Hello Freedom Fighting Friend,

I know that I have written you twice within a week telling you about myself and some of the activities that we are doing here. Now I am going to attempt to write you a report of the thing that we have did since I been here; well I arrived here last year in the Month of Nov. and the top priority were then freedom day; and the thing that were formed to help make the freedom day a successful one were the political educational classes were held every night in a week, in the classes we not only taught people how to fill out voter registration form, but we taught people about the government system of the United States as well as Mississippi, as I stated that the freedom was top priority at that time but there were other program going on such as freedom school I was at it highest peak at that time, federal program committee was very active at time also, time was drawing close for freedom day and the people was not responding to well toward freedom day and we needed something to put a spark in the people to make them move, so we slanted out an plan hoping that it would draw in more people for the freedom day, and the plan were to sit in at the pine hurst coffee shop, we talked to about five school kids about sit in and explain why we were going to do it they agreed fully. We told them that we needed local people to sit in because if any of cofo workers were arrested the people would not care and would not do anything to show their discontent. so we had five kids to agree to sit in with us, but at the end only—one went through with it so the day came around for the sit in and all the people that agreed to sit in came to the office; we left the office at 4 o'clock pm heading for the coffee shop, we arrived there at 4:15 pm and promptly went inside and seated our self. we were there for about fifteen minutes before anyone said anything to us; one of the waitress came over and said that she could not serve us and would please leave; and we said no; because we wanted to eat. she then walked away later a man came up to us saying that he was the attorney for this restraint and if we didn't leave he would have us arrested. we again said no; later the storm troopers came in the police and told us if we didn't leave he would carry us to jail. again we said no; and then he said you are under arrest get up and we said no; then they reached out and graded us and we all went limp. they had a time getting us up the stairs. when they finally got us up the stairs they dropped me on the floor and the chief of police hit me in the first eye and throw the other people on top of me. they begin to pull of their jacket; and I thought that they were going to beat us because the chief said that we were no longer in the public eye but something happen and they didn't beat us; they charged us with incendient conduct and the fine were two hundreds dollars each, so we got what we wanted; and the people that was left ed out begin to work on the people and they got about two hundred people people to get them to protest the arrest of us, but that soon ended when a lawyer came from the region office and so one asked him for his opinion on picketing the jail house and he told them that there is a anti picket law and the people could go to jail for six months and the people begin to drip away when time came for the demonstration there were only thirty people left out of the two hundred but that did not change the people that remained in the demonstration; they went on with their plan. at this time we had been in jail for three days, and when we heard the singing it gave us a feeling of never trun back if you know what I mean, the sing and the yelling of freedom soon came to an end, but the lillle time that they were there it revivizel the spirits of our. we begin to sang freedom songs and the others men that were in jail for drunk and other thing they soon joined us as the night pass ed we went to sleep with the feeling that our comrades did not let us down althourgh they only stayed for a short time, the reason that we had—that they left so soon were because of the
That the policemen made to them well the people didn't want to go to jail and they left so on the fourth day they interrogated us I was the third person that they called on and they finger printed me first and later they took my picture with me holding a card broad with numbers, then they begin to asking me question about the movement such as what made me get in this mess? and I replied that no one I was borned in this mess; and then he said that some one should knock me in my head; and I replied that I had been knocked in my head and it wasn't done by Negroes, he then got angry and told me to shut up and wipe that smile off of my face; incidently the guy that were interrogating he was the same guy that told me to get out of Jones County, or he would fish me out of the river, that following morning we were bailed out of jail; and that is when I was told that that the lawyer from the region office put the damper on the whole plan, but it wasn't a totally failur because we got more people involed in the movement here, freedom day was set for the 16th of January and it was the 10th of Dec. then so we begin to work with the new people that came into the picture; since the travel inn coffee shop were so sullen we decided to have an other sit in there; and we did only this time there were only five staff in it and twenty one adults and kids; so we organized the twenty one people into group up and had them to go up twenty minities apart after each group were arrested at this time it was the twenty of Dec. so all the people that sit in were arreseted and charge with such charges as the indecent conduct, drunk, disturbing the peace and others trumped up charges, and their fine were ranged for 100 dollars to 200 dollars each, so myself and several other people were out side spreading the news of the arrest. we went to night club beer tapen churches and to streets corner where people constantly gather to appeal to them for support but we got none, so the people had been in jail five days and we were constantly begging people to protest their arrest, but we still got no support from the people of Jones County, not even from the people relative that was in jail so it was chirstmas and the people were still in jail, you can see how let down with the-- by the people of Laurel, to many xmas were the time of joy but to us it was a black xmas and the people in jail also, so the bright day of xmas sliped away into darkness; by that time we were really disgust and sad for the ourself and the people that lived here, so about nine o'clock a group of people came to the office to get information on the arrest so we gave it to them; and they cursed the white man and some walked away with a long face, the people that stayed I begined to talk with them about going to the court house and protest the arrest of the people, so I talked them into going down to the jail house and picket at that time it was about thirty people, but when the chip fell as usually there were only half that numbers and they were only kid and I mean kids such as 13 and 14 yrs of age. and then I tried to talk them out of it because I feared their life but they said that they want to go any way and we left the office about 11 pm walking to the city, as we went along the number begin to decrease gradually after we arrived at the county jail, there were only nine of the kids that left the office and three of us, as we lined up in singel file I gave the kids a Candle apiece and lite it at after all the cancles were lite we begin to sang xmas song and later freedom songs and the people in jail begined pitch in, I knowed what kind of feeling that had when they heared us singing because I have had that feeling a many of time when I was in jail, so we marched about twenty min. or more before the cops came; when the y first appeared they just stooded around and looked about five or ten min, later they approached us telling us to stop singing and marching and we did, and the head cop told us to sit down over on the a grand rail that part the parking lot of the civilian and the city official so we did, and they stood around us told us to stop singing once again but that was impossible because the people that were in jail kept singing peace on earth and good will to man and it sounded so beautifual that it just put me under a spell or something when the cop warned me again to stop singing I did and begin to humble the song that they were singing at that time it was one min. after xmas and then I begined to think there are kids of these kids-- like their kids at home in bed waiting for santa clause to bring there toys, but these kids are here waiting for something that many men had died for and that is freedom.
and then a big white car drove up and erupted my thoughts; out of this car a big
man came. He walked over to the other policemen that was standing near us and
begin to talk with them. He talked with them about 15 min. and went back into his
car pretending to be driving away but he quickly turned his big car in the
direction that we were sitting in and headed it strait to us driving approximatly 40 or 50 mile per hour, he drew his car less then a few inches away from me an I was sitting on the ground I jumped up quickly want to move but see in the
ter were an a force of gravity holding me there looking him in the eye as through
I was daring him to run us down. He then backed up his car and speeded twowards us this time most of the kids raned except myself and two other cofo workers
were standing there and the big sheriff jump on his brakes and the tires begin to
screaming form fiction; after the car stoped he jumped out and begin to curse a
swinging his fist at us at this time I was the only one left standing there as I
begined to pick up my candle the big sheriff kicked in the hind part and struc
ted me backing of my head a few times as I was walking away slowly he kept
following me cursing me he pushed me and I stumble a few feet and stued still
waiting for a strick that would bring me down, but it never came. We walked
back to the office while we were walking back to the office a cab pull up besi
of us it was carrin one of our fellow worker he had been beaten and kicked
by the cops even through he was not in the demonstration, he was hurt pretty
bad and he kept mutting that Gwen were being attacked with several other news
men that came to observe the protesters, well he was thing half way be
cause no one were beaten except as him and myself, but they had been man han
dle by the cops and the reporter tape recorder were smashed up and camars
and Gwen our project director she locked her self up in the car which were par
red near, and she said that the policemen told them if they didn't get the hell
out of here they would trun them over to the KKK, and they left. This is what
Gwen saw and felted that night; the cops that tried to force their way into
the car where she were seeking refuge, their eyes were shinging and strange
they was at the eyes of a human being but more like an vicious animal that
sought out a prey, and the thing that she feared wasn't the beaten that she expec
ted to get, but the evil that process man to trun to an demon. She did not
hate those men but she pited them, because she could understand that they have
been traped into the stake that they now processes and it is some what like a
ulcel and if you don't take care of it it would soon trun into an cancer and
those men did not attempt to belded and now maybe they want to get better
and they can t. and it is the same way with me now; where I use to hate them
it would have been easy for me to cut one of them down on a dark road with ou
any consideration at all, but now everytime we are on an demostration or si
in or anything they call me all kind of name that would violate any man pe
principal; it does nt make me angry any more it just make me angry at myself
for not having anything to make this man understand that this society can no
exist very long with the thing that going on now hated and prejudice and
bigots, so we went back to the office and begin to laugh about the scene at t
he jail house to make the weight lighter, but that did not cure any thing at
all. At least not for me; the next day we begin to put out fliers about the
brutality of the police; but that didn't do any good and the people had herd
how we had been treated there so it was nt a ghost of a change to call anothe
demostration, not even the kids would go back; so we dropped the protesting
scene and begin to work on getting the people out of jail, so xmas pasted an
the people were still in jail, they want to stay in jail untile after xmas---
new year to see would any of the people get them out on propity bond.; but
we saw that the people had been intimadated and they wasnt going to risk the
change of losing their land, so we got the people out on cash bond; and the
disposition of the cases are they are being removed to higher court, the first
eat in cases and the last one are both being appealed to higher court. that i
is all we know of the cases at this point; but later I hope to dig up some mor
information about it some where in the half burned files that was safed
from the fire that gutted our office a Month ago so the people was out of the jail house and our next step were to be the freedom day; that is why we had all the sit in so now time was drawing ner for them to off, so the freedom day came around and we had people to use their car to carry people to the court house to register to vote, on the first day that we proclaim freedom day every one went into the field to get more people to the court house to register; so altogether we got about 35 people to go down, later in the after noon a lady that is well known by most people of Laurel, and the FDP members of out of twon were arrested by the sheriff, because she would not sit on an stone floor when the people first arrived at the court house the sheriff had some convettes to remove all of the benches out of the building and they truned on the air condition in the milder of Jan, and the register would only register one person every two hour, any way it took him eight hours to register five people so Mrs. Ruffin she keep up and down the hall to keep warm and the sheriff told her to sit down some where and she refuse to, and she kept walking up and down the hall, at this time sheriff Macinnis was red hot because not only were Mrs. Ruffin pacing the floor but she were reciting the Mississippi con and she told the sheriff that she felt sorry for him, this time the sheriff pushed her and begin to drag her off to jail by the heel of her feet, so we once spread the new around the city of Laurel again, but the people still did not move, the second day we went down to the court the registart wasnt there he was away attending a funerel and he would not be back until late this after noon so we waited and waited but he never came, see see o---- that early morining a guy from New orlean were there helping us carry people to the court house, he had to get back to his job in New Orlean, so he left out of the door the spilt min. that he left a small group of about ten or more red neck begin to run behind him, and I ran for the opposit dorr because I thought that he had his car parked on the street but instead he parked it in a parking lot. after I relizad that Robert and myself raned out of the same dorr which Ed, had lef t out at this time there were more red neck going after Ed, Robert ran along side of the parked care attempting to evoke the red neck, but a 54 ford car can speed down the street attempting to run Robert down, but Robert jumped out of it past just in time. I was behind Robert, and we got to a cross street on the other side of the street there were Ed, were being beaten and kicked by six red neck the traffic were so heavy that it took us a good while to get there to Ed, so in a wild dash Robert went across the street in front of the on coming cars, but he made it later I acme over and the white guy were still beaten Ed, and until and myself arrived on the scence and Robert, begined to curse the red neck and hit one side of his head, and they backed up and ran incidently Robert Stenson is the chairman of the Freedom Democratic Party of the fifth congressional District so the police came over and begin to chase the men that attacked Ed, they caught two of the men and the others got away; they could have caught most of them if they wanted to, because while the police were chasing the red neck one white man standind on the croner yelled to the cops let those boys and they di, so they came over to us and said that all three of us are arrest are under arrest so he told us to go to the city hall the charges were fighting in public and the only person were fighting were the red neck, so the FBI came over to the city hall and the police droppped the charges against Stenson and I; but Ed, and the two two white men that beatad him were held; so Ed, fine were twenty five dollars; but his bruises were worse his glasses were broken and his right eye was half closed, and the rest of the day were quite, until I went to get some information on Mrs. Ruffin trial when we approached the jail and asked him when was the trial of Mrs. Ruffin we goin to be he stated this let the dust hit your feet and then he picked up his gun and waded it at us and I asked him again and he said that he didnt have the information go to the city hall, and after we got there the desk sargent said he did not have any information to give, then we left this is all I have at this moment but later I hoping to write more.
after we went back where the people suppose to register to vote; and conti- 
nue to stand in the hall waiting for the registrat to come. Gwen Robinson, our 
project director saw one of the man that had attacked Ed Dubensky, ear- 
ty an 
d went to tell the sheriff at first the door man would not let us in to talk w 
ith the sheriff, we stated our busines and the man still refused to let us i 
m to tak with the sheriff; and we went to another door where the sheriff was a 
t the time we begin to approach the door the sheriff steped out and asked us w 
hat did we want? and Gwen, begined to tell him her story and the sheriff liste 
en and then he told Gwen, to point out the guy that she saw hit Ed Dubensky, an 
d she did, and the sheriff took the man into another room; and we never saw th 
e man again not even in trial. which mean that the sheriff never arrested the 
man, so our freedom day continue without any more trouble; the time then was t 
he 17th of Januray, and the freedom days were over. but we had drawn in more 
people and they took over the show. when the congressional hearing begined in 
Mississippi, the FDP members begined to work; work to get people to testify 
at the hearing and they did there were about twenty people that gave their tes 
stimony against the County registart which is Lynard Caves, they told how he h 
ad treated them when they went to register; some told story dating back in 65 
and how they were fired from their job because they wanted to vote. and the st 
aif of cofo gave their testimony about the violent that had prevailed up on us 
and how was evicted from every building that we had rented last summer. and I 
gave my testimony about the threats that I have received and the beatens; I be 
gined with my arrival here the first time. it was the 12 of July, in 64 I was 
working with three other summer workers in a community which is called the K.c 
when the car pulled up on the scence I was in a house talking with an elder la 
dy about the Goverment system; when two people of the community came and told 
me that a car containing two white men had stoped my friend; and I rushed out 
of the house walking toward the car. as I was approaching the car I heard some 
saying that here come my director you can talk to him; and the guy in the car 
replied you mean to tell me you let that nigger boss you; and Fred, said yes 
and I asked the guy in the car what was the trouble? and he said that Fred, wa 
's passing out fliers on the street. and Fred, then stated that the man had ask 
ed him for one of the fliers; then I told the man what right did have to stop 
some one from doing anything. and the man in the car replied that he is a coun 
ty official; and I asked him to show me his credental? and he did; and then I 
marked that it isnt against the law to pass out fliers door to door. he then as 
ked me where was I from? and I told him that I was from Forrest County, which 
is Hattiesburg, and he then told me that I had better go back there or he wou 
d pull me out of that river down there; and I told him that I will go when I f 
ish my job here; he then said that I might not finish my job. and told me to 
clear out of town in fifteen min. or he would take; and I told him that that w 
ould be his next job; he made a motion as throught he was going to get out of 
his car; but some people came up that had been canvassing with me and he soon 
changed his mind; he then went away yelling that we had better begone when he 
returned. so I called the office and got Gwen, advice about the situation and 
she told us to come on back to the office and we did, but we went back to the 
community within the next twenty or thirty min. because if we run every time Mr. 
Charlie's arrived on the scene we would never get any where. the guy that 
had threaten me I founded out later the his name is Braford, better known as 
jailer Braford, and my next testify was about the beaten that I got last summe 
ri kresses store; for siting at the lunch counter. my self and five others 
poped down to the 5 and 10 store to see what would happen if we should s 
it about the lunch counter; and I had two summer workers there to take picture 
s of the happen if there was going be any. we arrived at the store at 12 noon 
and went direct to the lunch counter and asked for a coke and the waitess ser 
ved us promptly; as we begined to drink our cokes a elder white women came in 
the store at once she begined to say look at those niggers; telling her two so
to throw us out; and the two men came and stood up behind us while their
mother encouraged them to throw us out, and one of the men told me to get up
and replied that I will as soon as I finish drinking it; and then the smaller
one told me that he advised me to get up; and again I replied my previous st
atement, as I went to look around to see if the others guy had left a base bal
bat came crashing down on my head half way knocking me off of the stoop; but
I caught my footing and stood up rocking back and forward trying to keep from
falling, at that time I couldnt see anything; but I felt more blows striking
me across my back and poking me in my guts; some one kept repeating get out ge
t out nigger but I stood my ground as long as I could; but the blows was so
much to stand and I left and went and got the police that was standing on the
crner at the time, and told him that I had just been assaulted by six white m
en with base ball bats, and he told me show him where and I did; we went back
into the store and he talked with the manager and went to the back door which
the men went out of, then I heared a cry for help on the outside and that was
Fred, some white guy had attacked him because he had a camarm they knocked him
down and took his camarm, so the police caught two of the men and helded them
for disorderly conduct; and the white lady that begun the whole thing were
charged with carrying an concealed concealed weapon; this white lady had pulle
d a gun on a 12 yrs old kid holding him at bay to be beaten; all the proof th
at the police had the people that assaulted me and the other people got away s
cotch free, and my thrid testimony was about the attack on me and several oth
er cote workers by sixteen white men with gun and knife and chains this happen
the latter part of summer at a lake at a friend house. I am not going to go
into all of the details; but there was one serious beaten there a white cote
worker name David Gelfand, he was cut across the back with a knife and broken
wrist and several other bruises. but when the cop came we asked them to excor
us back to the city limit and he replied that he did nt escort us out her
and he left, it took them about and hour to get where we were and it only fi
ve mile away; the cops caught some of the men and helded them for trial which
were going to take place the following week on the Wednesday, in Ellisville,
which is a small town about seven miles away from Laurel, the morning that
the trial had supose to had taken place we got a call from the sheriff he said
the trial had been postponed untlle later, but we didnt belife that story so
we decided to go and see for our self, and that like to have been our last
trip, because when we arrived there the court house yard were cover with red n
eces, dispite of that we got out of the car and went to the sheriff office and
asked him were there going to be a trial and he said no; at this time the red
eces had came in the building standing in all the doors so tight that a needl
couldn slide thought it, and the sheriff had only three men on hand at that
time; but he stood his ground by telling the people that he was nt going to ha
ve any trouble around here and he lift his gun and the crowd spreaded and let
us by, we walked to the car and left the scence; with a string of car follow
ing us containing red eces, so we made it to safety; and the next thing that
I testifed were about the sit in that the chief of police hited me in my eye
and about the xmas eve demostrartion, and that was my testimony; so the hearing
was over almost and the lawyers postponed the hearing for a day or so, because
they had to go to another place where they were needed badly and they left, af
fter the hearing were done with we went to work spreading the new to the people
that was nt there; the following weeks our office were burned gutted by fire
that some one had set; it occurred when we moved into the freedom home which h
ad just been repaired; that night we left the office that the night the o
office were burned, the next morning the chief firemen came and asked all kin
d of crazy question such as is this place insurne or anything thing in it; whi
ch is absurd because who will give cote a policy, the fire did not do all the
damage; but some one stole four typewriter and tape recorder and destroyed our
mimograph machine with an axe I assume that it was the fire men or the arseni
ces,
I played cia agent for a day and came up with this information; a lady that live across the street from the office, said that she heard a car horn blowing on the high way which our office is located and she went to the front door and saw the fire in the office, and the car that was on the freeway came around to the office and began to knock on the door shout that they will burn to death; because the ladies was nt aware that no one was in the office, and the lady across the street went over told them that no one was in there and the lady went and called the police and the fire station the two ladies were white and they saw the fire from the street highway and begin to blow their horn. before the ladies left they asked if there was any thing that they could do? any the lady across the street replied no; at that time the fire truck were on it way to the fire, and the lady across the street went back into her house to observe from the widow; she said that the firemen went around to the left side of the house and begin to shoot water to the window; where the library were later the y cooled thing enough to go into the building, that is all she saw; but a small kids said that he saw the fire men take something out of the building, and the fire chief said that his men did not bring anything out of the building s o that is what give me the reason to belive that the fire men took the manchins; not because of that one statement; but several others also. the FBI they are doing their job great, and they know who seted the fire already; they didn't say that they knew but I have been seeing them in the area that the KKK hang out and they are some what aware of the happen, because they warned me a day before the office were burned that something was going to happen, and it did, now we are living in the freedom house and also it is our office by day and sleeping by night, and we have a unfinish community center hopey that it will be ready for this summer that if we get enough materials to finish it and course we will need thing to go into it when we get it finish. but as of now thing look pretty bad; but we will make it, oh yes the man that owned th e lake that we held the going away party his house was fire bombed a few wee ks ago, the reason that the KKK bombed his house were because one of the men o f the place shot a KKK when they were attacking us, and the FBI also warned th e man a few days before it happen, it obviously that the FBI know every move t hat they make, but why are nt they doing any thing to prevent it; that is where you come- come in you can make the FBI more active then they are; by wr iting them and tell them what you thing they should do to prevent some of this violent, and also you can write your congress man a letter; and senate and tel l them of your belife and that you have been some what omited the real issues of what this country all about and that suppose to be democracy which mean pe ople rule, but that id a difference story here because we are living under a fascism governent, here.

I look at the beautiful thing that nature has did; and then I look at the thing that man has did and it make me sick; because man has only bought hatered and blood.. and as of now man is making a great effort to correct his mistakes; but one man can not do this so it would had to be the majority of the people and the belife of God, to fall this wall of hate; with out this we can not succeed so spread the word.