

Newsletter of the Midwestern Student Coordinating Committee  
c/o Jonathan Eisen, 207 Noah Hall, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

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1960

"Your job is to learn what went before, learn to criticize, for criticism is the essence of democracy."

—Paul DuBrul (Antioch Conf.)

### CLEVELAND DEMONSTRATION

Joel Shirzer

On November 8, 1960, John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States. A great many eligible southerners however, both Negro and White, were not allowed to vote in this election. During the campaign, Kennedy promised that his administration would enact Civil Rights legislation enabling all qualified citizens to vote. How can we be assured that Mr. Kennedy will fulfill his promises now that he has gained his great opportunity?

We students are trying to answer this problem. By coordinated non-violent protests, we hoped to make northern citizens aware of southern injustices.

On election day at 11:30 A.M., a busload of about forty Oberlin students demonstrated at polls in Metropolitan Cleveland as part of a nationwide student protest. The object was to picket strategic areas where Cleveland's inhabitants would be made more aware of our aims. We marched around the square at 11th and Euclid displaying our placards and distributing leaflets.

At this point our numbers were increased by students from Penn College and Western Reserve University. The enlarged force split into three groups which demonstrated at important corners. One group was located at 11th and Euclid in front of the May Company department store; another at 9th and Euclid, in front of a bank; and the third in front of the Democratic and Republican headquarters at the Sheraton hotel. In all three places, we were received well and encountered no serious difficulties.

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### ANTIOCH CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for fighting discrimination on and around campus came out of the Antioch Conference.

1) Students and student governments should generally oppose discriminatory practices in college admissions and specifically oppose quotas for students of minority groups.

2) Students should look into college policies on all school housing, both on and off campus, with the goal in mind of ending any and all types of discrimination. Students should be assigned roommates on the basis of similarity in personality and interests, rather than any racial, regional, or religious consideration.

3) Students should demonstrate their desire for mixed faculty hiring, and should also combat racial discrimination in student employment in the town community.

4) Students should bring to bear pressure on faculty, administration, and student government to change the policies of fraternities and sororities toward discrimination against minority groups. These organizations in turn should bring to bear pressure upon their own national chapters to eliminate discriminatory clauses, and if the national chapters will not cooperate, the local chapter should be willing to lose its affiliation with the national.

5) Students should organize groups to work on all phases of discrimination in their particular area.

Suggestions for carrying out these recommendations were development of

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## CLEVELAND

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At two o'clock, the Oberlin contingent departed. Later that day NAACP organizations at Fern, Western Reserve, Baldwin Wallace, and Case picketed the Cleveland polls, leaving encouraged by the thought that in the next four years, an active, interested populace can eagerly press its representatives to enact real civil rights legislation.

### Notes on This and That...

Lawrence Scott, director of the Fort Detrick, Md. vigil protesting biological warfare, spoke at Oberlin. "With the coming of the atomic age, we are finished with aggression unless we want to finish ourselves. Non-violent action must exist as the moral equivalent to war. Negroes are tired of being second class citizens... the student civil rights movement must expand. In discussing disarmament, Mr. Scott emphasized that "war can no longer be an instrument of foreign policy; the arms race is only a deterrent, not a preventative... To achieve widespread American support, a non-violent movement must operate in harmony with the democratic process of government, must experiment and make progress with social and economic reform."

--taken from the Oberlin Review

The Antioch Conference made the wires of the United Press International. Quote: 10/9/60. UPI (SUB MEETING CZR16) YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO--MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS FROM 24 MID-WESTERN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FAVOR ELECTION DAY NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN PROTEST OF THE DENIAL OF NEGRO VOTING RIGHTS IN THE SOUTH.

A RESOLUTION TO THAT EFFECT WAS ADOPTED YESTERDAY AT A MASS MEETING ON THE ANTIOCH COLLEGE CAMPUS AT YELLOW SPRINGS.

THE RESOLUTION SAYS: "THE SEMINAR ON HUMAN RELATIONS RECOGNIZES AND DEPLORES THE FACT THAT MANY CITIZENS IN THE SOUTH

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## ANTIOCH

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good relations between students and community; organization of meetings, rallies, and seminars, and articles and letters to the editor of local newspapers.

### EDITORIAL

We who work on the ACTIVIST extend our congratulations to President-elect Kennedy. He will assume the greatest political office in this country, and will be in a position of respect and leadership. His campaign, however, was by an occasion which all those who are actively working for civil rights for all people will long remember. I refer, of course, to Mr. Kennedy's courageous intervention in the arrest of the Rev. Martin Luther King. Mr. Kennedy showed that he was aware of the injustice which pervades in many parts of our nation, and he has indicated a desire to help remedy them.

We look to the new President for a continuation of his forthright stand on this crucial problem of discrimination and denials of basic equality. May he use his newly gained position to the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

--J.E.

This is the second issue of the ACTIVIST, created by you at the Antioch Conference. We sincerely hope that with your support it will be able to continue reporting events and ideas which you, our basic staff, must supply. We cannot operate without material; we cannot operate without money. The Oberlin NAACP is much further in debt than it ought to be, because financing these first issues. We cannot print this paper for long without your help. Please send \$\$\$ as soon as you can.

--J.E.

Notes...cont.

APE DENIED THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE WE THEREFORE SUPPORT NON-PARTISAN ELECTION DAY DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER METHODS DESIGNATED TO GAIN FOR ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS THE ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY EXERCISE THEIR VOTING RIGHTS."

V838P 10/9

REV. KING JAILED

"If the door to freedom leads through the jailhouses of the south, then through the jailhouses we shall go."

--Rev. Wyatt T. Walker

During the month of October, the Rev. Martin Luther King with fifty nine other demonstrators picketing at lunch counters in Atlanta, were arrested by local authorities. Dr. King was given a four months' jail term on the grounds that he 'violated the conditions of his suspended sentence for his traffic offence.' Dr. King refused to post bond stating that he did nothing wrong by his actions...and that he would stay in a year of ten years if necessary.

The stores which were picketed were Rich's, Davidson-Paxton, W.T. Grant, H.L. Green, Woolworth, Kress, Newberry's, McCrory, Walgreen, and Lane-Rexall. The detainment of Rev. King was brought to the nation's attention by the unequivocal pronouncement of the now President-elect Kennedy who called for King's release and an end to segregation and discrimination. The NAACP has called for the Mayor of Atlanta to form an interracial committee to end the differential treatment of Negroes in that city.

---portions taken from the Oberlin Review, Oct. 28, '60

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!  
...KEEP US POSTED.

The student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee Conference on 'Non-violence and the Achievement of Desegregation' convened in Atlanta, Ga., on October 14, and continued on through October 16. Held at Atlanta U., the conference was attended by sit-in leaders from thirteen States in the South, along with observers from five Northern States.

On Friday, the delegates heard speeches from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Pres., Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and advisor to the SNCC, who spoke on the Philosophy of Non-violence; Ella J. Baker, whose topic was "After the Sit-ins: What?"; and Marion L. Wright, who spoke on the "Changing South."

Miss Baker noted that the sit-ins had shattered the stereotype of the Negro held by many White Southerners, and had laid the groundwork for a "people's movement toward justice and peace everywhere," but that the most important problem now facing the movement was that of leadership and leadership training.

Dr. King emphasized the four basic tenets of non-violence: 1) the affirmation of a positive relationship means and ends, i.e., the means must be as pure as the ends. 2) the individual's refusal to inflict injury upon another. 3) non-violence affirms the realization of the power of suffering as a great social force. 4) the knowledge of great human possibilities for goodness and love. Dr. King went on to warn the attending students that..."action must be planned...that the movement must not degenerate into a publicity stunt, mustn't be bogged down by individual tendencies for ego-projection.

On Saturday, after the workshops, the Conference heard from Jim Lawson who spoke on 'Jail vs. Bail.' He outlined that 1) The bail money is forfeited if one engages in NV action while 'out,' thus hampering the Movement; 2) Refusal to accept bail is a continuation of NV philosophy; 3) As a spark to regain public sympathy; 4) It is a direct way to make the state pay for the support of discrimination.