



# Youth Takes the Lead

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It is interesting to note that it is the white students in many of the Southern universities who are really carrying the fight for integration. Students from the University of Texas, for instance, have set themselves the task of picketing the Austin theaters, which are not integrated, in an effort to bring before the public—in spite of a news blackout—the fact that the city's theaters are segregated.

At times class assignments require that students report on certain films, and such assignments cannot be carried out by Negro students. In this effort the students have had wide faculty support.

The first theater to be picketed was the Texas, which is part of a Texas chain.

The second theater picketed was the Varsity, one in the chain of Interstate Theatres, Inc., which is a subsidiary of ABC-Paramount. What particularly saddens me about segregation at this theater is the fact that "Sunrise at Campobello" recently began a run there. I cannot help but think that this particular film should be available for every citizen of the U. S. to see, regardless of race or creed or color.

Therefore, I am personally grateful to the Texas students for making the effort to bring about the end of this kind of segregation in their state. But I wonder why students have to be without the help of the community in general.

We in the U. S., where we have so many individual states, must still consider that what happens in one area is the responsibility of all of us—because all of us make up the U. S. as a whole. So, those of us who live outside the Southern states cannot in good conscience say the feelings which we have seen depicted on the faces

of women in jeering Louisiana crowds or the rules that still support public segregation in other areas are no concern of the rest of us.

The responsibility cannot be carried by the Southern states alone.

This may be difficult for us to accept unless we think of it in terms of our relations with foreign countries. Our whole country is responsible for the picture we paint of what democracy means. What must the countries of Asia and Africa have thought of us when our newspapers carried such pictures as they did after four little Negro girls were taken under guard to school in New Orleans? And what must their citizens feel when they come to this country and in visiting certain states are refused equal treatment because they may be taken to be U. S. citizens?

I hope this action by the young people of the University of Texas will have some effect on the theaters in their area. Over 2,000 students and faculty members signed an anti-segregation petition, and certainly this should serve to point up the fact for our older generation that times are changing and that the young are closer to the future—because this will be their time and not the time of their elders.

The American Civil Liberties Union has fought for 40 years for the rights of all people, and I think that on this 40th anniversary it should be given a word of praise and perhaps more support than it has had from all American citizens in the past. An organization of this kind is essential in a country like ours. Where many different backgrounds come together, disputes are bound to arise, and to help us settle them legally and not come to blows over them is one of the contributions an organization of this type makes.

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