

Negro Discrimination— Problem in the North

by Jo Nielsen ²⁻¹⁹

Students who attended the James Lars
Penn State University, Wednesday eve

Frank Wood	Peg DeVer
Tom Van Alen	Debbie Wo
Erik Mason	Hank Lewi
Jo Nielsen	Dave Slif
Nancy Dean	

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Northern College Students Aid Negro Anti-Segregation Cause

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spreading anti-segregation demonstrations by Negroes in the South are being given extensive support by Northern college students for the first time since the current protests began the first of February.

Yale divinity students plan a protest march today. Brown University boys and Skidmore College girls will continue picketing variety stores, and a U.S. senator's son is helping form a group at the University of Connecticut to raise funds for Negroes expelled for taking part in Southern sit-downs.

In the South a new attack on segregation barriers has been started in Alabama. Demonstrations have spread to a Tennessee art gallery and there have been more sitdowns in several states.

These and other racial developments from Texas to Massachusetts marked growing agitation over segregation practices, with lunch counters still the main targets. Only a few arrests were reported Tuesday, however.

Seven Negroes — including one expelled from Alabama State College — applied for enrollment at the white University of Alabama center at Montgomery, a night school where high school graduates take part-time courses for college credits.

Marzette Watts was ousted from Alabama State for taking part in an anti-segregation demonstration.

At Memphis, Tenn., police arrested 23 Negro students during new demonstrations at the public art gallery and at a downtown branch library. Seven students were arrested inside the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery and six others outside. Ten students were arrested in the segregated reading room at the library.

More than 150 Negro students staged nonviolent sitdowns at five variety stores in Houston, Tex.

At Storrs, Conn., a group of University of Connecticut students also made plans to form a fund raising committee. Among them was Jeremy Dodd, a 19-year-old sophomore and the son of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.).

Wheaton College students formed a committee at Norton, Mass., to solicit funds for the legal defense of Negro students expelled from Alabama State.

About 20 faculty members and more than 200 Skidmore College girls demonstrated at Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and began picketing a variety store. Brown University students also were picketing variety stores in Providence, R. I.

Margaret Mead has said, "Every cultural significant attribute, negative or positive, cowardice, talkativeness, or musical ability, once believed to be associated with some type of physique, has been shown to be a matter of education and opportunity."

A New York City minister has stated, "One drop of Negro blood makes a Negro. It kinks the hair, flattens the nose, thickens the lip, puts out the light of intellect, and lights the fires of brutal passions. The beginning of Negro equality is the beginning of the end of this nation's life."

Your responses elicited by these two statements give some indication of the role Northerners are assuming in one of America's gravest social problems. Most people would not be effected by the first statement, simply because these facts are realized and accepted in the minds of

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most Northerners. But the words of a New York City minister (of all people!) sound harsh to your ears because the words are so irrational-ly cruel.

But unfortunately, what we think and what we do are diametrically opposed to each other. In contrast to the South, but subtle acts of discrimination prove that we are fooling ourselves. And the effects of this subtlety, such as the seating of a Negro party near the service door of an exotic New York restaurant or the flashing of a "no vacancy" sign as a Negro family approaches a Michigan motel, are more incisive than the obvious housing and economic discrimination found in the South.

Perhaps the most human characteristic of the Northerner's role (and the Southerner's role, for that matter) is the fact that we are satisfied to accept the **status quo**. No one wants to be the first one to **move in the direction** of integration. Our actions might disrupt a nice social setting, or we might lose something that **we want!** What is so damn sacred about the **status quo**? If we would realize that this inhibition of not wanting to be the "guinea pig" is a universal human characteristic, perhaps together we could move in the direction of solving the "white problem."