

# SKANDALON

Vol. 2 No. 8

April 28, 1964

## SPECIAL CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE

This Wednesday night, April 29, at 8:00 p.m., in Brubacher Hall, there will be a special program on "Albany State and the Civil Rights Revolution," sponsored by the Campus Christian Council. There will be a report on the Voter Registration Project held in Raleigh and a discussion of plans to field a team for Mississippi this summer. Panelists will be Sharon Chesler, Lola Johnson, Bazyl Kowalenko, and Guy McBride. Mrs. Gloria DeSole of the English Department will chair the discussion on Mississippi. The purpose of the meeting is twofold: first, it will attempt to show where the civil rights movement has been and is going at State; and second, it will afford State students with the opportunity to participate themselves, either by helping make it possible for others to go South, or even by going South themselves. For this reason, among others, Skandalon has thought it appropriate to devote this issue almost exclusively to the issues of Civil Rights

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### THE UNITED STATES AND MISSISSIPPI

The police state which controls Mississippi has effectively curtailed the progress of the civil rights movement within that state. The intimidation of local agitators, the actions of the police in turning away "foreign" cars bearing known or suspected civil rights leaders at the state border, the documented brutality and callousness of the "legally constituted law enforcement agencies," have made it mandatory that Mississippi receive assistance from without, i.e., from the United States, in massive quantities.

Campus Christian Council hopes to send a team of interested persons to participate in a large-scale "Freedom Summer" project which is being sponsored by the Council of Federated Organizations, a federation of civil rights organizations in Mississippi, including the NAACP, SNCC, CORE, and SCLC.

#### Freedom Schools

There is a need for students who can instruct local citizens in various subjects; undertake remedial work in reading, math, and basic grammar; hold seminars in political science and the humanities, journalism, and creative writing; conduct recreational programs, such as dramatics, music appreciation, arts and crafts, and organized athletics; and, above all, take part in voter registration field work. The purpose of this program is to lay the foundation for a "cadre of student leadership committed to critical thought and social action."

#### Community Centers

The primary purpose of the centers will be educational; there is need for personnel to teach remedial programs for adults, to instruct in problems of public health, and to provide material for workshops on such topics as family relations, home improvement, and federal service programs. Other than taverns, however, the only recreational facility now open to the Negro is the movie. Movies in the Negro community (Negroes cannot attend "white" theaters, of course) are inevitably run-down, showing only out-of-date or third-class pictures. Therefore, the centers will attempt to provide a wider variety of cultural opportunities.

#### Voter Registration

Every county in Mississippi will have a four-man voter registration team. The teams will seek to (1) register as many Negroes as possible on the official county books, and (2) register as many others as possible on "simulated," unofficial books, so as to provide a basis for "challenging" the elections in November.

#### Special Projects

(1) Research Project: A number of summer workers will devote themselves entirely to research on the economic and political life of Mississippi; in addition, a number of others will live within the white community, to survey attitudes and record reactions.

THE UNITED STATES AND MISSISSIPPI, cont'd.

(2) White Communities: The Negro is not the only one denied equality of opportunity; nor is he the only one living in poverty, ignorance, and fear. This project will be aimed at educating the white man in poverty-stricken communities, beginning the effort to organize and educate him in the direction of democracy and decency.

(3) The Theater Project: A Repertory Theater, sponsored by the Tougaloo College Drama Department, will have its beginning in Jackson this summer; the actors will be Negro Mississippians, dramatizing Negro suffering in Mississippi and in America.

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We invite your interest and questions; you may contact Guy M. McBride, Waterbury Hall, the Reverend Frank Snow, 501 State Street, or Mrs. Gloria DeSole, English Annex, for further information.

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CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME

Anxious to get away from it all? Tired of Albany's on-again, off-again spring? Girlfriend bugging you? Your "steady" has just found out about the beau back home? Head South, join the hundreds and thousands lobbying for civil rights in Washington, D. C.!

The bill for civil rights has hit the filibuster stage; need for public support was never more important, for if the bill is to become law, the legislators need your prodding and, most off all, your encouragement.

Therefore, a student march on Washington has been scheduled, to reinforce the points made by the Civil Rights March last February 6th. The activities began on April 20. It had the support of the Leadership Conference, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the National Student Movement, and Senators Humphrey and Javits, not to mention the many church organizations which have indicated their approval.

It is not probable that many of us will be able to make the sacrifice of going to Washington. But there are specific steps that we can take.

First, acquaint yourself with the bill (H. R. 7152). Copies may be obtained free of charge from your congressman. Study it, think about it, be sure you can support it, and to what extent, and then WRITE!

It has been suggested that we ask for the following:

- (1) Cloture, without weakening the provisions of the bill as it came from the House;
- (2) That our representatives remain in the Capitol during the filibuster, so as to be available for the frequent roll calls;
- (3) That our representatives vote for this bill (H. R. 7152).

Remember, as Senators Humphrey and Javits have pointed out, civil rights is NOT a sectional issue; it is NOT a partisan issue; it IS a national issue. We owe it to ourselves to be aware of the problems, to consider them, and to act upon them.

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Genius - Talent

Talent is to be ranked according to the sensation it produces; Genius according to the opposition it arouses (religious character according to the scandal it gives). Talent adapts itself immediately and directly; Genius does not adapt itself to the given circumstances. Talent warms up what is given (to take a metaphor from cooking) and sees to its appearance; Genius brings something new.

From the Journals of Soren Kierkegaard

**NOTICE:** The office of the Campus Minister, the Reverend Frank Snow, has been re-located at 501 State Street. The telephone remains 463-9275. Mr. Snow is often there mornings, and a secretary is regularly on duty Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 1:30-4:30, and Friday, 1:30-3:30.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28 - Inter-religious Assembly on Civil Rights at the Capitol Steps, from 12 noon till 12:30 pm

Wednesday, April 29 - "Report on Raleigh" Bru PDR, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 3 - CCC Dinner, open to all interested in participating in Council activities for the coming year RSVP

Tuesday, May 12 - "Sex and the Killjoys," Bru PDR, 8:30 p.m. A discussion of the university in loco parentis.

Friday, May 22 - A survivor of Hiroshima, injured by the blast touning the U.S., will speak in D-349, at 1:25 p.m.

A Voice From Another Cell of the Catacombs

T. G. Standing, Professor of Sociology

(This is the third in a series of articles on the crucial question of worship by students living on the new campus. Skandalon, in presenting these articles, wishes to promote an open forum for university opinion and discussion. All people wishing to speak to this question are cordially invited to submit articles to Skandalon, via Student Mail. Editor)

In his article in the April 16 edition of Skandalon Professor Grimes presents some persuasive arguments against the ban on organized religious activities on the university campus. The problem of church-state relations in our pluralistic society is admittedly a complex one. I believe there are some aspects of the problem, not adequately considered by Professor Grimes, which should prompt us to look very carefully at any breach in "the wall of separation" as defined in our state and federal constitutions and interpreted by the courts.

It would indeed be a "skandalon" if Protestants, particularly, should forget the long and divisive historic struggles out of which the principle of separation finally emerged. In the light of the historic background, including some fairly recent events on our own campus, the argument concerning any modification of the principle as an "entering wedge" or as "the camel's nose in the tent" should not be lightly dismissed. There is considerable evidence that each such modification has in fact tended to become a precedent for more far-reaching ones. Though the intent may have been laudable in each case, the cumulative effect has been to endanger the entire structure through gradual erosion of its foundations. If this process had not already proceeded to a marked degree, the Supreme Court ruling on prayer in the public schools or the decision of the legal Counsel for SUNY concerning use of state properties for organized religious activities would probably not have evoked the shocked responses we are now witnessing.

Once the state embarks on a program of positive aid for religious groups, however modest, whether it be bus transportation of parochial school students or provision of facilities for on-campus religious instruction or worship, it opens the lid to Pandora's proverbial box. There are some two hundred different religious bodies in the United States (including such groups as the Black Muslims and members of the Peyote Cult) and to afford truly equal facilities to them all would be manifestly impossible, even if desirable. In addition, there are numerous atheistic and free-thinker groups who would undoubtedly (and justifiably) demand equal consideration. All citizens are required to pay taxes for the support of the university and our public schools. If any portion of my tax contribution is used for the promotion of religious teachings which are contrary to my conscience, my religious freedom and the neutrality of the state are both compromised.

It would seem that the founding fathers understood the dangers inherent in this situation and for this reason they wrote the First Amendment into the Constitution. The first clause of this amendment prohibits the establishment of religion. The Supreme Court has interpreted this to mean that no tax, in any amount, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions. Thus the neutrality of the state is to be maintained, not by aiding all religions equally (an impossible task) but by withholding support to religion in any form. It seems difficult for many people to understand that this does not mean that the Court and the Constitution are hostile to religion. It means rather that only by the complete secularization of the state can real religious freedom and equality be maintained. As Dean Weigle, former Dean of Yale Divinity School, has said, "The separation of church and state in this country was intended, not to restrict but to emancipate the churches, not to impair but to protect religious faith."<sup>1</sup>

It may well be true that strict observance of the principle of separation will create difficulties in meeting the religious needs of university students, particularly after the move to the new campus. However, I am confident that religious leadership in the community is sufficiently dedicated to its task to find ways of solving the problem that will be consistent with our traditional values and constitutional requirements.

<sup>1</sup> Social Action, Vol. XIII, No. 9 (November 15, 1947)

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Editors: Clifford J. Rugg  
Guy M. McBride

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Skandalon is the biweekly journal of the Campus Christian Council. Articles, poems, essays, drawings, or short stories are welcome. Anyone interested in submitting his or her work should contact Cliff Rugg via student mail or leave materials at 501 State Street.

The Campus Christian Council is planning a meeting for those interested in participating in activities of the Council next year. The meeting, to be held on Sunday, May 3, will begin with supper at 6 p.m. Included will be a discussion on the purpose and work of the Council and plans for 1964-65. If interested, contact any member of the Campus Christian Council (Sue Jones, Guy McBride, Dave Simington, Nancy Keith, Cliff Rugg, Dr. Littlefield, Dr. Birr) or the Rev. Frank Snow.

CONVOCATION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

To Be Held on Capitol Steps

Tuesday, April 28  
From 12 noon to 12:30 p. m.

A special convocation on civil rights, sponsored by the Albany Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Diocese, and the Jewish Community Council, will be held on the steps of the State Capitol in Albany today. There will be prayers and brief statements on the civil rights legislation currently being debated in Congress. The assembly in Albany and a National Convocation in Washington are being called to urge the swift passage of the legislation "in order that the nation may have a national legal instrument strong enough to make effective the new pattern of race relations which the aroused conscience of the American people now demands."

We cordially invite your interest and participation and ask that you write, now, in support of the Civil Rights Bill. Mail does count!

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CIVIL LIBERTIES AROUND THE NATION

ALABAMA: An intelligence network of state agencies and officials is now gathering secret dossiers on civil rights advocates. Negro leaders, Justice Department aides, newsmen, and others, under the direction of Governor George C. Wallace.

MISSISSIPPI: In a voter registration effort sponsored by the NAACP, CORE, and SNCC, in Canton, a town in central Mississippi, 260 Negroes waited in line all day on February 28; only seven got inside the registrar's office to take the literacy test.

CONNECTICUT: Pitney-Bowes, Inc., an industrial concern in Stamford with more than 7,400 employees, has adopted a policy of preferential hiring of Negro workers.

KENTUCKY: Ten thousand Kentuckians from all over the state marched through Frankfort, the state capital, on March 5, to ask passage of a strong public accommodations bill; the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson addressed the rally.

From "Civil Liberties," a monthly publication of the  
American Civil Liberties Union - April, 1964

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ARE YOU A USELESS NONENTITY?

Daily most of us return to the dorms past a solid, massive structure of red brick--a forbidding building on Central Avenue with a spiked fence. The fence seems to separate the folks within from the active and perhaps "hectic" work-day scene of which they were once a part.

No, the description is not that of an asylum or prison, but a shelter for old people who are on their own--who are alone. The Little Sisters of the Poor have devoted their lives to tending to the needs of those people, but their duties are innumerable and their number is few. On an estimate, there must be about fifteen Sisters per one hundred old people. They can hardly give each the attention and interest he or she deserves.

Recently, through the initiative of Donna Rhodes, a member of Newman Club, several State students began to visit the home. It was an experiment at first--a slow approach to come to know some of the residents of the home individually. We entered with timidity and even a little fear. The sight of greying hair, wrinkled hands, loneliness, blindness, and illness is hardly a reassuring sight; nor does it boost the morale of a college student who finds it all he or she can do to cope with sorority, fraternity, clubs, dates, and studies. Nevertheless, we tried to make our visits regularly; some of us went several times a week, others just a few hours on Sundays. Sometimes we just talk; once as a group we played the piano, sang, and danced with the old people.

Though we all are bound by a common interest, we have discovered our greatest assets are our differences; for the people in the home are as varied as we are in temperament, mentality, religious feelings, talents, etc.

There are many rewards, of course; a realization of our own potential, the acquisition of a sense of the reality of old age, and the knowledge of peace and courage in death, and many others. Rewards differ, of course; each individual has his own reasons for going. We need your help; but even more, they need you.

IF YOU CARE ENOUGH TO HELP, CONTACT MICHELLE ALLARD OR DONNA RHODES AT ALDEN.

-Michelle C. Allard-