

**Richmond Times-Dispatch, *Negroes at U.*  
Va., September 28, 1935**

**Response to the editorial *Best for Both Races***

For the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir, – Having been presented gratuitously a copy of your Jim Crow daily, issue of September 21, which contained an editorial under the caption, "Best for Both Races," which I read and reread, I am moved to dispatch to you the following open letter:

In the outset, Mr. Editor, I would like to state that I, along with other thinking black citizens of this Commonwealth, had hoped that this fight could be conducted along sane and sensible lines. I cannot conceive of the necessity for muckraking or rabble-rousing tactics being resorted to by the so-called "liberal" Times-Dispatch.

Of all the insane, silly, mean and contemptible attitudes that could have been assumed by The Times-Dispatch, none could have been dirtier than that of bringing in the sex issue. In my opinion, this is nothing more than an arrogant and damnable attempt to confuse the issues involved.

I wish to point out that in my opinion it is worse than silly for you to conclude that this fight is being made simply to force a few black students into the University of Virginia. This fight is based upon much broader principles than that of establishing the right of black citizens to equal educational opportunities. It has for its aim not only the forcing open of these hallowed doors, but the complete breakdown and

annihilation of the damnable system of legal segregation and discrimination.

I take the liberty to assume that the learned editor of The Times-Dispatch is aware of the fact that the same cruel and loathsome custom, which he is employing such sordid and unethical means to sustain, which bars students of color from the University of Virginia bars me from employment in the various departments of the national, State and local governments and from many other positions which I am fully competent to hold and, in addition, denies me the same compensation received by whites for less or similar work in those positions with the States and cities which I am permitted to hold.

If The Times-Dispatch or any other newspaper or individual in the South, or anywhere else, are so lacking in vision and sanity as to believe that black men and women here or elsewhere are forever going to remain satisfied with the crumbs from the judicial, political, economic and financial tables; that they will forever remain satisfied to help support the house and live under the back porch, they are due for a rude awakening.

The sooner the South is awakened to the fact that black men consider themselves men, on a par with all other men, and that they have reached the point where they intent to fight with every ounce of their energy to the end that they may be recognized on a par with all other men, entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities granted others and

subject to the same responsibilities, just that soon we will have amicable relations

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between the "races" in the South. The structure of so-called amicable relations now extant in the South, a one-sided affair in which blacks give all and receive nothing, plumed by a master and slave psychology, with whites in the roles of masters and blacks in the role of slaves, is already doomed and the most bitter tears of remorse will not bring it back to life.

Touching upon your bugaboo of amalgamation, I ask in all sincerity, Mr. Editor, who has been responsible for all of the amalgamation that has gone on, is still going on, in the South? Our troubles as a result of amalgamation in Dixie have not come as a result of indiscriminate mingling of the races in schools and colleges in the past, nor has it come as a result of cohabitation between white women and black men, but from the mingling and comingling, cohabitation and concubinage on the part of white men and black women. Why persecute the witnesses and let the arch criminals responsible for the condition go scot-free?

The number of whites and blacks who intermarry as a result of college and university romances is nil, the number of whites and blacks who marry as a result of the lack of Jim Crow restrictions is also nil. Jim Crow statues only produce ill-will, ignorance and prejudice; they do not prevent intermarriage or unlawful cohabitation, as is simply proven by the more than 4,000,000 mulattoes in Dixie. According to these statistics, the progress of amalgamation is aided by segregation rather than retarded.

In the Catholic Church, right here in Richmond, we have indiscriminate mingling of the races; members, irrespective of color, even drinking from the same Communion cup. How many

of these black and white Catholics are married and living on Monument Avenue? Your argument won't hold water, Mr. Editor.

To me, Mr. Editor, your base appeal to the rabble could not be considered as a part of a clean fight. It is unsportsmanlike, low and contemptible. Studying it, the only reasonable conclusion possible for one to arrive at is that it is designed wholly and solely as an appeal to the baser instincts of men. I hope that the average white man in Virginia is above even considering seriously such base suggestions and insinuations as characterized your editorial. The fact that I sincerely believe the average white man a true sportsman, a clean and open fighter; that he recognizes true manhood wherever found, is what imbues me with the courage to give voice to my honest convictions.

I intend, with the help of Almighty God, to play the small part that I shall play in this fight in a manly fashion. I have no intention of employing any back-handed or undercover methods, and I am convinced that the N.A.A.C.P. will not stoop to any such methods, even though the pursuance of fair and ethical tactics would mean the loss of its objectives. I intend to do all my fighting from this day until death has stilled my stammering tongue as man to man, giving to the other man's opinions the same amount of respect that I expect him to give my own.

I hold no malice against you for your opinions, Mr. Editor, even though I differ with you. They may be a result of your honest convictions, but my respect for your honesty and integrity, your

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fairness and sense of fair play is minimized by the depths to which you have essayed to stoop by your willingness to employ foul means simply to win a questionable point.

The editor suggests "better pay for Negro teachers, Negro principals and better Negro schools." He also recommends sending out of the State Negro students who wish graduate instruction. I wonder what you intend to do, Mr. Editor, with those black children in numerous counties who are not provided with high school facilities, while whites have them in abundance? You do not recommend equal pay, equal treatment nor equal facilities. We want nothing less than equality, which Virginia has had 70 years to give us. Having failed to obtain these evidences of simple elementary justice and common fairness from Virginia, through 70 years of petitioning, we have decided to ask the courts to serve as arbiters, to judge between our respective demands, decide which of the two are reasonable and proper, and we are ready and willing to abide by the decision of a just and fair tribunal.

Since we have waited 70 years for you to build us schools and colleges comparable to your own, for you to give our children educational opportunities comparable to those open to your own, without success, we have now decided to force the use of those facilities now provided by all our tax moneys, which should be used for all our children, and are not disposed to accept any kind of compromise. Economic equality, equality before the law, political equality and educational equality. These are all that we are asking now, and nothing short of a full measure of all of them will deter us from our course.

This letter is personal and is not written on behalf of any organization.

JOSEPHUS SIMPSON

Richmond.