

Apartheid In America

BY HOLLY HOBBS

Apartheid - the epitome of racism in our world today. Where a white minority rules a black majority, allowing no black representation what-so-ever. Where racial segregation is strictly adhered to. Where blacks are forced to live in the agriculturally poorest sections of South Africa. Where it is difficult for a native African to find work in the white cities; and if s/he does, a pass is required and s/he is often separated from his/her spouse indefinitely. Americans, and the world, many actively protesting, find this system abhorrent.

America is 100 years away from such a prejudice government; slavery has been abolished, many say. What an ignorant belief! The only similarity between slavery in the American South and Apartheid in South Africa is the oppression of one race by another. Black South Africans are paid for their labor (albeit meager wages); Black South Africans are not torn away from their families through slave auctions (although those who work in white cities are separated from their families).

At very best, America is but 20-yes, twenty - years away from South Africa's tragedy today. While blacks and whites lived together, neighborhoods, factories, restaurants and schools were strictly segregated.

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in the schools must end. Greensboro was the first city in the South to announce that it would comply with this decision.

Although token desegregation began in Greensboro in 1957, this ruling was largely ignored. One black student who attended a black school six miles from his home, applied for admission to an all-white school within walking distance of his home. His request was denied. Other black students in all-white schools were harassed - one student was spat upon and had eggs thrown at her, and

rocks were often thrown through the windows of her home. One all-white high school in Greensboro, after black parents took it to court asking for desegregation, transferred every one of its white students, then allowed the transfer of 450 black students into it. Even Guilford College, Quakerly devoted to every form of equality, admitted Africans ("International" students) but no Afro-Americans.

On February 1, 1960, four black students from A&T began a sit-in at Woolworth's in downtown Greensboro, turning the U.S. upside down. This happened six years after the Supreme Court ruling, and took 15 more years to erase conspicuous segregation and prejudice.

Thank God, many readers may sigh, it is over with. Not by a long shot. Racism still abounds in America, in the South, and in this community. I site two examples to prove my point.

First, a black acquaintance of mine worked for one of the largest companies in North Carolina. He was assigned to his job as an on-the-job trainee with four other blacks and seven whites. Two of the five blacks had worked on this job for many years. Two whites were rookies like my friend. Within the two years of his work, my friend and the two other blacks were written up for every possible mistake, even while on-the-job training. My friend and one other black were fired a month ago.

Coincidence or prejudice? Maybe my friend did make alot of errors. However, I know his character, and he is a hard and good worker. Also, only rookie blacks were fired; no rookie whites. Incidents such as this happen all over America. Incidents that are only conspicuously racist to the victims involved. It is unfortunate that this case would never stand up in court.

My second example occurred at Guilford on October 31, when Dr. Joseph, a black professor spoke on racism to the freshmen during

an IDS lecture. Unfortunately, I was not there. But this black women caused an uproar. For once, Guilford students became livid, and expressed their anger at this woman's point of view. One faculty member stood up and cried, "Madame, you are arrogant!" The freshman class, largely white, Dr. Joseph's reply in effect said, "You are all racist! Supporting a white man against what I am saying!"

At 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery, Dr. Joseph spoke again. I was privileged to hear the last half-hour of the discussion. One white student in effect said, "My best friend is black, and it never ovurs to me. I don't consider her black." No?! Well, she is black!

Looking at blacks, conforming them to white ideals, is just as racist as out-right prejudice is! Afro-Ameicans' heritage is of a different root than the majority WASP Americans' heritage is. To truly integrate is to recognize blacks' separate culture as their culture, while allowing them true equality at the same time. And true equality comes when blacks are not looked upon in white terms, when quotas are no longer filled (which is also just as racist as out-right prejudice). When each person - black, white; female, male; Jew, Christian; homo- and heterosexuals - is accepted on equal terms, for their own qualities, is when true equality will exist.

After hearing Dr. Joseph speak for half an hour and never having met her, I have intense respect for this woman. Perhaps one day I will be "radical" and well informed enough to evoke such controversy, feeling and stimulation of thought. For without profound searching as this, true equality cannot exist.

This leads me to the title of my editorial: How different is Apartheid, in its purest form, from American society today?

Information on the City of Greensboro was taken from Civilites and Civil Rights, by William Chaffe.

Letters To The Editor

Quaker Thanks

Dear Editor:

Last year, Tom Risser set an amazing precedent at Guilford College. He, and his staff, had the desire and the motivation to produce literally the best yearbook this college had ever seen. His goal was accomplished; however, it was reached only through Guilford students volunteering countless thousands of hours running around campus gathering information, writing copy, taking photographs, laying out pages, and doing the hundreds of other tasks which must be done to produce a yearbook of the highest quality.

Remember that the Quaker is about and for you, the Guilford College student, and that if we can't get anyone's picture or any of the other things we need to create a yearbook of the same quality as last year's, there won't be a book that anyone is proud of.

Also remember that the quality of the Quaker reflects not only on the yearbook staff, but on the entire Guilford community. The staff of the 1986 Quaker would greatly appreciate as much cooperation as possible from the students of Guilford in helping us to produce the best yearbook ever.

Andrew Stuart

Disturbed

There is hardly a student to whom I, and the rest of the Quaker staff, have spoken who has not expressed that he/she would like for the newly-established tradition of having a quality yearbook at Guilford to continue. Although the officers and staff of the yearbook are willing to continue the trend, we are not able to do the job without some help and cooperation from the students. You can help by doing the following things: please sign up to have your photograph taken for the signed up for a time, please show up at that time to have the picture taken; if you are a senior, please turn in your Senior Spec Sheet by November 20. These are three easy thing which the students of Guilford can do to help the yearbook staff.

The library no longer represents a bastion of academic excellence, but a prison where one is constantly subject to the rules of the warden. On weekends, a time when one struggles for academic motivation, a woman cursed by a legalistic mentality, haunts the library. She roams the stacks and the study room, in plight of stomping out any half-broken rule, and in so doing, plagues the student with a fear of incompliance. One can

not study within her "hellish" domain, for she must constantly worry about his/her behavior. The library witch even invents rules when she can find no broken behavior to curse. If one occasions to rest his/her feet upon furniture or study in a peculiar manner, she enters here crazy tantrum and with a schizophrenic ideal for excellence, disturbs the students and defies the definition of a library a place of study.

Disturbed
Brad Chance

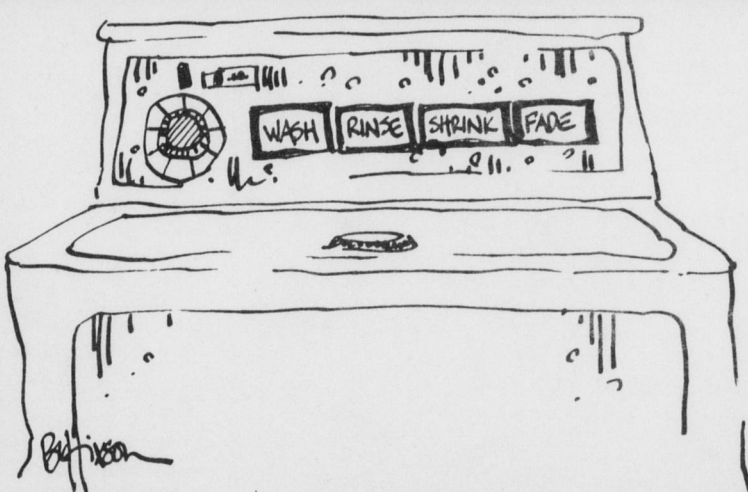
Also, if you are able to spend even a very small amount of time writing or typing copy or doing any other task, please come to a Monday evening yearbook meeting in the Publications Suite and see what the Quaker is all about.

Drinking Problem?

BY HOLLY HOBBS

Mary Hobbs dorm had a Halloween party on November 1st. Although there were problems with the keg tap, it seemed to be going well, until some male Guilford students started to stir things up. They began by taking the light bulb covers, which resembled jars, and drank out of them. Then they proceeded to smash them on the floor and ground. One was thrown through a window. Three chairs were broken.

And so I ask the rhetorical question: When will young men at college stop acting like pubescent boys after a drinking session and start respecting other's property? The violence at this party caused alot of monetary damage, of which either the dorm or the college must pay. It is of the editor's strong opinion that the guilty pubescents should admit to their childish behavior and pay for their damage caused to the dorm. Anything short of that is a violation of the Honor Code.



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