

FREEDOM WORKSHOP NEWS

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HIGHLANDER CENTER this SPRING!

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Number One

The workshop was just wonderful, although it wasn't what I expected. I expected to be sitting in a boring classroom all day. But I really like to say that I sincerely agree with the way it was organized. It wasn't boring at all, and if you did get bored you could always leave. So I think it was just great.

One important thing I learned in this workshop is how to get along with other people. I learned that we could not fight a war and at the same time fight among ourselves. You have to live together, take a little and give a little. You have to try and understand the other person's point of view and vice-versa. We have got to learn to love one another in this fight for equality.

I have lots of information to take back to our Freedom School, information that I thought never existed in the mind of a human being. Things what the kids in Freedom School has been asking for so long and no one knew the answer. Now I can be proud to say that I can give some of these answers to people who have been wanting to know, I mean really want to know.

-Hazel Lee
Batesville, Mississippi

I liked being at the Center very much. It was a lot of fun, and I learned a lot while being here. I learned a lot about the F.D.P. which I didn't know nothing about. I learned how to open up my own freedom school. As a matter of fact I learned an awful lot. The people were very wonderful. I learned how to use a tape recorder, how to develop a picture in a dark room. And a lot more it was a great experience and I hope I can do it again soon. I feel I have something to contribute to my community when I get Home.

-Christine Walker
Rosedale, Mississippi

I found the workshop very interesting, and I think Highlander Center is a wonderful place for the workshop. I don't think we could have a place like this any place in Miss.

It was so wonderful to be together with other members of SNCC, and have a chance to see really what they are like.

-Linda Jenkins
Indianola, Mississippi

SCHEDULE OF FREEDOM WORKSHOP --- HIGHLANDER

DATE	TOPIC	PEOPLES WHO HELPED
1st Day Saturday March 27	SELF-IMAGE	Dr. Greg Moore Psychiatrist, Chicago
2nd Day Sunday	AUDIO AIDS Creation and use of tapes. How to make your own teaching materials.	Robert McNamara III Tougaloo, Mississippi
3rd Day Monday	WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THIS WORKSHOP? What are your needs and plans in your community? What is happening there now? EVENING: Knoxville College "The Civil Rights Revolution in Historical Perspective" LATER: Tapes from Selma, Americus, etc.	Grady Little and Randolph Battle Albany, Georgia; Joseph L. Harris - Lexington, Mississippi John Hope Franklin, Historian University of Chicago Alan Ribback, New York City
4th Day Tuesday	Monday's discussion continued, Jazz, blues, work songs. Making tapes and photographing. Evening: music making by all	James Bond, Atlanta Sterling Brown, Howard University McNamara, Tougaloo Ribback, New York Emmie Schrader, Tougaloo
5th Day Wednesday	AFRICA: trip to Ghana and Guinea African Art Show: slides & sculpture from Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast	Prathia Hall, Atlanta Bob Parris, Birmingham Lucy Montgomery

	EVENING: African dances and games by everybody	Bob Parris, Birmingham Willie Clyde Williams, Atlanta
6th Day Thursday	FREEDOM SCHOOLS, POOR PEOPLE, CHANGE MUSIC PEOPLE CHOOSE TO MAKE EVENING: MOVIE "Raisin in the Sun"	Linda Jenkins Indianola, Mississippi Alan Ribback, NYC
7th Day Friday	POOR PEOPLE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS Why Federal programs don't work. What can we do about our own programs? EVENING: Federal government How we can change things?	Jesse Morris, Tougaloo Group Jesse Morris Charlie Cobb Bob Parris and others
8th Day Saturday	FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY EVENING: Dance at Reverend McLean's	Jack Minnis, Atlanta & group
9th Day Sunday	Church & relax CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, WELFARE, ETC. EVENING: MOVIE "All the Kings Men"	Charles Hamilton, Political Science, Lincoln University
10th Day Monday	THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, MORE DISCUSSION OF FREEDOM SCHOOLS. LITERACY Arts and Crafts	Hamilton and group Mary Varela, Tougaloo Georgianna Kaminsky, Indianola Tracy Batteast, Tougaloo
11th Day Tuesday	Recording completed; editing tapes, interviews, music-making, writing reports	Everybody
12th Day	Clean-up, Wave Goodbye, Sing, Listen to tapes of what we have done, look at art work, poems, photographs. Continuous photography "class" Taping Continuous writing:	Emmie Schrader, Tougaloo James Bond, Rob McNamara Jame Stenbridge, Tougaloo Charlie Cobb, On the road

What I learned at the workshop that was interesting to me the most was the F.D.P. and what its meaning have. And I think everyone should know who came to a freedom school should be the ones that want to learn something for himself, about his rights and what he thinks for himself. A man should believe in himself and not someone else..to tell him and to have ideas for himself and someone who wants to help other people to learn what it is for and I will say with much gratitude to the one who decide on a freedom school it is something real great.

- F. fell free to get fairness for yourself and your community
- D. decide for yourself or decide to disagree or decide to denie
- P. provide for yourself and your community

A man should be free to think for himself. A man should think that he is somebody and if he feel the fear for his own self then he shall have understood that he is a man and not be afraid of himself. So I will say to anyone to not look on yourself as for the color of your skin but look at it as you are man and a human...something that live and not a dog.

- Mrs. Ida Mae Lawrence
Rosedale, Mississippi

I feel that the workshop would have been more valuable if it had been carried out on one level either intellectual or simply practical, but I feel that the better educated people tended to take over the discussion and intimidate the other people. But just the fact that people were together made the whole thing worth while.

-Donna Leslie
Gulfport, Miss.

The most important to me was the first day. I came here, Saturday when Dr. Moore talk all about why people said that they didn't have anything to do with this mess. I found out these kind of statement wasn't the real problem. The real problem was that they were afraid for their life or childrens welfare. I also know now that you should attack the position of another person, but except a person as they are.

The African trip was very interesting. The way she describe make you believe that you were there. The discussions on what people done in their community were interesting to me because you hear people talk everyday about what happen. I believe that everyone enjoy a workshop like this especially to meet people from Alabama and Georgia. I Understood that F.D.P. of Miss. will help bring together the member of community.

-Naomi Carter
Marigold, Mississippi

It made me to know that I can know what I can do when I go back home. I don't have too much in words but in my heart I care.

-Dorothy Mae Rodgers
Rosedale, Mississippi

I can go home with a vivid mind of how to set up a Freedom school and what should be taught in the school, a better understanding of how to get along with the children-learning how to run a tape recording machine was a great experience this I really love. I can discuss what we have been discussing here with the people back home. I have learned more about the F.D.P.

-Beulah Mae Ayers
Holly Springs, Mississippi

I've gotten a great deal of ideas about how a Freedom School should be runned and what is done in a workshop. When we, Linda, Janell, and I get home we are going to be in charge of the little workshops there during the summer and whoever made all the planning and made the schedule did some very logical thinking.

-Betty Jean Humphries
Indianola, Mississippi

I have a friend
My friend calls me peacock
My friend calls all her friends peacock
Now I call her peacock

-Tracy Batteast
Tougaloo, Mississippi

We wrote a lot of poems during the workshop.
Here is a poem. Knoxville

The slums is like a life deferred in a dream of reality, picturing the places called "Home" but the poor who fear the structure of higher supremacy. Small kids being reared in the slums area where living and the scenery is like the "gates of hell" and rent rates is higher than the sky above, even the animals of these places is what can be classified as "Trash" and in these slums of hills you find a version of a need called "togetherness" between black and white, maybe not, because of the act of brotherhood but maybe of a thing described as "Can't do any better."

The structure of houses is a sight no person would dream of seeing people living in a place that has been partially burned, and dreams of a poor man in a dream of overcoming the area.....the slum of this so called great society.

-Janell Glass
Indianola, Mississippi

On the second day of the workshop Alan Ribback played different tapes showing people how tapes sound after they are made. After the tapes were played, questions were asked and answers were given as follows:

- Q. How can tapes be used in different communities
- A. To get across to people what is happening in other communities. To let people hear speeches made by a speaker who couldn't make a personal appearance.
- Q. How important are tapes?
- Q. What is most important? Tapes? Radio or TV?
- A. Tapes are the most important to Negroes because when various speeches are made they won't show them on TV or play them on the radio but if there is a tape you can always play it yourself if you have a recorder or someone you know has a recorder.

The using of tapes and recorders was illustrated by Alan. Class was scheduled for those who wanted to learn howto operate a tape recorder. Using of a recorder and how to interview was illustrated. Then there were various discussions.

The next day, Jessie Morris talked on poverty. He passed out a small book written by Robert U. Jones, a local Negro of Corinth, Miss. who gave his opinion on the "community renewal program" in Corinth, Miss. We then made a poverty program of our own which took about an hour. Then we went to the question "why does it take Congress so long to make poverty bill if we can do it in an hour?" Someone answered by saying that Congress think it knows what we need but we know ourselves, so we can do it sooner. The question then asked was should Congress make our poverty bill or should we make it ourselves? The answer was that we should make it ourselves. Automation was also discussed. That night Lucy Montgomery showed some art slides.

The next day we discussed things to do to begin a Freedom School and they were:

1. Find a place.
2. Have 6-10 people in each class.
3. Canvass for getting people to attend.
4. Have class at least twice a week.

Things to be taught in the school:

1. Reading and writing
2. Filling out voter registration forms
3. Negro history
4. Developing a newspaper.

As a whole the workshop was very good. This is my first time attending a workshop and I enjoyed it very much. I feel that if it had been better planned that it maybe would have been a little better. Every topic that was discussed was very good. The only thing that was wrong was that some of the topics weren't completed and we started another and then came back to that topic.

I must say I have enjoyed being at Highlander very much and the next workshop I would also like to come if for no more than one day.

Being able to talk to a wide variety of people who are associated with freedom schools in very different ways taught me a lot. It also made things more enjoyable. If I got tired of talking to a Phd. about intelligence and education among the masses, I could go talk to someone about how to do screen painting, or how he felt when he first walked into a freedom school, or I could play a game of Chinese checkers. After the first day, I felt that I could talk to anyone about anything that interested me.

-Nancy Stoller
Little Rock, Arkansas

HIGHLANDER HOUSE IS A HOUSE.
THE REASON WE NEED A HOUSE IS BECAUSE
WE ARE A FAMILY.
HIGHLANDER HOUSE IS A VERY GOOD HOUSE.
IT HAS BRIGHT HAPPY COLORS AND ROOM.
THE REASON WE NEED SOMETHING RED AND BRIGHT BLUE
AND PURPLE AND ORANGE AND GREEN
IS BECAUSE
MISSISSIPPI IS EMPTY AND GREY.
SO THANK YOU LUCY AND MYLES, MRS. WATKINS, MRS.
KING, SAM AND EVERYONE.

-Jane Stenbridge (Peacock)
and Peacocks, Tougaloo, Miss.
and Peacocks, Birmingham
Atlanta and On the Road

It was great for me. I was in Mississippi for 3 months without leaving. It took me 3 days to unwind now I can go back and stay forawhile instead of cracking up and leaving. It was being in a house with people I loved and I could talk and not be afraid so I said things for myself maybe and learning specifics didn't always matter.

-Eleanor Aragon
Gulfport, Mississippi

I thought that the discussion on Poverty was handled quite well in that it gave the local people an opportunity to express their views on poverty, and it further gave them an opportunity to gain a better insight into the existing anti-poverty program and how inadequate it is. Similarly, I feel that the discussion on the setting up and operating of a Freedom School had attributes of the same nature.

The discussion of the United States Constitution was by far the most stimulating discussion to me. Not only did it enlighten one as to the rights that he is supposed to have but it also made it more evident why there are so many different interpretations of the law. Some of us were able for the first time to really examine closely the loose body of laws that are supposed to make our country a better place to live.

- Lois A. Chinnery
Alabama Project

May God bless us all and help us to complete our goal.

-Joe L. Harris
Lexington, Mississippi

Here is another poem Vietnam:
We say we love our country
We say other people love their country
We said that all mens are brothers. What
Would we call the war in the Vietnam
Would we call that brotherly love
Does the word freedom have a meaning
Why do the history books say America is the
Land of Liberty a Free County,
Then why do all mens Negro and White fight
the Vietnam and Korea why can't we be Americans
as North and South regardless of color
What does we have again the Vietnams?
Why are we fighting them?
Who are really the enemy?
Are Vietnam the enemy or we
Americans enemies to ourselves,
If we are the same as Vietnams
Why should we fight them?
They are poor too.
They wants freedom.
They wants to redster to vote.
Maybe the people in the Vietnam
can't redster to vote
Just Like Us.

-Mrs. Ida Mae Lawrence
Rosedale, Mississippi

"I know about your movement",
said a man I love,
"You all are going charging
up over the hill and down into the valley
where you will crash into a mirror".

-Rob McNamara
Tougaloo, Mississippi

About Highlander
freedom workshop:
it was really a
FREEDOM Bubble
which will now POP
ALL OVER
Mississippi Arkansas
Alabama Georgia

pop pop pop pop

it was good
spell that

good
or g'od
or go'd
or god

But call it GOOD.
And SEE it
Peoples not
afraid
of each other

and call it then
A FREEDOM POPSHOP
Blown by you
to really POP UP
Everywhere.

-Charlie Cobb
Atlanta