

# Civil Rights Issue Stirs Interest

## Selma-Bucknell: 1000 Mi. And a Confederate Flag

by Fred Rieben, Jay Pagano, and Biff Wright

**Editor's Note:** Three Bucknellians marched in the Montgomery, Alabama Civil rights demonstration last week).

In approaching many towns, one usually finds signs for the Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. Not in Selma. There, a white marker bearing the words "White Citizens" and "States Rights-Segregation" flanking two crossed flags, the Confederate and the Alabamian, confront you. From here, after weeks of turmoil, began the march of historic proportions, the implications of which may not be realized in this decade.

### Falling Rain, Rising Spirits

We joined the march on the latter part of the fourth day. Hundreds of whites lined the roads, soldiers stood guard every 200 feet, and police dutifully directed traffic. Almost immediately it began to rain, but singing kept spirits high. Upon nearing the city of St. Jude where we were to camp for the night, we were greeted by an entire Negro high school of 1500, which intensified our fervor.

After a supper of one sandwich, two cookies, and an orange, 20,000 of us assembled behind the church for a rally. Many well-known performers proclaimed their support and active participation in the march.

### Hostile Stares

Following a sleepless night we began to gather at about 6 o'clock for the final four miles. During the next six hours, thousands from across the nation and world began to arrive. We met a contingent of priests and nuns from Canada, a group of Episcopalians from California, a one-man American Legion delegation from Huntington, W. Va., a man and woman from Lagos, Nigeria, 20 of the country's foremost historians, representatives of the American Indians and many more.

Led by Martin Luther King and the original 300, our final triumphant day began. First, we went through the Negro section where thousands joined us. From their porches, windows, and roofs, the Negroes of Montgomery waved, shouted, smiled, and sang their support. We witnessed elderly men and women passing out cokes to temper the 80 degree heat. Then, we entered the white community punctuated by hostile stares.

Behind us marched an elderly white woman from Montgomery. She seemed to be well acquainted with the Negroes we passed. They waved to her and shouted greetings. In the white

community her waving was returned with hostile stares from those fellow white Montgomarians who obviously knew her.

### 'What's wrong with Niggers?'

To the side of us marched several Negro girls from Montgomery. Our conversations with them were especially enlightening. Through them we learned of the life of the Negro in Montgomery. One of the girls said jokingly, "What's wrong with niggers? Some of my best friends are niggers."

Approaching the downtown section, thousands of whites lined the streets, some jeering, some waving Confederate flags, some joking, most puzzled. "Bitch" and "nigger" were heard. Emotion and tension increased to a new heights as the singing and cheering of the

marchers reverberated off the buildings.

At this point we passed a building containing a business college. On the second floor the windows were lined with the white girls that attended the school. It was here that one of the Negro girls marching near us thrust her first into the air and shouted, "Just you wait, next year I'll be up there too!"

### 'We Shall Overcome'

Then we reached the crest of a hill; in back, a mass of people at least a mile long, and in front, the capitol of Alabama. While waiting an hour and a

half for the rest of the marchers to arrive at the foot of the capitol, Joan Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary, and Pete Seeger raised our spirits even more.

As soon as the rest of the 30,000 had gathered, a procession of speakers gave short addresses. They depicted the future conditions of the Negro in the South and exhorted and appealed to all Americans to work for the attainment of equality among men. The final inspiring moment occurred when King led all assembled in singing "We Shall Overcome," while the Confederate flag flew over the Alabamian capitol

## SNCC Plans Summer Project; College Students to Lobby

by Biff Wright

The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee does not at present plan to continue the Mississippi Summer Project which was so successful last year. Continuing debate within the Coordinating Committee concerning organization and objectives has led SNCC to focus on voting rights. SNCC was instrumental in building the Freedom Democratic Party and supported the efforts of FDP at Atlantic City and in Congress last January 4. The "Mississippi Challenge" — the unseating of Mississippi's five Congressmen — has become a main objective for the summer of 1965.

Consequently, SNCC plans to recruit about 2000 students for two or three weeks to lobby in Congress for the unseating of the Mississippi delegation. The operation will start around June . Northern white students

are preferred because of the pressure they will be able to exert of the more influential northern representatives. In keeping with its principle of "one man—one vote," SNCC is specifically lobbying (1) in behalf of the Challenge, (2) in behalf of a voting bill based only on age and residence, and (3) home rule for Washington.

Summer projects similar to the ones conducted last year will be directed by Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Council. SNCC plans a Committee meeting in July to determine further summer plans. But at present, SNCC's important program is the lobby in Washington.