Where Do You Stand?

Roslyn Cheagle

When discussing and studying the problem of civil rights, two distinct groups of persons will stand out, those who are against and those who are for civil rights. We could call these persons segregationists and integrationists. Very few persons are successful in trying to play the middle ground when the problem of civil rights is presented.

In order to decide to which group you belong, think, and analyze the following questions:

1. Do you go downtown and pay for a crow's nest seat in the movie? This problem is great, for if you will remember when the men from the "House" were here many young ladies attended the movies downtown with them. This will be remembered by the fellows. How will we improve our campus movies if we take our money to the segregated movies?

2. When entering a department store or any other public building are you guilty of looking for signs which say one race or the other? If we do this, we are simply promoting segregation.

3. When you are located near a Negro business, do you avoid it and patronize another?

4. Are you guilty of buying food at five and dime stores and standing up and eating it? Why buy food and eat it in the middle of the floor? If you can't sit down and eat like other people, let them keep the food.

5. When going home for the holidays will you enter the front door of the station or will you go to the side door and "holler" for a ticket? Also when boarding the bus will you rush to the back of the bus to grab the back seat? Both of these practices definitely need to be stopped. Stop using that old phrase many persons say, "I like the back seat for it is warm." In this day, all seats are equally warm.

6. When you and your friends are discussing the possibilities of entering an interracial job do you say "I am not interested?" If all of us had felt like that, some of us would still be pushing the mop.

7. Are you guilty of "Uncle Tomism?" By saying "yes m'am" or "yes sir" to someone who does not care two cents for you.

8. Do you stand up for your rights as an American citizen?

9. Are you proud to be called a Negro?

10. When important meetings of N.A.A.C.P. are being held do you say "well you know I have a history assignment to do and I just can't make it tonight?" One must remember that a half hour's work for freedom means more than all the history in the world. When you are graduated from Bennett and try to get a superior interracial job, the employer will not say, "you don't have enough history," but "I can't hire you because of your color."

Please check your calendar and add a memorandum that you will attend the monthly meetings of the campus N.A.A.C.P. These meetings are held every third Monday night in the Student Union at 6 o'clock.

In this progressive age, every Bennett girl should answer these questions the way an integrationist would answer them.

We ask each faculty member and each Bennett girl to think and act upon these questions while traveling home for the Christmas holiday.