

# THE STUDENT VOICE

VOL. 5 NO. 8

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MARCH 3, 1964

## MAYHEM IN MISS.

NATCHEZ, MISS. - Sheriff James Anders of Natchez said this week his office has "uncovered nothing" in his investigation into the beating of an elderly Negro by five hooded members of the Ku Klux Klan, as other beatings, two shootings and the arrests of two SNCC workers were reported in the area.

### Reluctant Judge Releases Coed

ATLANTA, GA. - An 18-year-old coed from Connecticut College for Women, convicted in a racial case and given the maximum sentence by a county judge, was freed Feb. 22 under a \$15,000 property bond.

The girl, Mardon R. Walker of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, was sentenced to 12 months in the common jail and six months at hard labor. She was also fined \$1,000.

She was the third white person convicted for participating in



**Mardon Walker**

demonstration by the Judge Durwood T. Pye, who has a history of pro-segregation activity.

He was appointed to the bench in 1955 by segregationist ex-Governor Marvin Griffin. Before his appointment, he was an assistant county attorney and secretary of the Georgia Education Commission, a group created to maintain segregation in Georgia's schools.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Archie Curtis, 60, an undertaker, said he and his attendant Willie Jackson, were whipped on the night of Feb. 15.

In Atlanta, SNCC asked Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to investigate "reports of a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan and terror tactics aimed at Negroes in Mississippi."

Clifford Walker, 34, was found shotgunned to death in his car eight miles from Woodville in Wilkerson County March 1.

Walker was employed at the International Paper Company. Bob Moses, program director for the Council of Federated Organizations, said two other Negroes, Albert Whitney and James Winston were whipped by whites during early February.

"Negroes with decent jobs are being terrorized," Moses said. "There have been 180 cross burnings, five killings, several shootings and at least three whippings since the Ku Klux Klan reorganized shortly after President Kennedy was killed," Moses said.

Moses said three Negroes with bullet holes in their bodies were "stuffed into a car in Wilkerson County with the motor running." The sheriff of the county attributed their deaths to carbon monoxide poisoning, Moses said.

The two vote workers arrested Feb. 29 were released the next day when they posted \$100 property bonds each. George Green was originally charged with auto theft and speeding, but the theft charges were dropped. McArthur Cotton was held on vagrancy charges.

Green said a 14-year-old girl, Leona Stills, was shot at Feb. 28 by three teen-aged whites while she was walking along a Natchez street. She was not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



*Princess Anne firemen turn hoses on Maryland State College students to halt demonstrations.*

### In Maryland

## DOGS, FIRE HOSES QUELL PROTESTS

PRINCESS ANNE, MD. - Anti-segregation protests, halted by a weekend moratorium called by student leaders after police used dogs, fire hoses and billy sticks to disperse demonstrations, may resume this week.

Fifty - seven Maryland State College students were in the college infirmary as a result of injuries sustained from police treatment, according to SNCC worker Reginald Robinson.

"At least 14" students suffered from police dog bites, Dr. Neville Barron, college physician stated. Others were injured from blows by billy sticks, Robinson said.

Demonstrations were called by the Student Appeal for Equality (SAFE), affiliated with SNCC for more than a year. Twenty-year-old SAFE head, John Wilson was arrested Feb. 26 along with more than 20 other students, for

demonstrating against segregated restaurants.

SNCC Chairman John Lewis and Cambridge SNCC leader Mrs. Gloria Richardson, asked into Princess Anne by SAFE, reported no violence from the white community here toward demonstrators. "It's from the state police," Lewis said.

Chicago comedian Dick Gregory addressed a mass rally here Feb. 27 urging students to seek a "completely opened city."

Maryland State students, numbering 600, make up a sizeable portion of this town's 1,300 population.

One student, Marion Brown, 20, who was injured by a police billy club here in a Feb. 22 demonstration, required surgery as a result of a blood clot which developed after being struck on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Gregory, Hansen Sentenced, Fined

PINE BLUFF, ARK. - Negro comedian Dick Gregory and SNCC worker William Hansen were sentenced Feb. 25 to six months in jail and fined \$500 for a Feb. 17 sit-in demonstration at a segregated truck stop. In addition, Gregory was fined \$50 and costs when he appeared in court one-half hour late. Both posted \$2500 appeal bonds.

Their arrests began a series of anti-segregation protests here that have resulted in the court-ordered closing of the eating place, Ray's Barbecue, and in the arrest of more than 50 demonstrators.

Gregory described the jail as "somebody's torture chamber" after his release last weekend.

On Feb. 18, 15 people were jailed and crowds of whites - some identified by newsmen as "professional segregationists" - began to gather outside the eating place. SNCC worker James Jones was "roughed up" by a state trooper.

On Feb. 19, 39 others were arrested. Reverend Benjamin Grinnage, chairman of the Pine Bluff Movement, was shot at during a protest by the owner of Ray's Barbecue.

Hansen said after his trial that the Pine Bluff Movement would press the city to adopt a public accommodations law. He said the group would continue anti-segregation protests.

The Pine Bluff Movement began demonstrations on Feb. 1, 1962.

The owner of the eating place under fire has obtained an injunction against SNCC, Hansen, Gregory the Pine Bluff Movement and several local workers.

## ALBANY LEADER RECEIVES 3 YEARS

MACON, GA. - Federal Judge W.A. Bootle sentenced Mrs. Elza Jackson, recording secretary of the Albany Movement, to three years on probation on Feb. 28.

Mrs. Jackson, with five other civil rights leaders from Albany, was indicted and tried on perjury charges.

They were accused of falsely telling a grand jury they could not remembering being present or were not present at a meeting where a boycott of a white merchant was discussed.

Her conviction has been appealed.



CANTON NEGRO CITIZENS face Mississippi law officers as they attempt to enter the courthouse to try to register on Freedom Day.

## Miss. Freedom Days Spur Registration

HATTIESBURG, MISS. - Over 500 Negroes have tried to register to vote in Forrest County in the month following a Jan. 22 "Freedom Day."

On Feb. 22, the one-month anniversary of the first Freedom Day here, over 200 Negroes stood in line to take Mississippi's registration test, a prerequisite to voting here.

"The campaign thus far has been a success," according to John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC Lewis, who was here for the Jan. 22 Freedom Day, said civil rights groups "won the right to organize and run a voting campaign in Hattiesburg through the Freedom Day techniques."

The Freedom Day drive has been highlighted by the presence of more than 100 ministers and rabbis from the United Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race, the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, and the Rabbinical Association of America. Their participation in the vote drive is sponsored by the National Council of Churches, in cooperation with the cooperation with the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a state-wide coalition of local and national civil rights groups.

The vote drive has not been without its setbacks, however,

CANTON, MISS. - A 10 p.m. civil curfew has been set by the city council here after more than 400 Negroes tried to register to vote in two days.

On Feb. 28, only four Negroes were allowed inside the Madison County Courthouse.

Workers for the Council of Federated Organizations, CORE and SNCC said over 400 Negroes stood in line outside both days waiting for a chance to register.

Registrar L.F. Campbell remained inside, while policemen from Canton, Jackson, Yazoo City and Neshoba County guarded the Negroes outside.

Local citizens, deputized especially for Freedom Day, Feb. 28, were transported to Canton via school bus, Volkswagen, and pick-up trucks.

a number of vote workers, including nine ministers, were arrested. The first to be jailed was SNCC worker Robert Moses, COFO program director for the state.

Also jailed was Lawrence Guyot, arrested for "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" and Peter Stoner, jailed when he tried to visit Guyot in the jail. Guyot, a SNCC worker, heads the COFO Fifth Congressional District vote drive.

## CAMBRIDGE NEGROES RESUME PROTESTS

CAMBRIDGE, MD. - Demonstrations have resumed in this Eastern Shore community as 18 persons were arrested here Feb. 25 for picketing.

All demonstrators on picket lines in front of the Welfare Board and State Unemployment Security Commission offices were taken into "protective custody" by the Maryland National Guard. Troops were sent into Cambridge by Maryland Governor J. Millard Tawes in July 1963 after whites began attacking demonstrators and violence broke out.

According to Mrs. Gloria Richardson, head of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee (CNAC) and member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Executive Committee, the "economic situation" in Cambridge is to be the chief target of demonstrations.

"In the second ward which is the Negro ghetto, two-thirds of all families have incomes of less than \$3,000, and over 60% of the city's unemployed are concentrated in that area," Mrs. Richardson said. "More than 60% of the houses in that ward have no hot water."

"Twenty-nine percent of the Negro work force is chronically unemployed in Cambridge and more than one-third who do hold jobs work less than 30 weeks of each year. With few exceptions, Negroes in only the lowest paying jobs," Mrs. Richardson stated.

CNAC's demonstrations aim for an overall economic development plan in which Negroes are represented in policy making decisions on any planning commission, according to Mrs. Richardson. CNAC also demands that if no qualified Negroes are available for an "industrial complex" now being developed, "then Negroes must be trained for forthcoming jobs."

SNCC field secretary Reginald Robinson - active in Cambridge last summer - and Mrs. Richardson have stated that demonstrations "will continue as long as the white power structure of this city shows no willingness to correct the intolerable conditions of Cambridge Negroes."

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## MISS SUMMER PROJECT SET

JACKSON, MISS. - Plans for a summer Peace Corps type operation for Mississippi have been announced by SNCC officials.

"Scores of students, teachers, technicians, nurses, artists, and legal advisors will be recruited to come to Mississippi to staff a wide range of programs according to Bob Moses, director of SNCC's Mississippi project.

SNCC worker Moses, who serves as program director for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) - an alliance of civil rights groups working in this state - stated that this summer's project would "augment the voter registration campaign now underway throughout Mississippi."

The Mississippi Summer Project - under the auspices of COFO will include freedom schools, community centers, research projects, and law student projects in addition to voter registration. A "pilot project" in white communities is also planned.

According to SNCC Chairman John Lewis, the struggle for freedom in Mississippi can only be won through concentrated action within the state and awareness throughout the nation of the need for Federal intervention to insure the voting rights of Negroes."

Plans call for voter registration workers in "every rural county and important urban areas in the state," Moses said.

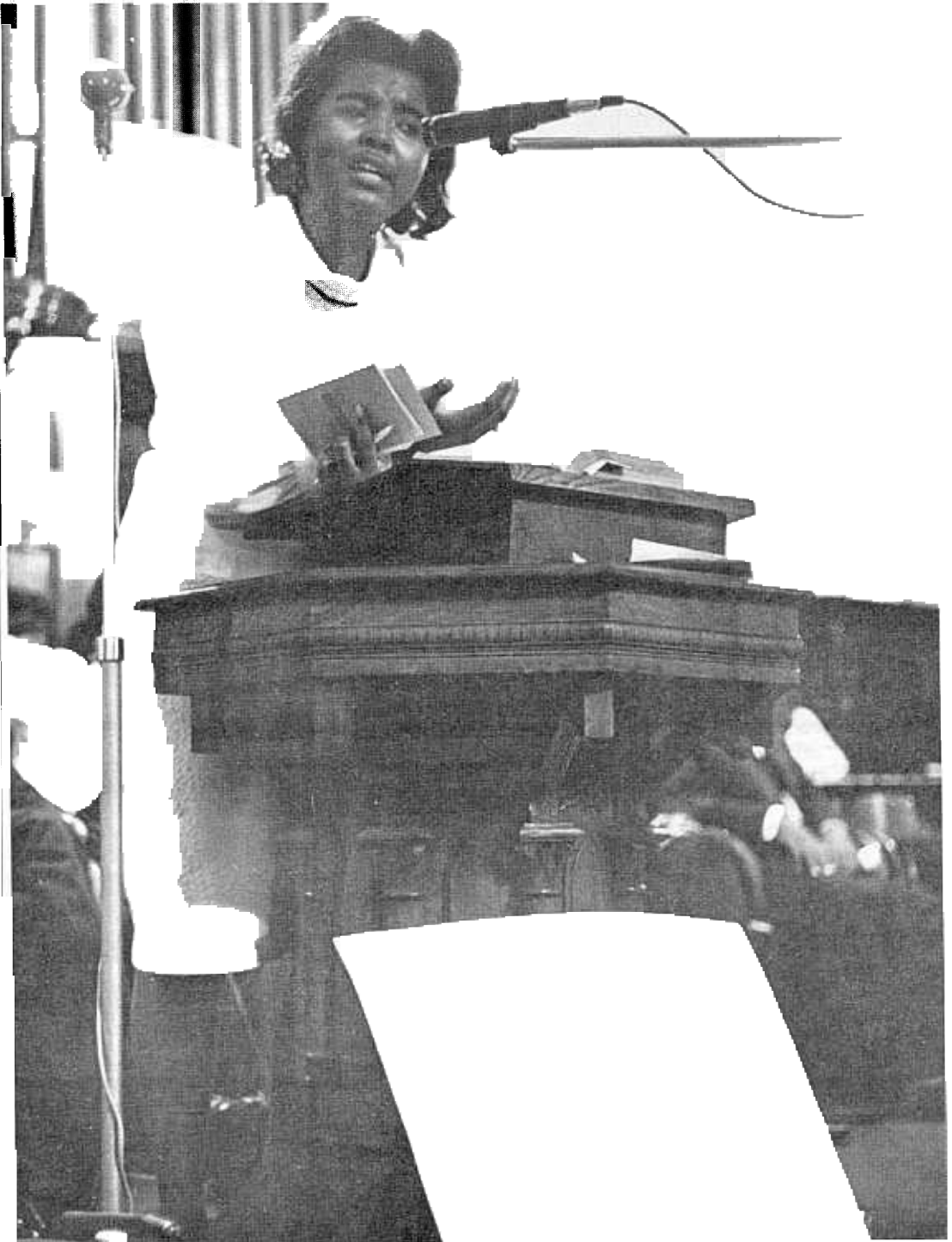
Daytime and resident "Freedom Schools" will provide remedial work for high school students and "advance adult literacy for the purpose of voting," according to plans.

Community centers will "focus on political education and organization." Libraries, similar to the library in SNCC's Greenwood, Miss. office will developed throughout the state form national book drives.

"Skilled workers are needed to carry out a research project inquiring into Mississippi's suppressive political and economic system," Lewis stated. "SNCC hopes to launch a massive legal offensive against the official legal tyranny of the state," Lewis said.

Lewis and Moses claim the summer program will "attempt to involve students from all over the country." Students over 18 years who feel they are qualified may apply to: Mississippi Summer Project, 1017 Lynch Street, Jackson, Miss.

# SUPPORT SNCC TODAY!



ATLANTA, GA. - "SNCC needs help now more than ever before" SNCC chairman John Lewis said.

The SNCC Chairman asked "Freedom lovers everywhere" to make regular pledges to SNCC's direct action and voter registration programs.

Lewis said the Atlanta-based anti-segregation organization needs funds "if we are to carry out existing programs and expand into new areas."

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

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## U.S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION

BATON ROUGE, LA., - A SNCC worker, arrested here over two years ago, must serve a 60-day jail term, the United States Supreme Court has ruled.

The Court refused to overturn a Louisiana conviction for Dion T. Diamond, arrested Feb. 1, 1962 on trespassing, vagrancy and disorderly conduct charges.

Charges of criminal anarchy placed against him then were later dropped, and he was released - after 59 days in jail - on a \$7,000 appeal bond.

## COED RELEASED

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Shortly after his appointment he imposed a \$25,000 fine on the Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, because of the group's refusal to comply with a request for its financial records from the Georgia Revenue Department. In July 1963 he instructed a Fulton County grand jury that the state's anti-trespass law - used to arrest anti-segregation demonstrators at eating places in the state - was being "flouted, defied and violated."

He ordered, and obtained, indictments against 101 persons arrested in racial demonstrations here dating back to 1961.

During the summer, he tried two of these cases both involving white persons. Both were given maximum sentences, and one defendant, the Reverend Ashton Jones, is still in jail.



GREENWOOD, MISS. - Librarian Barbara Johnson inspects new books in a section of the library set up in the SNCC office in Greenwood, Miss.

"Establishing libraries and community centers is an important part of our program," SNCC worker Dick Frey said. Frey said there are approximately 50,000 volumes in Greenwood now. Most will be shipped to other libraries throughout the state. The Greenwood library, according to Frey, offers "thousands of reference books, school texts, books and periodicals about politics and civil rights, an excellent selection of modern fiction, and a wide variety of children's books. Greenwood is serving as a receiving point for books which SNCC intends to spread over Mississippi in the form of small libraries in all the Congressional Districts of the state," he said.

Freedom Libraries are already operating in Columbus, Canton and Meridian.

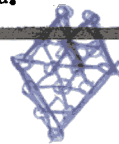
The other, Thomas Taylor Tolg, a white Ohio youth who worked for SNCC, was released under a \$5,000 appeal bond. Judge Pye has refused to accept \$5,000 in cash to free Reverend Jones, who has been behind bars since Aug. 28, 1963.

During Miss Walker's trial, Judge Pye ordered one witness, a former professor of hers who testified in her behalf, to go to jail for 20 days for contempt of court.

## BUMPER STICKERS NOW AVAILABLE



BUMPER STICKERS READING "One Man - One Vote" are available for \$1.00 from SNCC 6 Raymond Street, Atlanta, Georgia.



## Natchez

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injured.

He said Lee Moon, a cab driver was beaten in Natchez Feb. 18, and a Negro was beaten in Amite County by white men. He said at one spot in nearby Franklin County, whites have drawn a line in the road and forbidden Negroes to cross it.

"Amite, Wilkerson and Adams Counties are involved in a reign of terror," Moses said. A Negro man who had witnessed the 1961 slaying of another Negro was killed in Amite County Feb. 1.

Moses said that over 180 crosses had been burned in southeast Louisiana and southwest Mississippi before Christmas. He said vote workers in Louisiana said the cars of the people who set crosses on fire there had Mississippi license plates.

"The civil rights bill doesn't begin to touch the problem of organized racist terror," Moses said.

Moses said the NAACP, SCLC, CORE and SNCC were "issuing a call for 1,000 students, ministers and educators to participate in a 'Mississippi Freedom Summer' program. (see summer project story)

"Does the country have the courage to confront Mississippi?" Moses asked.

## PRINCESS ANNE

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the head, Robinson reported.

According to Robinson, reports that a student threw acid at a policeman are "incorrect." One student who arrived at the demonstration with a bucket of lye "persuaded to leave it in the street" by Robinson. "Later a policeman walked into it," he said.

"Innocent Negro bystanders were drawn into the demonstrations when police turned the fire hoses on Negroes standing on the sidewalk," Robinson stated.