

Beware

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The Jabberwock

By CHANDLER DAVIDSON

The most important reason why UT integrationists did not accomplish more last year is that they did not organize early enough. The fall semester was over before any civil rights movements attracted the public eye.

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By the time their plans had crystallized and they were able to exert pressure in significant areas, school was out. I would hate to see this happen again. There is no need for it to.

Not much was accomplished last year, materially although I think integrationists gained the sympathy of a sizeable part of the community by their courage, intelligence, and calmness.

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The Negro remains, however, a second class citizen here at the University. For example:

(1) He cannot participate in intercollegiate athletics.

(2) He cannot live in campus dorms.

(3) He cannot attend most Austin theaters.

(4) He cannot participate in various public dramatic events given by the University.

(5) He cannot eat in many restaurants.

(6) He has no voice in student politics on the campus.

(7) He is ineligible for most scholarships.

(8) He is not allowed equal education opportunities.

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If anyone doubts this last point, I would refer to the notice which was sent out from the Tower last spring to various members of the faculty, asking them to suggest the names of exceptional students to participate in a stepped-up academic program. It stated that Negroes would not be considered, as "facilities were inadequate" at that time.

An improvement in the integration situation will come

about only through constant publicized pressure upon those who resist. The integration forces are waking up to the fact that they must assume the offensive, that they must make public the actions of every merchant, every University official, and every legislator who infringes upon civil rights. And that is a full-time job.

Specifically, there is a need for:

● The continuation of sit-down strikes.

● Discussion of the race problem by religious groups.

● An integration organization which can make itself felt in campus politics.

● The publicizing of specific cases of racial injustice.

● A movement among professors to back and encourage the integrationists — something which has been conspicuously absent in the past.

I can understand the uneasiness with which integrationists launch an active campaign. They feel that perhaps they will stir up more ill-will than tangible gains can compensate for. This feeling is unjustified.

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My own belief is that those sympathetic with the Negroes' cause form a majority on this campus. Reasons for not speaking out may be due to fear of social stigma. Actual white supremacists are rare, although they make such a loud noise their numbers are over-estimated.

Further, most of the administration is sympathetic with integration. Unfortunately it is hamstrung by a few racists in the Legislature.

I have seen a great advance in integration on campus since 1954. It would never have come about other than through purposeful, relentless action on the part of integrationists, Negro and white. We have a long way to go. And this is no time to let down.