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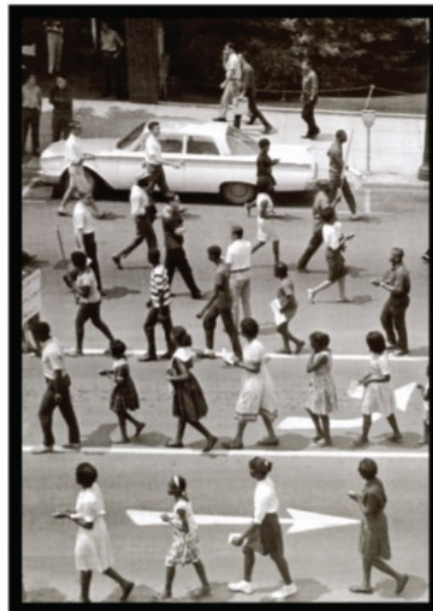
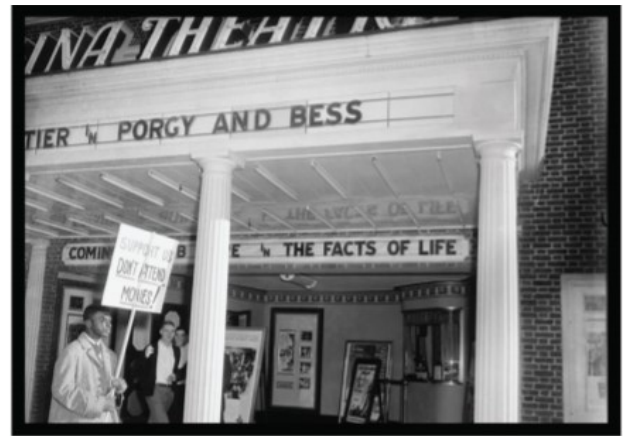
## Negro Teenagers Are Found Guilty Of Trespassing

Nine Negro teenagers charged with trespass as the result of a spontaneous sit-in demonstration at Colonial Drug Store last month were found guilty in Chapel Hill Recorder's Court Tuesday.

Each of the nine was fined \$10 and costs and given a suspended 30-day jail sentence.

The teenagers, who were defended by Durham attorney Floyd B. McKissick and Lawson C. Barry, are Clarence McElt Jr., 17; Douglas Perry, 17; James Merritt, 16; Harold Foster, 18; Dave Mason Jr., 17; William Cureton, 18; Albert Williams, 16; Earl Geer, 16; and John Farrington, 17.

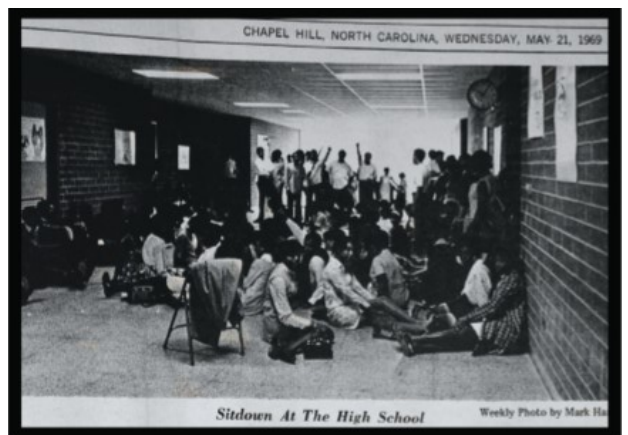
Chapel Hill



**Western Union**

AA13 3P0014 SYA015  
SY AG8906 PDB FAX=AG NEW YORK NY 12 446P EST  
THE HONORABLE HOWARD A LEE  
LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION. YOU HAVE  
DEMONSTRATED THAT HARD WORK IS ALWAYS REWARDED. I  
EXTEND TO YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR WHAT I KNOW WILL BE A  
SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATION IN THIS NEW SOUTH A-COMING=  
CORETTA SCOTT KING=

**Telegram**





## THE SPARK 1960

On Sunday, February 28, 1960, nine black young men from Lincoln High School sat at a booth in the Colonial Drug Store and sought the same service that was given to white customers. They were refused service and told to leave, but they remained seated. This act led to their arrest, trial, and conviction for criminal trespass. Their courageous step sparked a decade of civil rights demonstrations in Chapel Hill.

### THE CHAPEL HILL NINE

William Cureton, 18  
John Farrington, 17  
Harold Foster 18  
Earl Geer, 16  
Dave Mason Jr., 17

Clarence Merritt Jr., 17  
James Merritt, 16  
Douglas 'Clyde' Perry, 17  
Albert Williams, 16

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Image credit:  
Chapel Hill News



"The struggle for freedom and an inclusive community has no beginning and no end. It is fought on many fronts, in many ways, and has many heroes, the names of most of whom we will never know. But there are some particular moments and individuals who serve to quicken the spirit of a movement, who heighten its urgency, and who make it difficult to pretend that nothing is wrong. There are moments when a few individuals open the floodgates of change with their courage."

Dr. Reginald Hildebrand

These cards were created in collaboration with Chapel Hill's Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force. This program was supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



Image Credit: © Jim Wallace  
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## MOVIE THEATERS 1961-62

The struggle turned its focus to Chapel Hill's two racially segregated movie houses: the Varsity and the Carolina Theater.

Efforts including demonstrations and boycotts initiated a period of broad co-operation among various groups of activists, resulting in the integration of both theaters by March 1962.

These successes set the stage for the tumultuous years to come, when civil disobedience reached every part of Chapel Hill.

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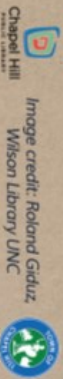


Image credit: Roland Giduz  
Wilson Library UNC

## CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE 1963

By the summer of 1963, activists were practicing and teaching each other techniques of non-violent resistance.

Protesters organized the largest act of civil disobedience to date on July 29 at the Merchants Association on Franklin Street. Protesters like Yvonne Cotton, shown here, used their resistance training, going limp when arrested. This required several police officers to lift and carry each person.

In one day, police arrested 34 protesters, both black and white. Hundreds more would be arrested by the end of 1963.

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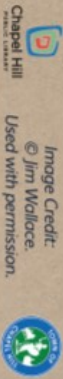


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## ACCESS DENIED, AGAIN 1964

In 1960, civil rights protesters began working in earnest to make segregation at local businesses illegal. In January 1964, it was brought up for a vote.

The Chapel Hill Board of Alderman voted to allow segregation to continue. As a result, on February 1, four years to the day after the sit-down demonstration by the Greensboro Four, protesters threw Chapel Hill into chaos with a massive demonstration. They shut down main streets, halted a UNC football game, and were arrested by the hundreds.

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## MOMENTUM BUILDS 1963

Throughout the spring, UNC students and faculty joined the movement begun by the Chapel Hill Nine.

John Ehle wrote in *The Free Men* that supporters were as varied a group as ever assembled. "Professors and students, townspeople of both races, young people of both races, rich and poor, pastors and the not-very-religious were sitting there together ...and they were singing together, a spirit of elation taking hold of them... [in] what was perhaps the first fully integrated public march in support of integration that the South had seen."

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Image credit: Roland Giduz,  
Wilson Library UNC



## HOLY WEEK FAST 1964

Pat Cusick, Lavert Taylor, John Dunne, and James Foushee (graduate of Lincoln High School) staged an 8-day "Holy Week" fast to protest the nearly 30 businesses that remained segregated in Chapel Hill. They chose the lawn in front of the Franklin Street post office, a location that is now named Peace and Justice Plaza.

The fast drew attention from all sides. The *New York Times* covered it every day. On the seventh day, the Ku Klux Klan held a rally of about 700 people at the edge of town in response.

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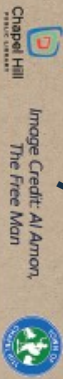


Image Credit: Al Aron,  
The Free Man

## THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES 1969

In 1968, the UNC campus was legally desegregated, but only 1.5% of the student body was black. At the same time, the non-academic workforce was nearly all black.

UNC Food workers, joined by the Black Student Movement, participated in work strikes that lasted for nearly all of 1969 to protest unfair labor practices.

The protests reflect the nature of present day activism that focuses on the intersection of labor rights, women's rights, and rights for minorities.

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Image Credit:  
Chapel Hill News



## ELECTION OF HOWARD LEE 1969

In 1969, Howard Lee made international news when he became the first black man elected mayor in a predominantly white southern town since Reconstruction. Lee went on to win his next two mayoral elections by large margins.

He served in the North Carolina state senate for ten years before he became the first black man elected to lead the North Carolina Board of Education.

The Howard N. Lee Institute focuses on improving academic performance for minority males.

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Image Credit:  
Howard Lee collection,  
Chapel Hill Public Library



## STRUGGLE TO INTEGRATE 1966-69

Starting in 1961, Chapel Hill schools technically allowed integration, yet the system remained segregated until Lincoln High School officially closed in 1966.

The closure forced black students to give up their school, their mascot, their principal, their coaches, and their trophies. This led to ongoing protests at Chapel Hill High School.

In 1969, the student body voted to change their mascot to the Tigers, the former mascot of Lincoln High School.

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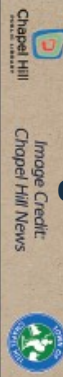


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