

A Change of Heart

The question of racial discrimination in college town barber shops is not one which is peculiar to State College. At the present time, legal action has been introduced at Michigan State College to compel East Lansing barbers to cut the hair of Negro students. The students and faculty charged violation of the Diggs Act, a state statute designed to protect the civil rights of Negroes.

Unfortunately, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a watered-down statute which prevents racial discrimination in public and quasi-public institutions, but makes no mention of barber shops. The local faculty and student groups, which have protested State College barbers' action, searched for a possible legal way to prevent such action but were advised by the district attorney that it was not against the laws of Pennsylvania to discriminate in barber shops.

Perhaps it is significant that several months ago the Pennsylvania House Labor Committee met without prior notice, other than a call from the speaker to meet the Governor, and by a secret vote of 17 to 8 killed Fair Employment Practice Legislation.

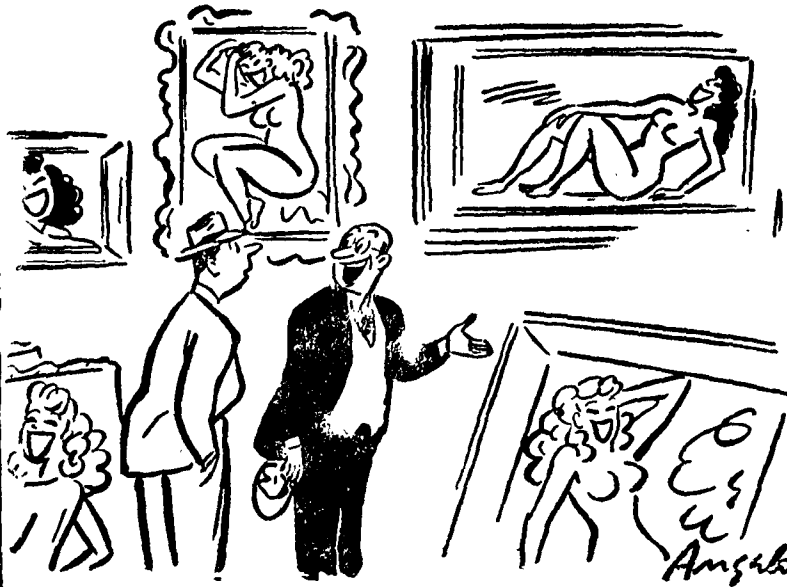
Of course, other schools have found and taken action against discrimination when there was no recourse to law. For example, after a recent investigation by the Student Senate at Ohio State, the barber shop at the newly-erected Union building is now required to give equal service to all patrons. At Williams College, after all other methods had failed, a boycott of the barber shops was called and proved successful.

A Collegian reporter recently interviewed the local barbers and discovered that some of them claimed Negroes' hair was too difficult to cut, and also was hard on the equipment. We asked the barbers at the Wisconsin Union if this was the case and they declared that it was untrue. Another local barber stated, "I am only afraid that a Colored person will be insulted by a White customer in my shop. I feel we must save the Negro this embarrassment."

The Daily Collegian feels that this situation will not arise in State College.

The Daily Collegian also feels that a boycott must not be resorted to until every other means of action has been attempted. We suggest that students and faculty who get their haircuts in town tell their barbers that they would not object to having Negroes sitting in the next chair.

Some individuals think that a change of heart and not legislation of judicial intervention is the solution for prejudice. They overlook, however, the inter-relationship of the two. As Negro Congressman A. Clayton Powell pointed out recently, Americans are for the most part a law-abiding people, and a change in the laws will be one factor tending to make people change their actions.



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"Jacques is the wittiest artist in New York"

My Twisted Tale

By Dave Adelman

A student we know was telling a group of other students, yesterday, that he didn't see why there had to be cheerleaders at a basketball game.

"It's too fast for that kind of thing," the student said. "If you turn your neighbor to point out that Biery is hot tonight, suddenly Simon is stealing the ball, and you've missed it. Yet the nice thing about being a spectator is the opportunity to play expert, and usually the only chance you get for sideline umpiring at a basketball game comes during a time out."

A Complex Develops

But just as you're about to tell your neighbor that Batnick was hacked, and just as he is on the point of commenting that the referee has apparently swallowed his whistle, two or three determined looking cheerleaders dash out on the floor. A short desultory cheer ensues, at the end of which the team doesn't look particularly rejuvenated, and play is resumed. Your neighbor's and your valuable observations have been lost, and in place of them you both have a large frustration that might conceivably develop into a dangerous complex.

"At a football game," the student said. "I admit that the situation is different. Scoring plays take longer to materialize, and it is feasible that cheerleaders could whip a team into a state of excitement that would make them a better fighting machine. 'In basketball,' he said, 'I can't see it.'"

Horrified expressions swept the features of all the student's hearers, and after a short space of time one of them, visibly moved, said, "But there have always been cheerleaders at basketball games."

A Tradition

A chorus of approval followed this statement. "It's a tradition," someone else said, and received the same response.

The first student listened to these remarks and nodded his head. "I suppose you're right," he said. "I once heard about a guy who tried something new at a college. They told him he was crazy to try it; that things had always been done a certain way and that because of this, anything else was wrong. But he was stubborn. He used a campus auditorium to promote the campaign of a candidate for public office. No sooner had he done so, than all around the town was heard this strange sound. It went 'thud! thud! thud-thud!'"

"What was it?" one of the student's white-faced listeners ask-

Editor's Mailcall

'Down-to-the-Ears' Club

TO THE EDITOR: While CORE's advertisements and students' discussions all agree that the practice of discrimination against Negroes by State College barbers is unfair, might I propose something which will really wake these boys from their deep sleep?

If CORE's latest plea goes unheeded by the barbers, why not start a mass protest simply by refusing to patronize these uncooperative and undemocratic "Americans"? If they must learn through experience, let's make this one that they won't forget in a hurry.

I feel that CORE should inform the student body as to how this latest proposal was accepted, so that this movement may get under way at the earliest possible date.

Here's for a down-to-the-ears club.
—David Hasler.

Barber Shop Boycott

TO THE EDITOR: CORE must be given a vote of thanks for finally bringing into the open the disgusting Jim Crow policy now existing in the State College barber shops where the Negroes in this town are being treated as second class citizens.

But let's be careful that we don't allow this self-criticism to go enough. Too often we point our fingers at ourselves and consider this act sufficient. Let's do something about it!

The barber in yesterday's ad maintained he could not cut the Negroes' hair unless the other barbers would. If logic will not succeed, let's convince them in the only way left.

Let's boycott the shops! There are a number of students qualified to cut hair. Let's not perpetuate this shame of patronizing shops which discriminate against fellow Americans.
—Saul Levinson.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, February 19
LAKONIDES, WRA room, WH. 6:30 p.m.
NEWMAN Club Discussion Group, rectory, 7 p.m.
FORESTRY Society, 105 Forestry, 7:30 p.m.
DAIRY Science Club, 117 Dairy Bldg., 7 p.m.
CHRISTIAN Science Organization, 200 CH, 7:30 p.m.
PI Tau Sigma, 105 ME, 7 p.m.
IRC Ath Lounge, 7:30 p.m.
IFC, 405 Old Main, 7:15 p.m.
SDA, 409 Old Main, 8:30 p.m.

At the Movies
CATHAUM—Private Lives of Henry VIII.
STATE—If Winter Comes.
NITTANY—Diamond Horseshoe.
College Hospital
Admitted Wednesday: Ruth Taub, Joan Lutz.

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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