



Bernard Lafayette Jr.

Born in Tampa, Fla., Bernard Lafayette Jr. has been involved with the Civil Rights Movement since his college days at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn. While in Nashville in 1960, he helped lead sit-ins at segregated lunch counters and restaurants. He was involved in the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee (SNCC) and active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Lafayette joined the Freedom Ride that left Nashville on May 17th, 1961. Upon arriving in Montgomery, Ala., Lafayette and the other riders confronted an angry mob of White segregationists. The mob attacked the riders and beat them mercilessly. On May 24th, Lafayette was on the first Freedom Ride into Mississippi and was arrested in Jackson. He was imprisoned in the infamous Parchman State Prison.

Lafayette later directed the Alabama Voter Registration Project in 1962 and was the national coordinator of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign. He served as president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, as a senior fellow at the University of Rhode Island, director of the Peace Education Program at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn., and is now a scholar-in-residence at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

Dion T. Diamond

Dion Diamond was born in Petersburg, Va. Diamond started college as a physics student at Howard University in 1959. While in college, Diamond was a founding member of the Nonviolent Action Group (NAG), an organization made up of Howard students that organized sit-ins and other direct, nonviolent action against segregation in the Washington, D.C., region. In the spring of 1961, at 19 years of age, Diamond arranged to take his final exams early so that he could join the Freedom Rides. Diamond traveled to Montgomery, Ala., to join the Freedom Riders in their first rides into Mississippi. On May 24, Diamond was one of 16 Freedom Riders to take a Greyhound bus from Montgomery to Jackson, Miss. He was arrested and spent 59 days in Parchmen State Prison, where wave after wave of freedom riders were held.

After his release from prison in Mississippi, Diamond helped organize students at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., in demonstrations and marches against segregation. In January 1962, a judge in Baton Rouge sentenced Diamond to prison for "criminal anarchy" for his role in organizing the demonstrations. Diamond went on to hold leadership positions in

the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee (SNCC), serving as field secretary in Louisiana and Mississippi. Diamond studied history and sociology at the University of Wisconsin, and later worked with the D.C. Community Action Project. In 1970, he earned a M.Ed. at Harvard University. He had a career in civil service in Washington, specializing in housing, social services, and employment issues.

George Bundy Smith

Born in New Orleans, La., and raised in Washington, D.C., George B. Smith graduated from Phillips Academy, Yale, New York University and the University of Virginia. As a second-year law student at Yale, Smith accepted an invitation from William Sloane Coffin, the university's chaplain at the time, to join the Freedom Riders' campaign. In May 24-25, 1961, Smith participated in the Freedom Ride from Atlanta to Montgomery, Ala., where he and 10 other riders were arrested at the Montgomery bus station and convicted of breach of the peace. The U.S. Supreme Court reversed their convictions.

Later, Smith became a distinguished New York jurist, serving on the Civil Court of New York City, the Supreme Court in Manhattan, the State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, and the New York Court of Appeals. Smith is currently a partner at the New York law firm of Chadbourne & Parke and a professor at Fordham University Law School.

A.Lenora Tait-Magubane

Born in New York City, Lenora Tait-Magubane graduated from Spelman College in 1961. While at Spelman, she became active in the Civil Rights Movement and became an active member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights (Atlanta Student Movement). In early 1961, she was arrested at a lunch counter sit-in with 77 other students and Dr. Martin Luther King. As a result she spent 15 days in the Fulton County Jail. In December 1961, Tait-Magubane was among a group of Freedom Riders that rode a Georgia Central Railroad train from Atlanta to Albany, Ga. The Albany Freedom Riders arrived at the old Union Railroad Station in the afternoon of Sunday Dec. 11th, got off the train and entered the "white" waiting room. Once outside, Albany authorities arrested the riders. Tait-Magubane spent two weeks in the Albany city and county jails.

Tait-Magubane later graduated from Atlanta University of Social Work (M.S.W.), and Columbia University Teachers College (Ed.D). She served as a social work and education officers for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Zambia, the United Nations Development Program in South Africa, the executive director of the New York Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and the director of the Bronx Preventative Services for Steinway Child and Family Services.

Howard University

Howard University, first chartered in 1867, has played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement with many of the college's faculty, students and alumni playing crucial roles in the march toward freedom. Thurgood Marshall graduated from Howard's law school in 1933. He later led the NAACP's Legal Defense efforts working to end segregation, including the landmark case *Brown v. Board* in 1954. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court. A number of Howard students participated in the Freedom Rides, including SNCC activists Stokely Carmichael, Diane Nash, Hank Thomas, and Dion Diamond. In 1965, while delivering the university's commencement address, President Johnson outlined his civil rights legislation and his plan for affirmative action to remedy segregation.