

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1963

### Open Forum

## Sees No Racial Progress

Editor The News-Herald:

For some time now I have been wanting to write a letter to the citizens of Morganton on race relations, but I never quite knew what to say.

I have been a student at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, for the last nine months. I have lived in an atmosphere of brotherly love without the stains of discrimination and segregation. This experience has proven to me that all men of all races can live together on an equal basis in peace.

In coming back to Morganton, I came to a town of almost complete segregation. I see no progress being made in Morganton at all. I do see segregation increasing instead of decreasing. I see a segregated recreational center being built; a new city hall that will probably discriminate in its hiring practices; and new schools that are still segregated.

Morganton has many churches and quite a few so-called Christians. I say so-called Christians because I have met only a few real Christians. Yet, these Christians discriminate in their Church memberships. Did Christ instruct his followers and ministers to practice discrimination or did He say go out and teach all men? We have elected civic leaders, but where are they leading us? If they won't do the job of ending segregation in Morganton, then it is left to the merchants, church leaders, and

all citizens of Morganton.

We know that Americans believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is just a matter of putting our beliefs into practice.

If there is one true Christian in Morganton, then stand up for what is right in the sight of God and for our country's well-being because to be silent is to condone the evil practices of others.

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Morganton, N. C.

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