

THE STUDENT VOICE

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THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
197½ Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta 3, Georgia

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SOUTHERN STORES FEEL BOYCOTT; "THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE FREEDOM"

ACROSS THE EDITORS' DESK

We have a long and hard battle to fight. Very soon now another year will go, another come. The new year will be a solemn one in many aspects. War will still be just outside the door. Poverty will remain. Hatred will not disappear with 1960. Many Negroes may eat at Woolworth's or wherever they choose . . . but many may not. When 1961 comes, we will find places closed, chairs removed, ropes up. We will find mothers keeping their first graders at home. And some people will still be wearing white sheets and burning crosses. There will be still many places we cannot go . . . places closed.

So it is good now that Christmas comes. Christmas is a place we all go, depending on who we are, where we are, what we believe. . . . We will go home to cry and laugh . . . or with friends . . . or to worship. Whatever our faith or our color, we will have Christmas. It is good because Christmas is a place to go and a time to breath in deep all of the meaning of who we are and what we must now do.

The common denominator of Christmas . . . is love. Let us breathe it deeply. For love is the reason we fight. This love has as many meanings to each of us as has Christmas . . . but it is love . . . as it is Christmas. And behind Christmas, behind love, behind all is prayer. All the strange and personal ways we pray — by singing, by kneeling, by marching, in jail, on the street, by trying, by hoping, by being. And so we are. And so we say, as Chuck McDew wrote in the Orangeburg City Jail . . . "pray for us . . . pray for us all."

In whatever ways we all pray . . . all of us must pray for all of us . . . for that is the way it is now.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

ALABAMA—The Macon County (Tuskegee) voter registration records are now open to the U. S. attorney general's office. A federal court order, issued November 21, comes after evidence of gerrymandering in Macon County . . . and after 18 months of pressure from the Justice Department.

The Thanksgiving Day football game between Tuskegee Institute and Alabama State College was played in an atmosphere of potential violence from members of the white community and the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK, supposedly, distributed hand-lettered signs urging white citizens to go to the game if you "care about your children and their future." Hundreds of police officers surrounded Cramton Bowl where the game was being played. They were called after a dummy bomb and a KKK banner were discovered at the stadium. Five white men were arrested on disorderly conduct, carrying illegal weapons, and refusal to obey officer. Two of these men had been indicted in 1957 in the church bombings of Montgomery. In spite of it all, a very exciting ballgame was played with Tuskegee Institute coming out on top 12-8.

In Mobile, Negro leaders have been laboring intensively for a year in the attempt to open new job opportunities for Negroes. At the end of November, the Mobile City Lines promised the employment of several more Negro city bus drivers. In addition to this, the Mobile City Commission will employ another complement of Negro city firemen—but these will serve in an all-Negro fire station.

"Bull" Connor, Commissioner of Police in Birmingham, has sent his detectives into the mass meetings of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (headed by Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth) since October of 1958. Rev. Shuttlesworth, and the organization, has repeatedly asked that they not attend the meetings. Last week, acting as his own lawyer, Shuttlesworth took the case into Birmingham Federal Court. He himself conducted the examination of white supremacist police chief Connor. Connor justified the presence of his men at the mass meetings by saying that as chief of police he wanted to know what was going on in town. After Negro witnesses were heard and the testimony was completed, Federal District Judge S. H. Lynne ruled that Rev. Shuttlesworth had not made a case. The detectives will continue to attend the meetings and will continue to take notes on all that is said, done, and planned. (Continued, Page Two)

FLASH!

Told by the Mayor they could not hold a prayer meeting in the center of the city, Atlanta students met at 6 A. M., Sunday, December 11, for a mass prayer service at the stadium of Morris Brown College. After the service, hundreds marched the long trek through the heart of Atlanta. Activities following the prayer march saw four groups of students leaving the city via interstate buses. They were going to test the desegregation of bus terminal lunch counters in Jacksonville, Florida; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama; and Aiken, South Carolina. By order of the Supreme Court, the bus terminals must not segregate their eating facilities for passengers.

November Meeting of SNCC

It was the decision of the October SNCC Conference that the Coordinating Committee would meet every other month. The last session was held during the Thanksgiving weekend, November 25-27, in Atlanta, Georgia. The following persons were in attendance:

Mr. Frank James—Arkansas (Philander Smith)
Miss Mary Ann Smith—Georgia (Morris Brown)
Miss Sylvia Ryce—Georgia (Paine College)
Miss Birdie McHugh—Kentucky
Mr. Marion Barry—Delegate at Large (Univ. of Kansas)
Miss Diane Nash—Delegate at Large (Fisk Univ.)
Mr. Charles Jones—Delegate at Large
Mr. John Moody—Delegate at Large
Mr. Henry Thomas—Delegate at Large (Howard)
Mr. Timothy Jenkins—United States National Student Association
Mr. Jim Monsonis—National Student Christian Federation
Rev. James Blake—NAACP Youth Council

Observers present were Miss Rosetta Gardner and Miss Ella Baker, National Student YWCA and Miss Constance Curry, United States National Student Association "Southern Project."

A review of the recommendations accepted by the October general conference led the Committee to clarify and specify the manner in which some of the recommendations would be carried out—in the field of communication and finance. Discussing in detail the future role of SNCC, members set the following guides: in relation to local protest areas, SNCC's role is suggestive rather than directive; in relation to those groups which are interested in the movement, SNCC is to serve primarily in an informational capacity; in relation to those national and regional groups where some form of negotiating is necessary, SNCC may serve as a spokesman, but in a cautious manner in which it is made quite clear that SNCC does not control local groups; in relation to action, SNCC, with a 2/3 vote of the Committee members present, can initiate action in the name of and by SNCC in cooperation with local protest groups.

It was unanimously agreed that SNCC's major responsibility is to provide a channel for coordination and communication within the student movement. In order to serve thus, it will be necessary that SNCC be kept informed by the local protest areas through letters and calls. To maintain the office whereby such coordination and communication will be carried out, a permanent finance committee was appointed to handle all budgetary estimates and fund-raising methods.

Plans for future action and nationally coordinated efforts were discussed. Such projects, when completed, will be brought to the attention of all persons concerned. An example of this kind of action is the "Christmas Shopping Withholding Campaign" of which material has already been released.

Mr. Charles McDew of South Carolina State College was elected to serve as chairman of SNCC until the next meeting at which time a chairman will be chosen for the two months following.

"SEND A FREEDOM CARD INSTEAD
OF A GIFT"

TIMES REPORTS SALES DECREASE

Two recent financial reports are extremely interesting. We are quoting excerpts from them for our readers. The first appeared in the Sunday, December 4 *New York Times* in an article, "Reports on Business Throughout the U. S." Department store sales in the nation have dropped:

"Department store sales in the nation in the week ending November 26 fell 2 per cent below those of the comparable 1959 level, the Federal Reserve Board has reported. In the week before there was a decline of 7 per cent from 1959." This would indicate a general trend toward the tight purse of course. Major cities feeling sales drops were New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Dallas, Richmond, Atlanta, and Kansas City.

The interpretation of these statistics is left to the expert. However, what is significant from our particular point of view that several Southern cities show marked decreases in department store sales for the weeks of November 19 and November 26 as compared with the same weeks in 1959:

Atlanta—Nov. 26 (drop of 15%) Nov. 19 (drop of 8%).
Dallas—Nov. 26 (drop of 8%) Nov. 19 (drop of 13%).
Fort Worth—Nov. 26 (drop of 12%) Nov. 19 (drop of 14%).
Jacksonville—Nov. 26 (drop of 15%) Nov. 19 (drop of 12%).
Little Rock—Nov. 26 (drop of 14%) Nov. 19 (drop of 14%).
Memphis—Nov. 26 (drop of 10%) Nov. 19 (drop of 17%).
New Orleans—Nov. 26 (no report) Nov. 19 (drop of 21%).

A total of twelve Southern cities were listed. Only one really Southern city showed a rise in sales for the week ending November 26. Augusta, Georgia sales were 4% above last year; however, the week ending November 19, they were off 12%. Miami, Florida revealed an increase both weeks of 5% and 14%.

On the whole the decreases in the 12 Southern cities were much greater than those in the non-southern metropolises. A total of fifty-three areas were listed. Southern cities showing the greatest decrease were Atlanta, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, Memphis, and New Orleans. The report writes:

"Department store sales in the Federal Reserve district decreased 7 per cent during the week ended Nov. 19 from the 1959 level. Metropolitan Atlanta showed a 9 per cent decrease and Central Atlanta a 12 per cent decrease. The only increase was for Mobile, 1 per cent. The greatest decrease was in New Orleans, 21 per cent . . ."

In a report released by the Georgia State Chamber of Commerce and printed in the December 8 issue of *The Atlanta Journal*, a comparison of sales in July-Sept. 1959 and the same quarter of 1960 indicate a general increase. However, Fulton County (Atlanta metropolitan) showed a decrease from 354,338,852 to \$344,775,985.

Now we are going to draw the moral. In Southern cities with large sales drops, there has been either racial tension as in New Orleans and Jacksonville or there have been strong boycott of downtown merchants. This is true of Memphis, Atlanta, Little Rock, and Fort Worth at least. The situation we know best because we have been here is Atlanta. A very strong boycott of the entire downtown area has been intensified since mid-November. All department store lunch counters are closed. No Negroes are shopping downtown. The picket lines are up.

We are not saying that the student movement or the sit-ins have shaped the financial picture of America. We do believe, however, that the selective buying campaigns, the pickets, the sit-ins, and the boycotts are being effective. So we conclude with the issuing again of the plea to support the "Christmas Shopping Withholding Campaign." As the Atlanta Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights has said: "Don't Shop Downtown until You Can Eat and Shop in Full Equality."

Any news or reports on the effect of boycotts in your area would be most welcomed by "The Student Voice." Rarely do Southern newspapers print this kind of news.

"WEAR OLD CLOTHES INSTEAD OF NEW"



Left, LeRoy Washington (Morris Brown); right, Charles Lyles (Morehouse), students at Atlanta University Center.

Christmas Withholding Campaign

Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 25-27, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee approved endorsement of a campaign to withhold Christmas buying from the stores which have not desegregated eating facilities and restrooms. In some areas of the South, local organizations were already pushing for such a campaign. SNCC decided to expand this to a nationwide scale. Information and appeals have been sent out to student groups and civil rights organizations all over the country.

The appeal, entitled "Christmas Campaign Nation Wide," indicates that such action "will call attention to the fact that NO lunch counters in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana have dropped their racial bars."

The appeal called for another kind of action to take place especially during the Christmas season. In urging students to "use the victories already won," SNCC suggested that Negro students en route to and from colleges should use rest rooms and waiting rooms marked "White Only" and that white students should use those marked "Colored Only." Reverse bus seating was urged—Negroes making every effort to sit in the front; white students in the back.

The time remaining for Christmas buying is short. However, most of the buying will be done in the last week before December 25. "The Student Voice" urges you to support actively the appeal issued by SNCC. For those of our readers who did not receive a copy of the suggestions of SNCC, we are reprinting them below:

1. The demonstrations should occur at once and should continue until the day before Christmas. The demonstrations should include "sit-ins" (as applicable to your area), picketing or poster walking, and the passing out of "Freedom Cards" throughout the entire community, asking that we not buy new clothes for Christmas and to stay out of the downtown shopping area.

2. Before the demonstrations contact student governments of colleges and high schools, active student organizations, NAACP Youth Councils, CORE student chapters, and other protest and civic groups. Call a mass meeting to inform the community of your proposed action and point out why it is necessary that every citizen cooperate with your plans.

3. Possible suggestions for posters —
"Send a Freedom Card Instead of a Gift!"
"Wear Old Clothes Instead of New!"
"This Christmas Invest in Your Own Dignity!"
"Don't Shop Downtown!"
"This Christmas Give Freedom!"

"THIS CHRISTMAS INVEST IN YOUR
OWN DIGNITY!"

NEWS FROM THE STATES

(CONTINUED)

ARKANSAS—Dr. L. A. Davis, President of Arkansas A. M. & N. College in Pine Bluff was cleared by the legislative audit committee of all charges regarding mishandling of funds. When the charges were brought, students rallied behind their president. Many withdrew from the college and took steps toward entering all-white Arkansas schools. (See November issue.)

Fourteen Negro students of Little Rock contested the placement law which was initiated five years ago. According to their argument heard in the Eighth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals on November 18, the law "permits the permanent continuation of racial discriminatory policies." In five years, only a very few Negroes have been admitted to the all-white Little Rock schools. The result of the recent hearings is that the school board has agreed to consider lateral transfers at upper levels (a student may change schools once he is enrolled). Under the previous arrangement, a Negro student, once enrolled in a Negro school, had no chance to enter a white school.

Recent demonstrations in Little Rock by students of Philander Smith College resulted in the arrest of seven. One student was held with orders to be sent to the prison farm. This was his "second offense."

FLORIDA—On November 29, in Jacksonville, eleven Negro students sat in at a downtown variety store. In fifteen minutes, signs were placed on the counter: "Lunch counter temporarily closed in the interest of public safety." The students left.

Also in Jacksonville, Federal Judge Bryan Simpson has ordered the immediate desegregation of all city recreational facilities. The order applies to the Gator Bowl, the new Coliseum, a new municipal auditorium, all parks, pools, and playgrounds. The suit was brought by a group of Negro citizens. The city, last year, sold two public golf courses to avoid desegregation of them. Again, in this case, the city may close or sell all recreational facilities, which are open to the general public.

December 6, in Tallahassee, Negro picketers at McCrory's variety store were met by six white youths who ripped the picket signs to shreds. Before the police arrived, the assailants had disappeared; consequently, they were not arrested. However, the Negroes were ordered to cease the picket in order to prevent traffic jams and disorder.

GEORGIA—The 30 Day Truce between the Negro students and Atlanta merchants ended November 22 in an impasse. On November 25, after offering a 48 hour extension, the Negro students resumed the all-out protest by staging sit-ins in the eleven stores involved in the Truce negotiations. In addition, extensive picket lines began in front of these stores. By November 27, every lunch counter in downtown Atlanta had been closed. Most of them were piled high with boxes, baskets, and displays. Many remained roped off, without stools, but with signs to explain.

Two chains—Lane Rexall Drug and Walgreen Drug—made various attempts either to open the counters anyway or to serve a stand-up style to white buyers. As soon as any counter was opened, Negro students entered and closed it. Many joined the stand-up service along with white customers; consequently, the store ceased this service.

The demonstrations have taken on several interesting aspects. Many white students have daily joined the sit-inners, the stand-inners, and the picketers. Negro adults have joined. And the Ku Klux Klan has joined, if not the cause, then the technique. KKK, on Saturday, November 26, formed a solemn, white-sheeted-hooded march around Richs Department Store in Atlanta. Directly across the street, in front of another division of Richs, picketed the Negro and white students. There was no incident. Perhaps this is because, as the Atlanta papers quipped, the Klan is seeking "uptown status."

The demonstrations continue . . . with variations. Five Negroes and 2 white friends were served at the public cafeteria operated by the YWCA. Two Negroes were shoved around in Lanes, one scratched up, the other had his coat burned and later his glasses broken. Two white picketers had their signs slashed up. Seven hundred attended a big segregationist rally. Zero Negroes are buying in Richs. And the battle of endurance continues with the students marching and the Klan talks about using buckshot to keep the black race down. . . .

On December 6, the University of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia, revealed that the 18 year-old Negro girl of Atlanta will be admitted to the state University next fall IF her record for this year remains good. The student, Miss Charlayne Hunter, along with Mr. Hamilton Holmes of Atlanta, has been seeking admission to the University for some time. Mr. Holmes' application was rejected this week "on the basis of his record and interview."

Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, sent a report in to SNCC on their November activities. Prior to Election Day, they conducted "Operation Door-knock" in the Negro community to determine if the Negroes were registered and to urge them to register if not. Their campaign revealed that the majority of Augusta Negroes are not registered. On Election Day, 300 students, dressed in black, marched from the campus to the downtown Post Office. From there students went to the city's eight polling places and picketed until dark. Paine concludes the report . . . "WATCH FOR FUTURE ACTION!"

This action came . . . on December 11, when sixty Paine students and several professors attempted to see President Eisenhower at the famed Bobby Jones Golf Course in Augusta. Press Secretary Hagerty refused whereon the students began an extensive picket of the course. They carried signs—"Lincoln . . . Emancipation!!! Ike . . . Civil Rights????"

KENTUCKY—During the first week of December,

Kentucky Baptists voted to open their hospitals and nursing school to Negroes. During the same session, meeting in Louisville, they voted down a resolution favoring the opening of all public facilities for all peoples. The stand on hospitals, however, means that three will be opened immediately: the Kentucky Baptist Hospital in Louisville, the Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, and the Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

LOUISIANA—The Legislature, on November 27, passed a bill to name unpledged electors for the state, thus withholding the votes from Kennedy.

In New Orleans, the boycott of the two integrated schools is waning. In spite of the mad marches, violence, and harsh threats by white mothers and in spite of the legislature's demand that the names of the four Negro girls be released . . . the attendance by white pupils at the William Frantz school has steadily increased. Led by Mrs. James Gabrielle and Rev. Lloyd Foreman and the Save our Schools Committee, white parents are breaking the boycott advocated by the Louisiana White Citizens Council and praised by the Louisiana state government.

On December 1, a three-judge Federal District Court had turned down the appeal to suspend desegregation of the schools and ordered Governor James Davis and the state government to cease interference. In short, interposition was killed. Immediately the state began to work out proposals for a state-wide private school system, passing a bill to provide grant-in-aid funds for parents who wish to send their children to private schools. The legislature is still causing trouble in the payment of those teachers at the two integrated schools. Supposedly these teachers are under investigation. If it is decided that they are helping the cause of integration, they will not be paid according to some members of the legislature. Local bankers are not honoring school board checks at the present time.

This week, the mobs have dwindled. Over twenty white students have returned to the schools. Yet, much has been suffered by the Gabrielles and the Foremans. Much suffered by the four little girls. . . . Much, we hope, learned by all of us.

However, Alabama, which needs to learn is being led by a governor who said, on December 7: "If you think they've had trouble in New Orleans, just wait until they try integration here. There'll be hell to pay." Governor John Patterson went on to announce: "I'll be one of the first ones stirring up trouble anyway I can."

On Saturday, December 10, New Orleans police arrested nine members of CORE for distributing boycott pamphlets on Canal Street. Four were white students at Tulane; one was from all-white girls' college, Sophia Newcomb; others were from Negro Dillard University. No reason for the arrest was given except that they were distributing literature.

MISSISSIPPI—1,550 white students at all-white University of Mississippi staged an effigy-burning demonstration on November 29. Two dummies, representing the Associated Press and the United Press International, were hanged from the student union building. The demonstration began as a protest against the wire services national football scale which ranked Mississippi second and third in the nation. However, this turned into a segregationist rally as the angry students yelled, "We're No. 1 White School."

SOUTH CAROLINA—The six Morris College (Sumter, S. C.) students who picketed in October were convicted of "disturbing the peace" in the Recorder's Court. The sextet also sat in at a variety store and drug lunchcounter. Their sentence was \$100 each or thirty days on the chain gang. Lawyers are appealing the cases and the appeal will be heard sometime in February.

Charles F. McDew, senior at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, was named chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee at its November meeting. "Chuck" will serve during the months of December and January according to the SNCC's system of rotating chairmen instigated at the October 14-16 conference. He succeeds Marion S. Barry, Jr. of Tennessee who served from April, 1960 when SNCC was organized until this November.

TENNESSEE—The November issue of "The Student Voice" carried the resolutions sent to the Trustees of the University of Tennessee by several denominational centers of the University. The resolution asked for desegregation of the state university. During the last week of November, the board of trustees voted to admit qualified Negro undergraduate students beginning in January, 1961. The graduate school has admitted Negroes since 1952. The new resolution from the trustees read: "There shall be no racial discrimination in the admission of qualified students to the University of Tennessee." The University is in Knoxville.

The hearings for the 144 Negroes from Lane College (Jackson, Tenn.) who demonstrated on Election Day have been postponed. The students are out on \$75 bond each, which was posted by Lane College President C. A. Kirkendall. Also being heard are the cases of those arrested in the demonstrations to desegregate the buses. There is to be no further discrimination in the seating of bus passengers in Jackson as reported in the last issue of this paper.

The citizens and city government of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has long been in the front fighting discrimination. The City Council recently issued the following resolution:

"Whereas, the population of the City of Oak Ridge is heterogeneous with respect to race, color, religion, ancestry, and national origin, and that the

peace, good order, security, and welfare of the City requires good relations between all segments of the community; and

"Whereas, the practice of discrimination because of race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin is a matter of municipal concern in that it undermines the foundations of a free democratic city; and

"Whereas, the City Council, in its meeting on April 7, 1960, encouraged all citizens to make each day an occasion for renewed dedication to friendly associations and democratic principles in the work, business and school activities, and throughout their daily lives; and

"Whereas, in order to establish a common objective to which all citizens and places of public accommodation may aspire;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Mayor and City Councilmen of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, that it is desirable for all persons to obtain admission and service in places of public accommodation without discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin."

The resolution was sent to SNCC by Negro City Councilman, Washington Butler of Oak Ridge. Again, our congratulations to Mr. Butler and the city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

TEXAS—The Dallas plan for desegregation of public schools was approved by the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, December 1. The plan calls for integration of the first grades in Dallas by September, 1961 and the desegregation of one more grade a year until all 12 have been desegregated. The court will determine if that much time is needed. A plan to have some all-Negro schools, some all-white, and some integrated was rejected.

The Damage of Fear And the Promise of Love

In early December, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan had a big rally in Atlanta, Georgia. They talked about the schools. The Grand Dragon of Atlanta proclaimed that schools should be closed or they should be destroyed rather than integrated.

At 2:40 A.M., on the morning of December 12, somebody threw nitro-glycerine into the doorway of the Negro elementary school on Atlanta's English Avenue. The damage was great.

The damage of segregation is greater. But greatest of all, and underneath all is the damage of fear. This is the basis of our hatreds, our cruelty, and our barriers. Love alone conquers. It alone can recreate and rebuild from broken minds, bombed schools, and the ruins of a segregated society.

Because we feel the meaning of our statement of purpose so deeply, because we believe that it is far more than an organizational "statement of purpose," because we know that it has truth for us all—especially now that Christmas brings us more sharply into the focus of truth . . . we again print the statement. It was written after the Raleigh Conference in April 1960 by the Reverend James Lawson . . .

"We affirm the philosophical or religious ideal of nonviolence as the foundation of our purpose, the pre-supposition of our faith, and the manner of our action. Nonviolence, as it grows from Judic-Christian traditions seeks a social order of justice permeated by love. Integration of human endeavor represents the crucial first step towards such a society.

"Through nonviolence, courage displaces fear; love transforms hate. Acceptance dissipates prejudice; hope ends despair. Peace dominates war; faith reconciles doubt. Mutual regard cancels enmity. Justice for all overthrows injustice. The redemptive community supersedes systems of gross social immorality.

"Love is the eternal motif of nonviolence. Love is the force by which God binds man to himself and man to man. Such love goes to the extreme; it remains loving and forgiving even in the midst of hostility. It matches the capacity of evil to inflict suffering with an even more enduring capacity to absorb evil, all the while persisting in love.

"By appealing to conscience and standing on the moral nature of human existence, nonviolence nurtures the atmosphere in which reconciliation and justice become actual possibilities."

"DON'T SHOP DOWNTOWN"

"THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE FREEDOM"

197½ AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Four Little Girls In Search of Santa Claus

Their names are Gail, Leona, Ruby and Tessie. Like hundreds of thousands of other six-year-old girls, they are trying to adjust to the new and strange ways of the first grade. The only thing that makes them "special" is that they are Negroes, trying to learn their ABC's in New Orleans' newly integrated schools.

Do these children wonder and worry about being carefully escorted to and from school? Are they frightened by the group of "big people . . . white people," who stand around their schools, shouting and cursing and making horrible faces? Do they die a little when the often shouted "nigger" reaches their ears distinctly and brutally? Or, by some 20th century miracle, are these four little girls still that—*little girls*? Do they still accept and give honestly and innocently, do they still believe in the love of parents, brothers and sisters and, most of all—because it's important at six—do they still believe in Santa Claus?

There are several Harvard graduate students who fervently hope that Gail and Leona and Ruby and Tessie still believe in the jolly old man in the red flannel suit. They hope so because they believe that Santa Claus—in the person of thousands of people across the United States—can deliver some much needed sympathy and encouragement to these courageous New Orleans' youngsters.

The Harvard men have started a campaign to send Christmas cards, letters and gifts to the girls. They also hope that there will be enough donations for a college scholarship for at least one of the children.

Correspondence and contributions should be addressed to the girls—by first names—and mailed c/o Arthur Chapital Sr., 1821 Orleans Avenue, New Orleans 16, La. Surnames are being withheld for the girls' protection.

In discussing this campaign, a Harvard spokesman said, "We feel that friendly greetings from persons all over the nation would do much to offset the daily hurt and anguish that these little girls experience."

In Boston the Harvard men have made their appeal for voluntary Santa Clauses through church groups, newspapers, disk jockeys, radio and TV commentators and schools. This approach has brought enthusiastic support and could easily be used in other parts of the country.

Readers of "The Student Voice" are urged to actively express their friendship and concern for these Negro girls who are doing such a magnificent job in the face of overt hostility. When you address your envelope to Ruby, Tessie, Gail or Leona, stop for a moment and think about the oversized friendship card that hundreds of people in Boston signed and sent to the girls. The inside message was simple and not too original:

"And a little child shall lead them."
But it must mean something.

It's Your Voice

We think "The Student Voice" is aptly named. It is the voice of all Negro and white students who believe that segregation is evil and who are actively and nonviolently trying to abolish this evil.

This newsletter is unique but not immortal. It can be a strong, true voice only as long as you lend it your strength and your concept of truth.

We think the student movement needs and wants a voice. We hope that, voluntarily, you will join The SV as: (1) a reporter for civil rights action in your area, (2) a photographer for student action in your area, (3) a fund raiser for SNCC in general and "The Student Voice" in particular.

Mail stories, articles, newspaper clippings and photographs to:

"The Student Voice"
P. O. Box 7274, Station "C"
Atlanta 9, Georgia

Mail financial contributions directly to:
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197½ Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

We can't pay you for your efforts—except in a better, more informative newsletter—but we can appreciate you all over the place! We will use photo credit lines and by-lines, where possible.

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