

VOICES FROM

THE SIT-IN

produced & directed by
Ted Fisher

The true story of a protest,
told by those who lived it.



MONDAY | 6-8
Oct. 4 | PM

*Delta & Pine Land Theatre
Bologna Performing Arts Center*

PRESIDENT FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Dear Delta State Students, Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends,

Welcome to the Delta State premiere of "Voices from the Sit-In," a superb documentary that allows us the opportunity to relive an important moment in time in the university's history.

This film provides a valuable snapshot into the thoughts, actions, and outcomes of the 1969 sit-in on campus by a courageous group of African-American students. It offers insight into those changing times and how Delta State has become a better university. It provides inspiration for us all to see the value of fostering racial understanding and harmony, and educational equity and opportunity, for all people as we build a better world together.

It is my hope that you enjoy this experience of reliving history, and that you draw strength and inspiration from it.

Very best regards,



William N. LaForge



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2.



3.



4.



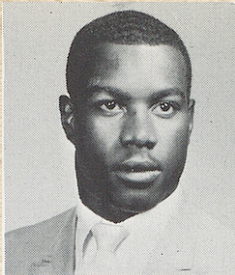
5.



6.

left to right

1. Lela Westbrook, Joyce Dugan, Don Jacobs, unidentified, James Williams, Martha Grayer.
2. Pearlle White, Sharon Burnett, Roy Allen, Willy Cherry, Talmadge Davis.
3. Don Sutton, Beverly Perkins, Carole Cole Garner.
4. Luther Thomas, Thomas Freeman
5. Thomas Freeman, Roy Allen, Carole Cole Garner, Don Sutton, Beverly Perkins, Mary Lewis, Mary Carter, Lee Greene, Joyce Dugan, Barbara McClinton
6. Maggie Daily, Joyce Dugan, Sonny Garner, unidentified, Jennifer Buckner, James Williams, Martha Grayer.



Roy Douglas Allen



Jennifer Buckner



Mary L. Carter



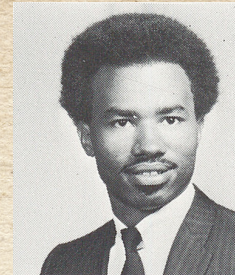
Ethel Cherry



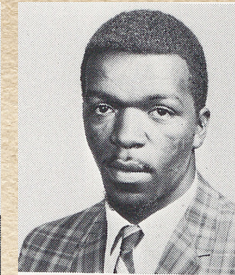
Yvonne McClinton



Lula Orsby



Beverly Perkins



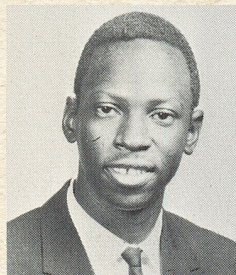
Robert Skipper



Willy Cherry



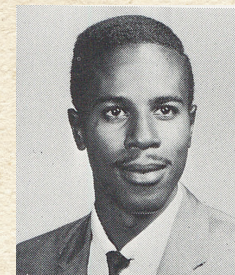
Maggie Daily



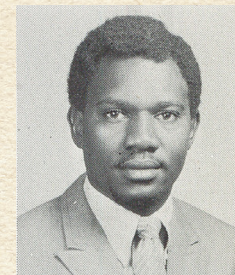
Talmadge Davis Jr.



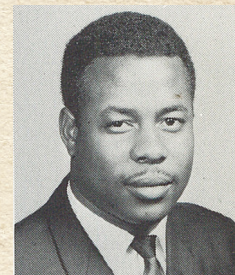
Joyce Dugan



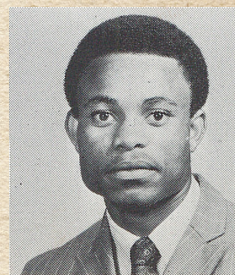
Johnny B. Smiley



Donald Sutton



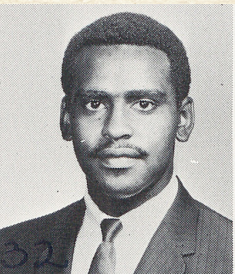
Eric Taylor



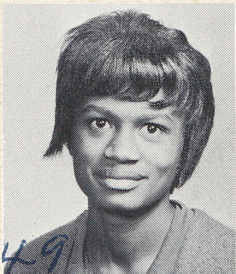
Joe L. Thomas



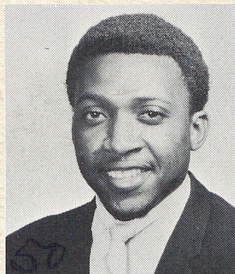
3
Thomas Edwards



32
James O. Garner Jr.



49
Martha Grayer



50
Mack Henry Griffin

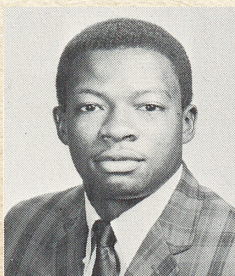


Pearlie Mae
White

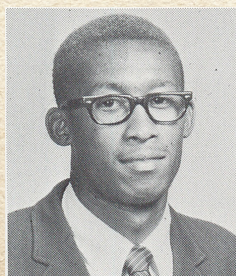
FROM THE 1969 BROOM YEARBOOK



Cora Lee Hicks



V. James
Johnson



Willie James
Kennedy



Barbara Jean
McClinton

Not pictured: Joann Anderson, Sharon Lynn Burnett, Jackie Campbell, Flora Clay, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Robert Fulton, Carole Garner, Sonny Garner Jr., Lee Ester Greene, Betty Ruth Greer, John L. Hall, Johnny L. Harris, Catherine Hence, Tommy Johnson, Charlene Jones, Mary Louis, Muriel Lee McCraney, Sandra Morgan, Levester Peacock, Earl Douglas Robinson, Roger William Sims, Effie Sledge, William Monroe Smith Jr., Luther Thomas, George Watts Jr., Lela Westbrook, James L. Williams.

STUDENT DEMANDS

- I. There is a definite need for a Black counselor here at Delta State. We demand that one such counselor be hired by this institution for the needs of Black students for the coming semester.
- II. Demand that Delta State hire at least two Black instructors to teach Black History courses by fall semester 1969. These instructors must be interviewed by a committee composed of faculty members and Black students; students on this committee must be approved by Black students.
- III. Demand the terms, "nigger", "Negro", "nigra", and "colored", be deleted by instructors and the word "Black" be used instead.
- IV. Demand that a fairer grading system be instituted by instructors toward Black students and that the administration set up an inquiry committee to see that students are treated fairly by teachers. These people should be interviewed by the Black students.
- V. Demand that one Black student be placed on each student-faculty committee. These students must be approved by The Black Student Movement.
- VI. Demand that Black students, in asking for rooms on campus, be placed not because of race but on first come first serve basis.
- VII. Demand that more scholarships be offered to Black students both academic and athletic.
- VIII. Demand more social functions, which are Black orientated, be brought to Delta State College.
- IX. Demand that a section of books, chosen by The Black Student Movement, be placed in the Delta State library for the first semester of the academic year, 1969-1970.
- X. Demand that a Black male and female student be appointed or elected to the Student Government Association to serve as Senators. These constestants must be chosen by The Black Student Movement.

* Actual replicate of the original list of demands.

VOICES FROM THE SIT-IN is the true story of a protest, told by those who lived it. Delta State University, in Cleveland, Mississippi, was segregated from 1925 to 1965. The school enrolled its first Black students in 1966. These first students struggled for recognition, for inclusion, and for fair treatment. By the Spring of 1969, as tensions rose, Delta State's Black students organized a series of actions and protests. These actions culminated in the quickly-escalating events of Monday, March 10, 1969. In VOICES FROM THE SIT-IN, the forgotten history of this moment is revealed. We meet some of the original students involved and relive the tense experience of a significant moment in the Civil Rights movement, exploring history almost unknown to students today. VOICES FROM THE SIT-IN features protesters Maggie Daily Crawford, Mary Carter, Talmadge Davis, and Muriel McCraney Lucas; 1969 student government association president James W. Powers; Delta State professors Georgene Clark and Dr. Charles Westmoreland; and current student Sykina Butts, who has been recording an oral history of the participants' stories. Filmed by current Delta State students, this 27-minute documentary brings to life an important story through lived experiences recalled across five decades.

Featuring protesters **Maggie Daily Crawford, Mary Carter, Talmadge Davis, & Muriel McCraney Lucas; 1968-1969 Student Government Association President James W. Powers; Delta State professors Georgene Clark & Dr. Charles Westmoreland; & current student Sykina Butts.**

Producer/Director: <i>Ted Fisher</i>	Cinematographers: <i>Antonia Cannon Keenen Davis</i>	Additional Cinematography: <i>Conner Dacus Ujiose Eki Mickey Farr</i>
Associate Producers: <i>Sykina Butts Arlene Sanders Dr. Carrie Freshour Michelle Johansen Michael C. Stanley Tyler Wells</i>	Sound Recordists: <i>Conner Dacus Audrianna Garvin Briana P. Henderson Krystal Schmalz Daniel Wiseman</i>	<i>Mason C. Smith</i>

Filmed at The Digital Media Arts Center at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

MOVIE INFORMATION

SPECIAL THANKS TO



The mission of the MDNHA is to foster preservation, perpetuation and celebration of the Mississippi Delta's heritage through collaboration and sustainable economic development. The MDNHA is a partnership between the people of the Mississippi Delta and the National Park Service. It is one of 55 National Heritage Areas in the United States designated by Congress that tell nationally important stories, celebrating our nation's diverse heritage through community-based partnerships and local collaboration.



This project was made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Mississippi Humanities Council.



*Delta Music Institute
Delta State University Department of Art
Delta State University Alumni Association
Delta State University Department of Music
Delta State University Archives and Museum
Delta State University Delta Center for Culture & Learning
Delta State University Division of Social Sciences & History*

Voices from the Sit-In Premiere Planning Committee

Ted Fisher, Assistant Professor, Art

Brittany Davis-Green, Director, DSU Communications and Marketing

James Forté, Director, DSU Alumni Association and Annual Fund

Emily Jones, University Archivist, DSU Archives and Museum

Michelle Johansen, Coordinator, DSU Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Planning Committee thanks the Office of the President;

Holly Ray and Lucia Chacon Habis from DSU Communications and Marketing;

Professor Emerita Georgene Clark and Professor Emerita Arlene Sanders;

Brittany Reed, LeKetia Bryant, Rhegene Fairley, Dr. Carrie Freshour,

Tyler Wells, and Sykina Butts; and Delta Proud Fellows

Thank you to the countless Black students at Delta State who also protested but were not arrested on March 10, 1969. You, too, are catalysts for change.



Winner of the 2020 Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award, now renamed the Excellence in History Award from the Mississippi Historical Society