

# Freedom Rides

By Rebeca Boria

**I think the Freedom Rides had an impact on the U.S. history. When the judges ruled that all interstate travel should be integrated, the Freedom Rides helped force the law and not make it a law that comes in one ear and out the other.**

**The Freedom Rides was started by C.O.R.E. There was 13 original Freedom Riders and with the help of Gordon Carey and his friend Tom, who thought up the idea of the Freedom Rides. C.O.R.E. started to recruit and carefully screen people for the ride. There was 13 people picked and trained to be non-violent. James Farmer said, "Why didn't the federal government enforce its law? We decided it was because of politics. If we were right in assuming that the federal government did not enforce federal law because of its fear of reprisals from the South, then what we had to do was to make it more dangerous politically for the federal government not to enforce federal law. And how would we do that? We decided the way to do it was to have an interracial group ride through the South."**

**James Farmer (one of the riders) sent out letters to the President of the United States, John Kennedy; the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy; the Director of the FBI, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover; and the Chairman of the interstate travel. He also sent letters to the president of Greyhound and Trailways. He sent those letters to tell the people they were coming and needed protection of the FBI**

**The ride started on May 4, 1961 from Washington D.C. until May 17, 1961 in New Orleans to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Supreme Court's Brown decision. After the training they went to dinner in Washington D.C. in a Chinese restaurant with seven black and six white freedom riders to get 13 in total. "To me this meal was like the Last Supper, because**

**you didn't know what to expect going on the Freedom Ride.”  
Said John Lewis (an original freedom rider.) Then they split  
the riders up for the Greyhound and Trailways bus.**

*1 Henry Hampton and Steve Fayer. Voices of Freedom*

*Published in 1990. Pg.75*

*2 Henry Hampton and Steve Fayer. Voices of Freedom*

*Published in 1990. Pg.76*