

THE STUDENT VOICE

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* TALLADEGA PROTESTS

Student Group Moves After Negotiations Fail

By Bob Zellner



TALLADEGA STUDENTS PROTEST - Talladega College students staged a protest march against segregation on April 6. Joined by some teachers from the school, the students paraded around the Talladega Courthouse bearing signs reading "We Want Open Libraries" - We Want Equal Opportunity." Social Action Committee Chairman Dorothy Vails is on the right, above, being interviewed by a reporter. Photo by Zellner.

TALLADEGA, ALA. - Beginning with a march of 400 students and faculty members, Talladega College took a giant step toward freeing their city of segregation. The march followed fruitless negotiation with Talladega Mayor J. L. Hardwick on April 5. The students asked the Mayor to present plans for integration of public facilities in the city, and when no plan was forthcoming, the group marched in protest. The march was peaceful, and Mayor Hardwick praised the students and the Talladega community for their calmness.

TALLADEGA, ALABAMA - The stimulus for leadership and effective social change at Talladega College is found in the Social Action Committee (SAC) a group found within the framework of the college's Student Government. As the movement at Talladega has grown, the concept that every student at the college is a member of SAC has grown also, and the original smaller committee is thought of a planning group.

A library sit - in staged later in the day found the doors of the public library closed. The librarian said that she had been alerted by police five minutes before the demonstration and told to close the door.

Dorothy Vails, a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is the chairman of SAC. She is a senior, and formerly attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., but was expelled after anti-segregation protests there in 1960.

Although the present demonstrations were the first

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SNCC Conference Slated For April 27 - 29

The third Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Conference - scheduled for Atlanta April 27 - 29 - promises to be the biggest and best yet.

At two previous SNCC conferences - one held in Raleigh, North Carolina in April, 1960, where SNCC

was founded - and in Atlanta, in October, 1960, sit-in leaders from all over the South met to discuss the future of the student protest movement.

This year's conference will feature workshops on Voter Registration; Legal Problems and Possibilities; Direct Action and Community Mobilization; Civil Liberties and Academic Freedom; The White Student in the Protest Movement; Equal Rights in an Industrial Society; and the Meaning of Nonviolence.

SNCC staffer James Monson, who is coordinating this year's conference, said that application blanks from 13 states have been received. 150 students are expected for this year's gathering.

"Special emphasis is of course placed on students who have been involved in the protest movement," SNCC Chairmen McDew said, "but we welcome anyone to the conference."

Deputies Throw Freedom Riders From Court

ALBANY, GA - Sheriff's deputies used force to segregate seating in Albany's Superior Court on March 27.

The deputies pulled SNCC Field Secretary Charles Sherrod from the courtroom on his back. Then deputies pulled Robert Zellner, an SNCC Field Secretary, and Tom Hayden, a free-lance writer from the room. They also forced Danish writer Per Laursen from the "Negro" section in the rear of the courtroom, and dragged Mrs. Hayden across a row of seats and into the hall.

Zellner, Hayden, and Laursen were in court to

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"Anarchy" Charges Dropped Against One Two SNCC Workers Must Return To La. For Trial

BATON ROUGE, La. - "Criminal anarchy" charges against one SNCC Field Secretary have been dropped, but two others must return here to face trial on May 28. Louisiana officials dropped charges of "attempting to overthrow the government of the state" against SNCC Field Secretary Dion Diamond after he served 58 days in jail. SNCC Chairman Charles McDew and SNCC Field Secretary still face the anarchy charges, however.

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality had been conducting anti-segregation demonstrations here before the arrest of Diamond on February 1, when he stepped on the campus of Southern University. "Anarchy" charges are still pending against

Ronnie Moore, head of the Baton Rouge CORE group. Weldon Rougeau, vice-chairman of the CORE group, is under "trespassing and disturbing the peace" charges.

McDew and Zellner were arrested on February 17 when they brought fruit and books to Diamond in jail. They were first held on vagrancy charges, but "criminal anarchy" charges were

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Vails
April 6

Albany
March 27

Baton Rouge

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SNCC Field Sect.

here, students from the college have active before. Last year about 400 students caravanned to Anniston and marched three a breast in front of the Anniston Court House protesting the beating of a Talladega student and the school's driver. The student who was returning to the campus from West Palm Beach, Florida, was beaten by several white men after he tried to use the "white" waiting room at the station. Mr. Lawler, the college driver, was also beaten. One man was held for the attacks, and it was during his hearing that the march occurred. The arrested man was released because he had a traffic ticket from another town dated the same day of the beating. During the march, a man hit one student, James Cole, across the face with a chain, breaking Cole's glasses. Police took the man into custody, but he later appeared on the street.

SAC raised about \$800 to defray legal and transportation expenses.

During the last school year Talladega students boycotted the local bus station, protesting segregation there. The boycott cost them about \$300 in additional transportation expenses.

I came to Talladega for my first visit on Saturday, March 3. I spoke at a student freedom rally, and met with the executive committee of SAC. On Monday, I met with the student body again and taught them Freedom songs. On Tuesday, Dr. Herman Einsman, a Talladega faculty member of SAC, and I came to a SNCC meeting in Atlanta.

I returned to Talladega for the weekend of March 17 with Joan Browning. We had several meetings and held classes in the philosophy and

practice of nonviolence. The students were inspired by Joan and her experiences in Albany (Joan Browning, a student at Atlanta's Emory University, was one of a team of SNCC Freedom Riders whose arrest in Albany, Georgia on December 10, 1961 touched off a week of anti-segregation demonstrations.) The students seemed ready to move.

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DEPUTIES

answer charges of "breach of the peace" and "obstructing traffic" brought against them on December 10, 1961, when a group of SNCC Freedom Riders integrated the Central of Georgia Railroad from Atlanta to Albany. The group was arrested outside the train station by Albany policemen, who also arrested several bystanders. Their arrests touched off a week of anti-segregation demonstrations that saw 737 Negroes jailed.

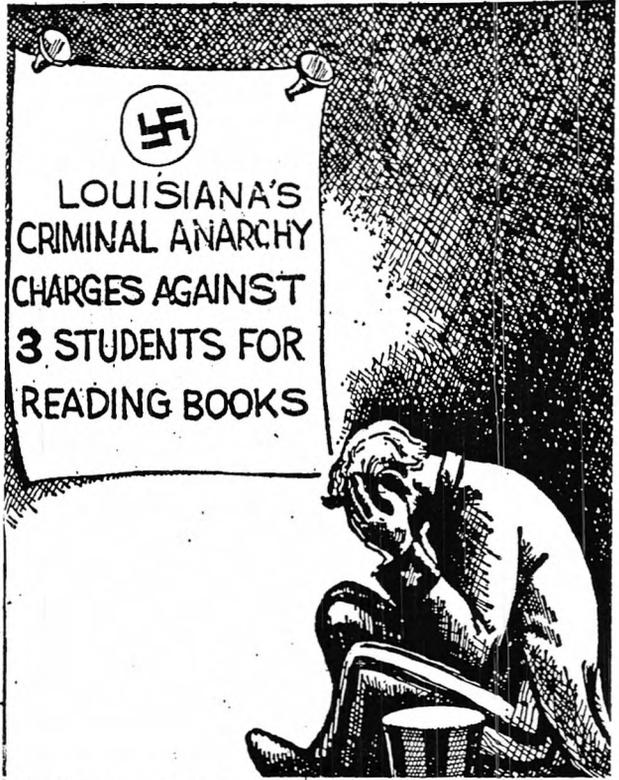
After the courtroom incident, SNCC Chairman Charles McDew asked Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall to protect the riders.

RISM Formed

PROVIDENCE, R. L. - The Rhode Island Student Movement (RISM) was formed at a conference at the University of Rhode Island, February 23-24. Over sixty delegates from Brown University, Pembroke Barrington, Providence and Rhode Island Colleges, the University of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island School of Design met to obtain a comprehensive background on discrimination in the South and Rhode Island, and to take steps toward immediate action within the Rhode Island community against discrimination in general.

THE Afro-AMERICAN MARCH 27, 1962

A Sad Day For The Leader Of The Free World



Laurel, Miss. Group Wages Boycott

LAUREL, MISS. - The Laurel Nonviolent Movement began a boycott of downtown stores after attempts at negotiation with the Laurel Chamber of Commerce proved fruitless.

Lester G. McKinnie, SNCC Field Secretary in Laurel,

said that Chamber head J. W. West told the Laurel Nonviolent Movement that "the Chamber of Commerce doesn't have any power over downtown merchants."

The Laurel Nonviolent Movement has distributed leaflets telling Laurel Negroes "Don't buy segregation in downtown Laurel." The leaflets asks that Negroes stay away from the downtown area until "you are treated like a first class citizen."

COAHR Contacts 600 A Day In Vote Push

Members of Atlanta's student movement group, the Committee on Appeal For Human Rights (COAHR) are currently contacting 600 people a day in an attempt to register new voters.

Charles A. Black, COAHR Chairman, said that the student group conducts a door-knock program every night.

COAHR members successfully integrated 177 lunch counters at 77 Atlanta stores last year, and has completed negotiations which should lead to integration of several downtown movie theatres.

Jackson Movement Boycotts Busses,

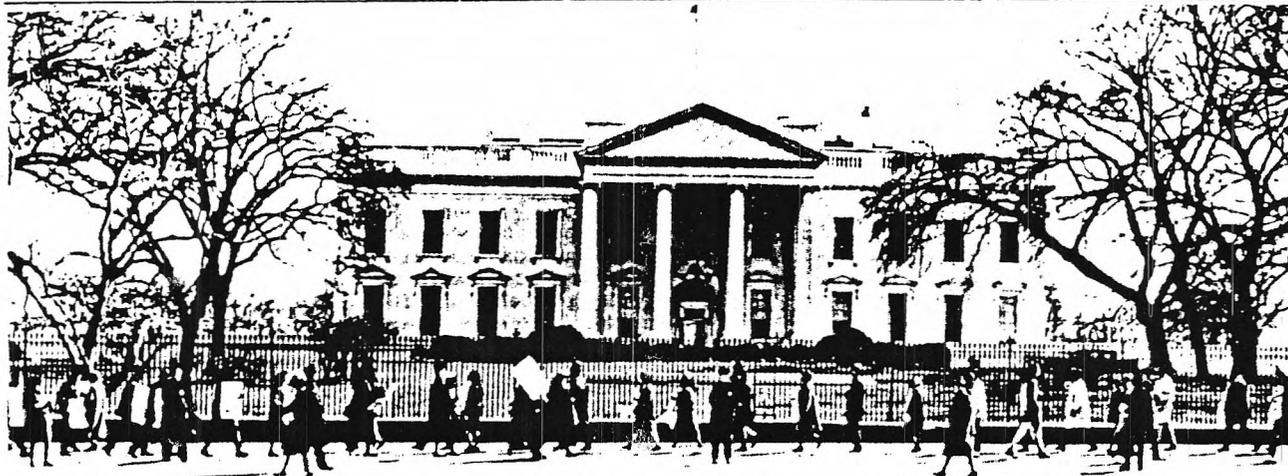
Downtown Area

JACKSON, Miss - The Jackson Nonviolent Movement is currently waging a selective buying campaign and a boycott of the city's busses.

The Jackson groups also recently asked Mississippi's Negro teachers to support all civil rights organizations currently active in the state, the register to vote, and to "give your students a real basis for participation in a democratic society."

The Student Voice and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee cannot continue without your contributions. A donation entitles you to all issues published this year. Make checks payable to: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 197 1/2 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

Zellmer



WHITE HOUSE PICKETED - Members of CORE, NAG, and SNCC march around the White House in Washington, D. C., requesting the release of students jailed on "criminal anarchy" charges in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

SNCC Starts Book Drive For Miles

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has begun a "Books For Miles College" drive.

Birmingham, Alabama city officials recently refused to allow the school to conduct a fund drive to raise money for the library, teacher's salaries, and laboratory equipment.

Miles College students and other local groups are currently waging a "selective buying campaign", aimed at

Birmingham's downtown merchants. A voter registration drive is also being conducted.

SNCC Chairman Charles McDew said that SNCC conducted a similar drive for students in McComb, Mississippi, after a student boycott of a Negro high school there.

Anyone wishing to contribute textbooks, reference works, or other material to the drive may send them to the Atlanta SNCC office, 197 the Atlanta SNCC office 197 1/2 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta.

High Court Upholds Halting SNCC Worker's Mississippi Trail

WASHINGTON, D. C. - The Supreme Court has upheld the Federal Court's ruling that Mississippi's prosecution of a SNCC Field Secretary was

aimed solely at intimidating Negroes who want to vote. The case involved John Hardy, a SNCC Field Secretary, now a student at Tennessee State A & I University in Nashville. Hardy was hit on the head with a pistol by the Tylertown, Mississippi vote registrar, when he accompanied two Negroes to register.

Although Hardy was bleeding from the gun-wound on his head, Tylertown sheriff Craft arrested him, charging him with "inciting to riot" and "resisting arrest," and threatened to beat the SNCC staffer.

The Justice Department filed suit after Hardy's beat-

ing asking for court orders forbidding intimidation of Negroes seeking to vote in Tylertown and for prevention of the Hardy trial.

SRE Charts Employment Housing Drive

AMHERST, MASS - The Students for Racial Equality (SRE) at Amherst College have begun an ambitious civil rights program which includes employment, housing, schools, and social problems. The student groups has also moved to establish ties with the Amherst Fair Employment Committee.

NAG Plans May 17 Demonstrations In D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C. - The Nonviolent Action Group (NAG) is currently planning demonstrations for May 12 and 17, protesting the arrests of SNCC and CORE workers in Baton Rouge and in favor of seeing the Supreme Court's decision outlawing segregated schools being upheld.

The NAG has been active in nation-wide protests called after the Baton Rouge arrests. They picketed the home of Senator Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) on February 29, protesting "cruel and inhuman treatment of Negro students" in Senator Ellender's home state.

On March 13, members of NAG were joined by SNCC Field Secretaries Charles Jones, Charles Sherrod, William Hansen, and Reginald Robinson in a sit-in at the office of United States Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. During a later sit-in at the Justice Department, NAG members were forcibly removed in wheel-chairs. On March 17, more than 300

Buffalo Groups Join NSMCC

BUFFALO, NEW YORK - Buffalo State College, the University of Buffalo, and Buffalo State College have initiated an area coordinating committee of the Northern Student Movement Coordinating Committee.

people marched from Baltimore to Washington and picketed the Justice Department in a demonstration organized by NAG, CORE, and SNCC.

NAG also presented a petition bearing 1100 names to Justice Department officials, asking for the release of these jailed in Baton Rouge.

SNCC, NAACP, SCLC, CORE, NUL In Vote Drive

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is one of five civil rights groups cooperating the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council.

The others are the NAACP, CORE, SCLC, and the National Urban League.

The organizations will carry out independent voter registration programs, but will make information regarding their drives available to the Voter Education Project.

SNCC Chairman Charles McDew said that SNCC would try to enlarge its existing vote drives, and would try to conduct registration campaigns in other hard-core Southern areas.



'DEGA LIBRARY SIT-IN STYMIED - Talladega College students stand before the city library after finding it closed. They had planned to test the public facility. At the right above is Dr. Hermann Einsmann, faculty member of the school's Social Action Committee. Photo by Zellner.

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Student Group Moves

On April 9, however, 18 students and Dr. E. W. McNair, chaplain of the college and professor of religion, were arrested during sit-ins at three drug stores. Dr. Arthur Gray, Talladega president, said he would sign bond for the demonstrators if they wished, but they chose to stay in jail, where they sang freedom songs.

18 demonstrators were arrested on April 10, and a Talladega white man was jailed by police who charged him with pushing one of the demonstrators, Edward White, through a plate glass window. White was also arrested. Dr. Gray told news-

men that the college planned no disciplinary action against the demonstrators.

Later, the students adopted a hit-and-run sit-in method. During one sit-in, in which the students took lunch counter seats, were refused, and left, one college student was attacked by a member of a crowd of 500 people who watched the demonstration.

A cross had been burned on the campus; Dr. Gray had received anonymous threatening telephone calls; three students had been fired at; one student was cut by white teenagers riding through the campus; bottles were thrown at Dorothy Vails and Joseph Pegues; and Dr. McNair was attacked in the jail.

The students decided to march again, and issued a statement declaring themselves "in support of the Southern student movement in its attempt to eradicate discrimination and segregation." They planned to hold a prayer meeting around the city hall, but when they left the campus on April 17, 250 strong, they were met by city policemen and firemen. The policemen threatened them with arrest, and the firemen pointed their hoses at them. The combination of fire trucks the beatings and sit-in jailings and threatened arrest for taking a walk through town convinced the students that they were not welcome in the town, so they returned and initiated an economic boycott against the entire downtown area.

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"Anarchy" Charges

added later. At their arraignment on March 13, they were charged with "being members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, an organization known to advocate, teach, and practice opposition to the government of the State of Louisiana by unlawful means."

"Criminal anarchy" carries a sentence of ten years at hard labor in Louisiana, with little or no possibility of release on appeal bond. At one time, bail for McDew and Zellner was \$7000 each,

and for Diamond \$13,500.

Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, James Farmer of CORE, A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Whitney Young of the National Urban League, and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr joined in sending a telegram to 40 national labor, civil rights, human relations, church and student groups asking for protests against the arrests.

Additional telegrams of protest were sent by the Southern Conference Educational Fund.

SAFE Plans Holiday

Freedom Ride In Md.

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. - Members of the Student Appeal For Equality (SAFE) are planning Easter Holiday Freedom Rides to Princess Anne, home of Maryland State College.

Norris Sydnor, president of SAFE, said that the holiday anti-segregation rides may be the largest in the history of the nonviolent movement.

SAFE has indicated that problems of discrimination should be solved within the community. "However," SAFE President Sydnor said, "a nonviolent movement, such as the Freedom Rides, will take place soon unless visual progress is made."

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