WHO SLAPPED WHO

See Story Below

Mississippi

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Vol. 3, No. 19



Jackson, Mississippi - Saturday, April 25, 1964

10c Per Copy

Lady Tells Her Side Of Slapping Incident

College was arrested last Tues- lated. day and booked on five counts for allegedly slapping an elderly and I told him I wasn't trying white man without provocation to push him, that the man bewhile she was waiting in line hind me had caused me to bump to watch the Beckwith trial. Or into him." at least, that is the way news reports had it.

Miss Norma Stamps had a different version.

She told a FREE PRESS reporter that she was standing in a very crowded line, A white Miss Stamps said, man behind her kept elbowing. Finally this man pushed her ly after, they asked the white into the 84 year old man who (Continued on Page 3)

A secretary at Jackson State was standing in front, she re-

"He asked me to stop pushing

The old man (in front) said

Stop lying."
I said "I'm not lying."

Then the man behind me said, "You are lying."

"The old man slapped me,"

"When the police came short-

Woman Reports Nasty Driver Mass Meeting Votes To Stay Off

A special mass meeting last Friday night brought the largest crowd in six months to Pearl Street Church. The word had spread. A lady had a story to tell, and the people had heard this kind of story over and over again, and they wanted to do something about it.

One of these who was presiding at the meeting asked a woman to stand up and tell the community just what had befallen her that very morning.

She stood, walked up to the front of the packed church-and to cries of "They are animals," she told her story.

She said that at six fifteen in the morning, she was out waiting for the number six City Lines Bus to ride to work. When the bus arrived and let her on, she handed the

bus driver a one dollar bill. At this point she said that the bus driver cursed her and said nasty things because she did not have change. She said that six other people on the bus at the time witnessed

the insults.

When the leaders of the Jackson Movement heard of the incident, they reported that they tried to get in touch with the manager of the City Bus Lines. They re-ported to the mass meeting that they were given "the runaround as in the past.

Following the report, Rev. R. L. T. Smith asked the crowd, "Are we going to let our women be treated this way What are we going to do?"

"WE'RE GOING TO WALK,"

shouted back the crowd.

"Who want's to walk?," asked Rev. Smith, 'Whoever wants to walk to work until our women are treated with decency and courtesy, STAND UP."

The entire capacity crowd jumped to its feet.

Before the mass meeting ended, the Jackson Movement had resolved to walk to work and home again until two demands are met.

- All drivers show courtesy and respect to everyone.
- Negro drivers be hired.

Many people who have cars said at the meeting that they would stop and pick up anyone that they saw walking. It was ex-pected that regular pools would be formed.

The number six line on which the incident took place has been the scene of several ugly incidents in the past it was reported. Number six, according to the bus line itself, is one of two routes in the city that is making any money. An estimated 90 percent of the people who had been riding that particular route were Negro. Negroes are estimated to constitute 80 per cent of all bus riders in

This city is getting used to having trials. Now there seems to be a new one. The question: Will bus drivers be able to continue to be discourteous to Negro women? Will there be another hung jury?

Beckwith Home Free; Posts \$10,000 Bond



Byron de La Beckwith

now he is home free. Green- ended last week, the jury once wood, Mississippi put out signs again could not bring itself to is given annually by the Jackto welcome home hero, Byron a verdict. It is believed that son Chapter to young women of de La Beckwith, who was rethey were split 8-4 for acquittal, high scholastic attainment and leased on \$10,000 bond last week Judge Leon Hendrick, who great promise. after 10 months in jail and two presided at both trials, did not Miss Sperlin mistrials. He was charged with say whether there would be a Birmingham, Alabama, is a pithe shooting of Medgar Ever- third trial or not. in the back last summer.

deadlock (according to reports).

Yes, they let him go. And In the second trial which just

Following his release, the In the first trial, the twelve very obliging Sheriff of Hinds College in Birmingham, Ala- our money and the Negroes in raise additional money for the jarors ended in a six to six County, and one of his deputies, bama and Jackson State Col- the state will still emerge to state, that there will not be a deadlock (according to reports). (Continued on Page 4) lege. (Continued on Page 4)

Tougaloo Student Gets Delta Award

The 1964 Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship was awarded to Miss Alona Sperling of Tougaloo College by the Jackson Alumnae Chapter. This award

Miss Sperling, a native of

We'll Be Free-State Broke, Says Henry To Paul Johnson

In a letter to Gov. Paul Johnson, Dr. Aaron E. Henry, Mississippi NAACP State Conferto the huge sums spent by the then rich state before and dur- white, rich and poor alike." ing the Civil War to perpetuate slavery.

Dr. Henry urged the Goverpor to cease the "useless, foolish expenditure" and to "let us ence president, called attention work together for the freedom of all Mississippians black and

It was recently revealed that the state of Mississippi was not "Mississippi will find herself able to pay back a ninety day in the same predicament as she note for a tidy \$6 million. Govano major who has made a did after the Civil War," Dr. ernor Paul Johnson has stated high scholastic record at Miles Henry said, "having spent all of that unless he is shown ways to

Editorial Page

WE STAND FOR .

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

This week, the FREE PRESS is printing excerpts from an editorial written about possible firing of Ole Miss professor, Dr. James W. Silver. The speech which is referred to in the editorial is the one in which he called Mississippi "A Closed Society."

Guest Editorial—Lexington Advertiser

What, Then, Mississippi

His speech was literally the "straw" that broke the camel's back. Dr. Silver's enemies, which any outspoken person acquires over a period of years, first howled with rage and then jumped up and down with glee. Now they had him. Since that time he has been subjected to unremitting attacks by his enemies and certain peanut politicians seeking newspaper headlines in what they regard as a popular cause.

If the voices of dissent are silenced, as some are seeking in the attempted dismissal of Dr. Silver for stating unpopular truths, then all our freedom is in jeopardy. And it is just a matter of time until freedom is dead in Mississippi.

We are dangerously close to that already.

If you don't believe it, now think back and determine the last time you have voiced, in the company of other Mis-sissippians, an opinion which you KNEW to be unpopular with the power structure of your own little community or

In Germany, under Hitler and his Gestapo, they called this the "police state."

In Mississippi today, in the era of the Citizens' Councils and other terrorist, extremist organizations, Dr. Silver calls our situation "a closed society."

For sounding this alarm, which should penetrate the consciousness of even the most un-thinking, we should be

eternally grateful. We are forever in his debt. Instead, some want him banished from the state.

Shut him up, silence those who do not, will not, cannot go along with the crowd—all those who value truth, personal freedom and integrity above personal, material gain, be it professor, minister, teacher, doctor, lawyer, editor, or plain. private citizen.

What, then, Mississippi?

University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg, whose recent speeches sound very much as though he's a candidate from us with astonishment. You son County Citizens' Council rolly on Man 2 miles. son County Citizens' Council rally on May 2 which promises horror. . . ." Attucks had run to attract the greatest assortment of rabble rousers in the country-Among the invited is the Imperial Wizard of the (Mass.) master in 1750. For the Ku Klux Klan, an organization which appears on the FBI next 20 years he made his livofficial list of subversive organizations in the United States. ing by working on ships plying Former Major General Edwin A. Walker will make an out of Boston harbor.

address

Now do you suppose the state college board will say anything to Dr. McCain?

(Lexington Advertiser)

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Negro Spilled Blood 'Boston Massacre'

School students, Autry Jean Ken-ney and Alice Fage Lee, the slave who, with his bare hands, FREE PRESS will print a special feature on the history of a few early Negro Americans. The articles are provided by the NAACP preus service.

"In the Revolutionary War the American Negro was a participant and a symbol. He was active on the battlefronts and behind the lines; in his expectations and in the gains he registered during the war, he personified the goal of that freedom in whose name the struggle was waged." Thus historian Charles Quarles opens his 1961 book, The Negro in the American Revolution.

It is estimated that of the 300,000 American soldiers who served in the American Army of the Revolutionary War, 5,000 were Negroes. Yet, this was not the first military service rendered by colored men in America; they were employed as soldiers by both the northern and southern colonies in the French and Indian War, 1754-63.

The "shot heard round the world" was fired at Lexington (Mass.) on April 19, 1775, and thus commenced the American War of Independence. But five years earlier on the Ides of March, the first blood of American patriots was spilled at the "Boston Massacre."

Some time before the March, 1770, incident, pioneer Negro historian George W. Williams (History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880) informs us, Crispus Attucks away from his Farmingham

On the memorable night of March 5, a crowd of 40 to 50 men and boys gathered around a British sentry in front of the Customs House on King Street, taunting and threatening him. When a file of Red Coats under the command of Captain Thomas Preston came to his rescue, Attucks led the protestors against them with the shout: The way to get rid of these soldiers is to attack the main guard; strike at the root: this is the nest." The troops fired into the crowd killing Attucks and four other demonstrators and wounding six.

Following a martyrs' funeral. Attucks was buried in a common grave with three of his fallen comrades. The gravestone bore the inscription:

"Long as in Freedom's cause the wise contend, Dear to your country shall your fame extend; While to the world the lettered stone shall tell

Where Caldwell, Attucks, Gray and Marverick fell." The royal governor immediately arranged for the withdrawal of the soldiers from the

city and tensions eased. "The significance of Attuck's death," historian John Hope Franklin (From Slavery to Freedom) comments, "seems to lie in the dramatic connec-

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Prompted the sharp guest tion which it pointed out beeditorial in the FREE PRESS two tween the struggle against Eng weeks ago by two Lanier High land and the status of Negroes colonists reasoned, to have their fight for freedom waged by one who was not as free as they."

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DESTROYED TO THE TREAT OF THE TREAT OF THE TREAT OF THE TREAT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

THE FREEDOM WRITER -

By Andy Mitchell

Old Fossil - New Facts

twins. (His wife did anyway). where it is still not legal to which white man gets in." The two girls have been given the middle names, Inte and Gration. Together, of course, they say integration.

Gregory said that he wanted their names to remind them "for the rest of their lives the suffering of their mother when he was in jailed during her pregnancy while fighting for civil rights."

You know recently they found a really old fossil of one of the how Tennessee is making great earliest human beings. When the British scientist, who made the find was asked how the newly found fossil affects Darwin's theory of evolution, he replied, that it is no longer a theory, "it's a fact."

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Say have you heard, Dick I guess that that explains a Turner, NAACP branch presi-Gregory has recently had lot of things here in Mississippi dent, said, "but we can decide teach the Darwinian theory of evolution in Mississippi public schools. Because of the new discovery, the scientist says where man really comes from."

have your daughter taught that do you.

The FREE PRESS mentioned a couple of weeks ago, about strides in voter registration. Memphis is doing particularly

Total Negro registration in not returned. that city now numbers approximately 85,000. The major annual registration campaign will begin in May with a goal of an additional 15,000 new voters to bring the total to 100,000 Negro

Negroes presently registered constitute about one-third of the electorate. "We haven't elected a Negro to office yet," Jesse H.

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Many church leaders in the North have been playing an important role in support of the that there can be "no doubt that Civil Rights bill. In fact there Africa-East Central Africa-is has been considerable progress in many churches across the na-Uh Oh-You don't want to tion (outside of this place, of course). The church kneel-ins prompted national columnist Drew Pearson to tell the story of an old Negro who tried to worship at a local church and was turned away. He was told to come back next Sunday when the deacons might reconsider, but did not. The preacher, meeting him later asked why he had

> "I asked the Lord about it," the old Negro replied, "and de Lord tell me to stay away. 'Don't worry, Tom,' de Lord say, 'I've been trying to get into that church ever since it was built."

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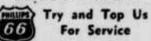
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(Continued from Page 1)

persons standing in line, what had happened." Miss Stamps said that she tried to explain that the old man had attacked her first, but she was arrested, nonetheless.

"Upon leaving the scene of the incident," Miss Stamps said, "the arresting officer was ficer who said that he had long wanted to get me grabbed my other arm and began twist-

"Both officers were hitting me," she said "as they were tinued to do so all the way to me after I was brought to the about 5:30 that same day.

office where I was booked, Miss Stamps said.

Miss Stamps was charged with disturbing the peace, until two unidentified men, dressed in plain clothes, came in and started naming charges that she should be booked for and she was booked for them, she said.

"The booking officer took a pen from me with NAACP inscribed on it (which was never twisting my arm and when I returned) and told me 'This is asked him to stop, another of a da-- good organization to get your a- beat in.'

"Upon requesting to make a phone call," Miss Stamps said she was told "that the lines had been disconnected." Miss Stamps said that after she had going down the steps, and con- been jailed about an hour, the Sheriff came and told her that the elevator. While on the ele- someone had called to see if she vator, my head was bumped were there. He laughed and told against the walls by the offi- her that he had told them that cers, and they continued to hit she wasn't. She was released

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2 Jacksonians **Attend National** YW Conference

How best can the Young Women's Christian Association of the U.S.A. make its contribution in local communities and in the world in this period of history?

More than 2,500 delegates attended the 22nd National Convention of the Association, April 20-25 in Cleveland, Ohio, in-cluding representation from Jackson, Mississippi. The Convention theme was "Match Us to This Hour."

Attending the Convention from the Branch Y.W.C.A. here will be Mrs. Doris Green and Mrs. L. B. Walker Jones.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson wife of the president of the United States spoke to the Convention on opening day.

To benefit the Y.W.C.A. Building Fund, Mr. Thomas Moman, Jr. will be presented

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Pittman Takes 2nd Gra-Y Prize

Freddie Pittman, Jr. was the high point winner in the second Gra-Y Day held at the Farish with him from Christ the King tears to Beckwiths' eyes. were Darrell K. Evers, second prize winner, Dennis C. Sweet, III, Keith Bell, Edward N. Lee, III, and Ronald and Donald Lee; participating from Deva Brown was Bernard Moore. Third prize winner, James Mitchell, was the only representative from Reynolds Elementary School; Smith Robertson had one participant. Ellis J. Johnson, and Martin Elementary School was represented by two boys, Levi Heidelberg and Johnny Simmons. Donald Lee won consolation prize.

in Concert at Mt. Helm Bap'ist Church on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.

All roads will lead to Mt. Helm Church on Wednesday, April 29.

Join the Jackson Y.W.C.A. today and find out why "The Y.W.C.A. Belongs to You." It's near you; it's for you; make the Jackson Y.W.C.A. yours by joining during National Y.W.C.A. Week.

Persons joining this week are: Mrs. Mottiel Garrett and Mrs. G. W. Williams, Y-Teen Toni Carey.

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Beckwith Home . .

(Continued from Page 1) let Beckwith lie face down on the floor in the back seat of an unmarked car which was waiting at the side of the courthouse. The kindly Sherriff sped his famous prisoner to his hometown of Greenwood. At Street Branch YMCA on last home, the signs and other ex-Saturday. Participating along pressions of sympathy brought

Following Beckwith's release, Charles Evers, the slain NAACP leaders' brother, put out a statement in which he made a plea for no one to "resort to violence in any form against Beckwith or anyone else, because neither Medgar nor I would want you to do so, but instead, keep moving in a non-violent way."

In . Indiana, James Meredith has stated that his "intuition" makes him think that Beckwith will be shot by some Negro in the next six months.

The full text of Evers' statement is as follows:

The Beckwith trial was not a litigation involving the family cross-section of the people, of Medgar Evers Vs. Beckwith shows clearly that all of the peonor the NAACP against Beck- ple were not misled one way

tiff and Beckwith as the defendant.

If the action of former Govenor Barnett, in shaking Beckwiths' hand in open court, the public recognition given Beckwith by the Supreme Commander of the Oxford invasion, General Walker, in visiting Beckwith in jail and in open court and the hero's welcome by a standing ovation of many people when Beckwith entered the court room had any influence upon the outcome of the trial the state of Mississippi, solely, that was denied a fair and impartial trial as guaranteed by law. Such actions as I have referred to was sufficient to warrant a mistrial, without mentioning others.

If the state of Mississippi did get a raw deal in this trial, then the people of Mississippi were the recipients of same.

However, the indecisive action of a jury representing a with. It was a law suit with the or another by any tactics which

state of Mississippi as the plan- may have been promoted by some to do so. This is encouraging and shows progress toward the goal of justice in Mississippi.

To all citizens, Negro and White, who are sympathetic to the cause of real justice in Mississippi, may I make a personal plea, please do not resort to violence in any form against Beckwith or anyone else, because Medgar nor I would want you to do so, but instead keep moving in a non-violent way for justice and equality for all Misin Beckwith's favor, then it was sissipians regardless to race, creed, or color without malice or hatred in our hearts.

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