

# CORE-LATOR

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*A National Organization with affiliated local groups working to abolish  
racial discrimination by direct nonviolent methods*

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## THE STUDENTS ARE BACK . . .

. . . The new school year has started. The sit-in campaign will assume new vigor in many southern communities whose lunch counters still segregate. While lunch counters in almost 100 southern cities have opened to all since the sit-ins started, the job needs completing. So,

1. If you are in a locality where lunch counters still refuse to serve Negroes, participate in your local sit-ins, boycotts, etc.

2. If you are in a locality where policy has changed, help make integration successful by patronizing the lunch counters and by commending the local managers.

3. If you are outside the south, participate in a picket line or leaflet distribution, and continue the boycott of the national variety chains. CORE, NAACP and other groups continue to picket variety stores in major cities.

## NEW ORLEANS' FIRST SIT-IN

by Ruth Despenza

At 10:35 on September 9, seven of us—five Negroes and two whites of a newly-formed CORE group—entered the Woolworth store at the corner of Canal and Rampart Street for New Orleans' first lunch counter sit-in.

We took adjacent seats and ordered soft drinks. We were told that Negroes are not served. So we settled down for a long wait. We told reporters who were present that we would stay until we were served.

Two hours went by before the manager ordered the lunch counter roped-off. Waitresses removed the packaged food items and started selling them at other counters. We were alone at the counter except for District Attorney Richard Dowling, Police Chief Joseph Giarrusso and other city officials.

At about 3 p.m., the district attorney came over and told us: "You are occupying seats in a closed section illegally and without authority when everyone else has left that section. Now you have a chance to either leave or be arrested. You must make up your mind in five minutes."

When that brief period elapsed, the police chief approached us, asked

**Don't miss reading the special inner-fold on The Interracial Action Institute.**

## Ministers' Sit-In Helps Win



*Forty-four Negro and white ministers participated in this sit-in at Woolworth's in Lexington, Ky. A few days thereafter, lunch counters at four local variety stores and a chain drugstore opened to all, ending a 17-month-long campaign by Lexington CORE.*

whether we had understood the district attorney and repeated what he had said. As we started to sound-out each other's opinion of the situation, he became impatient and stated: "I'm not interested in your poll: you are under arrest." Our sit-in had lasted almost five hours.

We were escorted into a patrol wagon and taken to the first district station house. After being booked for "criminal mischief" under one of the new Louisiana laws aimed at preventing sit-ins, we were taken to police headquarters to be fingerprinted and photographed. Then we were taken back to the station house where we were locked up until our release on \$250 bail each.

## McCAIN ARRESTED

Jim McCain, CORE field secretary and five other persons were arrested Sept. 16 for picketing a New Orleans shopping center in protest over the stores' discriminatory employment policies. The arrests were in line with a ban on picketing imposed by the mayor after a picket demonstration at Woolworth's following the arrest of 7 CORE sit-inners.

A second sit-in, by a CORE interracial group of four on Sept. 17 ended like the first—with arrests.

# THE INTERRACIAL

## *An Intensive Three Weeks*

by Gordon R. Carey

Take an interracial group of 40, house them at a non-discriminatory hotel in a far-south city and train them in the practice as well as the principle of nonviolence—this was our task as staff members of CORE's 1960 Interracial Action Institute in Miami. It was a challenging and educational—though very fatiguing—experience over a 3-week period. Many of the participants were not novices: they had been leaders of sit-ins in their own communities. A couple of participants were as young as 17. One of the liveliest of the group was 75. Most were college students.

Miami is a city of changing racial practices where there is no lack of potential action projects. We undertook a number of them in addition to conducting theoretical sessions (Martin Luther King participated in the August 31 and September 1 sessions). We also had the experience of organizing a very successful mass meeting which was attended by a capacity audience of 1200 and was addressed by Jackie Robinson.

### Restaurants

Our first project was testing restaurants. Two weeks before the Institute started, the variety store lunch counters and some drugstore counters had abandoned discrimination largely as a result of a sit-in campaign which Miami CORE initiated in April 1959 and in which last year's Institute participated. We tested 40 eating places. We were served in 23. Some of the restaurants were re-tested. In other instances we followed through with negotiations.

Some of these negotiations proved fruitful even before the Institute ended. One eating place which changed policy is located in Frederick's Supermarket only a few blocks from Shell's City Supermarket, which had become the focal point of activity. In fact CORE members took to eating lunch at Frederick's in between picketing shifts at Shell's.

### Beaches

In terms of putting integration into practice, our beach project was of particular interest. CORE interracial beach parties were held at two white beaches—the 10th Street public beach in Miami Beach and Crandon Park, a Dade County beach—and at Virginia Beach, entrance of which carries a large "For Colored Only" sign. At the

10th Street beach the comments we heard were predominantly favorable whereas at Crandon Park the opposite was true. However, at neither place was there even the threat of an incident.

When our interracial party went swimming at Virginia Beach we were met with a few surprised glances and expressions of curiosity. Negroes were not accustomed to having whites swimming at "their" beach. However, these feelings of awkwardness dissipated rapidly as soon as our group began swimming and playing in the water. We began "chicken fighting"—riding on one another's shoulders while trying to dump into the surf another similar team. Others started watching and enjoying the sport. Color consciousness was washed away with the waves. After swimming, we went to the Park's open-air dance floor where our presence seemed not only welcome but an incentive to more dancing.

Tests of Miami movies determined that they are still discriminatory in contrast to those in adjacent Miami Beach where our teams were admitted to five of the seven theaters tested. Negroes who sought admittance to the Miami movies were told in most cases: "We have no facilities for you."

On employment we made a number of counts of Negro customers for presentation to managements as an argument for employment of Negroes. We also conducted negotiations with several supermarkets. The results of this preliminary work were turned over to Miami CORE which is considering employment as its next major project.

### Voter Registration

Our voter registration project, directed by Jim McCain, CORE field secretary who has worked so extensively on this issue in South Carolina, demonstrated how a dramatic action project such as that at Shell's can spur Negroes to register. As soon as we said we were from CORE, the group involved in the Shell's project, we were warmly welcomed. Of those contacted who agreed that they would register the following day, 60% actually did so. The Institute facilitated the procedure by running a car pool to transport such persons to the registration offices.

The most exciting action project of the Institute was that at Shell's where 18 sit-inners were arrested, but that story is told on the opposite page. The other projects, though less dramatic, were equally significant for participants seeking a well-rounded training in the different areas for nonviolent action.



Institute members came from all parts of the country. They are at home again now and active in their local groups. The training given at the Institute is an important part of CORE's program. The Institute is held annually. If you would like information on how to apply for next year's session write now to CORE. Participants this year came from Louisiana, New York, Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Connecticut, California and Massachusetts.

# ACTION INSTITUTE

## Jail — Not Bail

by James R. Robinson

(In photo below, he is behind the bars.)

At the Interracial Action Institute, we discussed jail versus bail and concluded that in cases of unjust arrest arising from nonviolent protest action, remaining in jail is effective in mobilizing community support. It also forms a direct protest of itself against segregationist laws. At the same time, each individual should be left free to determine the extent of sacrifice he wishes to make.

In line with this feeling, when arrests occurred during the Institute, 11 accepted bail, while 7 chose to remain in jail until the trial.

### The Arrests

The prospect of arrest in Miami had seemed unlikely to us at the Institute. We were mistaken. On Wednesday afternoon, August 17, 18 of us were quietly awaiting service at the coffee shop of Shell's City Supermarket, which refuses to serve Negroes, although many of the supermarket's customers are Negro. When first approached, the manager had retorted: "Can't you see the waitresses are busy?" A half hour later, the police arrived. We were asked our names and addresses and then were escorted out of the restaurant. Not until then were we told we were under arrest. Eight of us were placed in squad cars. The remaining 10 were packed into a small paddy wagon where the temperature must have been as high as 110. Our spirits were high also, however. We sang "We Shall Not Be Moved."

We were taken to Dade County jail, which is located atop a skyscraper in the heart of Miami. In accordance with "local custom" we were isolated into four separate groups: white men, Negro men, white women (there was one in our group) and Negro women. Since there was no means of communication between the four segregated groups, decision-making on bail and other questions of strategy was not easy. Once individual decisions were reached regarding bail, we were only two groups: white men (Tom Roland and myself) and Negro men (Leon Bailey, Tom Gaither, Bernard Lafayette, Joe Perkins and Marvin Robinson). We were locked up 10 days, for our trial was not until August 26.

### The Jail

As soon as Tom Roland and I were locked in our whites-only cell block, we were asked by the other prisoners what we were in for. Our answer did not win us popularity. Most of the other prisoners were definitely segregationists. For the first three days we were expecting an assault. It was therefore not too much of a surprise when on the third evening, Roland was beaten. By next morning, however, one of the attackers apologized and from that time on, all was peaceful.

Gradually, we were accepted by many of the prisoners —though not by all. During the long days, they engaged us in a number of discussions of our viewpoint. By the end of 10 days in jail, we were participating with them in the rough-housing, card-playing, cigaret-sharing and TV-watching which constituted the only means of passing the time. There were no books, magazines or newspapers. There were no visits for us, since only relatives are allowed.

Our cell block was filthy. We slept on sheetless mat-

resses which were dirty and worn-out. Prisoners arrested for drunkenness were hauled into the cell block throughout the night and slept on the floor. Add to the filth, the heat and humidity of Miami in August and one can get an idea of the perpetual stench in the cell block. The food, however, was adequate and quite good.

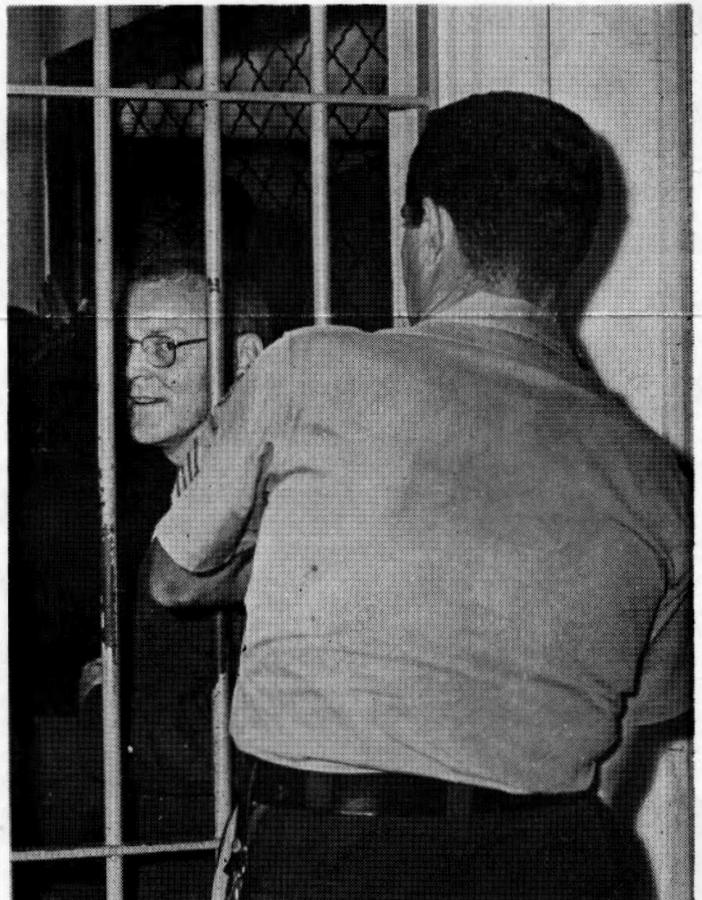
### The Publicity

I was frequently called out for interviews on TV. Since the guard indicated which station, the prisoners were able to switch to it. On one such telecast, I expressed our objection to being segregated from our five Negro fellow-sit-inners and maintained we would be safer in the Negro cell block than in the white section. The atmosphere in the white cell block when the program was shown, made me welcome the approaching hour of the nightly lock-up.

TV as well as newspaper publicity remained considerable throughout the 10 days we were in jail. This publicity prompted strong support for CORE's call for a boycott of Shell's by Negroes, who constituted over a quarter of the supermarket's customers. Patronage declined until there was only the slightest trickle of Negro customers.

On August 26, we were finally tried. In the ante-room in which we were held, there was no segregation. Some of the whites from our cell block conversed freely with the Negroes who had been arrested with us and the atmosphere was friendly. We were brought before Judge George Schulz who imposed suspended sentences on all 18 of us.

The following day we were all picketing Shell's. Six days later Frederick's, a nearby competing supermarket, opened its lunch counter to all. Following conclusions of our Action Institute, the campaign at Shell's was taken over by the local CORE group in Miami.



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# Checkup on Harvard's Housing List Bares Bias

by Jean Mann

About a year ago, following pressure from within the Harvard University community, Phillips Brooks House started requiring all rooming house and apartment landlords on its college housing list to sign pledges that they would not discriminate. Since then local groups helping Negroes to find living quarters in the area have been recommending the PBH list. But a number of discrimination complaints have resulted. In such instances the landlord is supposedly removed from the list. However, what happens is that PBH frequently awaits substantiation of a single complaint before acting.

Recently Boston CORE recommended that the PBH list, which is handed to room and apartment seekers, include mention of the non-discrimination pledge, and urge that any violations be reported. This suggestion was adopted by PBH.

During the last year CORE followed through with tests in instances of complaints involving landlords on the PBH list. Because of the increasing number of complaints, CORE decided prior to the start of the present school year to test the entire PBH list by phone.

One Harvard student, singlehanded, completed 88 phone calls to landlords listed as having rooms for single male students. Of the 88, 68 confirmed that they had or expected to have vacancies. Of the 68, 23 had a definitely discriminatory policy in the tester's opinion and 18 had a questionable attitude.

The procedure was for the tester to call "for a friend," make an appointment and then say: "This student is a Negro: will that make any difference to you?" Of course, it is difficult to know whether a landlord's reaction on the phone would be the same as when confronted with a Negro applicant in person. However, to test each landlord on the PBH list in person would require an unrealizable amount of manpower and the telephone method therefore proves most helpful.

Rooms and apartments on the PBH list for female students are also being tested. All violations are being reported to PBH with a view toward having all discriminatory landlords removed from the lists.

In addition to checking landlords on the PBH list, CORE is trying to get other colleges and universities in the Boston area to emphasize non-discrimination in their housing lists. A special CORE committee is also trying to get personnel and housing officials of local industries and hospital administrators to issue non-discriminatory housing lists.

## IN BRIEF

Louisville CORE recently extended its picketing to Stewart's drygoods store. Several times during the summer the group picketed Kaufman's department store and Taylor's drugstore. Aim of the picketing campaign is to open eating facilities to all.

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## POETIC JUSTICE

A New York real estate agent who refused to rent to a Negro, has accidentally acquired this same Negro as a co-tenant in the apartment building where he resides. Many people would be skeptical that such poetic justice could occur by pure coincidence in a big city like New York—but it did.

The real estate agent is Howard H. Silver. The Negro is David Patterson, assistant manager of a sporting goods firm. After being refused an apartment in the building for which Silver is agent, he succeeded in finding one in another building. Little did he realize that one of his co-tenants in that building would be Silver.

Where CORE comes into the story is that the New York group went into action to protest discrimination in the building for which Silver is agent. Gladys Harrington of New York CORE, accompanied by Patterson along with two white CORE members who had been offered the apartment after Patterson had been refused, confronted Silver. All four thereupon engaged in an afternoon-long sit-in at Silver's office.

## CAROLINA COPS HARRASS VOTER REGISTRATION TEAM

During the last week in August, six members of CORE working on voter registration in South Carolina were twice arrested and once halted by highway police. The team, headed by Frank Robinson, chairman of Sumter CORE, was interracial, including a visiting white couple.

The first arrest occurred on the morning of August 24 in Florence, as the team started its house-to-house canvassing. The six were held several hours for questioning and were released without any charge against them. The two whites were questioned separately and asked why they were "inciting trouble." Police followed the team closely as they resumed their canvassing in the afternoon. The second arrest, with a similar outcome, occurred two days later in Sumter.

On that same day, Robinson was halted by highway police and threatened with revocation of his driving license. "They've stopped me pretty often," he explained. "I've got six points against my license for violations I never committed, for speeding, loose brakes and things like that. All they need is six more points and I won't be able to do any driving. Anyway, they gave me back the license and didn't charge me this time."

## Arrested After Wade-in

A week later, highway police halted two cars in which rode the same white couple and a group of Negroes who had sought to go swimming at Myrtle Beach State Park. Despite their denials, the two drivers were charged with "speeding in inclement weather" and were fined \$100 each. The arrests occurred shortly after the cars had circled the Park and tried to enter.

Immediately after the group sought admittance, the Park was closed "temporarily" by the State Forestry Commission. It was not known when the Park would reopen.

Twenty members of Baltimore CORE picketed Gwynn Oak Amusement Park September 4 in the sixth annual protest over the Park's "All Nations Day" in which Negroes are refused admittance.

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IF YOU DID NOT GET YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF CORE HOLIDAY CARDS, GIVING FULL DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICES OF THE VARIOUS CARDS, WRITE FOR ONE FROM THE CORE OFFICE.

Chicago CORE recently picketed the Board of Education urging an end to double shifts in Chicago schools. A survey by the group shows that the double shifts could be abolished "by a sensible utilization of classroom space now available." Most of the double shift schools are in neighborhoods with Negro and Spanish-speaking residents.