

SNCC NEWSLETTER

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Greenville Project
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Dear Lisa,

Well, guess I'm not too late in answering your last letter - what's a month or two between friends?

First, to answer your questions about staff. Dave is still here. Russ and Larry Brenton are working together in Hollandale. Valerie is down in Issaquena County (and part-time Sharkey County) - we only see her every other week or so. Brenton went back to Harvard for second semester - haven't heard from him since he left. In fact, when I go to staff meetings nowadays I feel lucky to recognize even a quarter of the people.

We've had a good deal of excitement here in the last couple weeks. As I may have told you before, we had been picketing at one of the mills out near Page's clinic against discriminatory hiring. Last week we tried to change our route out to the mill by walking down two blocks of white neighborhood. In the space of three days 26 of us (all the COFO staff, a couple NCC people and the rest local people) went to jail. Chief Burnley had no intention of ever arresting us (bad publicity for the great cause) but Sgt. Carson (Negro) did the initial arresting, and Burnley had to back him up. The Chief has since apologized for putting us in jail. Our trials have been removed to federal court and will probably be coming up next month. LCDC lawyers are defending us. Last week they defended Ben Perkins and Jack Loftin, who had had hot coffee spilled on them by an irate redneck whose dairy bar they were integrating. At the trial the Judge dismissed the charges against the kids and fined the owner of the dairy bar on two counts of assault and battery!

Have you found out yet whether or not you will be down here come summer? As you may have heard, COFO itself is not having a summer project - which is probably just as well since the NCC, NAACP and FDP will all be having one. What a madhouse Greenville is going to be. Do you know whether or not any of the West Coast gagg will be back this summer? Do say hi to them all for us when you see them.

All for now - write when you can.

FREEDOM,

Pat