Editorial

THE COLOR LINE

For the first time this fall, many southern states have come into direct conflict with the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding segregation in public schools. Some of them, such as Georgia and Louisiana, have sought an easy escape from the dilemma by repealing the existing legislation pertaining to public education. Other states, such as Maryland and Delaware, have tried to make their school systems in the spirit of the Supreme Court ruling, and accordingly have undertaken a sometimes exhaustive integration of white and colored schools.

Most of you have already heard of some of the rather unpleasant incidents that have occurred in many cities and towns throughout the South. At times it has appeared impossible that any system of integration has any hope of success in these towns. There has simply been too much friction between the two groups, and more particularly between the parents of the children affected.

It is equally certain, however, that the plan to eliminate public schooling that has been advanced by many states in the Deep South will not improve colored-white relations, nor will it materially improve the standard of education for the Negro.

A more careful examination of the facts shows us that the major areas of conflict in the states that have attempted integration come not in the districts where white and colored children are in approximately equal proportions, but much more often in the regions in which a few white children are compelled to attend a school that is otherwise entirely colored, or vice versa. In these cases, however, there is the inevitable problem of small minority in the midst of a much larger group that is “different”. The prime question is, Will integration as it is presently being carried out succeed? It becomes more and more obvious that it is completely impossible to undertake a project of such proportions without running a risk of failure. There are many people who will admit the justice of granting equal privileges to both colored and white people, but will never permit such a system to be carried out in their state or city. Segregation in a concept that has been drilled into the minds of thousands of people, not only in the South, but in many of the industrial regions of the North as well. It may be possible for Congress to decree that segregation shall be unlawful, but they can never hope to outlaw the prejudices that exist in the minds of men.

Early in life, many children learn, from their parents, from their friends, and from the actions of their elders, that the negro race is to be considered as inferior, and should be treated with a certain amount of distrust and dislike. Negro children, on the other hand, gradually become aware of the low opinion that most whites hold for them, and they see the harsh treatment that they often receive. It is only natural that these children should resent the domination of the white, and come to dislike and even hate the white race. Ideas such as these are impressed upon the child early in life, and are strengthened by everyday experience, become so well ingrained in the child’s personality that it is almost impossible to erase. As a result of early experiences of this nature, the vast majority of people, both white and colored, in the regions of racial conflict, have been so indoctrinated with the concept of segregation that there is no hope that mere Congressional legislation will eradicate it.

In this sense, if racial integration is to have any hope for success, there must be some attempt to uproot the underlying roots of racial prejudice. As much as we hope that the attempt at integration in the public schools will turn out to be a successful one, we fear very strongly that a complete reeducation of the entire populace is the only way to prevent the young children from becoming indoctrinated with the concepts of segregation. Certainly there are some areas where integration will succeed, but in many others there will be strife and disregard for the law for many, many years to come.

through the mail

Editor of The Tech

Sir:

It is very sad that one can find sufficient cause for complaint in the Tech’s manner of reporting news. I feel, however, that your article entitled “Racism: Biased Rhetoric Chastened by Baker House Committee” which appeared in the issue of October 15, contained too many misrepresentations of the facts to go uncorrected. In the interest of keeping the facts straight, I offer the following corrections.

In the first place, the article states that the participants in a birthday party in the room of Marcus Shaw, were "... threw beer cans and bottles from their windows to the street below ..." On the point the House Committees records show that while there was an instance of a bottle and a few cans being thrown, the occupants of Shaw’s room were in no way connected with this.

Secondly, the article states that after leaving Baker House’s on route to a restaurant, the participants ... greatly disturbed the residents of the hospital next to Baker ... while noise was made in the proximity of the hospital for about five minutes, there was no complaint of any kind registered by the hospital. Nor was there any indication that the patients were greatly disturbed. Also, there was no facility to sup-
port the statement in the article that several of the participants were "raped" at this time.

It should be emphasized that while this same report did mention cases of water fights and broken pumpkins, these incidents were in no way connected with the case in hand.

One of the most glaring errors was the statement in the article that All the participants had been previously warned against repeated policy parties by Amater ... In the discussion, the fact was clearly and distinctly established that: out warnings had been made only to Shaw, and not "all the participants".

Finally, an explanation should be (Continued on page 3)