

# THE STUDENT VOICE

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## 200 Students at SNCC Institute Plan and Demonstrate in Nashville



TWO VIEWS OF NASHVILLE: On left, employee of Nashville's Tick Tock restaurant gestures angrily at Negro and white training institute participants who wanted to obtain service inside. On right, after attempts to desegregate 12 restaurants, 150 students walk through downtown Nashville singing "We Shall Overcome". Photos by Zellner.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE -- More than 200 students from North and South gathered here Thanksgiving at the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's leadership training institute.

They held workshops on aspects of the student movement, discussed some action plans for the future, and demonstrated at 12 of Nashville's segregated restaurants.

The three-day meeting, November 23-25, featured a direct action attack in Nashville's downtown area, coordinated by the institute's host, the Nashville Student Nonviolent Movement.

SNCC's Coordinating Committee also adopted a proposal to begin work on a

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### 60 Arrested in Gadsden Sit-ins; Holloway Jailed

GASDEN, ALABAMA -- A member of the SNCC Executive Committee and 59 other Negroes in this Northern Alabama city were arrested on November 27 and 28 for "refusing to obey an officer" when they staged sit-in demonstrations at W. T. Grant's, Woolworth's and McClellan's lunch counters.

Frank Holloway, 23, an Executive Committee member of SNCC, was arrested with the second wave of demonstrators. Holloway was former executive secretary of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, the organization of Atlanta students active in the protest

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### SNCC Confab Launches 'Free Kennard' Drive

At its Nashville meeting, SNCC resolved to open a campaign to free Clyde Kennard, a 30-year old Mississippi Negro who tried to enter Mississippi Southern College four years ago and is now serving a 7-year sentence in Parchman State Penitentiary for allegedly stealing five sacks of chicken feed.

Kennard, a native of Hattisburg, Miss., and a chicken farmer, applied for admission at Mississippi Southern in 1958. Writing in a letter the THE AMERICAN newspaper on January 23, 1960, he tried to "follow a reasonable course in the matter... The thought of presenting this request before a Federal



CLYDE KENNARD, when he was in the United States Air Force in Germany.

Court for consideration, with all the publicity and misrepresentation that would bring about, makes my heart heavy." He concluded, say-

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### Little Rock Sit-ins First in 2 Years Long, Hansen Jailed

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS -- After a two-year period of inactivity here, sit-in demonstrations resumed November 8 at Woolworth's lunch counters and resulted in the arrests on November 28 of a SNCC executive committee member and a SNCC field secretary at Walgreen's.

Worth Long, 26, a SNCC executive committee member and a student at Philander Smith College, and William Hansen, 23, SNCC field secretary, were arrested at Walgreen's "for refusing to leave a business establishment after being requested to do so by the owner or manager."

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*in Ruleville, Miss.*

## Surplus Food Denied to Registrants

RULEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI -- Charles Cobb and Charles McLaurin, SNCC field secretaries working on the Mississippi voter registration drive, report that a new economic squeeze is being put on Negro citizens here, where two shootings occurred last summer.

Sharecroppers and day laborers are finding it very difficult to obtain surplus government commodities, the two SNCC workers say.

"Commodities (surplus food) are the only way many Negroes make it from cotton season to cotton season," their report states. "If this is taken away from them, they have nothing at all. The success of our voter registration program depends on the protection we can offer the individual while he is waiting for his one small vote mean something. It doesn't take much to tide over the rural Mississippi Negro, but the commodities are vital."

Sharecroppers average \$300-400 each year, Cobb and McLaurin state. Day laborers receive \$150-160 yearly.

Many sharecroppers now have to fill out new registration papers showing how much they earned from each employer, many of whom keep no records. These forms must be signed by the applicant and countersigned by his employer or a responsible person. Cobb and McLaurin point out that this usually means a white person. "Due to the voter registration drive...in Ruleville, the 'responsible people' are not particularly inclined to favors for the Negro."

Last summer, after the voter drive was initiated, nightriders shot into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sisson, both of whom were active in the drive. Shots injured two young girls, Jackson State students, who were sitting in the Sissons' living room.

## Freedom Singers Debut, To Appear at Feb. 1 Fete



THE FREEDOM SINGERS, a newly organized group of SNCC field secretaries, are shown above at a reception at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Ga. From left to right (foreground): Cordell Reagon, 19; Bertha Gober, 21; Bernice Johnson, 19; Dorothy Vails, 23; and Rutha Harris, 21. In background: field secretaries Charles Sherrod and Bernard LaFayette. Not shown, Freedom Singer Charles Neblett, 21.

The Freedom Singers have appeared in Tuskegee, Nashville, Albany, and Chicago, and are slated to appear with several top stars at a SNCC benefit on February 1, 1963 at New York's Carnegie Hall to commemorate the third anniversary of the sit-in movement.

Engagements for the Singers, all of whom are veterans of the student movement in several Southern cities, may be obtained through the SNCC office, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta 14, Georgia. Photo by Zellner.

## "First Amendment is Dead"

### Albany Leaders, NAG

### Protest in Washington

ALBANY, GEORGIA -- After a series of arrests during a drive for economic withdrawal, Albany Movement leaders obtained an appointment Dec. 10 with Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall in Washington, D. C. to discuss "the death of the First Amendment in Albany." Two carloads of picketers arrested on Dec. 6 drove to Washington and picketed with the nonviolent Action Group (NAG) in the capitol on Dec. 10.

Jack Chatfield, a SNCC field secretary working on the Southwest Georgia Voting project was arrested on November 12 after talking

with demonstrators wearing t-shirts with the words "Don't Buy Downtown or Midtown."

He was charged with "accosting young Negro girls" and refusing to give information when approached by "the arresting officer."

Chatfield was held six days in the city jail and then released on bond. At his trial November 21, Chatfield was sentenced to a 60-day term (which will be appealed) and then spent 2 additional days in jail.

On December 6 seven pickets urged economic withdrawal unless fair employment practices were instituted.

## Institute

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"Free Clyde Kennard" drive. (See story, page 1).

On Saturday, November 24, 150 of the institute's participants staged sit-ins at 12 Nashville restaurants. Bobby Talbert, a student who was expelled from a McComb, Miss. high school for his participation in an anti-segregation demonstration in August, 1961, was arrested on November 24 with a white bystander and the manager of Wilson Quick Drugstore. The bystander had beaten Talbert on the head and the manager had sprayed demonstrating students with a fire extinguisher.

Talbert charged that Nashville police also beat him while he was in the Davison County jail. He was released on November 26 when the charges against him were dropped.

Other demonstrators were pushed and slapped. One was punched in the groin by an irate employee of a restaurant.

Students were refused in all restaurants tested. After the demonstrations ended, all 150 marched to the First Baptist Church through the streets of downtown Nashville singing "We Shall Overcome." Later the group marched silently to the Davidson County jail where they sang and prayed on the street to Talbert, imprisoned inside.

Slater King, executive vice president of the Albany Movement, delivered the keynote address on Friday evening, November 23. King, who provided office space for SNCC field secretaries when they first came to Albany in October, 1961, urged students to continue their struggle for freedom.

Charles McDew, chairman of SNCC, addressed the students the next evening and urged them not to forget "the Mack Parkers, the Emmett Tills."

Workshops at the institute included discussions on non-violence, the economy of the South, politics and voter registration, civil liberties and communications.

## Pete Seeger Tours South For SNCC

Pete Seeger, internationally known folk singer, recently completed a tour of concerts for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee in several Southern cities and college communities.

Seeger, 43, a founder of the Weavers and writer of "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?", co-writer of "If I Had a Hammer," and other songs, traveled through Georgia, Alabama, Texas and North Carolina for SNCC.

He sang in Atlanta, and twice in Albany, Ga.; in Birmingham and Tuskegee, Ala., in Chapel Hill, N. C., and three times in Austin, Texas.

In Atlanta he introduced the Freedom Singers to the Atlanta community, and entertained an audience of 800 with his freedom songs from all over the world.

After the Atlanta concert, November 11, he spent four hours with the Freedom Singers recording many of their songs on portable equipment he had brought from New York.

Seeger sang to audience of 1400 students at the Univer-



PETE SEEGER and Dorothy Vails, Freedom Singer, sit on steps at Gaston Motel in Birmingham waiting for transportation to take them to a concert at Tuskegee University. Photo by Miller.

sity of Texas, and to 1000 students at the University of North Carolina.

He lives in Beacon, New York with his wife and three children and is the author of many instruction books on guitar and banjo-playing.

## Gadsden Continued from Page 1

movement. Many of the demonstrators, several of whom are juveniles, are students at Carver High School, and members of the Gasden Student Movement. The secretary of the Gasden Christian Citizens Committee, an adult group, with Holloway on November 28.

"This incident," said SNCC executive secretary James Forman in Atlanta, "shows that the Woolworth chain in the South is not completely integrated. We urge all friends of democracy to protest these arrests by sending telegrams to the Woolworth board of directors demanding that all lunch counters in every Southern Woolworth store serve everyone, regardless of race."

Holloway was released Dec. 7, the other prisoners on Dec. 4.

Gadsden has no integrated public facilities, though a suit against city-owned facilities is pending.

## Field Sec'y In Oxford Reports Courage, Hatred

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI -- Robert Zellner, SNCC field secretary, reports from the University of Mississippi that although a heavy atmosphere of hatred and tension still exists on this campus since the entry of James Meredith, a small group of students and professors "have braved physical and social intimidation" to make Meredith welcome.

Zellner, 23, a native of Alabama and graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., said: "I believe this is the beginning of something truly wonderful in the white society of Mississippi."

He pointed out that some weeks ago, two freshmen, both from rural Mississippi, attended a concert when Meredith walked in. They invited him to sit with them, and the three chatted amiably. Some days later, a cherry bomb exploded in one of the boy's rooms, and he found a large sign with the words "nigger lover" on the door.

## FREEDOM IN THE AIR ALBANY, GEORGIA

a documentary on

featuring "The Eagle Stretches Her Nest" Rev. Ben Gay ORIGINAL IDEAS & FILM STORY GUY CARABIAN PRODUCED BY ALAN TOMPKINS & GUY CARABIAN

STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE SNCC 101 1961 1962



ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- "Powerful and exhilarating," says the November 28th issue of the Reporter magazine of FREEDOM IN THE AIR, a SNCC-produced documentary album of the Albany Movement -- told in on-the-spot tapes in the words and songs which made this movement internationally famous. Reviews throughout the country indicate that this, as the New York Times says, is "the most effective documentary recording to grow out of the integration movement."

FREEDOM IN THE AIR

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ albums of FREEDOM IN THE AIR.

SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta 14, Georgia.

## Laurel, Miss. Negro

### Runs For JP Post

LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI - A Negro candidate for Jones County Beat 1 Justice of the Peace, Clinton C. Collins, finished fifth in a field for six in the November primary.

Local leaders said that Collins' race "has done more than anything to awaken Negroes to their civic responsibility."

Collins received a majority in two heavily Negro precincts. SNCC workers have been heading up a voter registration drive here.

Zellner said that hate sheets entitled "Rebel Underground" and "Rebel Resistance" are put under students' doors at night urging them to boycott Meredith "for the NAACP leper he is."

However, Zellner pointed out that this small group of liberal students and professors were acting with great courage. Some students, he said, stayed on campus during the riot trying to dissuade students from violence and urging them to return to their dormitories.

Other students, all native Southerners, invited Meredith to dinner in mid-November, and returned to their dormitory to find their rooms completely ransacked, in shambles.

Zellner commented, "As a recent student in a Southern institution and as a victim of the trauma that befalls a Southerner when he goes against his fascist-like background, my heart is with these brave young students."

## SNCC HQ at Raymond St.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- After residence in what TIME Magazine called a "windowless cubicle" on Auburn Avenue, and then a brief home further up the street in a large loft, the offices of SNCC have moved to 6 Raymond Street, N.W. (see left).

For the first time since its inception in April, 1960, SNCC has a permanent home with enough room to accommodate staff and volunteers gleaned from the nearby Atlanta University system.

SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman said, "We are still in need, however, of office supplies, particularly pens, pencils, typewriters, paper, and other office equipment."



The sign on SNCC's door, beneath the symbol of white and Negro hand clasped in friendship, reads "Freedom House."

## Kennard

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ing, "Yet what other course can I take?"

The course Kennard took to enter an all-white college in Mississippi finally ended for him in Parchman.

After he had applied the second time in 1959, he was arrested for reckless driving. At the police station, police confronted him with five pints of whiskey, which they claimed to have found in his car. He was found guilty and fined \$600 and costs.

Kennard then found it increasingly difficult to buy feed for his poultry. His credit was cut off and an

unofficial boycott went into effect.

On September 25, 1960, five sacks of chicken feed (valued at \$5 each) were stolen from the Forrest County Cooperative Warehouse. A Johnny Lee Roberts, 19, confessed to the theft, but claimed that Kennard had instigated the robbery.

Roberts was placed on five years probation and is free. Kennard, on the other hand, was convicted of being an accessory to the crime and was sentenced to seven years. He has been imprisoned for two years.

Delegates at the SNCC leadership training institute were urged to send tele-

## Little Rock

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Long and Hansen had tried to take seats at a roped off counter when they were arrested. A sign reading "This fountain is closed in the interest of public safety" was put up on the counter.

They were both released on November 30 on \$500 bond each.

After the two were arrested, students from Philander Smith, most of whom are members of the Student Freedom Movement, marched in downtown Little Rock to protest the arrests.

The current series of demonstrations began on November 8 at Woolworth's. Though students sat-in there several times, no arrests occurred. Counters were closed immediately after students appeared.

Amos Guthridge, head of the Little Rock White Citizens Council, came into Woolworth's several times and threatened the students. One student said Guthridge sprayed some liquid on them as they sat at the closed,

grams and petitions to the President, their local congressmen and senators.

Charles McDew, SNCC chairman, said, "We urge all freedom-loving Americans to participate in this campaign to free Clyde Kennard." He suggested that letters be sent registered to Kennard in order to insure their delivery.



WILLIAM HANSEN, SNCC field secretary. Photo by Zellner.

darkened counter.

Despite the arrests at Walgreens, negotiations are being conducted with Woolworth's to see if the lunch counters can be opened to serve all customers, regardless of race, in the near future.

A subscription to the STUDENT VOICE, the newsletter of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, may be obtained with a contribution of any amount donated to SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta 14, Ga.

We are attempting to come out monthly, money providing, and feel one of our functions should be a means of communication for all protest groups in the South.

Please send news of your group, your plans, ideas, to us and we will be glad to publish them.