Book Review

By Saunders Redding

Montgomery, Alabama: A City in Crisis, by William T. Gay. Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York. 117 pp. $2.75.

William T. Gay is a white native of Montgomery, Alabama. Returning there to write a historical book some months ago, he found the city the confluence of highly combustible emotional torrents.

Mr. Redding

He found misunderstanding intolerance, hatred; Montgomery had not come to this hazardous condition overnight, though there were those whites—Gay himself among them—who preferred to think that it had, and who professed to believe that "our Negroes" (in the white man's guilefully disarming phrase) were quite happy and satisfied until the Supreme Court decision, "outside agitators" and the bus boycott stirred them up to make demands for rights that they never had before and that they never earned.

Appalled by the holocaust that seemed impendent, Mr. Gay laid aside his historical work to write this present book.

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HE MADE a commendable start: "Montgomery is on trial. . . . every individual. . . America is on trial. . . ."

But soon he is writing from a position of prejudice, the keystone of which is, he explains, a sort of natural racial antipathy.

In an insidious way this prejudice prevades every page of the book, and it is the more dangerous because Gay manages to make it sound so reasonable. And the reasonableness itself is the spawn of ignorance.

* * *

GAY WOULD have us believe, for instance, that after more than three hundred years of life and learning in America the colored people of the United States still draw principally upon their cultural heritage from Africa, where — while other parts of the world "the white race. . . . developed one civilized nation or empire after another. . . . — the black race remained through all the ages primitive savage tribes."

Though this perhaps might be allowed as excusable ignorance, the same allowance cannot be made for Gay's distortion of what he knows to be the facts and for his reassertion of that ancient canard that colored people are a tax "burden upon the white people."

A man who holds a degree in law (Univ. of Alabama) must know that colored people pay taxes at the same rate as anybody else.

If the total of what they pay is relatively small, then this is because prejudice and discrimination debar them from the more remunerative occupations.

Such ideas that the foregoing indicates Mr. Gay holds are planted like booby-traps all through his book.

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IF CARELESSLY read, **Montgomery, Alabama,** which fakes the structure of heroic verse, would seem a moderate "liberal Southern white" man's paean to good race relations; to the white people of Mohtgomery, all of whom are made to appear solely devoted to "American principles of Christianity and democracy"; and to the colored people, who "can be proud and independent in Montgomery" — if only they will let white people work things out for them. . .

But since so far the colored people seem disinclined to this, Gay concludes:

"A solution
To the people of Montgomery
Satisfactory
Is not yet apparent"

Our Readers Write

If you have a problem, let us help. Make letters short. Address AFRO Magazine Section, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

THANKS

Detroit, Mich. — I want to thank you for the recent feature in the Magazine Section: "Why Women Become Shake Dancers."

My picture was one of those used as illustrations, and I felt most flattered being a part of it. Next week I celebrate my first year as a dancer.

I have met lots of interesting people, and have been fortunate enough to work regularly in some of the nicer places.

JEFRI SPENCER

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TALL STUFF

Philadelphia, Pa. — I maintain, that Jess Willard was the tallest world heavyweight champion ever, but this gang of hard heads I run around with have beat me down that Primo Carnera was the taller. Can you settle this for us please?

THOMAS WEBSTER

You are right, Tom, by a quarter of an inch. Jess Willard, the Kansas man who won the world heavyweight crown in 1915 was 6ft. 6 in. tall. Primo Carnera, the Italian who won the championship in 1933 was 6 ft. 5 3/4 inches.

Your Prayers Are Asked

For Ida and her only son Keith both suffering from eye afflictions . . . For a young husband and father suffering from a disease of the spine . . . For little Janet that she may be able to speak . . . For Maureen that an operation may be possible . . . For baby John partially paralyzed . . . For a dear sister Gwen suffering from cancer of the throat . . . For Audrey's mother . . . For an aged sister that her sight may be saved . . . For a dear mother-in-law not expected to live . . . For Leslie that he may walk again . . . For a dear husband that he may have peace of mind . . . For two brothers Tom and John . . . For Grace that she may recover . . . For cousin Brian that his leg may be saved . . . For a husband with arthritis . . . For Mrs. A. . . . For a family of three. For Philip . . . For Agnes . . . For a very sick Mum . . . For Mrs. T. in severe agony . . . For little Caroline.

And for all sick and suffering people wherever they may be, that it may please God to heal them, And that Peace may prevail in the world.

THE SAME

Newark, N.J. — I recently saw "Wuthering Heights" on one of the late TV shows. My wife and I enjoyed it very much, then got into a light argument over who wrote it.

I claim it was written by a man, Ellis Bell — she says it was written by a woman Emily Bronte. Who's right

ROBERT ENFIELD

You both win. Ellis Bell was the name Emily Bronte used when her book appeared in 1847.

* * *

DIFFERENCE

Richmond, Va. — Is there any real difference between macaroni and spaghetti except that one is thicker than the other?

DOREEN SMITH

The real difference is that macaroni is hollow and spaghetti is not.

* * *

WHA HOPPEN?

Wilmington, De. — Whatever happened to Sister Rosetta Tharpe who used to sing with the old Lucky Millinder band years ago, strumming a guitar. Is she still in show business?

SYLVIA BROWN

Very much so. She is currently a smash hit in London, England, and still strums a guitar, although now it is a modern electric one.

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PRISON

Raleigh, N.C. — Has anyone ever escaped from Alcatraz Prison off the coast of San Francisco?

D. T.

Officially, no. But in 1937, two kidnappers, Theodore Cole and Ralph Roe, cut a hole in the roof, and disappeared into the fog and were never seen again.

Prison authorities claim that they must have been drowned in the treacherous currents in the two-mile stretch of water between the island and the mainland.

A professional stuntman, however, has made it from the prison to the mainland while handcuffed. But prison bosses point out that prisoners get no chance to train for such a perilous swim.

Looking For Someone

If you want to locate missing friends or relatives, enclose $1 in an envelope along with a description of the person, where and when he was last heard from. Send it to Missing Persons Editor, AFRO-AMERICAN Magazine, 628 N Eutaw St., Baltimore, 1, Md.

Persons with information concerning these missing people address all correspondence to Missing Persons, c/o AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Mrs. Bertye Watson of Seaford, Delaware, is looking for Mrs. Mattie Harris on (nee Kennard). Her mother's name was Harriett Kennard and she had a brother (now deceased) named Clarence Kennard living near Cambridge, Md. Her last known address was Baltimore, Maryland.

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Frances Myers of Cooleemee, N.C. is looking for her Pen Pal, Roy Drayton who lived in Conway, S.C. but has moved to North Carolina.

* * *

John Terry of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is looking for his adopted parents. He was adopted between the years of 1937 and 1938. Their names are Bernice and Francis Madison. At that time the three of us lived in Charlotte, North Carolina and Sanford, North Carolina. Their last known address was Washington, D.C.

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Adelaide F. T. Payne of Washington, D.C. is looking for his West Indian Father, Edward Talliaferro. His last known address was Washington, D.C.

* * *

Miss Catherine Barnes of Eastover, S.C. is looking for her daddy. He is about 6 feet tall, weighs about 190, brown complexioned and has Light brown eyes. His last known address was Richmond, Virginia.

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Flora M. Hutchings of Baltimore, Maryland is looking for James E. Casey. Last known address was Roanoke, Virginia.

* * *

Mrs. Emma Nelson of Charlotte, North Carolina would like to know the whereabouts of Mme. I. Jordon.

Mrs. Sallie B. Douglass is looking for her brother, Luther Irby. He is 52 years old and about 5 feet 10 inches. Weighs about 185, dark brown skin and gold tooth in front. His last known address was Miami Beach, Fla., Miller Hotel.

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MRS. SALLIE COLEMAN of Baltimore, Md. is looking for Mr. Abe Washington and his wife Doll. They were last heard from living between Fairmount and Clarksburg W. Virginia in 1938. Mr. Washington was a coal miner.

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ROBERT HASLEY of Baltimore, Md. is looking for children, Joseph, Judy and Inez Hasley. They were last seen in Rock Hill, S.C. in 1946. Mother's name is Ruth Acres.

* * *

MRS. ELLEN CALHOUN, 2708 Fisk Rd., Baltimore, Md. is trying to locate a cousin living in Chicago, Ill. His name is Vernon Magrime. He formerly lived in Greensville, S.C. and later resided in Baltimore. His father, Gip, and a sister, Ruth, still live in Greensville.

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MRS. IDA EDWARDS is looking for her son. Last heard from in 1955 living at 209 W. 121 St., New York 17, New York.

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MRS. LOUISE McNAIR is looking for her sister-in-law, Arcetha McNair, whose last known address was 1294 Park Avenue, N.Y.C., where she worked. Her brother is critically ill in Mercy-Douglass Hospital, Philadelphia.

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MRS. DELORES ROBINSON of Virginia is looking for her son, Elbert Robinson.

Legal Advisor

By ROBERT WATTS
Baltimore Attorney

If a man and wife start a partial or absolute divorce, and never go through with the procedure, and after 18 or 20 years, one remarries, is the other one legally free to get married if he or she wanted to? A Reader.

ANS: No. If the divorce action was filed and never carried forward to a final decree, then it has no effect at all. The lapse of 20 years means nothing — the parties are still married and the one who remarried has committed bigamy and the parties are not legally married.

* * *

I HAVE been staying with a man for 11 years and now I have a baby boy by him. He has gone off to New York claiming to be working, yet the other man who went with him came back for they didn't do so good up there.

I have only heard from my boyfriend once in two months. Can I have him brought back here and made to do for what is his?

ANS: No. You cannot bring him back but you can make him support his child. If you can afford an attorney see one and he will file against him under the Uniform Support of Dependents Act.

He could be extradited but you have to pay the costs of bringing him here for trial. If you cannot afford an attorney, see the city solicitor.

* * *

MY HUSBAND stays out late and refuses to have anything to do with me. About two years ago this all started and he moved into a separate bedroom in our home and refuses to be a husband to me. He also refuses to leave. Can I divorce him under these facts?

ANS: Of course, an attorney would need more facts than those given in your letter, but from the given facts it appears you could sue him for desertion and abandonment of 18 months duration. He doesn't have to actually leave the home, his leaving the marital bed is sufficient if you can prove it.

The Bridge Table

Neither side vulnerable.
East dealer.

NORTH
♠ —
♥ 8 7
♦ J
♣ A K Q J 10 9

WEST
♠ —
♥ 10 6 5
♦ Q 10 9 7 5 4 3 2
♣ 6

EAST
♠ A K 10 7 4 2
♥ 9
♦ A K 8 6
♣ 5 4

SOUTH
♠ J 9 8 6 5 3
♥ A K Q J 4 3 2
♦ —
♣ —

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♣	2♥	3♦	4♣
5♦	6♥	Pass	7♣
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	Re-dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ace of spades.

There's nothing like a juicy bid to enliven things, and this week's hand is no exception. Weird as it may look the hand was actually dealt in the course of a rubber bridge setto. The bidding is reported as it happened.

Things started logically enough — East made a normal opening of one spade. Reading a slam potential in his holdings this early in the auction, South chose to make a simple overcall in hearts.

West dredged up a perfectly horrible three-diamond bid. Guess he was carried away by the eight diamonds. North, in view of his partner's overcall, also read slam vision in diagnosis and merely named clubs at the lowest possible level.

After East hopped up to a game try in diamonds, South announced the key bid of the hand—he cue bid diamonds.

* * *

THAT WAS ALL North wanted to hear, and he immediately went all out for the grand slam in clubs. East doubled and had a redouble slapped back at him.

The ace of spades was led and it was all over but the shouting. It was now that the acumen of the cue bid showed up.

A diamond lead would have sunk the contract, but in view of South's cue bid, East shunned the suit. After all, how could he know South had no clubs?

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HERE IS MILDRED

TV Questions And Answers

Our friend Mildred discourses on a TV commentator she listened to talking about the "African Situation."' As usual, she has few choice words to say about the situation.

By Alice Childress

I'm sorry, Marge, I can't help laughin'!

Yeah, turn the T.V. off 'cause nothin' is happenin'.

How come these folks can look so pompous and grave when they speak all that ignorant mess?

That man had a lot of nerve to sit there with his bare face hangin' out and spew up all that hatred.

Yes indeed, and the one who was questionin' him acted like he was hearin' some pearls of wisdom.

* * *

WE'VE HEARD a lot of white folks from South Africa tell their story bout the "problem," but I have yet to hear from a black South African. . .

Yes, ma'am, it will be quite a while before we do.

Don't you be taken in by a thing that man said!

I have never been to South Africa, and he has lived there, but I can tell he's talkin' pure nonsense, and nobody is gonna follow his words but a wishful-thinkin' fool.

* * *

NOW, HE STARTED off by sayin' that segregation is best for everybody concerned, and then he backs up the argument by sayin' how his colored "friend," who is a doctor, agrees with him.

Now, if he is for segregation, what is he doin' with a **colored friend?**

I have ever noticed that folks, who are for segregation, always seem to have a great number of colored "friends," who agree with 'em.

Have you ever seen or heard from one who said, "I don't have a colored friend in the world"? No, and you never will.

The next thing he threw in was how the South African was too backward to be allowed to have rights like other folks, and how it would be many years before they were cultured enough to have any privileges

You can see he is just chock full of bright plans to uplift the whole human race.

He wants us to believe that if folks are held down, kept from jobs, education and decent places to live, **they will be much better people in the next fifty years.**

* * *

I AGREE with you, girl! Of course, he's not interested in helpin' a soul!

When a man puts his foot down on your neck, you can believe me that he's not tryin' to help you get up!

Next, he went on to point but that he does not care to sit next to Africans on streetcars, because they are greased all over with castor oil, and they are also full of lice, and he is afraid of soilin' his clothes or catchin' lice.

Hmmmmmmmph!

Instead of leavin' well enough alone, he carries the argument further by addin', that if these same oil-covered, lice - laden folks are allowed to go to the public school, it will definitely bring about wholesale intermarriage!

Marge, stop laughin', you know that's what he said. All I'm askin' is. . how does he sound?

* * *

I COULD barely stand hearin' all that foolish talk, but it was really time to go, when he started talkin' about the horrible story he had heard about some Africans killin' another one and eatin' him for dinner.

I guess he thought that was his tightest argument as to why a race of people should be held down.

No, I don't believe him for a minute but just for the sake of argument let's suppose he was lettin' us in on the absolute truth.

How many millions do you think have been killed in World War One and World War Two and all the other wars you can bring to mind? How many Africans have been put to death from slavery time right up to now?

How many lynchin's have you heard of?

How many times do you pick up the papers and see where they have killed off relatives, friends and sweethearts?

What week goes by that you don't hear of murder after murder?

Now, the fact that they didn't eat the victims afterwards. . . meant little or nothin'. . . because the harm had already been done, so to speak, if you know what I mean!

* * *

INDEED I don't want to hear another word out of that man!

Turn to another channel.

I understand there's a picture on tonight about a fella who turns into a were-wolf or some kind of monster that will scare us silly.

Yeah, turn that on, let's get a little of that culture under our belts.

What Has Happened

(Continued from Page 1)

secondary and 3 theological students.

Total enrollment 447. There were 20 teachers who received the average salary of $400 a year. Income from the church was $14,000. Annual budget, $16,702. The four-acre campus was valued at $20,000 and the four buildings at $57,000.

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EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE, established in 1888 at Jacksonville, Fla., in 1915 had 240 elementary, 71 secondary, and 8 theological students. Total enrollment, 319.

Annual income from the AME Church was $12,430. 16 teachers were paid an average annual salary of $450. The seven-acre campus was valued at $28,000 and three frame buildings at $1,300.

* * *

SHORTER COLLEGE, established 1886 in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1915 had 128 elementary, 76 high school, and 15 theological students. 14 teachers were paid an average of $360 per year.

The school campus, comprising a city block, was valued at $16,500 and the three buildings were valued at $11,050.

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PAUL QUINN COLLEGE, established 1881, in Waco, Texas, in 1915 had 215 elementary, 57 high school, and 12 college students. 15 teachers received an average annual salary of $450 a year.

The 20-acre campus was valued at $40,000 and the five frame buildings were valued at $52,000. Income from the AME Church was $15,537. Total budget, $24,318.

* * *

DANIEL PAYNE Junior College, Birmingham, Ala., established 1888, had 208 elementary and 57 high school students. 13 teachers were paid an average of $400 a year.

Income from the AME Church was $5,000. Total budget, $6,500. Estimated value of campus, a city block, $10,000. Estimated value of the two large buildings and several cottages, $50,000.

The 1915 U.S. Department of Education Survey in several cases also recommended that the large trustee boards numbering in some cases over 100 members be reduced to "a small active and effective number."

The 1957 survey makes the same recommendation.

S. L. GREENE BUILDING — Daniel Payne College, Birmingham, Ala.

FOUNTAIN HALL — Administration building of Daniel Payne College.

REID HALL — Allen University, Columbia, S.C.