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Exploring a campus in transition

Charles Childs, who reports on Cornell's black studies program in this issue, covered the march on Washington, filed on the horrors of Selma and has written a series of pamphlets used to help ghetto children with remedial reading. He does not, however, consider himself a specialist in civil rights. "Look," he says, "if Pompidou were coming to town, you'd probably want a couple of French-speaking reporters, right? Well, I think that a black reporter can bring an extra dimension to stories involving the race question." Childs, 33, grew up in New York City and attended both the New School and NYU, where he studied philosophy, literature and creative writing.

The man who took the pictures for the story is Gordon Parks Jr., 35, son of the distinguished LIFE photographer and a successful free-lancer in his own right. Like his father—who is a poet, composer of music and film director—Gordon has a certain versatility. After taking a two-year course at the English College of Paris, where he studied painting, he apprenticed himself to a sculptor. He later supported himself as a folk singer and worked for a time as a horse trainer. Young Parks has traveled over much of Africa, Europe and South America on assignment—he works both as a still photographer and as a movie cameraman. A television program on which he collaborated with his father won an Emmy Award. His photographs illustrate the book *J.T.*, a tale about a ghetto child who befriends an alley cat, which is now used as a textbook in many schools across the country.

At Cornell, Parks and Childs had to overcome the distrust many students feel toward the "Establishment press." Before they could go to work effectively, the two had to explain their plans and needs for the story. Then a mass meeting of the black students was held. A vote was taken and the LIFE team was accepted.



CHILDS AND PARKS

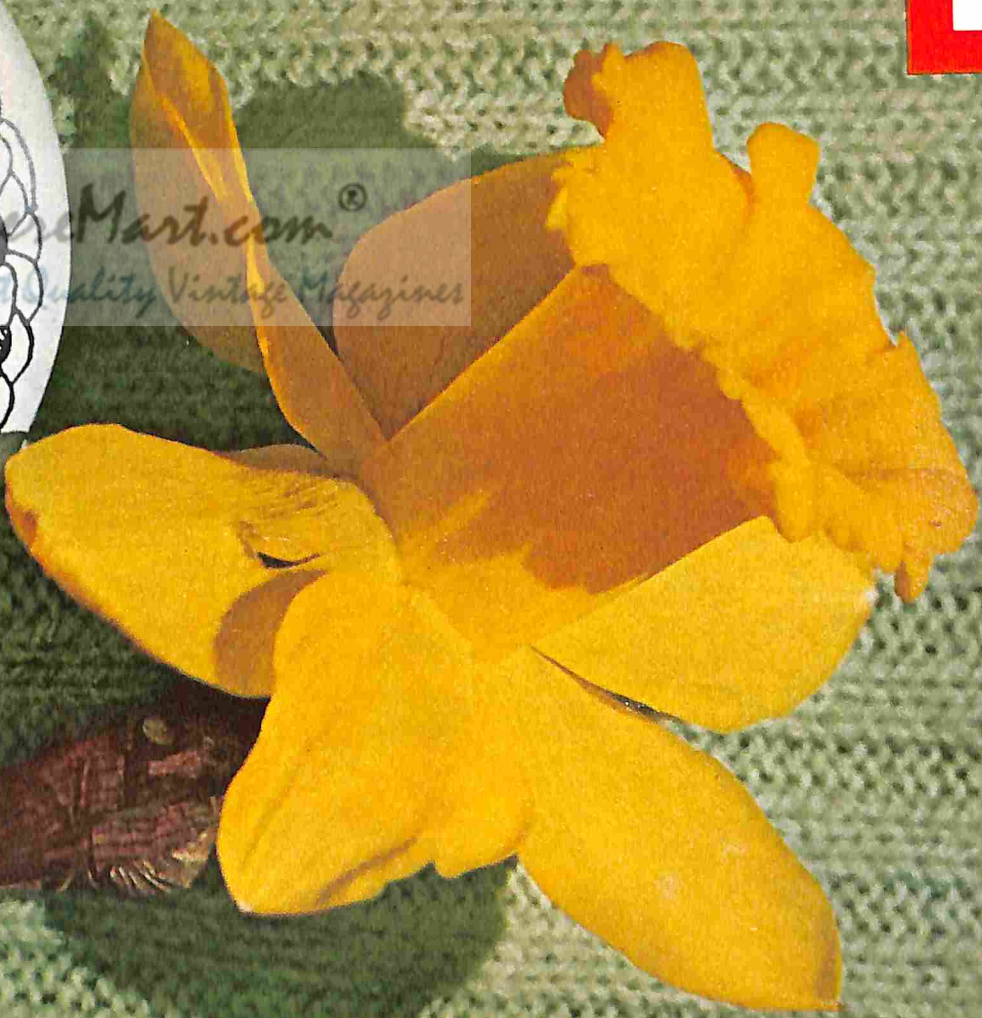
Ralph Graves
RALPH GRAVES
Managing Editor

THE

A thoughtful new student cause

CRUSADE AGAINST TOO MANY PEOPLE

A campaign button
of the movement for
Zero Population Growth



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