

UNCF still striving to obtain goals

by Cheryl Floyd

Imagine that in 10 years, you return to visit your alma mater and find windows boarded up and vines of leaves crawling up the side of every building.

Graduates of Bishop College in Dallas, Tex. won't have to imagine this. Bishop is permanently closed. This will be the fate of more black colleges without the continued support of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), a fund-raising organization for private historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

UNCF was founded in 1944 by a past president of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Frederick D. Patterson. He wrote a column in the "Pittsburgh Courier" urging HBCUs to unite in fundraising activities. This helped raise \$765,000 for 27 colleges during the first UNCF campaign.

One of the activities for

Bennett's UNCF campaign for the year has already begun. There are designated boxes around campus for aluminum cans. Since students consume many soft drinks, Dr. Barbara Blake, biology professor, thought recycling cans would bring the most student involvement.

Fundraising has helped others learn the significance of black colleges.

"There's just something about a graduate of a black college. They have that added confidence, and you can tell that they've had a lot of support from professors and peers," said Jacqueline Wiggins, director of development for the Office of Institutional Advancement.

A graduate of a predominantly white university, Wiggins felt the difference as soon as she came to Bennett. Even her friends who had gone to black colleges had a confident air, as she recalls.

The largest fundraiser in

the past has been the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Telethon" for UNCF. The event has attracted many celebrities who donate not only funds, but also time and talent to solicit donations from others.

Perhaps the largest celebrity contributor is Michael Jackson. His "Victory Tour" raised \$600,000 for UNCF and helped establish the Michael Jackson Scholarship Fund.

Jackson spoke at a dinner given in his honor in New York in November of last year.

"There is nothing more important than to make sure everyone has the opportunity for an education. To want to learn, to have the capacity to learn and not be able to—is a tragedy. I am honored to be associated with an evening that says this will never happen," the singer said.

Singing is not the only

means of helping to ensure the survival of black colleges. Mrs. Ellease Colston, director of Alumni Affairs and adviser to the Bennett Pre-Alumni Council (PAC), helps to supervise fundraisers for UNCF. In November, she took three students to a PAC Conference at Claflin College in Orangeburg, S. C. One of the purposes of PAC is to help raise money for UNCF.

Faculty and staff have also been diligently raising money. Aside from giving personal donations, they have sponsored a gospel concert benefit and a fashion show.

For the first time, Bennett has selected a Miss UNCF, Joann Moore, a junior biology major. As a part of fundraising efforts, interested young ladies were given two weeks in September of 1988 to raise funds. Moore raised over \$500.

"Morale has never been so high," said Theo Hall, president of PAC, before announc-

ing the Miss UNCF winner.

Moore has already been on the "Good Morning America Show" with President Gloria Scott and on the "Lou Rawls Telethon" on Dec. 17, 1988.

Moore does not understand how others cannot see the significance of black colleges.

"For too long, blacks were rejected from white schools. Black schools gave us opportunity and hope. I can't believe that there are people who want to take that away from us, even though we can go to white schools now if we choose," Moore said.

Moore's words seem to echo those of UNCF founder Dr. Patterson, "My goal was never less than America's goal."

Dr. Patterson died on April 26, 1988, but his goal hasn't. The UNCF slogan reminds all that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." Not giving black minds an opportunity to expand simply creates an unnecessary waste.

Shades of the Sixties

Seniors: what's next?

by Joycelyne Hodges

What will seniors do in the next chapters of their lives—after graduation and its glories? What will they miss the most from their alma mater?

Some of the graduating seniors plan to continue their education.

Carolyn Lewis, a psychology major from Washington, D.C., plans to attend Ohio State University. She said, "I really think that it is important to continue my education, especially in order to get a job. If I don't get into Ohio, then I'll go to (The University of) Maryland."

She also said, "What I'll miss most is the togetherness and sisterhood that I share here at Bennett. I'll also miss Dr. Michelle Linster (professor of psychology) and all of the fun I've had in the dorms."

LaShawn Barber, a psychology major from Upper Marlboro, Md., plans to attend the University of Maryland. She said, "If I get ac-

cepted, I would like to get my master's degree in industrial psychology, then further my education to get a Ph.D. Then I'll pursue a family."

She also said, "I'll miss my friends and the atmosphere of Bennett."

Angel Buchanan, from Decatur, Ga., is a political science major. She said, "I'll go straight to law school, maybe at North Carolina Central in Durham. I can tell you who I'll miss the most, my little sisters, Dr. Baffour Agyeman-Duah (director of social sciences) and his stern hand upon me, and of course Ms. Carolyn Moore, (assistant professor of sociology)."

There are some seniors who wish to wait until they further their education.

Melody Hicks, a business administration major from Roxboro, said, "Hopefully, I'll just go home and get a job at Central Carolina Bank in Durham. I'll miss my friends the most."

Nancy Leath, a psychology

major from Burlington, said, "I plan on getting a job for experience. I hope that they'll send me to school, but if not, then I'll just quit and send myself. Believe it or not, I am going to miss these cruddy dorms but most of all my Bennett sisters."

Kim Eatmon agrees with Nancy. This ISP major from District Heights, Md. wants to enter the work force and eventually get a master's at either the University of Maryland or Howard University. She said, "I'll miss the friendships that I've gained on campus. I'll also miss the crazy traditions of the school which we argue about, like yelling "Flushing" in the shower."

Tonya Goodwin, an ISP major from Cincinnati, said, "I want to work for a while to make some money; then I'll go to school, maybe paralegal school. I'll miss a little bit of everything, but I won't miss packing up my things in order to bring them back down here."

Is black pride being reawakened?

by Taundra S. Woodard

Black pride, black love, black power, echoes from the past are rallying black America to action. The philosophies of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. are being revived, and black youth are moving from political lethargy to awareness.

The new black pride movement differs from that of the 60s because it stresses links with Africa and international black unity. The 60s movement secured the rights that all Afro-Americans were granted under the Constitution. Today's movement focuses on the struggles of the past for the rights of tomorrow. The new movement also denounces the inhumane treatment of the millions of Africans suppressed in South Africa.

The recent presidential campaign has been cited as one of the main reasons for this upsurge of pride. The two black candidates running for the presidency fell at opposite ends of the spectrum, but nevertheless both campaigns perpetuated black nationalism. Jesse Jackson, the more successful of the two, showed that he could appeal to black and white America. Lenora Fulani, an independent candidate able to get her name on the ballot in all 50 states, was more radical and dealt with particularly feminist issues affecting women of color. The campaigns showed that black America is still moving toward equality.

Sondra Sells, a junior arts management major from Denver, Col., believes that the campaigns meant more than just a black man and woman running for president.

"The campaigns caused black America to look at who they wanted to vote for and at the same time learn more about themselves as a people."

Tina Nelson, a sophomore English major from Philadelphia, believes that blacks are emphasizing racial pride to counteract the genocidal potential of the drug epidemic.

"People not on drugs are trying to exhibit more pride in the race to deter young people from getting involved with the drugs," Nelson said. Nelson also said that Malcolm X's teachings about vice-free living are more widely accepted. That is why many students wear

shirts with his picture emblazoned on the front along with a slogan from the movement.

Melissa Rivers, a sophomore business major from Rochester, N.Y., believes that there is a resurgence of black pride, but it is merely a fad.

"People don't understand what the symbols mean. They just wear them because it is the 'in' thing to do," Rivers said.

Sells acknowledged that she really had not noticed that there was a new move toward black nationalism.

"If there is a movement I don't know anything about it," she said.

Rivers cited students' lack of knowledge about the continent of Africa as a testimony to the shallowness of the movement. Rivers also identified a new move towards Islam as the reason why Malcolm X's teachings are more widely accepted.

"More people are moving toward Islam. That is why they understand the teachings of Malcolm X more because his teachings were directly related to the Islamic faith," Rivers said.

Sells doesn't know of any reasons for a move toward Malcolm X's teachings but acknowledges why she read his autobiography.

"I read Malcolm to see the past and present in respect to the future. When you are made aware of your environment, then you are able to become self-actualized. You can find out who you are in relation to those immediately around you and others around the world."

Rivers expressed doubts about the significance of the two black candidates in the past election because "blacks have run for the offices of president and vice-president before and it didn't cause a major impact. Therefore the past election did not cause much impact either."

On all college campuses, there is an increased enrollment in Afro-American history classes which may be caused by the new black nationalism. According to Nelson, "If students are really getting something from the classes then the classes are beneficial, but if students are just getting into the classes because they already know the information, then they are not contributing to the new black nationalism."



Garvey's Procession: Marcus Garvey (1887-1940) fought racial injustice in Jamaica, England and America. The most influential black leader of the early 1920s, he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and the "back to Africa" movement. At the height of his fame, Garvey counted millions of black Americans as his followers. When, however, he was convicted on a controversial mail fraud charge, he was deported to Jamaica and never regained his pre-eminence. (photo courtesy of Discovery Channel).

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