

Time 'Mag' Sees Young Southern Negro As New Leader In Civil Rights

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The slumbering 'old South' has been awakened by a new voice in its midst. The voice is that of a young 'new Negro.'

He is articulate, knowing and unafraid.

This is the new Negro with whom the South will have to come to terms, correspondent Spencer Davidson writes in this week's (March 21) issue of Time Magazine.

Davidson reports on the "brand-new look" of the passive resistance movement in all 11 states and more

than 48 cities in the Deep South, and, he observes:

LEADING IN FIGHT

"The young Negro, particularly the young college Negro, is now leading the battle for equal rights. And unless he is tossed into jail and onto a road gang, he is going to lead the battle for a long time to come.

"There are many reasons. For one, the times are in his favor; the Administration is battling for his rights (and his vote) energetically and he knows it. But he intends to do something about it himself, and he can."

Davidson further observes: "Today's young Negro is a far cry from his grandfather and father." This is from a white Southerner interviewed. "They were afraid to do anything" because the white man had absolute control of their minds.

YOUNG NEGRO UNAFRAID

"Today's students," the same southerner declared, "have never had a chance to learn that fear. They have travelled more, had more contact with the world. They aren't afraid any more."

Explaining the new young Negro's lack of fear of the white man in his college town, the writer holds that the student away from home is not open, or liable to local retribution. He has a degree of economic freedom.

Interviewed by the Time correspondent, Bernard Lee, 24, one of the nine expelled from Montgomi-

ery's Alabama State College for his part in sit-down demonstrations, said:

WILL BE SERVED

"My grandfather had only prayer to help him. I have prayer and education. We have been educated until we cannot adjust to the Southern way of life. We have to move, to work with the white man until we become not a minority but a part of the whole."

Added Leon Rice, another expelled student: "Perhaps we deserve more than our parents did because we have been more educated. As soon as they serve us, and we've finished eating, then we'll move across the street and start on the public library."

YOUTH DEMANDS ANSWERS

"As in Georgia, Mississippi and Virginia, which hastily passed harsh anti-trespassing laws after the outbreak of sit-ins," Davidson points out the "heavy-handed justice and tactics with which police authorities in Montgomery responded.

An economic boycott along the lines of the one which broke bus segregation a few years ago, would invite strong white retaliation, the observer feels. He concludes, however:

"Yet short of closing every Negro college, the South cannot crush the challenge posed by young Negro college men and women. The old answers will not silence the new spokesmen."