

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, MO. AUGUST 23 - - Eight students were arrested here this week -- three on August 20 and five today -- in demonstrations against segregation in a movie theatre and cafeteria. The group includes a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the President of the Charleston NAACP Youth Chapter.

John Lewis, 23, a SNCC field secretary and Chairman of the Nashville Nonviolent Movement, and Dorothy Davis, Youth Chapter President, were charged with interfering with a police officer at a hearing yesterday morning after a stand-in demonstration August 20. The others were charged with trespassing stemming from a sit-in at Watkins cafe today.

On Monday evening, August 20, 36 students began stand-in demonstrations at McCutchen Theatre. After the students appeared, the ticket window was closed but the demonstrators continued to maintain a revolving line in front of the window. The entire group was then arrested. Lewis went limp, and had to be carried into a waiting police car.

About forty local citizens went to City Hall to protest the arrests, and stayed until well after midnight. All demonstrators except three were released as juveniles after the Judge gave them a talk.

Mr. Lewis said yesterday: "As a minister of the gospel, I have acted according to my Christian faith and the dictates of my conscience. I can do no less. Arresting us will not stop these peaceful non-violent demonstrations, but will only inspire others to join us."

On August 21, 29 students demonstrated again at McCutchen Theatre, which closed for an hour and a half. The next day, yesterday, groups of five and six stood outside Watkins Cafe all day. The restaurant closed. When it reopened today, five more students attempted to obtain service and were arrested for trespassing.

Eighteen students, arrested on August 13 and 14 in anti-segregation demonstrations here, are still in jail pending trial August 28.