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U.S. HUNTS FOR BLACKS TO SPEND $127 MILLION

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Black Leader Of White Majority

EVA JEFFERSON: Brilliant Black Northwestern U. coed takes over leadership role

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BLACK LEADER OF WHITE MAJORITY

TO LEAD SUMMER 'PEACE TRAIN

By THEOPHILUS GREEN

In 1968, a small army of 124 Black students seized the finance office of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in protest of what they called unfair treatment of Blacks on campus. After holding the building for some 38 hours, the university submitted to each of their 15 demands in one of the few successful student protests on record. One of those "soldiers" was Eva Jefferson, then an 18-year-old daughter of an Air Force officer whose parents, she said, were vehemently against her involvement in campus protests. But today, she is the quietly reserved and remarkably self-controlled president of Northwestern's 6,400 undergraduate students.

Of those tense, trying hours of confrontation, Miss Jefferson says: "I was scared of my parents, of being expelled, and of going to jail. And so were most of us. But the unity of the other people kept us together." Today, she

Strolling with former student government head Michael Place (l), Miss Jefferson later talks with Rev. Ralph Dunlap.

PROJECT' FOR STUDENT MOVEMENT

Planning proposals for Peace Train '70, Miss Jefferson confers with campaign manager who spurred her election.

seems to have surmounted all her fears and is the focus of unity on campus—between the administration and the students, the whites and the Blacks, the young and the old. "She provides an exceptionally high order of constructive leadership at the student level," says NU Vice President Franklin M. Kreml. "And she's respected by everyone on campus," added E. Alyn Warren, a white student. "It's her personality, it's magnetic. She has a way of controlling people without really controlling them."

During the recent student strikes at Northwestern following the deaths of four students at Kent (Ohio) State University, a large contingent of unruly white students, armed with torches, moved toward the Reserve Officers Training Corps Building. "I can see those torches," Miss Jefferson called out politely over the loudspeakers. "I don't know what they're for, but they remind me of other torches and I hope it's not going to be like that." It was

an obvious reference to the Ku Klux Klan. The students stopped, extinguished their torches and continued the rally. Strike leaders credit her with the success of the entire strike campaign.

Now 20, the Mascoutah, Ill., political science major ran against Claude Jeffers, also Black, for the student presidency by campaigning on the unpopular platform of postponing fraternity and sorority rush, a method by which such organizations select their members. In campus politics, the fraternity-sorority vote can often spell the difference between winning and losing. But Miss Jefferson's personality overwhelmed any obstacles her politics presented. She personally visited each individual dormitory, introduced herself and just sat and talked. For many suburban white students she was their closest contact with a Black person. They were impressed. After the final tally was counted, the vote was 1,710 to 1,595 and Miss Jefferson thus became the school's first Black student body president.

With three brothers, the only daughter of a retired Air Force warrant officer and his wife grew up in a secure, middle-class environment on U. S. Air Force bases throughout the world. Her father says they have "some pretty good political discussions" but confesses they don't always agree. "But she's always been ambitious and of that I'm proud," he adds. By her own admission, because of her military childhood and the absence of a "Black community" *per se,* she has few Black friends. But that doesn't make her suspect with Black students.

"She's an individual," said Dorothy Higginson, a Black senior and 1968 protest alumna. "She isn't influenced by what most Blacks think are good for Blacks and has proven herself an inspiring leader—primarily of whites. But to talk to her you know she's never been around very many Blacks. It's not as though she was raised on Chicago's South Side. I imagine she could also be an effective leader of Blacks, if she tried. But she thinks what she's doing is good for Blacks and she seems successful."

Following the slaying of the two students at Jackson (Miss.) State College, white students were anxious to respond with another protest rally. Miss Jefferson was against it. "White people have always been giving teary speeches about how sorry they are, but never do anything," she says. "I felt good that they wanted to do something, but I didn't want a platform to relieve mass guilt." She formulated a plan which committed the school and community to relieve some of the burdens that Black people face daily. One proposal included a babysitting service to allow indigent mothers to find and keep work. Another forced the university to re-evaluate its urban housing contracts.

Miss Jefferson characterizes herself as "an independent with liberal to radical leanings" and her most admired politicians are Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York City and Georgia State Rep. Julian Bond. "I admire Lindsay," she says, "because he has the guts to stand up to a lot of reactionary people in New York and Bond because he has this beautiful understanding of what America's all

Talking with other NU Blacks, Miss Jefferson pauses outside For Members Only dorm which Blacks won following 1968 protests.

On Irv Kupcinet's (back to camera) Kup's Show with actor Jack Lemmon, she was offered a job as campus commentator.

Peace Train To Deal With Repression Of Blacks

about." The outspoken Miss Jefferson admits she learns more in "the real world" than in college classes, but resigns herself to the inevitability of further education and eventually law school. She wants a career as a criminal legal advisor. "If you don't know the law, you can get hurt a lot by the system, but if you know the law you can get around things and help people."

Her latest project is to help people—middle America—understand the concerns of college students. "So many times the only impression of college protest Americans get is pictures of buildings being burned and people being killed. And they have no idea what we're really about." As president of the project, Peace Train 70, she is trying to raise $900,000 for a proposed, two-month, whistle-stop student tour across the U. S. "The train," she says, "will serve as a vehicle for young people to communicate their idealism to the people who have the knowledge and the experience to convert those ideals into action through responsible political activity." Sen. George McGovern (D., S. D.) and supporters of the McGovern proposal to limit funds for the war in Vietnam are among those interested in helping the students raise the funds.

Miss Jefferson intends to incorporate the "whole idea of repression and how Black people are dealt with" into the goals of the train. "I have this belief," she says, "that the only way meaningful change will come about is that everybody understands why it's necessary. And not just people voting civil rights legislation because they're scared of another Watts or Detroit. But people really understanding the problems of all poor people, especially Blacks whether they be poor or middle class."

Life at Northwestern has significantly improved for Black students who remember the inequities before the 1968 protest, but Miss Jefferson is quick to deny any credit. "I think the change at Northwestern has paralleled the change throughout the country and people are becoming more and more aware of Black problems and a Black perspective of life."

Dropouts Were 'Pushed Out' By Racism: Black Kids

"I'm not a dropout," said the young Negro, "I was pushed out." "What pushed you out?" asked Sen. Jennings Randolph (D., W. Va.). "White hostility and the poor quality of the education I was getting," he answered. Lionel McIntyre of New Orleans, La., made the remarks in Washington, D. C. to the U. S. Senate's Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity. The committee heard testimony from five Black students from desegregated schools in Louisiana, Alabama, North and South Carolina. McIntyre also said southern school systems were run by the "white resistance movement." He joined Lowanda Lovette of Rocky Mount, N. C., in testifying that when they complained to school administrators about unequal treatment from teachers they were called "Communists." "I just couldn't stand the race baiting and the Red baiting," McIntyre said. Anita Kleinpeter of Lake Providence, La., testified there was desegregation in her school only to the extent that Blacks and whites used the same buildings. "Black students are not permitted to vote for class officers. We attend all-Black classes with Black teachers and we eat lunch at separate times," she said. Other testimony was along similar lines.