

# Wanted: Picketers

COMMENTARY AND SIDEBAR NOTES BY L. MAREN WOOD

Records of the Office of Chancellor - William B. Aycock Series (#40020), University Archives, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## As you read...

### NON-VIOLENT PROTEST

Inspired by the Greensboro sit-ins, high school and college students in Chapel Hill, as in cities across the South, began their own protests outside of segregated business. From 1960 until the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, students, professors, church leaders, and civil rights activists picketed businesses to pressure the owners to end their discriminatory practices. They also hoped that their actions would inspire local politicians to pass a by-law (a town law or ordinance) forbidding segregation.

While the protesters had several victories, including ending segregation at movie theaters, there was a strong backlash from white business owners and local politicians. In several cases, picketers and protesters were victims of violence at the hands of anti-civil rights groups. Several picketers were arrested and served time in jail. Moreover, despite Chapel Hill's reputation as a liberal community, the town did not ban segregation.

You can learn more about the struggle for civil rights in Chapel Hill from the online exhibit "I Raised My Hand to Volunteer (see <http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/exhibits/protests/sitins.html>)."

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

In this leaflet from 1960, David B. Dansby and Richard Strowd asked students at UNC to join the picket lines. In calling for picketers, Dansby and Strowd emphasized the principles of non-violence, a tactic advocated by civil rights leaders of the 1960s. When David Dansby graduated in 1961, he was the first African American to receive a degree from UNC.

1. Why did these students picket businesses that discriminated against African Americans?
2. What were the ultimate goals of the picketers?
3. Why do you think potential picketers were encouraged to act in an orderly and peaceful manner? What would have happened if they had acted aggressively or if their actions had disrupted business?
4. Why do you think picketers were asked to dress neatly?
5. Why do you think the organizers made reference to Jesus and Martin Luther King Jr.?
6. As an extra activity, download the transparencies (see <http://februaryonedocumentary.com/transparencies.pdf>) from the *February One* (see <http://februaryonedocumentary.com/>) documentary and read the Greensboro Four Letter. How does that letter, from the original four protesters to those who wanted to join them, compare to this flyer?

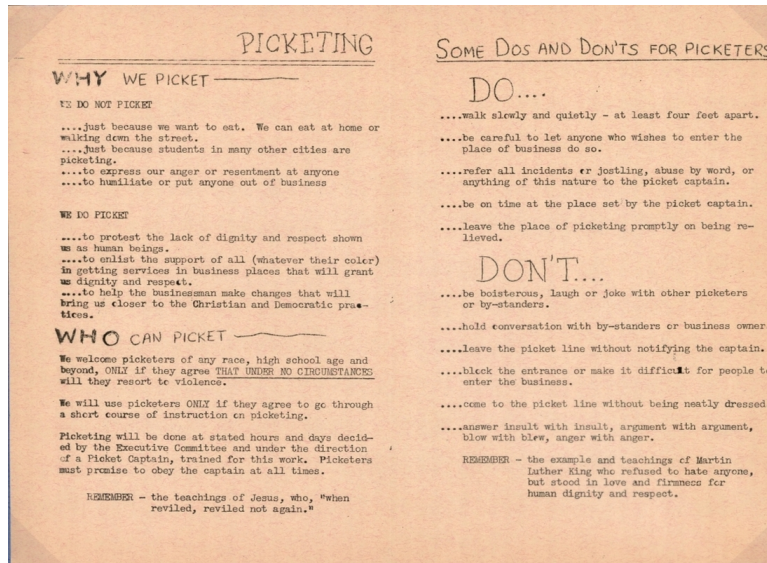


Figure 1.

# Picketing

## WHY WE PICKET

### We do not picket

- ...just because we want to eat. We can eat at home or walking down the street.
- ...just because students in many other states are picketing.
- ...to express our anger or resentment at anyone.
- ...to humiliate or put anyone out of business.

### We do picket

- ...to protest the lack of dignity and respect shown us as human beings.
- ...to enlist the support of all (whatever their color) in getting services in business places that will grant us dignity and respect.
- ...to help the businessman who will make changes that will bring us closer to the Christian and Democratic practices.

## WHO CAN PICKET

We welcome picketers of any race, high school age and beyond, ONLY if they agree THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will they resort to violence.

We will use picketers **ONLY** if they agree to go through a short course of instruction on picketing.

Picketing will be done at stated hours and days decided by the Executive Committee and under the direction of a Picket Captain, trained for this work. Picketers must promise to obey the captain at all times.

**REMEMBER--** the teachings of Jesus, who, “when reviled, revile not again.”

## Some dos and don'ts for picketers

### **DO**

...walk slowly and quietly — at least four feet apart.

...be careful to let anyone who wishes to enter to enter the place of business to do so.

...refer all incidents or jostling, abuse by word, or anything of this nature to the picket captain.

...be on time at the place set by the picket captain.

...leave the place of picketing promptly on being relieved.

### **DON'T**

...be boisterous, laugh or joke with other picketers or by-standers.

...hold conversation with by-standers or the business owner.

...leave the picket line without notifying the captain.

...block the entrance or make it difficult for people to enter the business.

...come to the picket line without being neatly dressed.

...answer insult with insult, argument with argument, blow with blow, anger with anger.

**REMEMBER** the example and teachings of Martin Luther King who refused to hate anyone, but stood in love and firmness for human dignity and respect.

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## About the author

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### Figure 1 (page 2)

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