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# Michael Dorman to Newsday, 28 September 1962

Michael Dorman

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XXXXXXXX-from Michael Dorman, Room 101, Colonial Hotel, Oxford, Miss.

night press rate collect

to Newsday, 550 Stewart Ave., Garden City, N.Y. (call letters LND)

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dorman filing racial

[Oxford, Miss.---This hate-scarred university town---where Negro James Meredith is trying to crumple a segregation barrier that has endured for 114 years---is the heart of William Faulkner country. And with each passing day the Meredith case is stacking up ever-increasing evidence to prove the truths woven in the literary fabric of Faulkner's work.

--more--

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22222222-from Michael Dorman, Room 101, Colonial Hotel, Oxford, Miss.

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If ever there was an example to illustrate the late Nobel Prize-winning author's theme that ~~an~~ catastrophe may result from attempts to preserve an archaic social order ~~that~~ <sup>WHICH</sup> can no longer be, ~~that~~ <sup>A</sup> example is being provided by the Meredith case. A collision course between the state of Mississippi and the federal government is being brought about by Mississippians' persistent determination to save "our southern way of life."

There are some here in Oxford and in surrounding Lafayette County (the model for Faulkner's fictional Yoknapatawpha County) who concede that the time has come for this way of life to give at least some slight ground. But, for every one of these, there are many more who refuse to budge an inch. This larger group, in a very real sense, is still fighting the Civil War.

This is ~~nowhere~~ <sup>nowhere</sup> more evident than at the <sup>privately endowed</sup> Mary Buie Museum, on the fringe ~~of the~~ "Ole Miss" campus. Here, in addition to the Nobel Prize and other awards and mementoes of Faulkner's career, are numerous Civil War ~~souvenirs~~ <sup>souvenirs</sup> that are the objects of near-adoration by <sup>WHITE</sup> Mississippians, young and old. ~~Among them are~~ <sup>Among them are</sup> a lock of Jefferson Davis' hair; a twist of hair from the tail of Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveler; and a Confederate flag sewn by the women of Oxford, which was captured by Wisconsin troops a short distance outside ~~the~~ the town and returned here only in 1943, after ~~the~~ <sup>complex</sup> negotiations.

-more-

33333333-from michael dorman, Room 101, colonial hotel, oxford, miss.  
~~to~~ night press rate collect  
to newsday, 550 stewart ave., garden city, n.y. (call letters LND)

A few houses down the street from the museum is the home of one of Oxford's most zealous crusaders for preserving the southern way of life. He is Faulkner's brother, John, ~~also an author, whose works include~~ ~~also an author, whose works include~~

~~was in Faulkner's family~~  
"Dollar Cotton," "Men Working" and "Chooky." At 61, with his white hair and wispy mustache, he is a carbon copy of William, who was four years ~~his senior.~~ senior.

his ~~senior~~ John Faulkner (who, at times, like other members of the family, has spelled his last name without the "n") lives in a home that could have come straight out of one of his brother's novels. Built about 1830, it is a rambling two-story affair with huge, high-ceilinged rooms and a turret-like effect in front. To get to it from the street, you must walk down a narrow foot path about 100 yards long, lined by towering oaks and evergreens grown so close together that they give the eerie effect they are closing in on you.

In his front parlor, filled with ~~his own paintings and what seems like a limitless collection of~~ antiques, John Faulkner sits in a rocking chair and drags slowly on a cigaret as he explains his adamance in defending the southern way of life from what he considers encroachment by ~~the~~ the federal government and Negroes such as Meredith. "We lived under Nigra rule down here during the Reconstruction period," he ~~says~~ <sup>SAID</sup> "They not only durn near starved the white people, but they starved themselves, too. They are just not the equal of the white people. The tragedy of ~~the~~ this (Meredith case) is that the colored people get hurt by it. The white people aren't getting hurt."

Faulkner said he and a majority of Mississippians are solidly behind Gov. Ross Barnett's refusal to bow to federal court orders to enroll Meredith. "This is actually a fight on whether the states have any rights left or not," he said.

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~~Faulkner declined to say what~~

Faulkner said his brother had confided his position on desegregation to him ~~before~~ before his death several months ago, but declined to discuss what the position was. William Faulkner, although he portrayed many of his fictional Negro characters ~~very~~ sympathetically, stirred up a dispute a few years ago with a statement that was regarded ~~as~~ by some as an attack on integration efforts and by others as merely a joke. ~~The~~ The director of the Mary Buie Museum, Mrs. Herron Rowland, who grew up with the Faulkner boys, said: "I expect ~~the~~ Bill would be on the fence ~~in~~ <sup>over</sup> this Meredith business if he were still alive."

~~At the Lyceum building on the "Ole Miss" campus~~

~~On the~~ <sup>FRONT</sup> steps of the "Ole <sup>Miss</sup> Lyceum Building, which Meredith hopes ~~to~~ on his way to the ~~to~~ ~~click~~ ~~one~~ ~~day~~ ~~soon~~ ~~to~~ ~~visit~~ ~~the~~ ~~office~~, most students ~~and~~ questioned in a ~~random~~ <sup>random</sup> poll yesterday said they preferred to see the university closed than to attend classes with Meredith. Typical was the comment of a 19-year-old sophomore from Memphis: "I don't want to see 'Ole Miss' integrated. It would have social reverberations that would last 1,000 years. It would change the whole social structure of the South. There would probably be total social integration---mongrelization of the races. I don't want my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be half nigger."

~~A~~ <sup>A</sup> 19-year-old blonde coed from Greenville summed up the minority view: "I'd definitely rather see Meredith a student here than see the university close. I don't think there would be any violence if he were admitted, although he'd probably have to listen to some pretty nasty names tossed at him. I know this. I'm a lot more interested in whether I can finish my education than in whether he's admitted."  
*more*

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A Methodist minister from nearby Bruce, Miss., visited the campus  
yesterday at the request of several members of ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> congregation who were  
concerned about ~~the situation~~ <sup>their children</sup> here. "What bothers me," he said, "is that they  
were a lot more concerned about the possibility of the university being  
closed <sup>to</sup> ~~for~~ their children than they were about the ~~unethical~~ ethical  
implications of whether Meredith should be admitted."

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