

July 19

TO:

Dear Harold- as usual the newspapers

FROM:

misquoted me, but here are the clippings.

SUBJECT:

Both from M/ps Star - one a headline

Never a mention of me being a critic. I was on WLOL
 for 1 hr. to tear into the racists & also to caution
 the negro militants. Still weak but recovering. With
 glasses the right eye will be 20-20. Left eye expected
 to be blind, but ^{I'm lucky to be alive.} Most scars don't even show!

Will be home ~~Monday or~~ Tuesday + Tues. or Wed. in
 Phila: & will have Patsy's work by me. Have evidence
 of another film of literature dist. which sounds like a
 much better one. Martin hard to contact - may not

• be able to get off earlier before coming east. would like
• safer surroundings & so am anxious to get home. Has
really hurt the racists so they may be gunning for me.
Place I am staying appears to have been searched - also
unusual phone call. I will be careful until I'm actually
on the plane. Will bring new info from Mexico relating
to Nagell. Should be able to get down to see you
sometime, & at least I should be able to call. With
glasses I will probably be able to drive a car. Would
like to meet your wife & see your place. Many thanks
for kind offer of a place to convalesce

Dary

RIGHTS CRUSADER

Beaten by Negroes,
He's Still 'Concerned'

By MAURICE HOEBS
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Another man was down and being kicked by a group of Negro youths in Powderhorn Park when Gary R. Schoener jumped in and yelled, "Stop!"

They stopped, long enough for the other man to scramble away. Then they turned on Schoener and beat and kicked him.

By the time they quit, Schoener had been beaten badly enough so that he may lose the sight in one eye.

Fourteen people were treated at General Hospital that night, last Thursday. Only Schoener and a 14-year-old youth from Farmington were injured seriously enough to require hospital stays. Police arrested 17 persons in connection with the incidents, which included vandalism in South Minneapolis.

Both Eyes Covered

Monday, four days after the incident, Schoener lay in a General Hospital bed, white cotton patches taped over both eyes.

"It doesn't change my concern for Negroes at all," he

said. Schoener, 23, who is working for a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Minnesota, has worked in Virginia in connection with the Mississippi voter registration drive and was involved in civil rights work in Harlem.

But he did have a couple of messages.

One was that "the Negro community has to accept re-

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Minneapolis Star Photo
by Charles Bjorgen
GARY SCHOENER
In General Hospital

sponsibility" for incidents like those last week.

The other is that police "need better training to handle this sort of thing."

The responsibility of the Negro community is to watch to see "that these things don't happen," said Schoener.

The incidents last Thursday offered a "clear-cut example of not assuming that responsibility" he said.

He denied the claim of Mayor Arthur Naftalin, who said Friday that the incidents after the Powderhorn fireworks display and at the Wallace-for-president rally in Convention Hall Wednesday "are not to be regarded as racial incidents."

Claim Denied

"It was clearly a racial thing," said Schoener. "These kids were screaming 'Kill, kill, kill!'"

"The casualty lists printed in the paper are all whites and those arrested are all Negroes."

Schoener said he doesn't believe there were enough police at the park, and although "some of those police were really on the ball," he thinks they need more training to handle such a situation.

One police officer, he said, could have stopped the beating of the man he tried to help by shining a flashlight at the youths, and would probably not have been hurt.

He said there was apparently an "appalling" lack of communication if the police were not aware that there might be trouble at the park.

One thing needed, he said, is more Negro policemen.

Make Violence the 'Our' Thing, Beating Victim Asks

Editor's Note: The writer of the following letter is in General Hospital recovering from a beating suffered in the recent Powderhorn Park incident.

To the Editor: Just as The Star was kind enough to print my five articles on the Kennedy assassination over a year ago, it was kind enough to allow me to express my views on certain local civic problems that I inadvertently became involved in.

Due to my condition of heavy sedation and exhaustion, and my confusing and rambling manner of speech, The Star's reporter who interviewed me, through no fault of his own, misunderstood the meanings of some of the things I told him. I do not feel that the Negro community was responsible for what happened to me or for the Powderhorn Park incident, although I feel there were racial overtones and that's why I used the words "racial incident."

GARY SCHOENER



The major thing I hope to communicate is the need for both the Negro and white community to develop among individuals a sense of responsibility for their actions. In this particular instance, there were Negro individuals who lost control, but

the reverse has also been true in many instances. As a matter of fact, I have personally been beaten by whites while trying to defend lone Negroes.

Given that in these troubled times I feel constrained to speak in terms of the "Negro community" or the "white community" rather than of a community of people or of mankind, those who lead each of these communities and in one way or another affect the attitudes of youths or groups should consider both the example they must set and the way in which they train their youths.

It is ironic that Negroes who have recently meet violence for the cause of civil rights have been moderates like Martin Luther King, the Rev. James Reeb, and Medgar Evers, who sought to help their fellow Negroes attain equality, and economic and political security. Even Malcolm X was not killed until he was becoming more moderate in his views. It seems to me that these men were killed neither because they were creating violence nor because they were "Uncle Toms," but rather because elements in our society who were opposed to them realized that they were becoming effective.

If these men's histories and their ideals were taught to Negro children and hopefully whites, too, then perhaps in the future youths of this sort who attacked me will not think that violence is the "in" thing to do.

—Gary R. Schoener.
Minneapolis.