

# SSOC NEWSLETTER

Southern Student Organizing Committee

Vol. II, No. 3

April, 1965

## Spring Conference Elects Officers

The spring conference of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) was held March 19-21 at the Old Garmon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Leslie Dunbar, Executive Director of the Southern Regional Council, delivered the keynote address to the conference on Friday evening. Mr. Stokeley Carmichael, Field Secretary of the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) addressed the conference body on Saturday evening. Other conference speakers included Steve Weissman of the Free Speech Movement, University of California, Mr. Ed Richer, faculty advisor to the Freedom Party at the University of Florida, and Mr. Richard Ramsey, College Director of the American Friends Service Committee in High Point, North Carolina.

### SSOC SPONSORS FSM TOUR

Steve Weissman, a staff member of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and recently of the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley, will tour a number of southern colleges under the sponsorship of the Southern Student Organizing Committee. Steve, a native of Tampa, Florida, and a graduate of the University of Tampa, recently left his job as a graduate assistant at the University of California, Berkeley, to work for SDS on its University Reform Project. His immediate responsibility is explaining the purposes and goals of the Free Speech Movement which have been largely distorted by the press.

The route will begin the weekend of April 2-4 with Steve speaking at the Virginia Student Civil Rights Conference at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. A two week interlude will follow during which time Steve will be working on the March on Washington to End the War in Viet Nam. The main part of the tour will begin on or around the weekend of April 21. The following places have already been tentatively scheduled: Durham-Chapel Hill, Greensboro, North Carolina, Knoxville-Maryville, Tennessee, Rust College (Holly Springs, Miss.) Baton Rouge, Louisiana, New Orleans, Fayetteville, Arkansas, and several places in Texas. Three other probable stops are Atlanta, Tuskegee, and Memphis.

Hedy West, popular folk singer who has an album out on the Vanguard label may tour with Steve. The Southern Student Organizing Committee will also be arranging separate engagements for Miss West.

Following the keynote address on Friday evening, there was a session devoted to local campus programming. Dr. Matthew Jones talked about the development of the campus political party (Freedom Party) at the University of Florida; Joseph Smith, President of Georgia Students for Human Rights, and William Roberts of the South Carolina Student Council on human relations discussed the organizing of student groups on a statewide level. Phil Smith, Knoxville Education Project, and Keith Burchett, University of Kentucky, discussed the committee structure in carrying out local programs.

Saturday afternoon was spent in six workshops: Implementation of the Civil Rights Bill, Poverty, Peace, University Reform, Labor Unions, and Tutorials. Workshop leaders were Norman Hill of the AFL-CIO, Jesse Morris, Director of Federal Programs for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), William Jeffries, American Friends Service Committee, Paul Booth, Peace Research Education Project of Students for a Democratic Society, Mr. Jerry Levine, Chemical Workers Union, and Michael Lawler, US National Student Association. Other resource persons included Richard Ramsey, American Friends Service Committee, Conrad Browne, Highlander Center, Steve Weissman, Free Speech Movement, Walter Tillow, Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee, Al Ulmer, Southern Regional Council, and James Mayes, National Sharecroppers Fund.

The Coordinating Committee composed of one delegate from each campus group met throughout the afternoon on Saturday to draw up the official conference document.

(Continued on page 2)

### SPRING CONFERENCE, cont.

which was read and passed by the conference body on Sunday morning. The statement said in part, "As students living in this generation and believing in the dignity of all mankind, we affirm our belief in a new South that will bring democracy and justice to all its people. The goals that we would work for are:

1. Accomplishment of a completely integrated society, and the rise of full and equal opportunity for all.
2. An end to personal poverty and deprivation.
3. An end to "public poverty" which leaves us without decent housing, schools, parks, medical care, and communities.
4. A democratic society where politics poses a meaningful dialogue, and where each man has a voice in the decisions that affect men's lives.
5. A world working toward the easing of the tensions of the Cold War with positive emphasis on peace and world wide understanding.
6. An end to man's inhumanity to man.

Other business included adoption of by-laws and the election of officers for 1965-66. The newly elected officers are: Chairman, Howard Romaine, University of Virginia; Vice-Chairman, Howard Spencer, Rust College; Secretary, Herman Carter, Southern University, and Treasurer, Roy Money, Vanderbilt University. The conference body voted to endorse the March on Washington to End the War in Vietnam, April 17.

A newly elected Executive Committee consisting of two persons from each state met immediately following the last conference session on Sunday morning to discuss the plans for specific programs for the summer and fall. The program adopted is as follows:

1. A campus traveler program to encourage local student groups to work on issues relevant to their campuses as well as to become a part of the broader movement for freedom in the South. It is hoped that we can eventually have one traveller for each state. The duties of the traveler are:
  - a. Inform college students about activities on other Southern campuses.
  - b. Assist students in evaluation of their local situations.
  - c. Encourage student involvement in issues relevant to the local situation.
  - d. Assist students in the implementation of their own local programs.

### Hammermill Announces Plans for Selma Plant

In the midst of the Selma Voter Registration Campaign and Alabama's savage response to it, Hammermill paper company of Erie, Pennsylvania, announced that it would locate a \$35 million paper mill in Selma. The decision to locate in Selma, according to the Hammermill president Donald S. Leslie Feb. 4, was based on the "fine reports" the company had received about "the character of the community and its people."

Hammermill's decision may have been based on Governor George Wallace's agreement to use the credit of the state of Alabama to help finance construction not only of the plant but also of access roads, inland docks and a new bridge under a program which would employ partly federal as well as state funds.

The Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has called for a nation wide boycott of the Hammermill Company. John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC, stated in a letter to a Hammermill Executive:

"We are convinced that a boycott of your products is necessary, in view of the fact that you have received public protests of your decision to build in Selma and have not, so far as we know, responded to them as we believe you should.

"We call on you to reverse what we regard as your tacit support of racist policies of the officials of Alabama and Selma. Your refusal to do so may well be interpreted by the public as a blatant disregard not only for your own interests but for the interests of freedom, justice and democracy in this country."

### SPRING CONFERENCE, cont.

2. A newsletter to act as the central channel of communication among the student groups. It will publish reports on the various types of activities of local action groups on Southern campuses. In addition, the newsletter will try to encourage discussion of issues relevant to the building of a new and just order in the South.
3. Initiate programs and help local campus groups and advise SSOC contacts of opportunities to participate in projects in areas of poverty, desegregation, university reform, capital punishment, peace, labor unions, academic freedom, and unemployment.
4. Conferences--state, regional, and southwide, to kindle interest and participation in the issues which confront the South, the nation, and the world.



### Statewide Group Formed in West Virginia

Students Now for Action and Progress (SNAP) has been formed by students from West Virginia State, Concord, Bluefield State College and Marshall University. SNAP is a statewide coalition of student organizations to bring about meaningful changes in the existing political, social, and economic conditions. The major concerns of the group shall be in the areas of civil rights, education, poverty, and peace. The methods to be used shall be those of research, negotiation, and direct action. A basic outline of the program is:

#### A. Civil Rights

1. State civil rights legislation with the establishment of a Fair Employment Practices Commission.
2. Desegregation of the state school system.
3. Open neighborhoods in regard to housing.
4. Complete integration of all hospital facilities and staffs.

#### B. Education

1. Academic freedom for both students and professors.
2. The up-grading of teachers' salaries on the college level.
3. Establishment of a statewide tutorial service.
4. Establishment of a statewide system of free adult education.

#### C. Poverty

1. Organizing self-help programs with the people in poverty-stricken areas.
2. Assisting the appropriate private and public officials in combating youth problems.

#### D. Peace

1. Realizing that war cannot win peace, but only annihilate mankind, we strongly advocate the settlement of national and international problems through non-violence, and peaceful negotiations.

Acting chairman is Pat Austin, 1643 Ninth Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia, 25701

### The Appalachian Conference

"Because of the technological revolution occurring in our nation and the increasing inequality of the distribution of the benefits from that technology, there is great need for people to organize and control their own destinies." (Statement of Organization, Appalachian Economic & Political Action Conference) The Appalachian Conference is a bringing together of twelve organizations to begin organizing of poor in Appalachia.

Appalachia covers nine states where 15 million people live. Of these, one and a half million are unemployed. There are four main reasons for working in Appalachia:

1. The federal government has taken a stand against unemployment and poverty.
2. There is the opportunity for a strong alliance between Negroes and whites to solve their common problems.
3. The union movement has been a strong tradition for change in that area.
4. The people of Appalachia have acute poverty and intimidation thus offering a real potential for organizing.

The coordinator for the Appalachian Conference is Buford Posey, a native of Philadelphia, Mississippi. In June of this past year Mr. Posey was forced to leave his home to avoid being killed by the Ku Klux Klan after he learned the names of seven of the slayers of Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner, and gave this information to the FBI.

This week SSOC received a letter from Mr. Posey which read in part:

"The total finances of the Appalachian Conference now are exactly \$72.03. Unless we receive additional funds from our sponsors immediately, we shall be forced to suspend operations."

If you wish to help or would like further information write:

Appalachian Economic & Political Action Conference  
1900 McCalla Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37915

### QUOTED WITHOUT COMMENT . . . . .

"What then of the man of freedom? He is the man who aspires to stand his ground in the world, who values the necessary deed more highly than a clear conscience or the duties of his calling, who is ready to sacrifice a barren principle for a fruitful compromise or a barren mediocrity for a fruitful radicalism. What then of him? He must beware lest his freedom should become his own undoing. For in choosing the lesser of two evils he may fail to see that the greater evil he seeks to avoid may prove the lesser. Here we have the raw material of tragedy."

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: What is purple and will never be????

(See page 3 for the answer)

## "Advocates of the Beginning"

Organized at Marshall University

Campus political parties are springing up on southern campuses in an amazing number. A recent party formed at Marshall University in Huntington, Virginia was known as Advocates of the Beginning. The Advocates stated in their platform: "We offer a plan incorporating revision and expansion of present programs with initiation of new phases of student government activity. With active participation by students, these proposals will constitute the Beginning of Marshall's Finest Hour."

The Advocates' platform had three sections, Revision, Expansion, and Initiation. Their platform included Revision: elimination of dormitory curfew for junior and senior women, quiet enforced in library, commensurate pay for men and women dormitory counselors, availability of single meal cafeteria tickets, dormitory lobbies open until 1:00 on weekends and on Sunday mornings. Expansion: increased research grants, physical improvements on campus, syllabus of student courses by section instructors under advisory system, special activity fee arrangement for married students, and evaluation of campus courses, textbooks, and faculty interests. Initiation: student government white papers on campus deficiencies, special monthly senate meetings designed for audience reaction, presidential press conferences, student government sponsorship of foreign films, a free speech podium available to all students at all times, and a study of off campus housing for safety and price reasonability.

Danie Stewart, presidential candidate of Advocates of the Beginning, and active in civil rights activities published a small leaflet with this statement:

"What if Danie makes it --- and he demonstrates? Well, what of it? Perhaps you've thought of demonstration for human rights yourself. Perhaps you haven't. But whether you would or you wouldn't you can't say that Danie just talks and doesn't act. You see, Danie is some kind of nut or something. He believes that if you believe in something, you should act on it and not just sit around and cry in your beer about it. Danie doesn't get a kick out of demonstrating. ... he only believes in demonstrations as a last resort but it is necessary sometimes -- there's no getting around that fact. And so, the question on everyone's mind is, 'Will he or won't he?' Well, he might -- not as the president of Marshall University student body, but as an individual of action and principle. Sorry, but he can't sacrifice principle for anyone or anything!"

The Advocates of the Beginning didn't win the election at Marshall University. Campus political parties that advocate such programs seldom do. But another student body has been challenged. It's happened at Florida, Virginia, Tennessee, Western Kentucky State, and the University of Arkansas.

## Volunteers In Service To America

VISTA spells war on poverty. It means an active corps of full-time volunteers who have launched an all-out effort to combat the forces of despair which threaten the heart of America.

Called Volunteers in Service to America, VISTA is one of the major anti-poverty programs established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It involves full commitment in the most civilized effort of our time and provides a volunteer with the knowledge that he had served both his nation and his fellow man.

Volunteers are people who have agreed to work with persons in disadvantaged areas to improve their living standards. Their goal is to break the vicious cycle of poverty and they are especially trained by VISTA to accomplish this.

VISTA offers a dual challenge to two age groups. For a recent high school or college graduate it offers an exciting experience which could possibly pave the way for a future career. For the older volunteer, many of whom may come out of retirement to serve, it provides the knowledge they are using their wisdom and talents to greatly affect the nation's economy and its people.

Boot camp for VISTA's soldiers involves four to six weeks of solid education in the effects of poverty and how to combat it. The volunteer is urged to adapt the skills they have to the job and conditions they will find in the field. This training is provided by professionals who have done identical work themselves and who can soundly evaluate it.

Eligibility is open for anyone who is over 18 and is willing to commit one year of service to VISTA's domestic peace corps.

Additional information may be obtained by writing VISTA, Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C.

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A new campus political party has been organized at the University of Tennessee. The "Free Party" proposes changes in policy on UT housing, student organizations, ROTC and other matters.

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Answer to the question of the month:

THE GRAPE SOCIETY!!!!

Our thanks to Connie Curry for the Question of the Month. Connie says "I made it up all by myself."

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The SSOC Newsletter needs articles. Send campus news to P.O. Box 6403, Nashville, Tennessee, 37212



### South Carolina Students Meet

On the weekend of April 2-4 the South Carolina Student Council of Human Relations met under moss covered trees at the Penn Conference Center at Frogmore, South Carolina. Students from 15 South Carolina campuses were present for the meeting which was entitled "Students In Action In Community And On Campus."

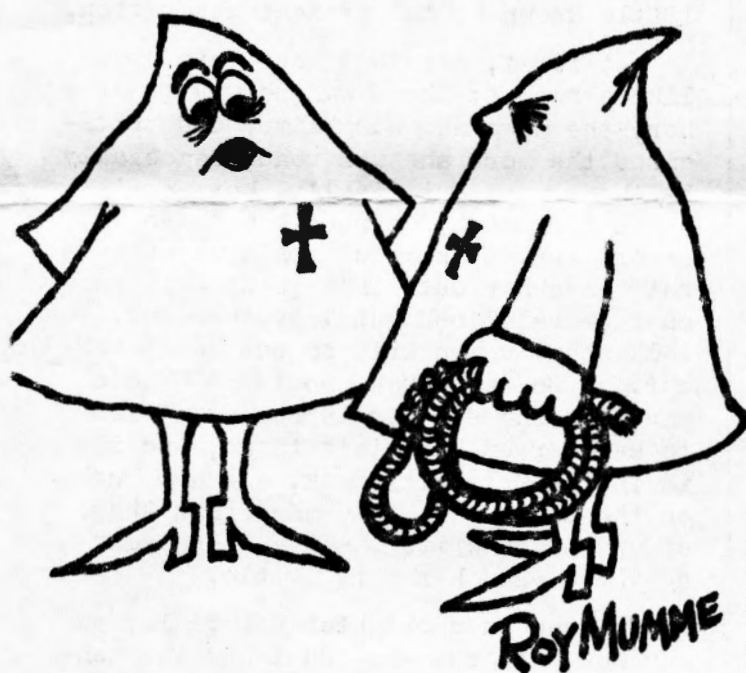
On Friday night a man from the Office of Economic Opportunity spoke on the War on Poverty and its various aspects. He was informed and articulate and discussed some of the weaknesses of the program when questioned. Some questioning centered around the "radical" dimension of the poverty program - the participation of the poor themselves on local community action committees. He dodged rather than answered questions concerning guarantees of participation by the poor.

Saturday morning began with a panel discussion of poverty. In the afternoon there was a panel discussion of "Issues in Higher Education". Both panel discussions were followed by small discussion groups.

On Saturday night there was a panel discussion of summer opportunities followed by singing. The conference ended with election of officers and a service of worship.

All in all, there were many good ideas raised and certainly many students who have been or who will be active on their campuses.

Gene Guerrero ---



... BUT, SOME OF MY  
BEST FRIENDS ARE...

Travelling through Mississippi Jane Stembridge composed "The Peoples Wants Freedom." She would like to share with you her thoughts as Jane relates them about the poor people she met and photographed.

X. About no jobs.

6 1/2 percent of all the peoples  
in America  
who could work  
can't

Because there isn't any jobs  
for them

the reason that there isn't any jobs  
for them

is because other peoples runs  
everything

they  
like  
to

they can't let the peoples run  
themselves  
because then they wouldn't have  
nothing to run

no peoples to run  
no Cadillac car

They would just have to run themself  
they don't like that  
because they don't like  
themselves

which takes money

Ah Ha

So they gets all the money they can  
which means some people don't get any  
And also they use the newspapers  
they own

and the T.V. and other devices  
to stir up the peoples for war  
And meanwhile they stir up the senate  
And house and generals and various  
white  
western imperialistic and paranoid  
groups

And we go to Vietnam  
and the money for jobs

goes to guns

which are made by the peoples  
with cadillac cars

Which means

they can now buy another cadillac car

with the money

they make from the war

the same money

that could have made jobs

Almost two million dollars a day  
in Vietnam

not to mention

dead children

Copies of this poem and others from the collection "The Peoples Want Freedom" are available from the SSOC office, Box 6403, Nashville, Tennessee.

### March on Washington to End the War in Vietnam

April 17 will witness thousands of people converging on the Capitol protesting the Johnson Administration's War in Vietnam and calling for an end to that war. The March, which was initiated by Students for a Democratic Society, is designed to focus attention on the undemocratic regime in South Vietnam and in terms of the undemocratic processes by which the decision to participate in that war was made in this country. In its call to march, the SDS stated: "The current war in Vietnam is being waged in behalf of a succession of unpopular South Vietnamese dictatorships, not in behalf of freedom. No American supported South Vietnamese regime in the past few years has gained the support of its people, for the simple reason that the people overwhelmingly want peace, self determination, and the opportunity for development. American prosecution of the war has deprived them of all three.

The war is fundamentally a civil war, waged by South Vietnamese against their government; it is not a "war of aggression."

Military assistance from North Vietnam and China has been minimal; most guerrilla weapons are home-made or are captured American arms. The areas of strongest guerrilla control are not the areas adjacent to North Vietnam. And the people could not and cannot be isolated from the guerrillas by forced settlement in "strategic hamlets"; again and again Government military attacks fail because the people tip off the guerrillas; the people and the guerrillas are inseparable. Each repressive Government policy, each napalm bomb, each instance of torture, creates more guerrillas. Further, what foreign weapons the guerrillas have obtained are small arms, and are no match for the bombers and helicopters operated by the Americans. The U.S. government is the only foreign government that has sent major weapons to Vietnam. . . . The facts of the war have been systematically concealed by the U.S. government for years, making it appear as if those expenditures have been helping the Vietnamese people. These factors erode the honesty and decency of American political life, and make democracy at home impossible. We are outraged that \$2 million a day is expended for war on the poor in Vietnam, while government financing is so desperately needed to abolish poverty at home. What kind of America is it whose response to poverty and oppression in South Vietnam is napalm and defoliation, whose response to poverty and oppression in Mississippi is . . . . silence?

Participants of the March will assemble at the White House at 10:00 a.m. and will form a picket line until 1:30 p.m. At 2:00 they will march to the Sylvan Theatre for a rally. The speakers at the rally

will be: Senator Ernest Gruening, Democrat from Alaska, Iva Pearce, mother of five from the Cleveland Community project, Bob Parris, SNCC Field Secretary, Paul Potter, president of SDS, and I.F. Stone, publisher of I.F. Stone's weekly. At 3:30 marchers will proceed down the mall to the Capitol Building to present a petition to Congress and the buses and trains will begin to depart from Washington at 5:00 p.m.

### WHO IS LILLIAN SMITH? cont.

Anyway, the famous ones of America read us and encouraged us, and now and then Mrs. Roosevelt (and her husband) helped us when the FBI made life shaky for us. We were banned at the post office in Atlanta once and the police swooped down and got copies of "this terrible little paper" and showed it to the Mayor and the Governor--and we had quite a hilarious time of it. It was all great fun to us, we didn't scare easily.

All this material--letters and a full set of South Today--is in the Manuscript Collection of the University of Florida, so when the two white boys burned Lillian Smith's house and study in 1955 these were not destroyed, although eleven thousand letters were burned and four or five manuscripts, and her house, and her paintings and her prized books were lost.

But life goes on, on the mountain, and although Miss Lil has cancer, she doesn't turn away a student who wants to come to see her, unless she is in one of her crises; she has said, "Tell them to keep in touch; I hope they are finding life as adventurous as we did--and as satisfying."

Because she is interested in you, in your search for excellence, because she hopes you will not stop until you find the Orphic truth about yourselves, your South, the human condition, she is giving part of her profits from Our Faces, Our Words to you.

Lillian Smith has offered to donate 10% of the proceeds from her new book, Our Faces, Our Words, to the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC). (Publisher: W. W. Norton Company, New York, New York). See review in the February Newsletter.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

The SSOC Newsletter will not be published during the summer months. Please let us know now if you will be changing addresses next fall, and if possible, send in your new address.



## AFSC PLANS SUMMER

### TUTORIAL PROJECTS

A new kind of tutorial project has been initiated by the Southeastern region of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The program is designed to prepare Negro school children for a smooth transition into desegregated school situations in the fall. Volunteers will be assigned to communities in Southside Virginia, North and South Carolina for six to eight weeks. In addition to tutoring himself, the volunteer may also supervise a program involving local volunteer tutors.

The summer project is jointly sponsored by the College Program and the School Desegregation Program of the Southeastern regional office. Staff from the regional office will organize the orientation session to provide help with specific tutoring materials and techniques and will visit participants in the field once a week.

For additional information write to the AFSC, P.O. Box 1307, High Point, North Carolina.

## SDS AT WESTERN KENTUCKY

### PUSHES FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Do you have your constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and freedom from search without a warrant at Western? This question and others challenging the administration policies have been raised by the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) chapter at Western Kentucky State College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. In a leaflet distributed recently at the Western campus, the SDS posed such questions as "The administration thinks it has the right to 'police' students. Both dorms and off campus housing they believe, are subject to search without a warrant. Call it 'room inspection' or a 'dean's raid', it is the same thing, a degrading scorn of your constitutional right to freedom from search without a warrant. What can be done about this sad state of affairs? A strong student government would be a step."

The brochure then listed time and place for a meeting to discuss a student government. Could this be the beginning of another campus political party?

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The SOUTHERN STUDENT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE is a group of southern students who have united to work for a democratic South. When students work together instead of in isolation, effective change can be brought about. The SSOC believes in the New South. We believe that the South has a unique opportunity to prove that men can live together free from hate, want, and fear.

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If you wish to subscribe to the SSOC Newsletter, please return this form.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution for the Newsletter.

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Please return to:

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Richard Haley  
CORE Southern Office  
2209 Dryades Street  
New Orleans,  
Louisiana 70113