

## CENTRAL

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ruled in favor of the school board finding that it had devised its plan for gradual integration in "utmost good faith."

With Thurgood Marshall heading the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the case was appealed and the court ruled that Little Rock with proceeding with "all deliberate speed" to integrate the schools, but there should be no further delay.

Meanwhile, Arkansas whites became enraged with the NAACP for taking the school board to court, and lawmakers introduced four pro-segregation bills aimed at further delaying integration. They all passed.

With the opening of school fast approaching, Little Rock officials began to reduce the number of black students who were to attend Central High. From 75, the students went down to 25 and then to nine. None of the 33 children who were named in the NAACP suit was admitted. Branton recalled, "the nine of the 25 were selected by the school board because they were trying to get 'good' Negroes and none of the 'radicals' who sued them." They became the Little Rock Nine and carved out a place in history."

Less than two weeks before the scheduled start of integration, segregationists Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin paid a visit to Little Rock and told a crowd, in effect, that they should reject the court decision. That same night, a rock was thrown through Mrs. Bates' window.

Mrs. Bates recounts in her book, *The Long Shadow of Little Rock*, "Instinctively, I threw myself to the floor. I was covered with shattered glass . . . I reached for the rock lying in the middle of the floor. A note was tied to it. I broke the strong and unfolded a soiled piece of paper. Scrawled in bold print were

the words: 'Stone this time. Dynamite next.'"

There was still more to come. Faubus had arranged for a segregationist white group to file a petition in a county court seeking to block integration on the basis that white and black students were buying guns in preparation for the opening of school. Faubus was among those testifying and even though no evidence was presented to support the inflammatory charge, the chancellor who heard the case granted a temporary injunction.

Mrs. Bates did not get much sleep that night. Cars kept passing her house as the occupants shouted, "Daisy, Daisy did you hear the news. The coons won't be going to Central."

Three days later, Wiley Branton and Thurgood Marshall persuaded a federal judge to dismiss the injunction. Faubus, however, had one more trick up his sleeve. On the day before school was to open, he called out the National Guard because of "evidence of disorder and threats of disorder." He went further to predict that "blood would run in the streets" if the black youngsters tried to enter Central.

Following the governor's speech, Little Rock was like a stick of dynamite, just waiting for a match. The night before the opening of school, Mrs. Bates called the parents of the Little Rock Nine to make arrangements to take the children to school in the morning. The one child who was not contacted was Elizabeth Eckford. Her parents did not have a phone and Mrs. Bates went to bed thinking she would make contact the next morning.

Elizabeth, however, tried to make it on her own. She took a bus and when she got off, she saw the school surrounded by a white mob of several hundred people and the National Guard. With the Guard present, Elizabeth felt some measure of security but that proved to be an illusion.

They literally turned their

backs on her and permitted the crowd to threaten and harass her until, in tears, she ran from the school. A white reporter from New York and a white woman faced the mob down and got her aboard a pssing bus. When the other students showed up, the Guard refused to let them pass.

The impasse remained until September 20th when Marshall and Branton, the two NAACP attorneys, persuaded a federal judge to order Faubus to remove the national guard and let integration proceed.

On Monday, September 23rd, the time had arrived. The Little Rock Nine met at Mrs. Bates' home to be driven to school with a police escort. There were also several black journalists in the house — Jimmy Hicks from the *Amsterdam News*, L. Alex Wilson of the *Tri-State Defender*, Moses J. Newsome of the *Afro-American*, and Earl Davy, a photographer for the *State Press*.

The journalists arrived at the school a few seconds before the Little Rock Nine. The mob mistook them for the parents of the children and gave chase. One of the reporters, Alex Wilson, elected not to run and suffered a savage beating from which he never fully recovered.

Meanwhile, the Little Rock Nine entered the school through a side door. Once the mob, which had grown to over a thousand people, learned they were inside, it went wild. Tensions rose so high that at noon, the police removed the children from school.

That evening, faced with the fact that local forces were unable or unwilling to protect the Little Rock Nine in compliance with a federal court order, President Eisenhower ordered federal troops into the city. He told the nation:

"I have today issued an executive order directing the use of troops under federal authority to aid in the execution of federal law in Little Rock . . . Our personal opin-

ions about the decision have no bearing on the matter of enforcement . . . Mob rule cannot be allowed to override the decisions of our courts."

The next morning the troops were in place. The students were taken to school with a military escort. When the mob around Central High refused to disperse, the paratroopers with bayonets affixed to the rifles advanced and the mob scurried away. Thus was integration achieved at Central High.

The ordeal of the little Rock Nine, however, was not over. For the rest of the school year, they were harassed and pushed around by some of the white students. Life inside Central High was no bed of roses and one of the students, Minniejean Brown, goaded beyond endurance, finally dumped a bowl of chili on the head of one of her tormentors at a lunch period. She was expelled. But the other students stuck it out and the following year Ernest G. Green, who was later to become an Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Carter Administration, became the first black to finish Central.

In 1959, Mrs. Bates and the Little Rock Nine received the highest honor the NAACP can bestow — its Spingarn Medal.

Today, Central High School has a black student population of 60% and retains a national reputation because of the high quality of its educational programs. In 1981, *Newsweek* selected it as one of the best public schools in America.

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## CHECK IT OUT

Curious about drugs . . . want to give it a try? Well that's just what they want 'cause they want you to die!

Children, young adults, please beware; because somebody up there (among the rich and powerful) hates you! For whatever reason, they are determined to "snuff out" your brain, and ultimately do great detriment to your mental and physical well being!

**CHECK IT OUT:** look closer, scrutinize, and it will become obvious to you that there is a concerted effort to insidiously do great harm to the masses of young . . . and yes, the culprits are hiding among the rich and powerful! To them, it's an esoteric game called "mental and moral extermination"; and they are playing for keeps!

Young people, I implore you to look beneath the smiling mask, and you will discover a conspiring heart filled with deadly intentions!

Be critical and analytical of all forms of entertainment, because from it flows the "subliminal nectar" which your rich and powerful enemies have masterfully formu-

lated to poison your young minds. Television, movies, videos, video games, certain types of magazines, and various toys are certainly a notable portion of the gigantic, ubiquitous, insidiously barbarous "trojan horse"! (In order to get the full meaning of the "trojan horse" analogy, you must know what a trojan horse is, or what it represents; so if you're not familiar with the story about the trojan horse, and/or its representation, please do a little research so that you can get the full impact of the analogy!) Why? because they hate you, young people . . . they hate you!

Believe me, young people, if they didn't hate you, the rich and powerful of the greatest nation on earth could very easily eradicate all of the ways and means by which they destroy you! Just imagine all the good and beneficial things that could be at your disposal if they really loved you! Check it out . . . where true love, human compassion, and concern exists, there is neither destruction nor confusion!

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1. I am easily irritated when required to stand in line.
2. My level of refinement is average.
3. Off-color language is embarrassing.
4. Perfection is often just an accident.
5. Most people would consider me unsophisticated.
6. I dislike having to get dressed up to go out.
7. Early hotel check-out times are annoying.
8. People place too much emphasis on sex these days.
9. Moral values are lower now than ever before.
10. Love and commitment should precede sex.