

Alabama

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 Saturday
 Sept. 16, 2006

► BIRMINGHAM

First black student at UA accepts honor

Autherine Lucy Foster briefly became the school's first black student 50 years ago

The Associated Press

Autherine Lucy Foster is tired.

Fifty years ago she briefly became the first black person to attend the University of Alabama, and Thursday night she was honored for her role as a civil rights trailblazer.

But a lot has happened in between, from being a mother to losing old friends. The years have taken their toll.

Foster, 76, wishes she had the energy to talk to people who approach her hoping to gain insight

and inspiration. But in a rare interview with *The Birmingham News*, she said she has earned the right to a rest.

"There comes a time, I think, when you get so weary you can't be strong anymore," said Foster. "I think there's a time to be strong, and a time to stop being strong. A time to let people be, and let people say and do what they will. If you aren't strong anymore, it's right to rest."

A retired educator who lives in Lipscomb, Foster reluctantly agreed to attend an event sponsored by the Jefferson County Democratic Party honoring her efforts a half-century ago to change a segregated state.

Foster said she showed up mainly because the invitation came from Judge Helen Shores

Lee, whose father Arthur Shores was one of her attorneys.

"I think so much of her and her father. Arthur Shores was truly one of the most influential people of all those who fought for equality," said Foster.

Foster was a 26-year-old graduate of Miles College when she arrived at Alabama after the Supreme Court cleared the way for admission. The school expelled her three days later, saying it was for her own safety. The university wasn't desegregated until 1963.

Foster returned to the University of Alabama in 1991, earning a master's degree in elementary education. She and her daughter, Grazia Kungu, went through commencement exercises together in the spring of 1992.

Foster said she was saddened recently by the deaths of civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks, Vivian Malone, Coretta Scott King, UA Professor Harold Bishop and the Rev. N.H. Smith, pastor of New Pilgrim Baptist Church in Birmingham.

"I feel as though I'm losing so many of those friends," Foster said. "Mr. Smith was my schoolmate at Selma University when I studied there."

"I think, 'Well, it will be my turn soon.' But maybe not," Foster said. "None of us knows when our time will come."

Foster relies on her faith to get through rough times.

"What do you have except prayer?" Foster said. "How could I have gotten through the things I have without my faith?"



Autherine Lucy Foster is greeted by University of Alabama President Bob Witt on Thursday.

Historian testifies in school bias suit

■ The witness traced the history of blacks from their presence as slaves through the civil rights movement of the '60s

Associated Press Report

BIRMINGHAM — Attorneys representing the alumni of Alabama's two predominantly black public universities used an Alabama historian's testimony to advance their argument that the state intended to keep separate schools for blacks and whites.

Jonathan M. Thornton, an Alabama native and professor at the University of Michigan, testified Wednesday in the federal court trial of the U.S. Justice Department's lawsuit alleging vestiges of segregation remain in Alabama's higher education system. The trial, now in its second week, is expected to continue into 1990.

Mr. Thornton's testimony detailed the actions of Alabama's governors and state Board of Education members on the schooling of blacks.

In connection with the testimony, James Blacksher, attorney for the A&M and ASU alumni, contended that:

- Alabama State in Montgomery was built as the black counterpart to the University of Alabama.

- Methods the state used to distribute funds to black schools were discriminatory.

- The decision behind creating a self-perpetuating board of trustees at UA in 1901 was rooted in racism. That board remains self-perpetuating today.

- The motive behind opening Auburn University in Montgomery was to give whites a place to attend college in Montgomery without having to attend with blacks at Alabama State.

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NOVEMBER 9, 1990

U.S. District Judge Harold Murphy allowed Mr. Thornton to trace the history of blacks in the state from their presence as slaves through the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Attorneys for predominantly white state universities argued his testimony was irrelevant to the desegregation case.

Most of Alabama's governors during this time were devout segregationists, Mr. Thornton said.

The governors were presidents of the state Board of Education and the ex-officio chairmen of the UA board.

Mr. Thornton cited the role A&M and Alabama State students played in sit-ins and other efforts to force integration. He talked about Fred Gray's work as an attorney for the Montgomery Improvement Association, the group that staged the Montgomery bus boycott. Mr. Gray, an attorney for Alabama State, nodded approvingly as he listened to Mr. Thornton's testimony Wednesday.

Few objections were made to any of Mr. Thornton's testimony, but the defendants plan to cross-examine him on several points when he returns to the witness stand in two weeks.

There ARE 16 Schools in the deep South
Named After the "First Grand Wizard" of
the Ku Klux Klan.

USA Today
MARCH 9, 1998

From cavalryman to KKK leader

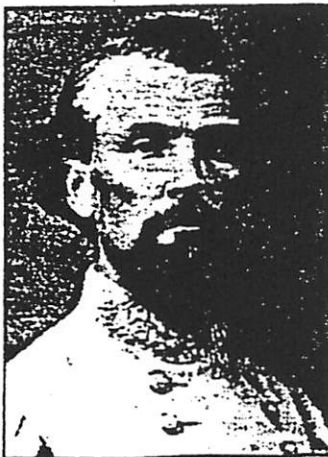
Nathan Bedford Forrest is one of the Old South's most controversial heroes.

Born in 1821, Forrest earned a fortune as the largest slave trader in Memphis. When the Civil War began, he entered the Confederate Army as a private and quickly rose to lieutenant general.

Forrest was a daring cavalryman and brilliant tactician.

He famously described his strategy as "get there first with the most men" — a military idea still held in high regard.

He ignored the conventional wisdom of his time, which called for holding 30% of troops in reserve. Instead, believing that men quickly decide whether to fight or flee, Forrest threw every man into battle immediately, trying to break his opponent's will.



Forrest: Largest slave trader in Memphis before Civil War

Yet Forrest was never one of Robert E. Lee's top lieutenants. He remained a colorful cavalryman who played a largely regional role in the war.

In 1864, his troops committed the Fort Pillow Massacre, the worst racial incident of the war. More than 200 black Union soldiers, women and children, were shot, drowned and buried alive after surrendering the Union fort in western Tennessee.

The evidence is ambiguous about whether Forrest directly ordered the massacre.

After the war, Forrest became the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, a secret organization started in 1866 and used to conduct a campaign of terror against newly empowered blacks.

"He did not found the Klan, as many people think. The Klan found him," says historian Brian Steel Wills, author of *A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest*. "But he took the Klan to a new level, more effective, more organized and expanding to more states."

This is a damn disgrace to Public
Education.

New VEP Director's Theme: Voting Is Survival

By MARCIA KUNSTEL

The last time the world heard from Vivian Malone was 1963, when she dared to step across the color barrier at a bastion of Southern segregation — the University of Alabama.

Even then it wasn't her name in the headlines, but that of Gov. George C. Wallace, whose defiant stand in the schoolhouse door made the news and cemented his career in the politics of racism.

Since that time, Vivian Malone — now Vivian Malone Jones — has labored quietly and for the most part unnoticed, chipping away at other walls of color while pursuing her personal goals.

Now she is emerging into the public spotlight again, still not in a blinding flash like the one that accompanied her entry into the once all-white university, but under the gentler glow befitting a confident, 35-year-old woman who has decided her commitment to the poor and to minorities needs a broader outlet.

Mrs. Jones is the new director of the Atlanta-based Voter Education Project (VEP), one of the few women ever to lead a major civil rights organization.

"I thought very carefully about what I could contribute through the project," she said in a weekend interview at her Southwest Atlanta home, comparing the prospects to the known opportunities in the several federal government jobs she has filled in the past dozen years.

"One thing I found in traveling through the south-east is a lot of apathy among blacks, poor people and other minorities. You want to reach out and do something to help," she said. "You can't do that too much in the federal government."

Although Mrs. Jones has not



VIVIAN MALONE JONES
A Long Way From '63

been a principal in civil rights organizations since the 1963 challenge at the Tuscaloosa university, her government work primarily has been in the related fields of labor relations and personnel — often recruitment and advancement of minorities for jobs and for government contracts.

She left the Environmental Protection Agency, where she was completing a year-long executive training program, to take the VEP job.

"I don't feel I've been separate and apart from the movement (while) in government. You need people who have worked within the system, too," she said.

"My experience in the federal government, I think, will provide me with some expertise . . . and enable me to bring a new perspective (to the VEP)."

Some of the new things Mrs. Jones would like to do

with the project include concentrating more on registering and involving young people and women in politics, and possibly expanding the base of the VEP from its primarily southeastern environs to cover major cities in other parts of the country.

"Young people can vote now at 18. We need to start early enough in their developmental process . . . to make them see it's not just voting for the sake of voting," she said. "It's a lot more than that. It's a matter of survival."

Mrs. Jones, a striking, soft-spoken woman who intersperses her conversation with frequent laughter, learned a bit about politics and survival even before her confrontation with the Alabama governor.

"It's not difficult for me to identify with the masses of poor people out there. I came from a family of eight children," she said. "My father

was unemployed sometimes but I never thought to relate it to politics then."

Later, however, she recalled hearing an uncle say that any one who didn't vote "was worse than a criminal," and she came to understand that he meant the failure to exercise voting rights "really was throwing your life away."

She also became involved in her home town of Mobile with the late John LeFlore, a long time civil rights activist who had her licking stamps and otherwise toiling in his constant crusades on behalf of blacks.

It was LeFlore who spurred her, along with two other young blacks, to fight for entrance into the university.

"I wanted to go into accounting, and at that time no black school in Alabama had the courses," she said. "I didn't think the governor of Alabama or anybody else should tell me I couldn't go to the school where I could get the education I wanted."

She still carries the positive approach of an idealist though it is laced with a heavy dose of realism.

For example, Mrs. Jones recognizes that being a woman might bring her work under close scrutiny of skeptics.

But, she said, she believes that, at least, will focus more attention on the VEP itself and make it more widely known.

Nor does she expect to accomplish miracles overnight.

"It's a constant chipping away, until the tree finally falls down. I won't see it fall but I'll help," she said. "I know I could never have stated objective of getting every black registered and voting. But a goal of getting more and more people into the process is realistic, and that's what I'll try to do."

NATION/WORLD

Integration anniversary marked

By Andrew DeMillo
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Little Rock Nine, who as students were escorted by federal soldiers into the all-white Central High School because they were black, marveled at the celebrity-like fanfare they received on the 50th anniversary of the event Tuesday. But they cautioned that racial divides still exist.

"In spite of the progress that's been talked about today, it is not nearly enough for me," said Terrence Roberts, a member of the group greeted with cheers and standing ovations.

About 4,500 people gathered on the front lawn of the city campus, where the high school is now 52 percent black, to commemorate one of the key moments in the civil rights movement.

The two-hour ceremony included brief remarks by each of the Little Rock Nine, including Roberts, Melba Patillo Beals, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Jefferson Thomas, Minnijean Brown Trickey and Thelma Mother-shed Wair.

Former President Clinton, who held Central's doors open for the group as they arrived, challenged this year's senior class to address inequality in health services, economics and



Laurie Tedford Driver AP

Former President Clinton, left, speaks Tuesday at the 50th anniversary observances of the integration of Little Rock Central High School as the nine students who integrated the school and other dignitaries look on in Little Rock, Ark.

the justice system.

"What do you wish the story of the next 50 years to be?" Clinton asked.

Cameron Zohoori, a senior at the school of 2,400 students, said he believed that while Central isn't truly fully integrated, the campus is more di-

verse than ever.

"You look at the students here and look at the diversity and see that this is not the same place it was," said Zohoori, who is Iranian-American.

Clinton said he was grateful that the Little Rock Nine took action rather than looking to

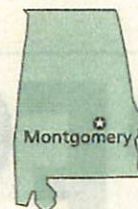
others to pave the way.

"We were nine teenagers who thought this was a place that would accept us, where we would belong," said Green, Central's first black graduate in 1958. "You know what? Fifty years later, I think we were right."

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Monday
Sept. 24, 2007

ALABAMA



Little Rock legacy looms large 50 years later

By Andrew DeMillo
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Fifty years after federal troops escorted Terrence Roberts and eight fellow black students into an all-white high school, he says the struggles over race and segregation still are unresolved.

"This country has demonstrated over time that it is not prepared to operate as an integrated society," said Roberts, who is a faculty member at Antioch University's psychology program.

He and the other students known as the Little Rock Nine will help the city observe Central High School's 50th anniversary this week with a series of events culminating with a ceremony featuring former President Bill Clinton.

For three weeks in September 1957, Little Rock was the focus of a showdown over integration as Gov. Orval Faubus blocked nine black students from enrolling at a high school with about 2,000 white students. Although the U.S. Su-



Danny Johnston AP

Workers begin preparations Sept. 17 for the 50th anniversary of Central High School's integration in front of the Little Rock, Ark., school.

preme Court had declared segregated classrooms unconstitutional in 1954 — and the Little Rock School Board had voted to integrate — Faubus said he feared violence if the races mixed in a public school.

The showdown soon became a test for then-President

Dwight D. Eisenhower, who sent members of the Army's 101st Airborne Division in to control the angry crowds. It was the first time in 80 years that federal troops had been sent to a former state of the Confederacy.

Yet, half a century later, there are signs of progress and

strife in Arkansas' largest school district, which is now 70 percent black.

A federal judge ruled this year that the 27,000-student district was unitary, or substantially integrated, and ordered the end of federal desegregation monitoring. The school now has a nearby museum for the Little Rock crisis, and statues of the nine brave students stand on the grounds of the state Capitol.

In 1957, Roberts, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Jefferson Thomas, Minnijean Brown Trickey, and Thelma Mothershed Wair were determined to get a good education.

Trickey and the other nine said they're frustrated with the school system nationally, not just in Arkansas, that they see as still widely segregated.

"We're still living segregated lives based on culture and language," said Trickey, who now works as a gender and social justice advocate. "Here we are in 2007 and we're still playing the same game."

P 4B

Tell It To Old Granddaddy

Your name and address must be given on letter * But upon request, name will often be withheld at the Editor's discretion * We reserve the right to shorten letters * No poetry, please * Repeat: No letter will be printed unless Editor knows who wrote it.

Editor, You Remind Me Of Neutralist Nehru

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER—So many misstatements have occurred on your editorial page with reference to integration of negroes in public schools and as to the Citizens Councils that I feel it is proper that some one make answer.

Some weeks ago you mentioned that integration had been notably successful in the City of Washington. If you intended to say that there had been no attending violence you are absolutely correct. However, here are some of the results:

Formerly there were about 64% white pupils and 36% negroes. That percentage is now approximately reversed as the integration has forced many white families to move out of Washington into states where their children can attend segregated schools. And reports from the school officials show that the integration has caused the scholastic standards of the Washington schools to be lowered.

General Eisenhower opposed integration in the Army when he was its head. President Eisenhower, the leader of the Republican Party, who follows in the footsteps of his predecessor in seeking Negro votes for his party, does not send his grandchildren to the integrated schools of Washington. They go to a private Episcopal school in Virginia, where there is no integration, although the President is a Presbyterian.

Vice President Nixon and the Cabinet give full cry to integration but their children attend a school to which only one Negro child has been admitted.

In an editorial today occurs the following statement: "Commissioner Sellers is a card carrying member of the White Citizens Council, an organization dedicated to boycott and economic sanctions against Negroes." The statement as to the Citizens Council is absolutely false. Had you taken the trouble to investigate you would have found that you were making a false statement.

The Citizens Councils are dedicated, as was *The Advertiser* in times past, to the preservation of our Southern customs and laws by legal means only.

I know whereof I speak as I have helped in the formation of several county councils in Alabama.

There are many legal methods we can, and which I sincerely trust we shall, adopt to preserve the laws and customs for which our ancestors so courageously fought, even when Alabama was occupied by Federal soldiers.

It is indeed regrettable that you have never had the courage to take a stand either for integration or against it. One can't be neutral. However, you remind me of neutralist Nehru, all of your criticism is of those who have organized to fight integration, just as Nehru—who says he is neutral but only criticizes the West.

W. R. WITHERS.

Greensboro, Ala.

Mutually Exclusive Roles

Editor, The Advertiser:

After reading Tom Johnson's column in *The Advertiser*, in which the ambitious young minister of Lutheran faith is described as taking such an active part in the 90-year-old Civil War question of segregation of the races:

It is apparent that this young and well meaning minister is conscientious and feels he is doing the right thing. We need lots of young men like that and I have no objections to their feeling free to use their time as best they see fit.

For one so young to move into a strange section or into a new state and to immediately project himself into a heated controversy as age-old as the separation of races at the same time hiding behind the skirts of the ministry in order to defy the very law that grants him immunity, shows a disregard for both Christian principle and for established law which has as its purpose to guard the peace that comes from nowhere except through Christ the Prince of Peace.

Can one imagine the Master using such tactics to serve the Lord?

Pastor Graetz is either a Christian or a rabble-rouser. He cannot be both.
Montgomery JOHN KELTON.

that "good race relations exist only when everyone is treated as an equal. This cannot be as long as there are laws preventing men of one race from enjoying the privileges and rights enjoyed by another race.

We shall never cease our struggle for equality until we gain first-class citizenship, and take it from me this is from a reliable source (the Negro citizens of Montgomery). We have no intention of compromising. Such unwarranted delay in granting our request may very well result in a demand for the annihilation of segregation which will result in complete integration.

[The Rev.] U. J. FIELDS, Minister
Bell Street Baptist Church, Secretary of
the Montgomery Improvement Association.
Montgomery.

First Come Already First Served

Editor, The Advertiser:

I am a widow, 60 years old, and have to work for a living. The bus is the only way I have of getting anywhere. I ride the Veterans Hospital bus, and I have my first time to hear one of these drivers ask a Negro to give a white person a seat. One afternoon just before the boycott I got on the bus and Negroes had every seat they could have. White people were standing. I would have had to stand all the way to town except a four-year-old girl got up and let me have her seat. Since busses did not run Dec. 25-26, I had to stay home on my only holidays.

Montgomery.

MRS. M. L.

Bus Boycott

NATION/WORLD

Manning (al) Center

Civil rights lawyer Hill dies at 100

RICHMOND, Va. — Oliver W. Hill, a civil rights lawyer who was at the front of the legal effort that desegregated public schools, has died at age 100, a family friend said.

Hill died peacefully Sunday at his home during breakfast, said Joseph Morrissey, a friend of the Hill family.

In 1954, he was part of a series of lawsuits against racially segregated public schools that became the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

Though blind and confined to a wheelchair in recent years, Hill remained active in social and civil rights causes. In 1999, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Clinton.



Hill



W.A. Harewood AP

Monica Jones-Shareef, left, lays a rose on the casket of her mother, Vivian Malone Jones, during services Wednesday at Westview cemetery in Atlanta. More than 500 mourners came to honor Jones, who was the first black student to graduate from the University of Alabama.

Mourners honor Jones' memory

By Giovanna Dell'orto
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More than 500 mourners gave Vivian Malone Jones one last standing ovation at her funeral Wednesday, honoring the quiet courage of a civil rights icon who was the first black student to graduate from the University of Alabama.

"Her life made a difference in the freedoms that we enjoy in America today," Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin said at the service, which focused on the day in 1963 when Jones and James Hood faced off with then-Alabama Gov. George Wallace, who made his stand in the "schoolhouse door" in an attempt to prevent their enrollment.

Hood recalled that day in his remarks at the funeral, saying that when he told Jones he was scared, she gave him a note that read, "Whatever adversaries these days, our Father, help us face them with courage."

Jones, who went on to a long career with the U.S. Justice Department in Washington and for the Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, died Oct. 13 after suffering a stroke. She was 63.

A native of Mobile, Jones was enrolled at historically black Alabama A&M University when she transferred to the University of Alabama in

1963. The move led Wallace to stand at the steps of the university in defiance of an order to admit black students. Jones and Hood, accompanied by then-Deputy U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, enrolled after Wallace finished his statement.

"Opening the University of Alabama to African-Americans did take courage and determination," Katzenbach said at the funeral. "It also took courage to stick it out for two years to graduation."

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, a longtime civil rights leader who worked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., said the then 20-year-old Jones was a "gentle lamb" in front of a "growling lion."

Glenda Hatchett, a former chief judge on the Fulton County Juvenile Court who has a syndicated television court show, linked Jones' role as civil rights leader to her Christian beliefs.

"George Wallace didn't



Advertiser

Vivian Malone Jones is escorted into Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in September 1963.

know what he was up against because Vivian was on the other side with God," Hatchett said.

The funeral was held in the Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel on the Morehouse College campus.

"It shows you that one person's life can make a difference," 19-year-old sophomore Derrick Johnson said. "You had to stop in some sort of reverence for her."

Jones is survived by a son, daughter and grandson. Her husband died last year.

"Opening the University of Alabama to African-Americans did take courage and determination."

— Nicholas Katzenbach, who was deputy U.S. attorney general in 1963



W.A. Harewood AP

Viewing Vivian Malone Jones' casket is, from left, Glenda Hatchett, former chief judge, Fulton County Juvenile Court; Dr. James Hood, a classmate of Jones' at the University of Alabama; Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin; and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga.



W.A. Harewood AP

Monica Jones-Shareef, left, lays a rose on the casket of her mother, Vivian Malone Jones, during services Wednesday at Westview cemetery in Atlanta. More than 500 mourners came to honor Jones, who was the first black student to graduate from the University of Alabama.

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Ole Miss honors integration

The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — The University of Mississippi marked the 44th anniversary of its integration Sunday by dedicating a civil rights monument at a ceremony attended by politicians, actor Morgan Freeman and the student, now 73, who started it all.

The monument features a life-size bronze likeness of James Meredith, the first black student admitted to the university. The statue is posed as if it is striding toward a 17-foot-tall limestone portal topped with the words "courage," "perseverance," "opportunity" and "knowledge."

"This is a day to rejoice," said U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat, who delivered the keynote address to about 1,500 people who attended. "With the unveiling of this monument, we free ourselves from the chains of a difficult past. Today we can celebrate a new day, a new beginning, the birth of a new South and a new America that is more free, more fair and more just than ever before."

Meredith, who lives in Jackson, attended the ceremony but was not a speaker.

After the ceremony, he posed beside the statue for photos with former Gov. William Winter and autographed printed programs. The monument was built with \$160,000 in grants and private donations.

The ceremony included remarks by university Chancellor Robert Khayat; U.S. Rep. Roger Wicker, R-Miss.; Meredith's son, Joseph, who earned a doctorate in finance from the university; and Freeman.

"Mississippi is a much better state today because of James Meredith, and this is a much better university," said Freeman, a Mississippi resident. "Thank you, Mr. Meredith."

Lewis brought the crowd to its feet by recounting his childhood and his time as a national organizer of civil rights activities, including the historic March on Washington in 1963.

Lewis, who was beaten by a mob in Alabama in 1961, praised Meredith

and university leaders for fostering acceptance and equal access.

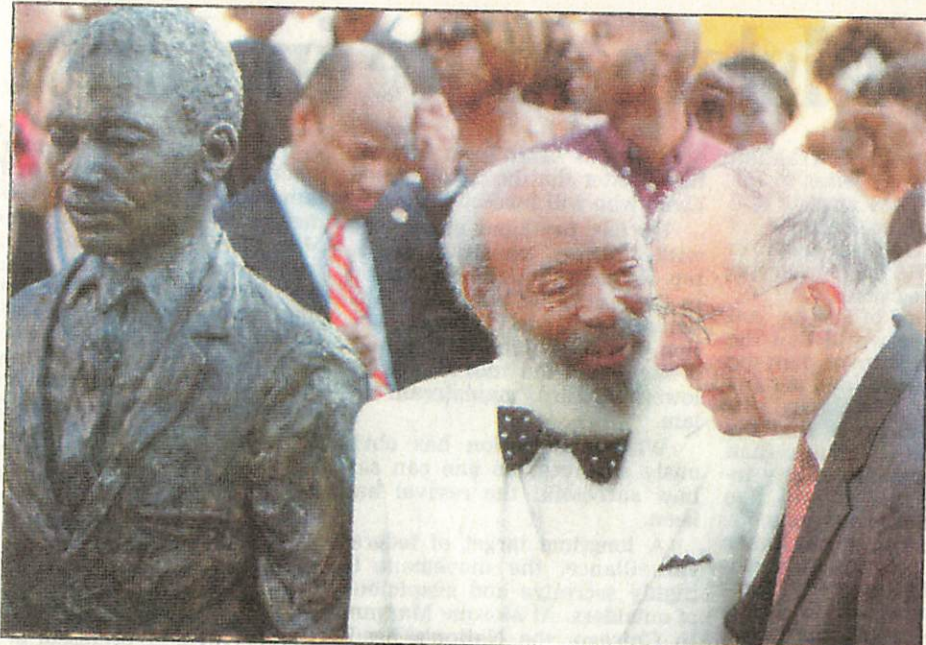
"This is a monument to the power of peace to overcome violence," he said. "And it is a monument to the power of love to overcome hate."

After Gov. Ross Barnett tried to block Meredith's admission in 1962, President Kennedy used National Guard troops to restore order.

The soldiers were bombarded with brickbats and Molotov cocktails by a mob of hundreds of whites — students and others — who chanted, "Two, four, six, eight, we will never integrate."

Two people were killed in the riots.

The leafy Oxford campus, in the hills of north Mississippi, also contains a Confederate soldier statue as a tribute to students who fought in the Civil War. The statue of Meredith is about 100 yards away, separated from it by a building that still bears bullet scars from the integration fight.



Bruce Newman AP/Oxford Eagle

James Meredith, center, who integrated the University of Mississippi on Oct. 1, 1962, stands next to a statue of himself and talks with former Mississippi Gov. William Winter during a dedication ceremony of a civil rights monument Sunday in Oxford, Miss.

Third of infant deaths