

School Open, Yet Chairs Empty



The opportunities offered by the Adult Education Program at Jim Hill can benefit our community only when we take advantage of them. To the left are "students" in an electronics class. To the right, are empty chairs



waiting for more eager "students." Adults who do not have a high school diploma may choose either an accredited high school program, or single courses in reading, arithmetic, spelling, and writing. A new course will

be set up, and a teacher will be hired for any course that is requested by more than 10 people. For more information, contact the state Department of Vocational Education.

Mississippi

FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

See Picture
Page Inside

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Jackson, Mississippi — November 23, 1963

10c Per Copy

Living Condition Inhuman

What economic struggles will the Negro child face as he grows up hampered by an inferior education? With little opportunity to get a decent job, what kind of home will he be able to afford?

The Negro in Mississippi is forced to live under incredible economic conditions according to statistics compiled by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, these conditions are intolerable, yet they are not improving.

Due to lack of income and hospital care, twice as many Negro babies die in their first year as white babies in Mississippi. And the Negro child has less insurance against a health handicap at birth.

Health problems arise from both the lack of medical care and terribly over-crowded unsanitary housing. The many shacks and broken-down houses that one sees in Mississippi are not the exceptions to the housing conditions—they are the rule. Over two-thirds of the Negroes in the state

are cornered in these impoverished dwellings, according to U. S. Census Bureau reports.

More than three-fourths of the houses in the rural areas are without piped water. Nine out of ten rural houses do not have flush toilets, bathtubs, and showers.

The freedom to earn a decent living and improve these conditions is curtailed by the lack of jobs open to Negroes in a segregated system. Although Negroes make up almost 40% of the Mississippi labor force, only 4½% can get jobs in manufacturing.

Yearly Income—\$606

The majority of Negroes then find employment as farm laborers, in service industries, and as private household workers. The pay for this kind of unskilled labor is so low that the average yearly income of all Negroes in 1960 was \$606. This figure is a little less than two-thirds the

(Continued on Page 2)



The future of this woman? Perhaps a job as a maid making \$35.00 or \$45.00 a week—less than \$2,000 a year. But even this is a high figure when compared to the average income of the Negro worker. The lack of jobs is a major challenge facing the Negro today.

Editorial

Schools Ignore Meredith Fund; Students Suffer

James Meredith pleaded for the cooperation of the Negro educators around the state in his Sunday speech at the Masonic Temple. Meredith complained that high school principals had failed to inform their students of the opportunities available through the James Meredith Educational Fund.

Two letters were sent out by the fund to high school principals. The first, mailed October 13, asked that an announcement be read in the school assembly to arouse student interest. This letter was sent to every one of the 165 high schools in Mississippi.

Apparently, not one of the schools read the announcement because the fund did not receive a single reply.

The second letter, sent to 13 high schools including all 4 in Jackson, announced the beginning

of an essay contest. The principal was urged to select 2 letters from each grade level to submit in the contest. The 10 winners of this contest were to receive \$50.00 scholarships to attend a summer school preparatory program.

Yet a single parochial school was the only school of the 13 that showed any signs of response by the dead-line date set for the contest.

Students who listened to Meredith announce the essay contest in Greenwood, last Monday, heard about it for the first time. The students seemed shocked, alarmed and disappointed that they hadn't been informed. A few students showed anger.

Yet anger is not sufficient to measure the degree of harm that the public school system inflicts upon the Negro student. We all are fully

(Continued on Page 2)

Editorial Page

WE STAND FOR . . .

GOOD GOVERNMENT
HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS
BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Where Was The Chamber of Commerce?

When the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce was organized this summer, members of the community looked to this organization for leadership in business and civic progress in Jackson. We would like to be able to report now that the Chamber's Board of Directors got together at their regular meeting last Wednesday and told how they had fulfilled their promise to provide community leadership. We would like to report at least that the board met and discussed ways in which the Chamber of Commerce could improve conditions.

But we are unable to present an encouraging report of the Directors' activities, because they did not even meet together. The meeting was cancelled when only three members of the Board showed up.

This lack of support among board members betrays a trust placed in them by the community. Where we hoped to see progressive leadership we have seen a shirking of responsibility and neglect.

The people of Jackson need and deserve more from their leaders than the carelessness shown by the lack of interest in the Chamber meeting. And the Chamber of Commerce itself, if it is ever to become more than just "a good idea," must have at least the aggressive backing of its Board.

A failure in leadership caused the demise of another chamber of commerce in Jackson a few years ago. Unless the present leaders put away their carelessness and begin to act as leaders, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce will surely follow its predecessor to dissolution.

A Closed Mind Speaks For A Closed Society

In a courageous speech before the Southern Historical Association, James Silver, history professor at the University of Mississippi, decried the lack of intellectual freedom in Mississippi's closed society. He denounced the state of blindness into which the state's leaders have led Mississippi citizens.

"Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the closed society is the refusal of its citizens to believe that there is any view other than the orthodox. In recent years there has been a hardening attitude among college students who do not want to hear the other side," Silver commented.

We heard a second voice from the University of Mississippi last week—that of a hardened student; a supporter of the White Citizens' Council, a believer in the myth of "the happy Negro," a product of a "closed society."

Speaking in an interview with the New York Times, the Ole Miss freshman ran the gamut of Mississippi orthodoxy. From his assertion that "the Negro is inherently unequal," to his praise of Gov. Barnett as "the most courageous leader of our time," he demonstrated the incredible myopia of white Mississippians toward the condition of their society.

Reared on the romantic notion that the Southern way of life is inflexible and holy, he does not even have the mental tools to see that it is both corrupt and changing. His textbooks, newspapers, and political leaders tell him over and over again that the doctrine of white supremacy stands as strong as ever. With neither the will nor the imagination to resist the dogma, he must invariably go on the defensive and descend further into the reactionism of "the closed society."

In professor Silver's words, "In such a twilight of non-discussion, minds do not only grow tough, they do not grow at all."

Opportunity Through Adult Education

A low level of education is a menace which reaches into all corners of our society. It takes the teeth out of voter registration efforts and undercuts the possibilities of getting a decent job.

The inability to express ideas or do a multiplication problem stunts the growth of many of our citizens' natural talents. In financial terms, the person who drops out of high school without developing these skills earns far less than the person who has a diploma. The average difference in income is about \$1,000 a year.

The Adult Education program at Jim Hill High School offers an opportunity to make up at least part of that difference. Courses leading to the equivalent of a high school diploma are conducted two nights a week. Other classes, such as typing, teach students specific skills and prepare them for jobs that were once out of reach.

This program clearly presents an opportunity for advancement for those who should take advantage of it.

Sheriff, School Superintendent-- Use, Abuse Of Public Office

Last week this series discussed the most important unit of county government, the County Board of Supervisors. At that time we saw how a county unit, since it was locally elected and locally employed, could play a very important part in our communities and in our own lives.

But a county government is not run by a county board alone, and it is important for us to know and understand the roles of other officials who are elected on the same ballot as the Board.

Superintendent of Education

The most important of these officials is the County Superintendent of Education. The first duty of the Superintendent is to give advice to all the schools within his county, which also requires periods of regular inspection. He must maintain maps and files, and certain other materials, for all the schools under his control.

Naturally, our schools are only as good as the teachers we employ. For this reason, perhaps the most important single duty of the County Superintendent is to maintain good teacher standards. A Superintendent must make sure that every teacher in his county has had enough background and enough education to be authorized for classroom work.

Responsible For Quality

In order to maintain good teaching standards, school facilities must be kept in good condition. So, the superintendent is in charge of school equipment. This includes the distribution of free textbooks. If classrooms are overcrowded, or if there are too few students in class, then the superintendent is at fault because it is he who determines whether students must or must not attend school.

In large part, the education that our children receive depends upon the person we elect for this office.

Easy To Be Sheriff

One of the oldest offices in county government is the office of sheriff. The qualifica-

tions for this office seem very lax when one considers the post's importance. Any resident who is a qualified voter can be elected to the four year term of the sheriff.

In Mississippi, the sheriff combines two positions. He is the chief law enforcement officer of his county, and he is also the tax collector. The conditions of the courthouse and jail, and the treatment of prisoners is included in the sheriff's duties.

State Law

Although a study of the methods used to run a jail requires as much education as a college professor, Mississippi doesn't even require a high school education for this position.

Grows Fat On Taxes

Since the salary of the sheriff depends a great deal upon the tax money he collects, his position provides the opportunity to grow pretty rich during his stay in office.

For example, in a state like Mississippi where selling liquor is not allowed, the sheriff not only can require those who still sell liquor to pay a tax, but he can also use his officers to force those people to pay.

The attitude of the sheriff determines the way in which law and order in our community is preserved. We know the incidences of police brutality, and the use of police dogs to quell high school demonstrations well enough to realize that the person we elect for sheriff must have a sound education, and an honest purpose in order to perform his duties correctly.

The sheriff, like the superintendent of schools perform extremely important functions in our county. We can see that the level of education, and the protection of our community depends to a great extent on these two offices. If we do not have a voice in choosing competent men for these two posts, our community suffers. Exercising the right to vote then is the only way to cure the wounds inflicted upon our community from the misuse of these two offices.

Real Education Denied In Controlled Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

aware that Negro schools were fundamentally built to keep Negroes out of white schools.

Anger is still not enough to describe the degree of betrayal that Negro educators have committed when they conform to the dictates of such a system.

It should be obvious to the Negro teacher that actual education can only be achieved in a free and unhindered framework; that the inability to teach certain truths cripples the ability to think; and that to forbid a student to enter an essay contest is to perhaps delay a necessary evaluation of that student's ability—an evaluation that would finally permit the student to understand and to correct his educational defects.

It must be equally obvious that the only way to alleviate the problems of a suppressed people is by way of education.

When the Negro student can hope for no honest guidance, then education in the Jackson school system is no better than no education at all.

To talk about the Jackson public school system is to speak of an institution that is controlled by political interests. Accepting this control, as so many have done, is to accept biased textbooks for our children, rigid restrictions for our teachers, and discussions which

omit any controversial topics.

To accept such a system is to deny the development of the instrument harmed most by suppression—the mind of the Negro student.

Henry Solid Victor In Five Counties

As proof of the power of the Negro vote, Aaron Henry took five counties in the Nov. 5 governor's election.

Although Henry will not be recorded by state officials as the winner in these counties, his Freedom Vote total in each case was higher than the official totals of Johnson and Phillips put together.

4 to 1 for Henry

In Coahoma County Henry received over 17,000 Freedom Votes. This is nearly four times

Living Conditions . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

average yearly income among whites.

Between 1950 and 1960, the median income for the rural worker increased only \$84. At the same time, unemployment has steadily increased as laborers find their jobs taken over by machines.

the combined total of the Democratic and Republican candidates in the official election.

Madison County voters gave Johnson and Phillips about 1,500 votes. In the Vote for Freedom Henry received about 3,400 votes.

Other counties which went solidly for Henry are Panola, Quitman, and Tunica. All are Delta counties and the totals indicate the tremendous vote potential in the Congressional District includes the Delta.

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THE FREEDOM WRITER - By Andy Mitchell

Busses, Hoots, Turkeys

Right Up Front

I took a trip to Greenville last week. In the front of the bus. I made sure that I was first in line so that I could sit right up there and breathe down the driver's neck. And I smiled nicely at those who made it for the back of the bus as quickly as I had headed straight to the front. I said, (as they rushed by), "Evenin." One woman stopped in surprise and muttered something to herself like,

"Well, I know my place." Somebody tell that woman that we all know our place. Our place is anywhere, and any seat that we want to take.

Who Gives A Hoot?

You probably know that the folksingers who were supposed to sing at the Municipal Auditorium, refused to "give a hoot" for whites only. But, did you know that in order to perform at Tougaloo, 5 of the folksingers paid the people who had

arranged the show in Jackson \$2,500 out of their own pockets?

Still, their action is a step forward for us. The Culture Committee at Tougaloo College has suggested an excellent way to show the folksingers our gratitude: send them letters of thanks.

Send the letters to: Hootennany U.S.A. c/o International Talent Associates Inc. 75 East 55th New York, New York.

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Turkey Dinner

I was sniffing around the College Park Club House the other day and ran smack into the smell of turkey. Good old College Park is making plans for its annual free turkey dinner for the needy and the aged. Every needy and old person in the city of Jackson is invited to the dinner on Thanksgiving Day at 1:00 (Wow, that might mean a whole lot of people.)

Penguin Drive-In

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Church Activities

"The Methodist Church must build and demonstrate within its own organization and program a Fellowship without racial barriers. The church must also work to change those community patterns in which racial segregation appears, including education, housing, voting, employment and the use of public facilities . . . to exempt the church from (these) requirements is be guilty of absurdity as well as sin." — The National Council of Methodist Bishops.

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Rev. R. M. Richmond, Pastor
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7:00 Evening Service

CENTRAL METHODIST 111 E. Church St.
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7:00 Evening Service

FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
619 N. Farish St.
Rev. S. L. Whitney, Pastor
11:00 Worship Service
Topic: "All That Is Within Me"
6:00 Evening Service
Sermon delivered by Rev. W. D. Gray, student at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

PEARL STREET A.M.E. 925 Pearl St.
Rev. G. R. Haughton, Pastor
11:00 Morning Worship Service
Topic: "Personal Evangelism"
7:00 Evening Service

ANDERSON CHAPEL 812 Page St.
Rev. S. Webb, Pastor
11:00 Worship Service
Topic: "The Great Procession"
7:00 Evening Worship
Visiter Training Section
Sunday Night
W.S.C.S. Program

NEW MOUNT ZION 158 Maple St.
Rev. B. D. Rushing, Pastor
11:00 Worship Service
Topic: "The Justice of God: Penance for Sin"
7:30 Worship Service
Topic: "Choice Between Christ And Barabbas"

MOUNT HELM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. T. B. Brown, Pastor
10:45 Worship Service
6:45 Sunday Evening Worship Service

PRATT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
1057 Pascagoula
Rev. Allen L. Johnson, Pastor
11:00 Morning Worship Service
7:30 Sunday Evening Service

TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH
224 E. Bell St.
Rev. R. H. Walls, Pastor
9:30 Sunday School
11:00 Morning Worship Service
7:00 Evening Worship Service

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Kids Speak Their Minds

Children are struggling with many of the same problems as adults. A discussion with a group of 9 children, from the ages of 7 to 17, revealed some of their thoughts about the Jackson school system, and the civil rights movement.

On Education:

"I don't think our education is so good. We need more schools and colleges."

"Some teachers don't treat us like human beings. They don't allow us to disagree with them."

"We didn't talk about the Freedom Vote in school because we weren't supposed to."

"Some teachers don't want to talk about the actual situation, because they want to keep their self-respect."

"It takes all kinds of ingredients to make a high school. I think that some of our teachers are doing a good job, but I don't see why they don't speak out for the movement."



On The Movement:

"We don't have leadership. The movement has quieted down."

"In order to gain our rights, we must fight for them. But you see, in order to understand what non-violence means, and what we're fighting for, we have to join the movement."

"If the people came out, they would gain some kind of spirit-

ual growth from the movement, and they would learn that everybody is afraid of something or the other."

It is apparent that our youth are engaged by serious problems. Their responses indicate more than the need for guidance. But even guidance is not possible unless the adults of our community ask themselves — What are we doing to give our children answers?



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Tougaloo Opens Sculpture Show
 As part of an expanding art program, Tougaloo College opened a distinctive exhibit of modern wall sculpture Tuesday.
 Wall sculpture, a relatively new form of art, is a combination of painting and sculpture. Although the pieces are three dimensional, they are intended to be viewed from only one face, as a painting.
 The exhibit is drawn from the Guggenheim Museum in New York and will run for two or three weeks. The public is cordially invited.

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Tigers End Year With 56-6 Victory
 The Jackson State College Tigers rang down the curtain on the 1963 football season last Saturday by smothering Mississippi Industrial College 56-6.
 Determined to end the season on a winning note, the Tigers pulled out all the stops to gain a total of 427 yards rushing. The Tigers have won four games, while suffering five defeats.
Scoring Guns
 The main ground gainers for the Tigers were Edgar "Chico" Jordan, and T. B. Ellis, who picked up 14 points each for half of the Tiger's score. Ellis opened the scoring on a 22-yard run early in the first quarter. He imitated this feat in the third quarter with another 22-yard TD.
 Bunching all his points in the second period, Jordan ran wild, scoring on a 30 yard run, a five yard run, and a two point conversion following his first touchdown.
 Bobbie Thompson, the Tiger's promising Freshman quarterback, hit Taft Reed on a 28 yard pass play for a touchdown in the third period. Thompson got into the scoring column himself on a 15 yard run later in the same quarter.
Good Defense
 The Tiger's impressive defense held Mississippi Industrial to 55 yards on the ground, and to 33 yards in the air.
 More than 950 high school students from every section of the State of Mississippi attended the game to observe High School Day at Jackson State.

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Meredith Blasts Bad Schools

Bishops Ban Bias Churches Still Shut

Making his first public appearance in Jackson since his graduation from Ole Miss, James Meredith underlined the enormous problem of Negro education in Mississippi.

Speaking for the James Meredith Educational Fund at the Masonic Temple Sunday evening, Meredith pointed out that the biased textbooks used in the public school system hindered good education just as much as the lack of educational opportunities.

Biased Textbooks

Meredith read a quote from a public school textbook which promoted segregation: "God made us different and he meant for us to be separate." Emphasizing that these texts "glorify the achievements of the white man," Meredith stated, "the issue is whether white supremacy will stand or fall. One Civil War has already been fought. Today, another Civil War may very well be in the making."

Need Doctors, Lawyers

Meredith emphasized the urgent need for professional Negroes in Mississippi. "There are only four lawyers in the entire state of Mississippi who will take cases from Negroes who need legal help. Although there are more than 900,000 Negroes in the state, there are less than 100 doctors."

"In other technical and professional areas the need is even more critical," Meredith continued. "Education is one of the key solutions to the Negro problems."

Meredith alerted his large audience to the duty imposed by the civil rights struggle. "We are chosen," he said, "to lead the nation out of fear and hypocrisy."

American Dream

"We fight not so much because we've been mistreated," he continued, "but because it's God's will that the American Dream be made a reality even in Mississippi."

Meredith urged all students in need of financial assistance to write or call the Meredith Educational Fund, 1017 Lynch St., Jackson, Mississippi.

What peculiar brand of Methodism is practiced in Jackson when Methodist churches refuse to admit ministers of the same faith?

Police arrested a bi-racial group of 10 — including six Methodist ministers from out of state—last Sunday, for attempting to attend worship services at four Jackson Methodist churches.

The group, which split up in two's and three's to attend different churches, was charged with trespassing on church property and disturbing public worship.

Armed with the strongest statement ever issued by the National Council of Methodist Bishops, the six ministers found the doors locked.

The Bishops' message, issued November 13, stated, "The right to choose a place of residence, to enter a school, to secure employment, to vote, or to join a church, should in no way be limited by a person's race, culture or religion . . ."

"We urge our pastors . . . to receive all who are qualified and who desire to be received without regard to race, color, or national origin."

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Test Will Be Given In The Following Locations:

CITY	CENTER	DATE	TIME
Aberdeen	Vine Street H.S.	12/11/63	9:00 A.M.
Brookhaven	Alexander H.S.	12/4/63	9:30 A.M.
Clarksdale	Higgins H.S.	12/2/63	12:45 P.M.
Columbus	R. E. Hunt H.S.	12/11/63	1:30 P.M.
Corinth	Eason H.S.	12/6/63	10:00 A.M.
Greenville	Coleman H.S.	12/3/63	12:45 P.M.
Greenwood	Broad Street H.S.	12/4/63	12:45 P.M.
Gulfport	33rd Avenue H.S.	12/3/63	12:45 P.M.
Hattiesburg	Royal Street H.S.	12/9/63	12:45 P.M.
Jackson	Brinkley H.S.	12/12/63	9:00 A.M.
Jackson	Jim Hill H.S.	12/10/63	9:00 A.M.
Jackson	Lanier H.S.	12/13/63	9:00 A.M.
Laurel	Oak Park Vocational	12/2/63	1:30 P.M.
Meridian	Harris H.S.	12/13/63	9:00 A.M.
Natchez	S. V. Thompson H.S.	12/5/63	9:30 A.M.
Tougaloo	Tougaloo Col. Campus	12/7/63	9:00 A.M.
Vicksburg	Rosa Temple H.S.	12/5/63	9:30 A.M.

Application forms may be obtained from . . .

TOUGALOO COLLEGE
Tougaloo, Miss., or from high school guidance counselors. Mail the completed application and \$4 to CIEP, 22 E. 54th St., New York 22, N. Y. Do it at once! The test is open to high school students above the freshman level.

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