertram and Birni,"  
*Kipling.*
4. "On the Sea," *Buck.*
5. (a) "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes," *Gaines.*  
(b) "Little Tommy," *Macy.*
6. (a) "When de Corn Poné's Hot," *Dunbar.*  
(b) "Encouragement," *Dunbar.*
7. "Glee Club Informal."

### PART II

8. Folk Songs  
"Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray."  
"O Rocks, Don't Fall on Me."
9. "De Goneness of de Past,"  
*Anonymous.*
10. "About Clocks," *Hammond.*
11. (a) "Almona," *Burleigh.*  
(b) "Her Eyes Twin Pools,"  
*Burleigh.*
12. (a) "Lullaby," *Robinson.*  
(b) "Winter Song," *Bullard.*

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### The Debate in Detail

(Continued from Page 5)

ships engaged in South American trade would be ineffective and undesirable." The rebuttal speech of the negative was closed with these words. "The gentlemen of the negative shall not crucify the American taxpayer upon a cruel cross of subsidy, expecting that he will say in his dying agony, 'I forgive them for they know not what they do!'"

The last rebuttal speech of the enemy was made by Mr. Gordon.

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He very consistently concluded the negative and carried his audience by a very humorous joke. Mr. Gordon pointed out the inconsistencies of such authorities as Royal Mecker, and Professor Taussig. He then attacked the non-democratic argument of the negative and showed that if subsidy lowered ship rate it was democratic. He briefly summoned up his argument and closed with the words that United States should subsidize all ships engaged in South American trade.

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