

The Tougaloo OCCASIONAL RIPPLE

VOLUME I

Friday, May 19, 1967

Number 37

Strangely enough, there's not much else scheduled this weekend.

The Pyramid Club is (I think) sponsoring a dance this Saturday night in the gym, beginning at 7:30 p. m.

Dr. Pulliam found a stray adding-machine-cover during some recent windy weather. If you're missing same, you could check in the Natural Science Office, upstairs Kincheloe.

Here is an anonymous poem that was first published before World War I.

I LOVE MY FLAG

I love my flag, I do, I do
Which floats upon the breeze.
I also love my arms and legs
and neck and nose and knees.
One little shell might spoil them all
or give them such a twist
They would be of no use to me
I guess I won't enlist.

I love my country, yes, I do;
I hope her folks do well.
Without our arms and legs and things
I think we'd look like hell.
Young men with faces half shot off
Are unfit to be kissed:
I've read in books it spoils their looks
I guess I won't enlist.

Do you think it has been worthwhile to have a frequent, all-campus newspaper? Have you been irritated at errors, omissions, mistakes? (I have.) Do you think we should try it again next year? If so, would you like to be a reporter for the Ripple next year (or semester)? If the Ripple continues, it should have more than one person's opinions in it. There should be probably three or four special reporters (Sports, Greeks and Social Life, Music and Drama, Administration, and Community Activities are some of the various areas a reporter could choose to cover.) Opinions would be welcomed from all students and faculty, just as this year, and maybe we could even pry some articles out of an administrator or two! Well, you see I'm really interested in keeping going with this, so if you are curious about what would be involved in being a reporter, come and talk to me sometime before finals are over. We'll see what works out.

GOLF TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Tougaloo trio of John Pleasant, Ephram Faggett, and James Jackson captured the team trophy at the Gulf Coast Conference Championships played on two different Little Rock courses. Pleasant finished second to Dennis Detrig of Dillard for the individual title. Faggett and Jackson were close behind in third and fourth places.

TRACK TEAM SURPRISES

Despite taking only seven men to Little Rock last weekend, the Tougaloo Track Team managed a surprising third place finish in the Gulf Coast Conference Championships. All seven participants scored points for the Bulldogs, led by Edward Alexander, who took second in the 800 (1:55.8), third in the quarter (49.0) and led off on the third place mile relay team.

Kenneth Turnipseed ran a sparkling 48.9 quarter-mile and anchored the mile relay, while Robert Watson and Anthony Mitchell had the fastest times in the mile relay. Watson also came through with Tougaloo's only individual win when he captured the high-jump with a leap of six feet. James Moore took second place in the high-jump (five feet, 10 inches), while Edgar Henry won a second place medal in the pole vault by clearing 10 feet, 6 inches. Henry then barely missed at 11 feet. David Hill added a point by leaping more than 21 feet in the broad jump, and barely missed qualifying in the 100 yard dash.

TENNIS TEAM FALTERS

After playing well in Pine Bluff week before last, the tennis team just couldn't get untracked in Little Rock, and failed to win a match in the Conference Tournament. Everett Sanders, Roy Patton and Glencie Cotton were all eliminated in first round action. The doubles team of Sanders and Patton played well in their first round match, but were beaten by Dillard 6-4, 6-3.

No, don't get the idea you should ever look directly at an eclipse of the sun. You should use some sort of vision device, such as looking through completely exposed (black) photographic film, or making your own "camera" by holding two pieces of paper thusly: punch a small hole in the top sheet of paper, and let the image or "picture" of the eclipse show on the second sheet of paper.



The injustices and uncertainties are real, real, real. The facts that Ben Brown was a worker for Delta Ministry and COFO, that he was shot fatally in the back and head while others were unhurt or shot in the leg, that he was coming out of a cafe with a plate of food in his hand... the attitudes of white policemen etc, toward any Negro at all, the derision of some Negro people in power like apparently Patrolman Weathersby, the complete farce of a legal structure for the mutual regulation of Miss. citizens' activities all add to immense multi-directional distrust and frustration.

Well, we've had a busy, confusing, destructive week. The best that I can do here is to give a bare outline of the fact and events as I see them, with my overt opinions in parenthesis.

Last Wednesday night Tougaloo students learned of a disturbance between Jackson State College students and the police of Jackson: and hurriedly, without any authorization, went in a college bus to the scene. The bus did return to the scene a second time with authorization, to finish bringing students back to campus about 3:00 a. m.

Thursday night a few Tougaloo students were at Jackson State, in private cars. This was the night Ben Brown was killed, and the first night of curfew.

Friday in Chapel, Student Government President Connie Slaughter urged Tougaloo students to join the protest march to the city hall; and she discussed transportation, individual responsibility, and how she viewed our role. She voiced her intent to be responsible for getting students safely there and back.

After the meeting, she and Albert Garner asked the Business Manager, Mr. Claytor, if the college bus might be authorized for this purpose; he denied it on the basis of previous college policy, they concurred in the decision, and people went to the march in private cars.

The march ended later than expected, and the necessity of getting everybody out of the 10:00 p. m. curfew area approached panic. Connie and Bennie Thompson returned to campus, were unsuccessful in trying to obtain emergency authorization for the bus, and took it anyway, since existing private cars in the area were insufficient to carry everybody out simultaneously. (Ed. Note: I suggest that there were several apparently unexplored alternatives which would have precluded taking the bus if used, like: ferrying people in cars to some point safely outside the curfew area, from which they could get back to Tougaloo more leisurely; calling cabs; walking out of the area; not returning to that area from the march but rather waiting outside it while those people with cars parked inside could get them and begin trips back to Tougaloo; designating one or two people not to march but remain behind to arrange transportation home, etc.) The bus was driven to the scene by Bennie Thompson, and about a dozen people were brought home in it. Approximately five cars had been dispatched from campus; those which were not encountered en route returned back empty.

Then Saturday there was a big party and a dance on campus, and Sunday we had tornado warnings, and Monday it was business as usual. At the regular Administrative Council meeting Monday, President Owens called a meeting of the Discipline Review Committee to hear the complaint brought by the business manager about unauthorized use of the college bus.

A group of over 100 students and faculty had signed a statement of equal guilt in the use of the bus, and Student Judiciary met at 4:30 p. m. to hear this case, in which they recommended no action be taken.

The Discipline Review Committee met at 6:00 p. m. to discuss the actions of Connie and Bennie; they recommended that Connie not march in the Commencement Exercises, and that Bennie be suspended for a semester, but that the suspension be suspended. That evening there was a lengthy meeting in chapel voicing student dissent over original jurisdiction in the case.

Tuesday Connie appealed the Discipline Review findings to President Owens. He denied the appeal, and the students closed and blocked the gates to the college, preventing access and egress of all traffic. There were unsuccessful compromise talks until roughly midnight, and considerable vandalism after.

The factors of the compromise include: that Student Judiciary will regain original jurisdiction in the cases concerning Connie and Bennie (that Discipline Review retains the right to uphold or change these decisions,) and that Student Judiciary will attempt to find and bring to justice those guilty of the vandalism.

Wednesday there were more talks, and a compromise was finally reached and the gates were opened. (I personally believe that all expenses incurred in this vandalism should not be borne by the college, but possibly by the student body and any faculty members who have accepted equal guilt. This includes not only the obvious window replacements, fence repairs, bookroom damages and loss, dormitory damages, etc, but also the damaged cars outside the gates, the undelivered concrete, milk, food supplies, etc. as well.)

Thursday was Ben Brown's funeral, and a large number of Tougaloo people attended in private cars. And today finals have begun.

Now what have we learned? We had a major blow-up last Spring, minor blow-up before Christmas, and now this. We keep hearing "new start" kinds of statements. But none of these events seems to have benefitted from the last. Maybe the question would be, not what have we learned, but what was there to be learned if we had looked?

The Tougaloo Occasional Ripple, Mrs. Ann Johnson, Box 42, Tougaloo College