

The Alcorn Story

Hundreds Sent Home

Student Complaints Finger Unequal Education

The following are some of the Alcorn College student grievances listed as "we want":

1. Better provisions for education—(a) More competent instructors; (b) Library open until 10:30 p.m.; (c) Better supervision of instructions; (d) Instructional materials; (e) Books corresponding to excess cards in library. Not included in prepared report but stated verbally by several female students: a grading system not dependent on "other" requirements for young women.
2. A student government free of administrative domination, including right of assembly and modification of present student handbook.
3. Better medical service to include ambulance and full-time medical personnel.
4. Reduction of supply prices for food (cafe), books and toiletries.
5. Relaxation of social restrictions.
6. Relief from dictatorial power of student union director.
7. Right to wear current collegiate fashions.
8. Posting of book prices and on time delivery of books ordered (book prices are never known until billed and are sometimes not delivered during the semester for which ordered).
9. Provisions for better entertainment to include a gymnasium with adequate seating capacity, and supervised picnics, fishing and hikes.
10. Frequent administrative checks on assembly and conduct of classes.
11. Provide a college catalogue in which more of the instructors are still on the faculty, courses listed are actually offered, and expenses and fees are meaningful.

Candidate Explains Reason For Medicare

GREENVILLE, Mississippi—Mississippi's first Negro woman candidate for U. S. Congress, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, spoke here April 17 on "Medical Care and Public Health" in Mississippi, and Washington County in particular.

Mrs. Hamer said there were only six Negro doctors in Washington County where the Negro population is 43,408 or 55.2 per cent, a situation forcing Negroes to seek help from white doctors. (There are 35,230 whites in the county.)

"At the white doctor's office we're put in a little over-crowded room and made to wait all day until the doctor treats his white patients. Then when the doctor gets to us he asks, 'What's the trouble, Fannie?'"

She told the crowd that throughout the 2nd Congressional District, where she is running for Democratic nomination, the death rate is twice as high for Negroes as for whites.

"One third of the Negro babies born in Washington County each year are delivered by midwives. Only two white babies out of 828 born last year were delivered by midwives. And people wonder why the white infant mortality rate is 26.1 per cent but 67.2 per cent for Negroes," she said.

Mrs. Hamer attributed this to segregated hospital facilities

"which lower the quality of patient care and violate professional ethics," and "the poverty of segregation."

"Poverty and poor health form an unbreakable circle, one which need attention from the people who are supposed to represent us," she said.

Mrs. Hamer departed from a prepared speech to say that her campaign was showing many people that a Negro could run for office. "Well, now they know and they can run for any office in the state," she said.

Mr. Hamer, one of four Negroes seeking national office in the state plans to challenge the right to nomination of incumbent Jamie Whitten if he is elected in the June 2 primary.

Hank Kirksey To Edit Free Press

Hank Kirksey, former editor of the Mississippi Educational Journal, has been chosen to become the new full-time editor of the Mississippi Free Press.

Kirksey, a native of Tupelo, Mississippi, has had experience with several newspapers both in and out of the state. He is a graduate of North Carolina College at Durham. Here in Jackson, he has become Chairman of the local Veteran's Committee.

College Demonstration Is Lesson In Under-Education

While about 1000 of the 1400 Alcorn A & M College student body sat at home watching two weeks of education time go by, state and national news media carefully avoided Mississippi's bleeding cancer of under education. Early Wednesday morning about 35 State Highway Patrol cars bearing about 73 of Governor Paul Johnson's troops rolled on to the football field at the nation's oldest land grant college and herded about half of the college student body into about 14 Trailways and two of the college buses for shipment to their homes, improperly dressed, without food, money or notification of parents. Each of the local dailies carried carefully worded accounts of the incident (less than 20 column inches between them) and promptly dropped the story. Local radio and television news commented briefly on Wednesday and Thursday and they too dropped the story.

All news reports on the Alcorn incident gave the college football field as the point of origin of the demonstration, but the two-phase action began on Monday, April 20, in the form of a near 100 per cent effective boycott of the Student Union Building, popularly known as the "Sub." The Sub is a new facility of the college and was not opened until the end of the first semester although students say they were required to pay a \$9 Sub recreation fee for both semesters, or about \$25,000 col-

lectively for the 1963-64 school year. The Sub is managed by the president's wife.

Students questioned about the "Sub" boycott blamed their action on too limited use of what they termed, "grossly inadequate recreational facility." They added that prices of food and merchandise sold in the cafe and book store were too high and the management too dictatorial.

The action phase of the student demonstration commenced Tuesday night as the Sub was being closed. Action demonstration is said to have been triggered by the college administration's action compelling students, principally on athletic scholarship and student aid, to patronize the Sub Tuesday evening, April 21. Such students, they said, were required to sign pledges to patronize and to remain in the Sub until it closed at 9 p.m. When the Sub closed, the "captive" patrons emerged singing "freedom" songs.

The FREE PRESS learned from reliable sources that faculty assignments are undergoing changes as a result of the recent demonstration at Alcorn. One informant stated that head football coach Franklin Purnell and one assistant have been fired. It is reported that Purnell

refused to sign a statement that the Alcorn faculty advised the President to call the State Highway Patrol to stop demonstration.

The "captive" patrons, now demonstrators, proceeded around the campus to all the student dormitories picking up strength as they went. Many young women, they said, who had donned their night garments, slipped on house coats and departed through side doors and windows as the dormitories were being locked. The demonstration proceeded to the football field where subsequent action was planned. After a pledge not to destroy property or become violent, the students decided to make another tour of the campus and to demand audience with the college president, J. D. Boyd, and return to the football field. Thus organized, the students again toured the campus stopping at the president's campus residence and demanding audience with him. After waiting fruitlessly for the president, the students continued their tour singing freedom songs. Screens were removed from some windows by demonstrators to allow more young women to escape their dormitories. The demonstrators

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Alcorn Education Tragedy Gets Press Cover-Up

An eight inch (column) account of the Alcorn incident carried on page 16 of the local daily newspaper, Thursday, April 23, after stating that "about 500 students at Alcorn A & M College had been sent home on Wednesday," quoted Dr. E. R. Jobe, executive secretary of the State College Board in Jackson, as saying that "only a small number of students were involved."

When the FREE PRESS visited the Alcorn campus Saturday (May 2) only a handful of students could be seen about the campus at mid-day. A reliable informant, close to the situation, later estimated remaining students to be about 350, more or less.

The local daily also quoted the College Board as saying that the demonstration apparently CAME AS A RESULT OF EXPULSION OF STUDENTS ACCUSED OF THEFT FROM THE COLLEGE BOOK STORE.

Expelled students and others close to the Alcorn situation emphatically deny the alleged

connection. The administration, they charged, is simply trying to hide an ugly mess at the college.

When the FREE PRESS attempted to interview the college president, J. D. Boyd, on the campus on Saturday, the president said flatly that he was not going to talk to the FREE PRESS or any other press or reporter. President Boyd told the editor that any information about the incident, which he described as strictly a disciplinary matter having no connection with race or civil rights, must come from Dr. E. R. Jobe, executive secretary of the State College Board.

Although the College Board met on the Alcorn campus early in the week following suspension of demonstrating students, no information is known to have been released to the press about the board's findings or action. Neither Associated Press nor United Press International reports, if any, have been carried locally.

HRC Has 2 Lively Sessions

Miss Jean Fairfax, national representative for Southern Programs of the American Friends Service Committee, gave a studious report on "Public Education in Mississippi and the Courts" at a general meeting of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations held at Tougaloo College, Thursday, April 30. The entire morning session concerned itself with Miss Fairfax's report.

The afternoon round table on "The Role of the Press" included a telephone discussion of reporting problems with Bill Minor, Jackson correspondent for the New Orleans Times Picayune.

Promotion of inter-community communication received a great deal of consideration. Lack of responsible news coverage was pointed out as a major factor in the slow progress of racial understanding.

STATE HIST. SOCIETY
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Editorial Page

WE STAND FOR . . .

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

Lets Face Up

Under the Barnett-Wallace "states rights" and local self government system, sovereignty extends even unto the "Little Red School House," controlled from the "top" and completely immune to community concern.

For too long, Negroes, who know and feel the tragedy of under education, have refused to "face-up" and to speak up lest we "offend" some of "our own people." The following excerpts from an article by Arthur L. Benson of the Education Testing Service, Princeton, N. J., pin-points the shame which Negro victims help to perpetuate:

"The legal fiction that Southern Schools for Negroes were "separate but equal" has produced a generation of Negro school teachers undereducated despite their college degrees. Hardly anybody talks out loud about this troublesome situation, which could be conveniently overlooked so long as the legal fiction could be maintained. . . . Unless the vicious circle is broken, whereby large numbers of undereducated American teachers are permitted to undereducate other generations of Americans, Benson said, "it is futile to hope that the gap between inadequate schooling for large numbers of children, and quality education for others, will be closed in Southern education."

Let us too face-up "our" shame in all our schools as only our children have shown courage to expose. The sooner we expose the "separate but equal" fiction for what it is, the sooner relief will come.

Aid Sought For Alcorn Students

Charles Evers, state NAACP secretary, charged state and national news "cover-up" of the Alcorn College student expulsion. He saw lack of news coverage of the incident as a "political hiding" of the "separate but equal farce" during Senate debate of the civil rights measure. Evers said that he would seek NAACP legal and financial aid for the suspended students. He cited a Civil Rights Commission report which showed that Mississippi spent less than \$50,000 for Negro education out of nearly \$3.5 million given the

state by the federal government for higher education in 1958 and stated that very little evidence is available to show that a change of policy has been effected.

Every effort will be made to get those students in white colleges of the state where our tax dollars go, he said. The Senate would do well to take a recess from its stalemate and take a first hand look at the scheme by which the state cheats its Negro youth out of possibility for a decent education, he concluded.

THE FREEDOM WRITER -

By Andy Mitchell

Crazy Questions

Probably you have noticed that things are really popping up in Nashville. Matter of fact, more things are integrating. So I thought, I would go on up there myself and look things over.

One really curious thing that I saw was a comment on one of the daily newspapers THE TENNESSEAN written by a visiting writer from West Germany. It seems that he can't quite understand "our way of life."

Man, you can really tell a foreigner around here. He's a guy who can't understand the logic of segregation.

First he says, after having seen the civil rights demonstrations during the last three days my image of these events has changed. Abroad one usually gets the impression that these actions are not demonstrations, but riots. Bad news sells better.

And then he asks some real crazy questions like: Why is there any segregation of restaurants? For a foreigner it is not logical that the Negroes are allowed to work in the kitchen and as waiters in some restaurants, but are not allowed to enter these same places as customers.

If the white guests are both-

ered by Negroes sitting at the table next to them, why are these same guest not bothered by the Negroes who cook and handle the food they eat?

It is also quite an experience to find out that a foreigner who comes from a country that has fought two wars against the U.S.A., can go to every segregated restaurant (if he would desire to), but that access to the same restaurant is denied to an American citizen, who might have fought for this country in the war and who pays taxes to the U.S. — just because of the color of his skin.

Many Should Make Vote Try — Prof. Says

This week the FREE PRESS prints the third and final portion of a speech made by Dr. Russell H. Barrett, Ole Miss Professor, entitled, "Voting Qualifications in Mississippi."

As I argued before, this brief look at the registration form shows that the test is not a particularly difficult one if — and only if — several assumptions are made. These assumptions are: first, that Negroes attempt to register in substantial numbers instead of being afraid of the process; second, that they study the registration application and other requirements in advance so that they are familiar with the possible difficulties; third, that the registrars do not apply extremely strict standards in evaluating the answers; and finally, that there are organizations such as the NAACP and the Department of Justice willing to support appeals against discriminatory application of the requirements.

Possible Reasons

Although there is not enough time to go into this in detail there may be some value in indicating possible reasons for unconstitutionality of the state's pattern of voting requirements. These possibilities come mainly from decisions made by federal courts in throwing out registration laws in Alabama and Louisiana.

First, there is the question of intention to discriminate. This is made difficult in Mississippi because the political leaders simply did not make public statements about the clear intention of the law to discriminate. Even so, statements were made by newspapers and others closely allied with the political leadership. A reasonably sympathetic court might well repeat a quotation from the Alabama case, that to conclude there was no intention to discriminate would be "to shut our eyes to what all others than we can see and understand."

Second, there is the matter of whether equal protection of the laws is denied because the law provides no reasonable standards for determining whether the voter measures up to the requirements explaining

the constitution, describing the obligations of citizenship, and of proving good moral character. Since no standards whatsoever are provided for these vague concepts, it is difficult to see how the U. S. Supreme

Court could possibly avoid concluding that the requirements are unconstitutional "on their face."

Finally, there is the matter of discriminatory administration. On this there is an extensive record in county after county in which one type of requirements has been required of Negroes and another of whites. The record of discrimination in the

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VICTORIA J. GRAY

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Noted Georgian To Deliver JSC Commencement

Dr. William H. Dennis, Jr., President of Albany State College, Albany, Ga., will deliver the Commencement Address at



Dr. William H. Dennis, Jr.

Jackson State College Monday, May 25, 1964, at 7:00 p.m.

A native of Brunswick, Georgia, Dr. Dennis received the B.A. at Morehouse College and the M.A. at Atlanta University. He was awarded the Doctor of Laws by Morris Brown College. He has done advance study at New York and Indiana Universities. Dr. Dennis has been principal of several high schools prior to his appointment as Director of Teacher Education at Albany State College in 1946. He was appointed Acting President of Albany State July 1, 1954, and became President in 1955. A General Education Board Fellow in 1947-48, Dr. Dennis was

honored by the Albany State National Alumni Association for outstanding achievement in the field of education. A Federal



Dr. J. B. Brown

Housing Project in Albany was named in his honor in '63.

Dr. Dennis is listed in Who's Who In Colored America, Distinguished Georgians, Who's Who in The South and Southwest, Presidents of Colleges and Universities, and Who's Who in America.

The Baccalaureate Sermon will be delivered by Dr. T. B. Brown, Pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi, on Sunday, May 24, at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Brown was born at Brookhaven, Mississippi, into a well-known family of ministers. His education consists of training that resulted in degrees from several institutions as follows: B.S., Jackson State College; M.A., Northwestern University; B.D., New Orleans Baptist Seminary; and the honorary D.D., Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

Both programs will be held at College Park Auditorium.

NAACP FREEDOM SPECTACULAR

Thursday, May 14, 1964

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H. J. Kirksey Editor

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Medics Create Scholarship Fund

A fund has been established to assist any Negro student who is accepted in Medical School at the University of Mississippi. The Scholarship Fund was set up by the Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association at its annual meeting here in Jackson last week. The Association, which is composed of Negro physicians, demonstrated its eagerness for qualified Negro students to take advantage of the training that is available here in the state.

In other action, the Association voted to file a complaint with the President of the United States, the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare concerning acts of discrimination at the University Medical Center and other Hill-Burton Hospitals and institutions in the State of Mississippi using Federal funds.

A few weeks ago, the FREE PRESS revealed that almost nine and a half million dollars was being spent on hospitals here in the state and over five million of that money came from the Federal Government. FREE PRESS also reported

Hundreds Sent Home . . .

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returned to the football field as planned. The students decided to remain on the field all night. Many male students then went to their dorms and returned with coats, sweaters and blankets to protect the young women against the chilly night air. At about 11:45, the head football coach, Frank Purnell, followed by the head basketball coach, Eugene Simmons, pleaded with students to return to their dormitories. The students refused to budge. At about midnight, Dean Rudolph E. Walters and about a dozen faculty members marched out on the field in front of the students gathered in the stands and stated that the faculty had met. Dean Walters then read a prepared statement to the effect that the demonstrating students had violated college rules by staying out of their dormitories beyond the limits set by the college and that action against each of them should be taken, but because they felt a certain responsibility to the parents, they were giving

that officials at the Medical Center had told a group of Jackson Negro leaders that they (the officials of University Hospital) were powerless to abandon segregation policies.

the demonstrators one more chance to return to their dormitories. If the students did not return, the statement continued, the State Highway Patrol would be called to disperse them. After listening to repeated readings by the dean, the students began to yell and chant, "Send us the president, we want to talk to the president." None of the students made any effort to leave, so the faculty members left, but the president never came.

FREE PRESS learned that several changes affecting students have been made since the demonstration. The price for playing records on the "juke box" has been changed from 10 to 5 cents per record, a second pool table has been added, the recreation facility of the sub now remains open until the building is closed at 9 p.m. Saturday dance time has been extended one hour and the library remains open until nine. TV sets are being installed.

Between 5:30 and 6 a.m., the patrol cars rolled onto the campus in twos. After the last patrol car arrived, the full force, heavily armed with pistols, rifles, riot guns, tear gas and "billy" clubs (one patrolman was said to have a fixed bayonet), marched up in front of the students who were seated and standing in the bleachers where they had spent the night. The

Many Should Make . . .

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Alabama case was not as substantial as in Mississippi, and yet the Supreme Court upheld a District Court decision which declared the Alabama requirements to be unconstitutional.

There is reason for optimism that the U. S. Supreme Court will rule the Mississippi requirements unconstitutional, and there would certainly be great value in a Supreme Court decision which would deal directly with alleged tests of constitutional understanding and moral character.

In conclusion, it is important commander then stated: "You Alcorn students have demonstrated that you have no interest in going to school, therefore, you will be held until buses arrive to take you to your destinations."

The Ticket Agent from the Lorman Bus Station and members of the college business office staff set up tables on the field and checked the students out as the buses began to arrive at about 10 a.m. The students are said to have been over crowded onto buses. Although the last Trailways bus did not leave until shortly before 2 p.m., none of the students were allowed to eat or get their personal possessions.

to emphasize the importance of a variety of challenges against these unfair and discriminatory voting requirements. It is important that there be challenges on constitutional grounds, but this is a slow approach which cannot provide a complete answer.

After all, Mississippi political leaders are not likely to give up even if the present requirements are invalidated. It is also important that there be organizations and schools which will give instruction in methods of meeting the present voting requirements. This means distribution of sample copies of the registration form and study of the difficulties which the voter may encounter. The study of this tedious form and of the commonly used sections of the constitution is not a particularly thrilling way to spend leisure hours, but it is necessary.

Finally, because large numbers of people must be motivated to study the problems of voter registration and to actually make that trip to the Circuit Clerk's office, it is also necessary that there be organizations with time, money, and personnel to accomplish these various tasks of motivation, education, and litigation. All are necessary to challenge a system which is rigged, and they need to work with a minimum of argument and a maximum of cooperation.

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