

Colleges Speak Out On The Issue Of School Desegregation

How do you feel about integration? As an enlightening reminder that there are many questions to be considered in formulating an opinion the Salemite presents a survey taken by the Associated Collegiate Press and an editorial reprinted from another college paper dealing with the issue.

Minneapolis — (ACP) — In general, the policy of our federal government has been one of "hands off" in relation to school desegregation problems involving violence, disorder, etc. The administration prefers to leave law enforcement to local government, as indicated by the use of state police and/or state guardsmen in Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas and other spots.

When the desegregation issue was at its height in September there was some talk of the use of federal troops to preserve order. Shortly thereafter Associated Collegiate Press attempted to get collegiate opinion on the issue by asking the following question of a representative national cross-section of college students:

Do you feel that the federal government is handling the school desegregation problem properly? The results:

	Men	Women	Total
Yes	38%	33%	36%

Beyond

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The replacement for Rex Harrison in *My Fair Lady* is a Mr. Edward Mulhare from across the ocean. Mr. Mulhare is a 34 year old, tall Irishman with wavy hair who has performed on the Irish and English stage and has taken the role of Henry Higgins in four different productions of *Pygmalion*, the mother play of *My Fair Lady*. It is gratifying to note that Mr. Mulhare realizes that to take Rex's place, he had "better be good."

Did you know that on March 31st C. B. S. is producing one of the most colossal spectacles in its television history? It's *Cinderella*, especially written by Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein. The leading lady? *My Fair Lady* herself, Miss Julie Andrews!

No	51%	53%	52%
Undecided	11%	14%	12%

Students thinking the federal government is not handling the problem properly are generally split into two camps, those believing the government is moving too fast and forcing the issue, and those feeling the government is dragging its feet and avoiding its duty.

Some believe the problem should be left to the states, while others feel education is the answer.

"We should have a more gradual process" is the opinion of a sophomore at South Georgia College (Douglas), while a freshman at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (San Francisco) feels the answer is "evolution, not revolution."

"It should be done on a slower, more organized basis" says a freshman coed at Syracuse University (Syracuse, N. Y.).

And a Wake Forest College (Winston-Salem, N. C.) senior states: "It should have started more slowly—by educating the nation."

The other side of the argument is represented by a freshman at the University of Denver (Denver, Colorado) who says: "The federal government is not taking a firm stand in upholding the Supreme Court decision," while a University of Maryland (College Park, Md.) junior states bluntly: "There should be more enforcement."

"States rights" is championed by a junior coed at Wake Forest College who feels the issue should "be left up to the state to decide." And her opinion is seconded by a freshman coed at Tyler Junior College (Tyler, Texas) who says: "I think it should be handled locally."

Students who feel the federal government is handling the problem properly generally reflects the opinion of a Yakima Valley Junior College (Yakima, Wash.) sophomore who says: "They're doing as good as they can."

Some students, however, comment that the "slow way" is the proper way. An Ohio University (Athens) sophomore states: "It is a hard thing to switch from segregation to desegregation. It is a slow process and I think it is being a

well handled." But a Wake Forest College junior expresses it this way: "You can't get it all done in a year."

Some students "OK" the government stand of nonintervention with the belief that "It is best to leave it up to the individual states," as a junior coed at the Bernard Bauch School of Business, City College of New York, puts it. A junior attending Mississippi College (Clinton) states: "Pressure groups should keep 'hands off.' More local discretion is needed."

Other students support the government's position for other reasons. A junior at Syracuse University feels the government is proceeding properly on a "complex jurisdictional problem." A Wake Forest College senior thinks the federal government is doing all right but the "State government is doing a lousy job."

And a Southeastern State College (Durant, Okla.) freshman defends the government position by noting that "The younger generation accepts desegregation while the older generation is doing the opposing."

Students undecided on the issue can pretty well be lumped under the statement of a freshman at the College of Steubenville (Steubenville, Ohio): "I don't know all the facts."

But a University of Maryland graduate student feels that no one can analyze the problem now. "Only time will tell."

There are times when the North is a little too selfrighteous in its condemnation of segregation in the South. That view is expressed in the following editorial, included in the St. John's University Record, published at Collegeville, Minnesota:

The North has long considered itself the defender of the ideals of democracy, and the rights of the individual in regard to the racial segregation problem. The recent verdict of the Supreme Court concerning integration in education has given the Yankee superiority mentality an added shot in the arm. Consider this problem faced by a North Carolina state college:

Two Negro girls were admitted to the college in an attempt to break the segregation barrier. The school as a whole did not merely tolerate the two girls, but accepted them wholeheartedly as fellow students.

Needless to say, the two girls received great publicity through newspapers, magazines and other mediums of communication. However, and this is the problem, the school newspaper is unable to print this story of successful integration. The paper fears the state legislature of North Carolina, and has reason to.

The state legislature of North Carolina is empowered to stop state aid to state-supported colleges. This legislature is notably pro-segregationist. The faculty and students fear repercussions if the school newspaper carries the story.

The paper could be pressured into non-existence, state aid to the college could be stopped, or perhaps, as one southern student remarked, "The college would be closed down and the buildings sold to the cotton mills."

The problem is not unique. In a recent college press conference in Cleveland, several editors of southern college newspapers expressed similar problems. They asked simply, "What can we do?"

A multitude of indignant, Northern defenders of democracy will cry, "Print the story. You have an obligation to." One editor of a northern college newspaper, thoroughly indoctrinated in Yankee self-righteousness, did just that. He was not alone in his sentiments.

However strongly one may feel that segregation and discrimination is morally and socially wrong, it must be realized that a Supreme Court decision alone cannot change a mentality developed through generations.

The solution of the problem lies not in dictating our way of life to them. Thumping our Yankee chests proudly and pointing to the South as Un-Christian and undemocratic will only deepen the gap of resentment between north and south. The feeling of Yankee supremacy is as much detested by the South as the attitude of white supremacy is deplored by the North.

The solution lies in attempting to understand the southern mentality and way of life. It requires a serious and sympathetic study of the problems they face.

Until we are ready to understand their difficulties, the North will remain the blundering and ineffectual ambassador of ill will to the South that it has been in the past.



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