

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Flowers, Walter

Papers relating to the integration of the University of Alabama, 1955-1958

Background:

Scope and Content: In January of 1956, a black woman named Autherine Lucy registered and began attending classes at the University of Alabama. She was helped by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and their local officials working to further equal opportunities and rights in education. This was two years after the United States Supreme Court decision that "Separate but equal" education was inherently unequal. However, some people simply were not ready to face integration. Such was the case of some Alabama students and local residents of Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area. Initially, there were minor signs of protest along with small groups of protestors. But, the protestors grew in number and adamant opinion. By the day of Lucy's second day of class, there were mobs that had resorted to verbal and physical violence. There were violent threats and rocks and eggs thrown toward Lucy as well as others. These episodes of protest and violence hit newspapers all over the United States and the world.

In response to the news of protest and violence, people wrote letters of opinion to the University of Alabama. The letters in this file are largely addressed to the Student Government Association president Walter Flowers. They express a wide variety of opinion, background and knowledge. As is evident in the letters, many people were confused and ignorant about the true facts of the situation. There are letters from both extremes and many points in between. The Archives Department is not sure that the collection is complete with all letters. They are divided into three major boxes which are further divided into the following files: Individuals, Official School Organizations, Students, Teachers, etc. from Other Schools (Personal or Unofficial), Publications, Lone Newspaper Clippings, and Newspaper material. The letters and information are arranged chronologically but most are from February and March of 1956. Those that are undated are at the end of each file. The oversized box contains whole newspapers and individual clippings related to the subject as well as some tabulated data that were included in the collection.

Related Collections: For more information and facts about the Autherine Lucy case see: Keep 'Bama White by Ann Mitchell. A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the History

Department of Georgia Southern College in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in History, June 1971.

Subject Areas:

Size: 3 boxes

Source:

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

Guide Prepared By:

File Number:	Description:
1276.1.1-1276.1.7	<p>Correspondence, Incoming: Individuals, January 7, 1956 - March 5, 1956</p> <p>The letters in files 1276.1.1-1276.1.7 are personal letters written by individuals. They were sent from areas throughout the United States and other countries. Most are addressed to the S.G.A. president Walter Flowers or the student body. Some are addressed to Dennis Holt, a student who created a petition which condemned the violence and called for the protection of the students, faculty and reputation of the University.</p>
1276.1.1	June 22, 1956- February 7, 1956.
1276.1.2	February 8, 1956.
1276.1.3	February 9, 1956- February 12, 1956.
1276.1.4	February 13, 1956- February 14, 1956.
1276.1.5	February 15, 1956- February 19, 1956.
1276.1.6	February 20, 1956- February 28, 1956.
1276.1.7	February 29, 1956- March 3, 1956 and undated.
1276.1.8	<p>Correspondence, Incoming: Official School Organizations</p> <p>These letters were sent by various types of official representative groups from other schools. There are letters</p>

from high schools and colleges in the united States and Europe.

February 7, 1956 - February 29, 1956.

1276.1.9 Correspondence, Incoming: Students, Teachers, etc. from Other Schools (Personal or Unofficial)

Letters in this file also come from all over the United States and the world. There are letters from individuals as well as unofficial school-related groups. Many stress the importance of the fact that they are students writing to students.

February 6, 1956 - March 1, 1956 and undated.

1276.2.1-1276.2.2 Correspondence , Incoming: Publications, Lone Newspaper Clippings and Letters From Organizations.

These files hold publications sent without letters by individuals or organizations as well as a few letters sent by organizations. The lone newspaper clippings are those that were sent without letters or personal comments. Clippings with personal notes written on them are in files 1276.1.1-1276.1.7.

1276.2.1 October 1955- February 12, 1956.

1276.2.2 February 13, 1956- March 4, 1956 and undated.

1276.2.3 Correspondence, Incoming: Letters Written to Other Officials.

This file includes letters written to other University officials as well as Governor James Folsom.

January 7, 1956- February 15, 1956.

1276.3.1 Printed Material: Newspaper.

Oversized newspapers and clippings with related articles. Some of these same articles are also in files 1276.1.1 - 1276.2.2.

