

BLACK HISTORY

Remembering Young People with Courage

Students' fearless
brought change

(AP)—Even after nearly 50 years, the names bear repeating: Franklin McCain, David Richmond, Ezell Blair and Joseph McNeil.

They were freshmen at North Carolina A&T on Feb. 1, 1960, when they took their seats at the whites-only lunch counter at Woolworth's in downtown Greensboro. Four young blacks tired of segregation laws, they were refused service and asked to leave. But they remained until the counter closed, and when they walked back to their dorm exhilarated, they had set in motion an act of civil disobedience — the sit-in — that took the civil rights movement by storm.

The next day, 25 sit-in protesters showed up. Then 63 filled all but two seats at Woolworth's. The protest spilled over to the nearby Kress department store, and as word spread across North Carolina and across the South, so did the sit-in: By mid-April, more than 50,000 protesters — ordinary Americans, most of them young — had attacked Jim Crow at the counter.

Andrew B. Lewis, a historian at Wesleyan University, recounts this

pivotal moment in his book, "The Shadows of Youth: The Remarkable Journey of the Civil Rights Generation," as he chronicles the roles of a band of young people who gave new direction and courage to the movement at a crucial time.

The book is a shorthand history of the civil rights era — from lynching victim Emmett Till and the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision that outlawed

age of 20 — John Lewis, Julian Bond, Marion Barry, Stokely Carmichael, Diane Nash, Bob Moses and Bob Zellner among them — saw the sit-in as a tool to spread the movement for social justice to the grass-roots South. There would be

others: Freedom Rides, Freedom Summer in Mississippi, the Children's Crusade in Birmingham, Ala., and voting rights marches.

Lewis makes clear how much their fearlessness in youth mattered: "How this ragtag band with little

money, no obvious power, painfully little help from the federal government, and the entire white South out to get them, played a starring role in the demise of legal segregation is one of the great adventure stories of American history."



THE SHADOWS OF YOUTH

The Remarkable Journey of the CIVIL RIGHTS GENERATION

ANDREW B. LEWIS

school segregation, to the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, the rise of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the sit-in phenomenon — as it follows the lives of several key figures who forged the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee.

From mostly different backgrounds but with a common cause, these activists who were around the

Arrested Professor Donates Handcuffs

(AP)—Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. has donated the handcuffs used on him during his arrest last year outside his home to the Smithsonian Institution's black history museum.

Gates said that he donated the handcuffs to the new National

Museum of African American History and Culture.

Gates' arrest last July by police investigating a report of a possible



Henry Louis Gates Jr.

break-in at his home near Harvard University sparked a national debate over racial profiling.

The charge against Gates was dropped, and the Harvard scholar later reconciled with the police sergeant who arrested him outside his Cambridge home.

Gates said he met with Sgt. James Crowley several months ago at a cafe, where the officer gave him the handcuffs.

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