

"An Injustice"

Editor of the Daily News:

For many years, while working every day in downtown Greensboro, I have enjoyed the privilege of eating a well-balanced mid-day meal in one of the lunch counters or restaurants in the business district. The advantages of partaking of such a meal over patronizing a stand up snack bar are obvious.

Not only have I found it more relaxing and enjoyable to eat sitting down, but the variety of nourishing and/or appetizing food is, of course, far wider than what is offered by the limited menus of the substituting affairs. I have an idea, too, that eating in a comfortable and relaxed position is more conducive to good health.

The term "have enjoyed" is used advisedly. The pleasure of dining in my accustomed manner has recently been much diminished. That is because the lunch counter sit-down protests have brought to my attention in sharp focus an injustice that I formerly thought of, when at all, only vaguely.

Of the thousands of downtown workers who find it desirable or necessary to eat close to their places of employment, and of the

numerous shoppers who find it a decided advantage to dine in or near the stores they patronize, I think it most unfortunate that a large proportion cannot do so unless they bring lunch with them or buy nicknacks from a stand up bar. They cannot eat in real comfort or in dignity because of being denied the privilege of taking a seat at a table or lunch counter in any centrally located dining place, regardless of its class.

How kindly, courteous ladies and gentlemen with complexions some shades lighter than those of other ladies and gentlemen can, without at least a modicum feeling of guilt, a tiny prick of conscience, sit down to a wholesome, balanced meal in a public eating place while the latter are refused this privilege, I can't altogether understand. If the truth were known, my guess is that a surprising number of white persons do suffer some measure of self-reproach. I do, for one.

If there is anything Christ-like, charitable or just about prohibiting a fellow man to eat, publicly, in any other than a vertical position, I challenge the most avid of segregationists to point it out.

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