

VIEWPOINT

BLACK INK

The essence of freedom . . .
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Co-Editors

Complacency reigns among UNC Blacks

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It is interesting how we as Black people are so complacent when it comes to important issues. It is also interesting how we as a Black student populous at UNC-CH can ignore the most meaningful opportunities.

Take, for instance, the approximately 70 Afro-American Studies (AFAM) students who failed to grab the opportunity to attend the North Carolina Conference on Black Studies (NCCBS) on Oct. 12-13 at the Sheraton Inn in Charlotte.

Out of that group of students, which is composed largely of Blacks, only one young lady cared enough to go. Only three other students (including me) and an administrative assistant went, aside from Dr. Sonja Stone and Wekesa Madzimoyo, chairman of NCCBS.

But you had a good excuse, right? Of course you could not miss the football game (UNC vs. Wake Forest) and you had to go the weekend jams. Or maybe you could not afford \$12 for the registration fee or \$15 for the hotel room.

Whatever the excuse, you blew it! You missed an enlightening learning experience. I learned a number of things that I did not know before and was forced to think about things I had not thought about before.

For instance, do you know that Black studies is not the same as Black History? Black Studies is the study of all facets of the Black community (economic, social, political, cultural) in an effort to develop new ideas and solutions to problems facing the Black community today.

Do you know that there were once 200 Black high school principals in North Carolina but now there are less than 12?

Western Carolina is a part of the UNC system. Do you know that there are no Black faculty members there? (And we thought we were bad off.)

And do you know that Black faculty members around the country are being denied tenure at white universities while Black politicians and leaders do not think tenure is important?

Dr. Daniel Newsome, Associate Dean of the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio, lead the discussion of the tenure crisis, which was one of the work sessions at the conference.

Dr. Newsome said, "All kinds of unimpressive, unknown whites get tenure everyday while Blacks have to have monumental work equal to Darwin's Theory of Evolution . . . to get tenure."

NCCBS resolved to support Dr. Sonja Stone in her fight for tenure.

Those who were absent from the conference missed the opportunity to meet prominent Black professionals who gave insight on and encouragement in dealing with the Black Struggle.

You missed meeting Milton Jordon, editor of the first Black magazine in North Carolina; *View South*.

Jordon proved to be a positive influence because his attitude about himself is positive. He said, "I choose to perceive myself in a context that says 'You can't beat me.'"

He said that this message has to penetrate Black students so that they can feel that they are somebody.

Evangeline Grant Redding, the first Black woman gubernatorial candidate was also at the conference. She urged Blacks to become more involved in politics.

Redding is an author, lecturer and former television producer. She was the first Black female host of a North Carolina television talk show. She needs Black support in her efforts. The election is less than a year away.

Hoyt Fuller, editor of *Black World* magazine, spoke at the Saturday luncheon. He said, "The work of transforming America into a truly democratic society is still unfinished."

He spoke forcefully in support of Black Studies, saying that we can find ways to fight injustices in America through Black Studies.

Many Black people must have felt as the majority of the AFAM class, since only about 30 people showed for the conference.

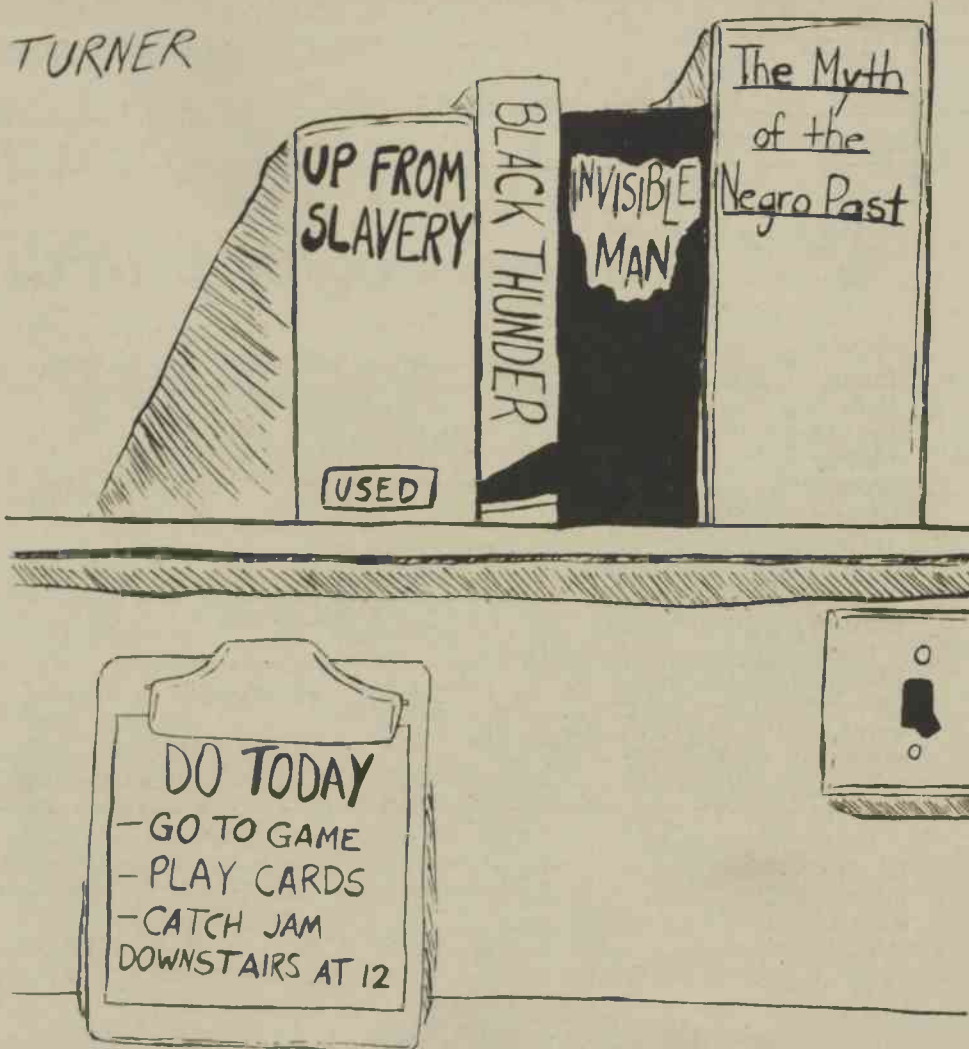
No wonder Black people are still in slavery; not enough of us want to fight for freedom.

Now is the time to think about your future. What will you be doing five or 10 years from now? You may not have a job since no one will hire you because of "reverse discrimination."

Your children may not have any Black teachers or professors throughout their educational years because of unreasonable requirements for state teachers' exams and tenure, or for lack of Black colleges.

Now is the time to mold your future into what you want it to be. Now is the time to contribute to the struggle.

TURNER



THE NEW BLACK STUDIES

NEWS FOCUS

Black input needed

By JAMES ALEXANDER
Co-editor

In past years, the only major Black artist to perform here has been Kool & the Gang, who flopped with a Memorial Hall date in 1977 when they were at the bottom of their career.

However, the group has rebounded since and has once again regained their original respect and it is almost certain that a Chapel Hill date today would likely be an about-face from the disaster of a couple years ago.

A concert Advisory Committee has since been formed at UNC, to advise the Carolina Union Activities Board of which acts may be appealing enough to attract an audience at the University.

Black students can no longer sit back and whimper about the lack of soul or rhythm and blues groups now that this committee has been formed.

Your voice can be heard effectively through open letters and personal contacts with CAC committee members about musical preferences and suggestions.

But if this effectiveness is to be reached rapidly, the Black sororities, fraternities and other Black organizations will have to move to the forefront and take the charge of leading the way.

Thus far, none of these groups has raised ever an eyebrow of concern for this matter which could be simply handled.

No letters have been written to the campus daily publications and no suggestions have been made as to what artists might be suitable for Black concert-ops.

It would be nice if the Black organizations would reach out and show some interest or support for the advancement and respect of Black culture on our campus.

We cannot sit back and point our finger at Union activities administration or members of the predominantly-white selection committee for the lack of Black artists among the campus concert roster.

They do not know (or will not try to guess) our preferences, and of course we have a better knowledge of our own culture. We are expected to educate the committees about our needs.

The Mother's Finest Homecoming concert held Friday night was the biggest major Black show to come on campus in the last 10 yrs., and if we continually show our interest and voice our feelings there can be more.

Presently, the committee is considering the Bar-Kays, Cameo, Sister Sledge and Al Jarreau as some of the possible performers for next semester's concert series.