Jailed, But Coeds 'Don't Feel Confined'

BY SAMUEL HOSKINS

ROCK HILL, S.C. — How does a jailed sitdowner feel?

"Strangely enough, we don't feel confined," say the two young women now serving 30-day terms in the York County jail, 15 miles south of here.

They are Misses Diane J. Nash, Fisk University student, and Ruby D. Smith Spelman College student.

The two were arrested here on Feb. 6 and sentenced the following day to pay $100 fines each or serve 30 days in prison. They chose to serve the prison terms.

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AFTER TWO days in jail they write the Rev. C. A. Ivory, president of the Rock Hill NAACP, that they feel "much more free in jail than being oppressed by (racial) discrimination."

The girls stated the other prisoners think they are crazy and constantly say: "They are actually happy to be here."

To this conclusion, Miss Nash, 22, and Miss Smith, 18, make the following response:

"It goes without saying that there are many sacrifices to be made here but we recognize the fact that a great deal of sacrifice on the part of many people must be made, if we are to become free.

"Best of all is knowing we are not alone, but rather that our hands are joined together now . . . with the citizens of Rock Hill and, indeed, with all the people of America who deep within their hearts want to be free."

THEIR ANSWER to how they fare at the hands of the jailers is "We are being treated well."

They were permitted to receive communications from the outside, including telegrams and newspapers.

One of the telegrams was from the director of National Broadcasting Company's "White Paper," the film about the sitdown movement in the South.

Miss Nash was one of the youth leaders shown in the film.

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BOTH GIRLS expressed particular interest in learning what sitdown demonstrations are taking place while they are in prison.

Living conditions in the jail were described as "rather crowded," as five other inmates share the cell.

However, each person has her own bed, with mattress, sheet and blanket.

As to their activities in prison, they state: "We've been writing letters most of the time and the days pass quickly."

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ALTHOUGH a student at Fisk, Miss Nash's home is in Chicago. Prior to her arrest in Rock Hill, she spent two and a half days in jail in Nashville for participating in sitdown demonstrations.

Arrested in Rock Hill along with the two girls were two male students, Joseph C. Jones, 23, Johnson C. Smith University student, and Charles M. Sherrod, 22, Virginia Union University student.

Following their arrest, the four students issued the following statement:

"Since we too share their (the nine imprisoned Rock Hill students) beliefs and since many times during the past year we too have sat at lunch counters, we feel that in good conscience we have no other alternative than to join them."

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MISS NASH, elaborating on this statement, said:

"I felt I should speak in as loud a voice or as direct manner as I could. This is the way I chose to do it."

Miss Nash also expressed the hope that arrests of the students, herself included, would challenge Americans, including congressmen and everyday citizens, to react in as direct manner as they can.

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ALTHOUGH ONLY 18 years of age, Miss Smith, a resident of Atlanta, Ga., was arrested three times before for sitdown demonstrations.

When the group decided to come to Rock Hill, a sister who is a senior in college, also wanted to make the trip. The family decided, however, that the older girl should continue classes until graduation.

Jones, who is chairman of the Johnson C. Smith University Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, explained his refusal to post bail as follows:

"In the decision I made, I could not cooperate in making a decision with any facet of society — in this case the legal judicial system — that perpetuates in any sense segregation and discrimination on a basis of race and color."

He added that revival and expansion of the sitdown movement was one of the few times in history that a movement was given a second chance.

The first chance, he declared, was lost in 1960 when over 1,700 students arrested throughout the South posted bail instead of serving jail sentences.

NO WORRY HERE — Miss Diane J. Nash (right) is shown talking with defense lawyer, Ernest A. Finney Jr. of Sumter, S.C., following conviction of four students at trial in Rock Hill. Other students (on second row) are Miss Ruby D. Smith, Charles M. Serrod and Joseph C. Charles. Trial judge was City Recorder Billy D. Hayes Jr.

COURT HUDDLE — Following the conviction of four out-of-town pickets, a brief strategy meeting was held in courtroom. In the foreground (left to right) are Charles M. Sherrod, Joseph C. Jones and the Rev. C. A. Ivory, president of the Rock Hill Branch NAACP.

FIRE - BALLER of the sitdown movement is the title acquired by Miss Margaret Lewis, 18, Friendship College student. She was among 72 arrested in February, 1960. Since that time she has participated in over 20 demonstrations. "Eventually, something has got to give," she says.

Vows FEPC aid

CHICAGO — (AMP) — Illinois Governor Otto Kerner reaffirmed his pledge to support fair employment practices legislation last week. He echoed his campaign pledge in a conference with the state committee for Equal Job Opportunities. Present was Edwin C. Berry, Urban League executive.

3rd Civil Rights conference slated

WASHINGTON — The Federal Civil Rights Commission will holds a two-day conference on problems involving school desegregation on Feb. 25 and 26 at Williamsburg, Va.

The meeting is called the third conference on problems of schools in transition from the "educator's viewpoint." Previous meetings were held in Nashville and Gatlinburg, Tenn.

ETHIOPIA GETS LOAN

WASHINGTON — Ethiopia has received a $19,500,000 loan from the U.S. to build or improve five major and 22 minor airports. An American firm will supervise the construction.

Food reasonably clean and edible, jailed girls say

ROCK HILL, S.C. —The menus for the first two days of their confinement at the York County Jail were related by Misses Diane J. Nash and Ruby D. Smith as follows:

Wednesday

Breakfast, biscuits, syrup, piece of meat, coffee (always with sugar or milk); lunch, green beans, corn buscuits; dinner, buttermilk and cornbread.

Thursday

Breakfast, black coffee, biscuits, grits, gravy, piece of meat; lunch, greens, potatoes, biscuits; dinner, buttermilk and corn bread.

The girls said the food is served under reasonably clean conditions and is edible.

'Dear Mom And Dad' letter o sitdowner about to be jaile

ROCK HILL, S.C. — One of the most interesting expressions to date from a student involved in the sitdown movement undoubtedly is the letter written by a member of the Rock Hill Nine.

The youth wrote the letter to his parents prior to taking part in a demonstration which resulted in his being sent to jail.

The missive is a classic summary of the psychology of the sitdowners. It was written by Clarence Graham of 416 Bynum Ave.

Letter follows:

Dear Mom and Dad:

By the time you read this, I suppose you both will be upset and probably angry, but I hope not. I couldn't tell you this morning. I wanted to, but just didn't know how.

I want you to know that this is something that I really and truly want to. I just have to. I want you both to be proud of me, not angry. Try to understand that what I'm doing is right, not like going to jail for a crime — stealing, killing, etc., but we're going for the betterment of all colored people.

You must realize it's time. I mean some decisions for myself now. After all, I'm almost grown and I do want both to try and understand this is something that I've thought about very seriously.

Really, I just couldn't be at ease with the rest of my friends and classmates there and my knowing I should be there too. So try to see things my way and give us, the younger generation, a chance to prove ourselves, please. And most of all, don't worry. Pray for us.

Your son, Clarence.

Mixed pickets make second showing in midtown Rock Hill

ROCK HILL, S.C.— The second appearance of mixed pickets appeared here Saturday when Friendship College students were joined by a group of four-youngsters from Washington, D.C.

The white students were Miss Joan Trumpower, Department of Agriculture, and Paul Detrich also, George Hackley, Maryland University, and Frank Hunt, reporter of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN.

The first appearance of a white person among the pickets occurred here two weeks ago when Ed Haan of Nashville, Tenn., joined a group which came here from Tennessee State College.

THEY GOT LETTER — These are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Graham, who received the "Dear Mom and Dad" letter from their son, Clarence. (See letter above). Asked her reaction, Mrs. Graham said: "Just as any mother would feel. I was hurt."

BRAVED HECKLERS — Ed Haan of Nashville, Tenn., former student at Vanderbilt University, was among supporters who came to Rock Hill picket stores. His presence brought a storm of verbal abuse from white spectators.

PRISON VISITORS—Shown are a portion of approximately 500 students, parents and supporters who visited the prison camp where 11 students are confined. The state police officer was one of about 100 on hand, under command of Chief Pete Strom of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

AFRO Staff Photos by Sam Hoskins

PORTION OF estimated 100 highway patrol cars on duty when the second Caravan went to the York County prison camp. In addition to cars shown, other vehicles were stationed at strategic points along 15 miles of highway. Also a state police loudspeaker air patrol plane circled overhead.

END OF MILE WALK — Although ample parking space was available, visitors to prison camp were not permitted to park on grounds and were forced to go over a mile beyond prison and walk back. At end of walk they found a bottleneck at gate. Consequently about half the visitors were unable to see imprisoned students.

Frontiers critical of Grady's study group

Mayor J. Harold Grady said this week that "ability and experience" were the determining factors in his selection of a committee to recommend reforms in the city's merit system laws.

The Mayor's statement came as a result of a critical telegram from the Frontiers Club, questioning the exclusion of organized labor representatives and colored citizens from the committee.

The telgram read:

"This organization is disturbed to find that your committee to study the civil service merit system does not expose you to the viewpoint of two groups which make up a large portion of the city's employees, namely organized labor and colored citizens."

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THE MAYOR gave this answer:

"The Commission to study revision of the Charter provisions relating to the civil service was appointed solely on the basis of ability and experience.

"It will consider and give full recognition to the views of all, and the suggestions of any groups within the city government, or out of it, will be received by the members of the Commission.

"Then the Commission will be exposed to the viewpoint of the groups mentioned by the Frontiers Club — and to the viewpoint of any individual or group which wishes to be heard."

116 firms to be honored

Employees of 116 firms in the Baltimore Metropolitan area will be honored for their support of the 1960 campaign when the Community Chest - Red Cross - United Appeal holds its Outstanding Citizenship awards Dinner on March 6 at the Sheraton-Belvedere Hotel.

The silver plaque is awarded if 90 per cent or more of employees participate and give a least a minimum gift of four hours pay.

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Baltimore, Maryland

'Help! I've been robbed—again!'

James M. Shifflett, 34, of Woodstock, Md., a delivery man for a potato chip company should have stayed in bed Tuesday.

It wouldn't have been a bad idea had he remained in bed on Wednesday either for the same reason why.

On Tuesday while Mr. Shifflett was making a delivery at Baltimore and Gilmor Sts., a woman jumped into his truck declared "this is a stick-up" and made off with $120.

Wednesday morning after making a delivery at Harlem and Carrollton Aves., Shiffett stopped to use a telephone.

While talking, someone slipped up from behind snatched $15 from his pocket and escaped.

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THE IRONY of theft No. 2 was that Shiffleit was talking to a detective about the previous robbery at the time.

His comment to the officer on the other end of the line was: "I've been robbed — Again."

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IN WESTERN POLICE Court Thursday morning, two youths were charged with larceny of the $15 from Mr. Shiffleit.

Larry Reid, 18, of the unit block Wheeler Ave., was sentenced to three months in the House of Correction and Robert Pierson, 16, at the 2200 block W. Fayette St., was given six months.

CIG urge confab

The Civic Interest Group has requested a conference with the proprietors of the Schrieber Brothers' supermarket at Lexington and Eutaw Sts., to discuss hiring of colored workers.

Pointing out that 85 per cent of the store's customers are colored, the student group decries the fact that Schrieber's employs no colored workers in "prominent positions."

The CIG, which has protested discrimination in all areas of city life, told the proprietors "We are interested in learning what you plan to do about this situation."

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IN THE letter, dated Feb 20, students praised the proprietors, Penn Fruit Company, Inc., for the hiring policies of the Mondawmin market.

Declaring they are deeply "concerned with the problem of discrimination in all area," CIGers urged store representatives to meet with them at the earliest convenience.

Copies of the letter were also sent to:

Dr. Furman L. Templeton, executive director, Baltimore Urban League; Douglas Sands executive secretary, Maryland Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations; and Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, president, NAACP.

The student group is currently staging picket and sit-in demonstrations at restaurants using a segregated service policy. These demonstrations began in Baltimore early last March.

Feeling ill, gets medicine then dies

Hilda Brown, 53 of 1756 Swann St., NW, reported to police that her husband, Franklin Brown, 62, complained to her that he was ill, at which time she gave him a popular patent medicine.

Later she administered a popular magnesia base medicant, and then some hot tea.

At this time Mr. Brown gasped into unconsciousness.

He was taken to D. C. General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

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Wiseman named to election board

J. Alexander Wiseman, professor at Bowie State Teachers College, has been named to the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Mr. Wiseman, Republican minority board member was elected by City Council Monday.

Mr. Wiseman is the first of his race to serve on the board here.

He was nominated by city Councilman T. Norwood Brown and Roscoe Parker, and recommended by the city Republican central committee.

The Democratic members of this board are Mrs. Ida Burch, and Arnold Gay.

The Greens home

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Green, 3217 Leighton Ave., return home from the hospital today (Friday.)

Mr. Green, who underwent operation at Fort Howard Hospital on Feb. 3, has been employed at Ft. Meade for 18 years.

Mrs. Green (Roberta) who has been employed at Ft. Meade for 12 years, is returning home from Provident Hospital where their son, Samuel Anthony was born Feb. 18.

The Greens are members of the Gospel Tabernacle, Walbrook and Rosedale, where the Rev. Tapscott is pastor.

They have three other children; Michael, Melvin Jr., and Laverne.

OAKLAND, Calif. — The secretary - treasurer of the Dining Car Cooks and Waiters Local 456, Tom Anderson, has been elected second vice president of the executive board of the Alameda County Central Labor Council — marking the first time a member of his race was so honored.

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Bonny's Shoes—1628 Pennsylvania Ave.
Crown Loan Office—1711 Pennsylvania Ave.
Fashion Fair—1729 Pennsylvania Ave.
Gibson Shop—1727 Pennsylvania Ave.
Hendins—1725 Pennsylvania Ave.
Kelley's—1719 Pennsylvania Ave.
King Furniture—1618 Pennsylvania Ave.
Lee's Surplus—1640 Pennsylvania Ave.
Levie's Shoes—1809 Pennsylvania Ave.
Livingston's—1630 Pennsylvania Ave.
Morgan's Jewelry—1809 Pennsylvania Ave.
Northwestern Loan Office—1701 Penna. Ave.
Rodman Hat Co.—1523 Pennsylvania Ave.
Silverman's Dept. Store—1713 Pennsylvania Ave.
Simpson's Loan Office—1637 Pennsylvania Ave.
Smitty's Shoe Store—1731 Pennsylvania Ave.
Sunny's Surplus—Penna. and Wilson
Tommy Tucker Stores—1707 Pennsylvania Ave.
LAFAYETTE MARKET
Covington's Poultry
Hendler's Poultry
Lafayette Market Grocers
Edward H. Meinl
Gordon E. Meinl
Waskey's Quality Meats
A. M. Stern
Zaben's Poultry
Sam J. Valencia

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ROBIN HOOD CAPS 17c
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TOPCOATS – SUITS $2.00

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