

SDA

Statement of Purpose

To the Editor:

We, the Students for Direct Action, firmly believe that a person's race is a totally invalid criterion of his worth.

We believe that human society, and the United States in particular, has much to gain by according the same freedoms and privileges to all its citizens, regardless of race or ethnic background.

We believe that total integration should be accomplished as soon as possible, both for humanitarian reasons, and in order to gain the respect of other nations (many of which are predominantly non-white) who point to this country's segregation policies as hypocritical and atavistic.

We consider naive and self-contradictory the argument of those people who advocate "letting the segregation situation take care of itself." Social injustice never "takes care of itself." It is corrected only by concerned, active citizens.

The Students for Direct Action is a coordinating group composed of mature students who desire to effect an organized peaceful protest against segregation practices, as we believe direct action to be a valid means of social reform. We are strongly opposed to mob action, to poorly-planned or poorly-coordinated programs, and to emotionalism.

We make every effort possible to bargain and discuss our beliefs and wishes with the businessmen and officials whose policies we protest. Further, we constantly seek advice from responsible citizens in the community. Because of this, we have won the approval of a number of ministers, professors, and other local residents. We have, in fact, seen them join in our actions.

The Students for Direct Action is completely free of the policy-making assistance of any other organization. We are composed solely of University undergraduates and graduate students, both Negro and white, with varying political and religious convictions, but who are united in our condemnation of segregation.

Students for Direct Action