

History in the making as campus integrates

Editor's Note: The following article, written by Dave Gumula, appeared in a Feb. 1963 issue of The Tiger.

This week history was made at Clemson. What we intend to do with it is up to us! We can wipe out the favorable image already created of Clemson and South Carolina by one small, minor incident; or we can strengthen this image by continuation of the same courteous treatment thus far accorded Harvey Gantt.

Perhaps compliance is a harder pill to swallow than defiance, but it makes a lot more sense. We must remember that the world is watching Clemson with very biased eyes — for recent events in other places have left a most poor image of Uncle Sam.

It won't be easy to live with the axe

of world opinion over our heads but we must face the facts and live with them.

Let's remember we're college students, here to educate ourselves and broaden the narrow views we brought into Clemson. This will include judgment of other students' actions toward Mr. Gantt. You may not agree with other students in their personal views but, just remember, they may not agree with yours either.

Personally you can pursue many paths in your role on the Clemson campus. Unruly actions on your part might be considered "cute," but most of the students want no such actions. Let's continue to follow the courteous treatment already accorded Gantt during the coming weeks and prove to ourselves that we can meet the great challenge before us.

Reluctant, but dignified

Editor's Note: The following article, written by Zalin B. Grant, appeared in the Feb. 1, 1963 issue of The Tiger.

Clemson students have taken the clue from Moliere, French dramatists who wrote with an ageless touch of universality, "Good sense avoids all extremes, and requires us to be soberly rational ... we must yield to the times without being too stubborn."

Clemson has yielded to the times, but only after an exhaustive legal battle which saw the college put into play every rational means of opposition to integration.

And, Monday, as the eyes of the nation collectively focused on this campus, it became undeniably apparent that nothing would be seen which was not a reasonable facsimile of good sense.

A life-long tradition, a South Carolina way of life has been irreparably broken, yet committed to history books yet to be written. But what does the abrupt destruction of such an emotionally packed tradition without violence mean?

Did Clemson follow a course of defeatist? Does Clemson want integration? The answer is an emphatic double no! Clemson, sparkling nationwide through the news media as a symbol of South Carolina, has reacted thus far in a

manner which mirrors a century of integrity and dignity in this state.

Views of individual students remain the same. No one has been asked or told to alter his views on the question of integration. There has been no abridgement of freedom of thought by a brainwashing technique (the cry of some radicals) nor has there been an abridgement of freedom of speech.

Failure of resistance to materialize in no way made South Carolina or Clemson appear weak. Convictions remain just as strong as ever. A riot, a demonstration — what would it accomplish? At best, a riot or demonstration would do nothing except show the world a brand of intelligence that has become so closely associated with other states.

It is a very safe assumption that the majority of Clemson students, mentally speaking, still stand unalterably opposed to the principles of integration.

But the realm of education and intellectual achievement has come to know no color, creed or nationality. And in this area, Harvey Gantt has issued forth a strong avowal of purpose. His purpose: To wholeheartedly strive to become a Clemson graduate.

This purpose, if sincere — and time will reveal sincerity — unites Mr. Gantt with every student of Clemson.

Editor's note: In 1963 Harvey Gantt became the first black student admitted to Clemson. This was a huge landmark in the history of the University. In order to show importance of this milestone and the range of opinions of the students on campus at the time, The Tiger has chosen to reprint an article that ran when Gantt first arrived on campus. While we are aware of the highly sensitive and offensive nature of some of these comments, we feel it is important to document the event accurately and show far the University has come.