

NEWSLETTER

Southern
Student
Organizing
Committee

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DECEMBER, 1964

SSOC PLANS CHRISTMAS PROJECT IN MISSISSIPPI

"The Christmas Project" of SSOC is a service project planned for two four day periods during the holiday season, December 19-23 and December 27-January 1. Service projects have been arranged for Hattisburg, Laurel, and possibly Meridian.

The project in Hattisburg will be remodeling the Dewey Street Community Center, a ramshackle house that is currently being used for group activities and Freedom School. Hattisburg is in the 5th Congressional District and during the summer maintained a staff and volunteer corps of 50 people. In addition to the "labor" of working on the center, volunteers will also have the opportunity to canvass for voter registration. Douglas Smith is the acting project director in the absence of Sandy Leigh.

Volunteers in Laurel, Mississippi will be helping to remodel an old house that will be used as living quarters for the staff. Gwyn Robinson is project director in Laurel which is also in the fifth district.

There is a possibility that workers can also be used in Meridian painting a community center directed by Eric Weinberger. This particular center was the one started by Michael and Rita Schrewner.

SOUTHWIDE CONFERENCE HELD IN ATLANTA

The first southwide fall conference of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) was held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 13-15 at the old Gammon Seminary campus. Approximately 144 students representing 43 schools and eleven southern states were present.

The conference began on Friday night, with Ron Parker, treasurer of SSOC, talking about the organization of SSOC and how it could relate to local campus groups. General discussion followed concerning the role of local campus groups in their college community. Ideas were exchanged as to successful programming for local areas. After the first evening session a film on the life story of Lillian Smith was shown and a record of readings from her new book was played.

Regular sessions began on Saturday morning, the first one dealing with Students in politics. Larry Goodwyn, former head of the Texas Democratic Coalition talked about the need for coalition politics, citing

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Housing arrangements will be made by COFO staff people now working in the projects. Volunteers will be expected to pay for their own food. Estimated expenses for each four day period is approximately \$10-\$15.

Students who are interested in working in either the before Christmas session or the post-Christmas project should contact the SSOC office for additional information and application forms immediately.

MONEY IS NEEDED TO HELP FINANCE THE PROJECT
The Dewey Street Community Center in Hattisburg is completed on one side. The other side has not been completed due to a lack of funds. One of the important aspects of the project is that SSOC volunteers will be furnishing supplies as well as manpower. Campus groups are urged to raise money to finance this project. (Please note the fund-raising technique used by Maryville College.) Personal pledges of \$1 from 30 people on ten campuses would make the Dewey Street Community Center in Hattisburg a pleasant center for activity.

REPORT OF FIELD SECRETARY

In the month preceeding the SSOC 1964 Fall Conference, I, as Field Secretary for SSOC, visited twenty-nine campuses in a six state area. The following observations are made in reflecting on that trip.

As Fall 1964 approached, vague, yet positive references were often made by SSOC organizers concerning the "isolated Southern student." The efforts of SSOC in executing a southwide fall conference have proven to us, as well as to others, that the socially conscious, "mythical" Southern student does, in reality, exist.

While everyone was apparently pleased and impressed due to the physical bodies present, it is important to remember that for each person represented, there were eight or twelve or twenty or forty students back on the campus in each locality. These persons, not in attendance at the conference, may be equally concerned and certainly a great potential not to be overlooked. This is true of most of the campuses I visited, and I can testify also to activities, groups, and persons who were not represented at the Conference.

Not only did Southern students exist, in more than sufficient numbers to warrant the necessity of SSOC, but the variety of activities was also found to be surprising--simply because these activities had been isolated acts. How many of us knew of civil rights activities in Lynchburg, Virginia, or of resistance to the evils in Prince Edward County, Va., or of a student labor group in North Carolina, or a group of Y. D.'s in Alabama who openly oppose Governor Wallace and supported the national Democratic ticket? On each campus visited, I found students both concerned and active, engaged in programs ranging from tutorials to unions to university reform.

While our vision has expanded because of our "discovery" of action on the part of "predominately white" groups, it was only natural and healthy that the idea should evolve to make SSOC a Southern Student Organization (as compared to the previous predominately white emphasis.)

SSOC is unique in that it is the first Southwide group to be concerned with the white college student. This concern is crucial and it is important that white

students in the South continue to identify with the form of SSOC.

On the other hand, Negro students wishing to identify with a group in working on local problems other than in the area of race really have no other organization in the South with which to identify. That SSOC should evolve in this manner speaks for the wide range of goals and issues found in SSOC and points to the fact that we can and will work together for common goals. Since SSOC is not a membership organization, that SSOC is integrated will mean that Negroes and whites will work together on issues locally. This is now being done effectively on several campuses and points to the need that this contact between Negro and white schools needs to be toward a greater goal than merely open channels of communication (though this may not be possible in some parts of the South).

The searching for techniques and the new recognition of issues (broader than picketing for open accomodations) marked much of my travels and was an open question at the conference. As there are few precedents for southern students to follow in this area, the need for now examining and discussing what students across the South are doing is crucial. Again there is probably a greater need for communications than early SSOC organizers had envisioned. The passage of the Civil Rights Law changed the nature of campus activity, channeled it into perhaps more meaningful activity in the long run, but did not cause a decrease in concern and sensitivity to the problems of the South.

In summary, the goals of SSOC remain the same, but the possibility of enlarging our ranks of the concerned is now before us. With the new sense of unity gained at the conference, we can return to our campuses and continue our work with renewed vigor. We must constantly strive toward the goal which Miss Lilian Smith projects for us--the Great Society idea of the Johnson era with the Excellence which Kennedy inspired. We must break new ground, set new precedents for student involvement, shrug off the shackles of "in loco parentis" and through conscious effort and democratic participation build that New World--beginning with the New South.

Archie Allen -

SOUTHWIDE CONFERENCE HELD IN ATLANTA

examples of how the coalition has successfully worked in Texas. Ed King, national committeeman for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party gave the history of the FDP, the convention challenge, and expansion of the party into other deep south areas. Immediately following the morning session a workshop was scheduled to give students a chance to discuss local campus programming.

Don West, Department of Education, University of Maryland, began the afternoon session on Southern History and Economy. Immediately following Mr. West, Robert Van Waes, Staff Associate of the American Association of University Professors spoke on the academic freedom of students. Rev. C. T. Vivian, Director of Affiliates of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference then spoke on civil liberties and violations of constitutional rights. The afternoon session was also followed by a workshop.

Ed Hamlett, a member of the SSOC Executive Committee and director of the white student project of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), began the evening session by discussing the relationship between SSOC and the SNCC. General discussion followed concerning the "whiteness" of SSOC and the possibility of attempting to work on both white and Negro campuses. It was pointed out by some of the people present who are on the SNCC staff that SNCC is beginning to reconsider its base of operation and is moving in the direction of community organizing. Therefore the door is open for SSOC to expand its emphasis to include all Southern campuses. (Originally SSOC was conceived as being an effort to reach white southern students. The need for working on Negro college campuses had not been felt so keenly since SNCC was considered working with such groups.) The group decided that SSOC should become an interracial, intercollegiate organization. The meeting was then adjourned with the understanding that persons interested in continuing the discussion could meet in another room and those interested in seeing

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WHITE CHILD

The Southland is only for children.
Stay young with fox and hounds
around the dusky yard.
Stay young with kick-the-can
and jack rocks and Robin Hood---
Out in the road after lightning bugs,
And under the arthritic apple trees.

For those who ask and doubt, the bitterness
comes first, before the final drought of
childhood.

For those who never understood---
Only loneliness, only shadows,
Dangling shadows wearing the name of Emmett
Till...

And jeers and dogs in Birmingham
(and the shattered fingers and faces
of Jesus' children.)

And nobody remembers
what it was the founding fathers found.

(Uncle Remus is dead, chillun.
He don' roll wif laughtah no mo'
under the magnolia tree.
Br'er Rabbit got bettah things to do
than play in a briar patch.
And Br'er Fox, he lay low.
They burnin' crosses now
under the magnolia tree.)

The Southland is only for children.
Stay young with dreams of days
the broom could not chase away,
But who went in their own time....
Stay young with games and riddle cakes
and killing snakes...

Or sorrow will sneak up on you,
On the porch under the moth light,
On the gray walks where snakes creep
silverly,

Coming ready or not---

The grinning leprosy of apathy.

by Carol L. Edwards
Lynchburg College

The "Statement on Faculty Responsibility for the Academic Freedom of Students" released by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is now available from the SSOC office, Box 6403, Nashville, Tennessee.

FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The University of California has long enjoyed a nationwide reputation as a center for both freedom of expression and freedom of political action. That tradition is now threatened. The Administration, in a recent series of "interpretations" has forbidden its students from collecting contributions for off-campus activities, from soliciting membership in off-campus organizations, or from mounting political action (e.g. demonstrations or rallies) from any point on the University Campus.

Historically, the University has served not only as a place where social evils could be freely discussed, but also as a place where direct action could be planned to combat them. Yet all these activities will be abruptly ended if the Administration's new rulings are allowed to stand.

This is much more than a contest between Berkeley students and Berkeley administrators: harassment of politically active students is a commonplace all over the nation on hundreds of college campuses and are serious threats to the struggle for freedom and justice.

The above information was taken from a news release from the Free Speech Movement. More information may be obtained by writing to the Free Speech Movement, Box 809, Berkeley, California.

ACLU OPENS SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mr. Charles Morgan, Jr., author of the new book, A Time to Speak, has been named Director of a Southern Regional Office of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Mr. Morgan attracted national attention last year when he spoke at the Young Men's Business Club the day after the bombing of a Birmingham Church which killed four young Negro girls. His answer to the query of "Who did it?" was "We all did it."

The ACLU acts upon request to support civil liberties cases and has more than 800 uncompensated cooperating attorneys. The Union is particularly interested in freedom of speech and assembly, censorship, and student academic freedom.

BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN AND MILES COLLEGE PLAN INTERCOLLEGIATE MEETINGS

Birmingham Southern and Miles College have set up a cooperative series of foreign and art films to be shown every other weeks at Miles College. (Negroes are not allowed on the Birmingham Southern campus.) These films will be followed by discussion groups. It is hoped that some action projects will come out of the discussion groups. There have been several informal intercollegiate socials (weiner roasts and election party) since spring.

Several of the young professors from Miles, graduates of Harvard and Yale, have set up a depth study seminar on the subject of the "Triple Revolution." The students involved are studying and discussing several current important books and magazines.

*Twinkle Koestline
Birmingham Southern*

CAMPUS COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS FORMED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Approximately fifty students and faculty at the University of Kentucky have formed the Campus Committee on Human Rights (CCHR). The Executive Committee is composed of Doug Sanders, President, Elaine Wender, Secretary, and Bil Banks, Treasurer. The group is divided into five committees: Housing, Public Accommodations, Official University Policy on Admissions and Recruitment, and Information and Education. Committee chairman and the officers determine the group policy.

The CCHR is now engaged in investigation in the areas listed above with the view of clearly defining specific problems and effecting solutions through appropriate means.

*Keith Birchett
Univ. of Kentucky*

CAMPUS NEWS

Charlottesville, Virginia--The Virginia Council on Human Relations Chapter at the University of Virginia is actively involved in a program of student recruitment among Negro high schools in the state.

Student volunteers, acting as representatives of the University in their respective departments of study, carry out the program of recruitment on weekend visits across Virginia.

In other areas of activities, on-campus programming has included such notable speakers as Aaron Henry, Norman Thomas, etc. A study group is evaluating employment practices in the University Area in an attempt to pinpoint and eliminate unequal hiring policies based on discrimination.

The Young Democrats, also of the Univ. of Virginia, were actively engaged in the campaign for the Johnson-Humphery ticket. A resolution was unanimously passed, preceeding the national elections, withdrawing support from Senator Harry F. Byrd and Congressman Smith, also stating that they "would look with great favor" upon the decision of both parties to follow Strom Thurman into the Republican Party.

Durham, North Carolina--In keeping with the general transition of emphasis from civil rights to "deeper issues," the North Carolina Student Labor Conference has focused its attention on problems of employment, wage, and economic issues.

In working to overcome anti-union myths and in working to educate socially conscious students, the Conference will involve student participation in trade union organization and on-campus labor education, in areas of:

1. Volunteer Student Organizing--Through student committees on various campuses, workshops will be held on organizing techniques, labor law, etc. Student volunteers will then leaflet, make house calls, etc.
2. Student Education--Meetings, programs, and institutes will be planned. A speaker bureau composed of graduate students and faculty members will speak on the labor topics.

3. Research and Education--Councils, composed primarily of graduate students, will hold seminars on economic and labor issues, perform research on automation, economic conditions of North Carolina, etc.

The program focus now involves only three campuses, (Duke, U. of North Carolina, and North Carolina College), which are within fifteen miles of each other and significant results have been shown. As the program advances, it will include student participation on a state-wide basis.

Gainesville, Florida--The Committee for Student Recruitment has been formed with the purpose of carrying out an extensive recruitment program among Negro high schools for the University of Florida.

About twenty students, Negro and white, have volunteered to visit as many of the 120 Negro high schools and 6 junior colleges as possible. A major goal of these visits is to dispel any apprehension which Negroes might feel about attending a formerly segregated southern university by means of personal contact. At present, recruitment information from the University offices is not sent to Negro schools, nor do representatives of the University visit these schools.

The Recruitment Committee is optimistic that many more qualified Negro students will attend the University of Florida.

The Committee also points to the good record made by those Negro students, many with a background of inferior education, who are now enrolled at the University.

For more information, contact the Committee for Student Recruitment, Box 13274, University Station, Gainesville, Florida.

Three of the preceeding reports were edited by Archie Allen. The events recorded were drawn from oral and written reports, and do not begin to represent the total scope of student activity in the South. In order to give your activities publicity and in order to keep southern students informed, please SEND MONTHLY REPORTS OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES TO THE SSOC OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEWS-LETTER.

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some of the films available could do so.

The business session continued on Sunday morning. The emblem appearing on the SSOC newsletter was discussed at length. It was decided by the group that the black and white hand shaking over the confederate flag should not be considered the SSOC emblem.

The Rev. J. Metz Rollins of the Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race then spoke briefly on the role of the church in social change. He was followed by James Forman, the Executive Secretary of SNCC, who spoke on the revolution in the campus and the community.

Immediately following the last session one person from each campus represented met to elect an Executive Committee. Each state represented elected one person to an Executive Committee whose specific task is to plan another Southwide conference tentatively set for February. Members of this committee are as follows:

Texas, Jeff Shero, University of Texas
Louisiana, Kathy Barrett, Loyola
Mississippi, Melinda Willis, Tougaloo
Alabama, Max Langley, Auburn Univ.
Georgia, Jean Hofer, Agnes Scott
Florida, Dan Harmeling, Univ. of Fla.
South Carolina, Mary Eaddy, Benedict
North Carolina, Shelley Blum, Duke
Virginia, Howard Romaine, U. of Va.
Kentucky, Robert Johns, Western Ky. St.
Tennessee, Richard Brinson, Knoxville C.

The second conference is planned to be more representative in terms of white and Negro colleges. One major fault of the conference was an insufficient amount of time devoted to workshops and discussion of local campus programming. It is hoped that the next conference can focus more on these needs.

The success of the SSOC conference cannot be gauged. In terms of the original purpose of SSOC, which was to involve more white southern college students in social action, a significant degree of success was accomplished. (About 125 white students from southern colleges were present.) In terms

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OXFORD I

What now is this music
That keeps me from my bed?
We shall overcome--ha
Laughter from the dead.
I do not think that Moses
Will see these children fed;
I do not think that love lasts,
Whatever may be said;
And I think that these must also die,
However bravely led.
I know, of course I know,
All these things I have read;
What then is this music
That keeps me from my bed.

--Bob Bailey

OXFORD II

Those who cried have reason,
But glory to those who laughed,
Their mouths poised, amazed;
For they too have reason,
And thus armed they go.
But know, if blood is the price
Their shoulders are as straight.
Though their manner light
They know the same night--
And this will suffice
For a season.

--Bob Bailey

Bob Bailey, a student at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, worked as a volunteer for the Council of Federated Organizations in the Mississippi Summer Project. Orientation sessions for the project were held at Western College, Oxford, Ohio.

Forum

Editor's Note: *The Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) was founded on the idea that students-- regardless of their particular orientation or degree of involvement-- can play a constructive role in the building of a New South. In this month's FORUM Ron K. Parker makes a plea for an inclusive SSOC. Do you agree or disagree with Ron's ideas concerning the role of SSOC. Readers are urged to send in their responses to his comments.*

STUDENT HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL HOLDS STATE CONFERENCE

"Reach for Tomorrow" was the theme of a conference held by the South Carolina Student Human Relations Council on December 4-6, 1964. Randolph Blackwell of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) spoke on the topic "Your Time is Now."

Workshops were held on Student Involvement in Politics, the Poverty Program, Tutorials--Why and How, and Feelings and Fears.

Two panels were also formed to speak before campus, community, and church groups. One panel will deal with the topic "Christianity and Race"; the second panel will discuss "South Carolina--Its Problems and Potential."

Resource people for the conference included Joe Hendricks, Dean of Men at Mercer University, M. Hayes Mizell, Director of the US National Student Association Southern Project, Al Ulmer of the Southern Regional Council, Winnifred Falls of the Georgia Council on Human Relations, and Dick Ramsey of the American Friends Service Committee.

Mary Anne Eaddy, a student at Benedict College and a member of the Executive Committee of SSOC, is president of the group. Brad Poston, a student at the University of South Carolina is Vice-President.

As I see SSOC, it is a two dimensional organization: (1) the horizontal "broad based" orientation seems to please most people because they are free to explore their own varied interests: (2) the vertical dimension--different levels of participation--allows students to associate with SSOC no matter where they may be on the continuum of student involvement in the social, political, and philosophical transformation of the South.

We cannot afford to alienate or isolate students who are not as committed to this transformation in either theory or practice because they cannot move fast enough to please the more militant southern students. A moment of retrospection will remind us that we, in all probability did not committ ourselves to this transformation in an instant, but rather went through a rather difficult evolutionary process which is still in motion. Unfortunately, the key word is patience, which implies some hand holding, some tea, some answering of very naive questions, and inevitably some disappointments.

Some frustrated radicals can continue to "polarize" a few campuses and isolate the deviant few on an issue while those who might be interested in helping transform the South are forced to the opposite pole.

This can continue resulting in the second dimension of SSOC being pushed aside and thousands of potentially interested and valuable students cannot be reached or allowed to evolve at their own pace. Omit the freedom for different levels of participation and SSOC dies a premature death.

QUOTED WITHOUT COMMENT

"It was the white people of the South who raised the Negroes to where they are today. The Negro's best friend has been the Southern white man, and the Southern white man has had a good friend in the Southern Negro."
Governor George Wallace
Playboy Magazine

JOINT UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FORMED

The Joint Universities Council on Human Relations was organized on April 21, 1964, with approximately 60 members from the Vanderbilt, Peabody, and Scarritt communities. The group is affiliated with the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, the Nashville Coordinating Council on Civil Rights, and the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC).

Recent projects have included distribution of information on civil rights in the Negro areas of the city and provision of transportation for voters on election day.

The tutoring program inaugurated last year in the city's largest Negro high school will be expanded this year to include a junior high school as well. Projects planned for the future include testing of restaurants, participation in a bi-racial speakers bureau which will explain the Civil Rights Bill more thoroughly to various groups, and raising funds for repair of a bombed church in Mississippi. In addition, several members of the group plan to collect clothes, books, and food for distribution in Mississippi during the Christmas holidays.

The Joint Universities Council hopes to work more closely with the Vanderbilt International Students Association and tentative plans to set up an International House have been made.

--Joanna Foley
Vanderbilt University

SOUTHWIDE FALL CONFERENCE, cont.

of future possibilities the idea of expansion into a broad based student group working on both white and Negro campuses is exciting. With much of the thrust of the civil rights movement in the South being directed at community organizing there is an obvious need for campus organizing to help staff community projects as well as campus projects. There is also a need for students to participate in a wider range of activities such as university reform, academic freedom, political action, poverty programs, unemployment, etc. Perhaps the greatest value of the conference lies in the fact that it did serve to broaden our vision of the task that lies before us.

MARYVILLE COLLEGE RAISES \$158 FOR THE Southern Student Organizing Committee

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt of a letter from Miss Sandra Chittick, a student at Maryville College. This "alive" campus is to be commended for its efforts in behalf of SSOC.

"Hi! School has been really exciting ever since the SSOC conference. We have been enthusiastic about SSOC and its goals and have found a lot of other people who listen and are also concerned. We call ourselves "people" and are working under the United Campus Christian Fellowship (UCCF).

To see how "alive" our campus was, last Sunday (after only 1½ days of organizing and publicity) we had a "Fast for Freedom" which involved students in giving up their Sunday evening sack suppers so we could donate the money to a worthy cause--SSOC of course! All students received a note of explanation and one short announcement was made in chapel. Despite the somewhat sketchy publicity 452 students out of a possible 700 gave up their sack lunches. The results were \$158.70 from the Treasurer's office and a \$5 check from the college president who was an enthusiastic supporter.

Also, a long controversy resulted--some students questioned just why and what and we had a wonderful opportunity to really get people interested in SSOC and to find out about it. Civil rights was not emphasized as much as general American and world ideals of democracy, freedom from poverty, fear, etc. We have high hopes and lots of ideas."

Sandy Chittick

Congratulations Maryville "people" for your very excellent fund-raising job.

HEDY WEST, popular folksinger, has donated 35 of her new albums "Hedy West" to the Southern Student Organizing Committee. We are selling these albums for \$4, one dollar below list price. These may be ordered by writing Box 6403, Nashville, Tennessee. 37212.