

Klan threat sparks interest

The scene near the pit on Oct. 1, as Black students waited for the scheduled Young Klansmen meeting was one of interest. The students were interested in whether Klansmen actually existed on campus, whether they were brave enough to organize in front of 30 Black people and whether any of the supposed Klansmen were close friends of theirs.

When no one dared to show up in the pit identifying himself as a Young Klansman, some students laughed the incident off and others labeled it a bad joke.

A similar incident occurred in 1975 shortly after David Duke, then national information director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, spoke in Memorial Hall. A notice was put on a bulletin board in the Carolina Union announcing an organizational meeting of the Klan, but no one came to the meeting.

Again someone had succeeded in alarming Blacks and in getting publicity for

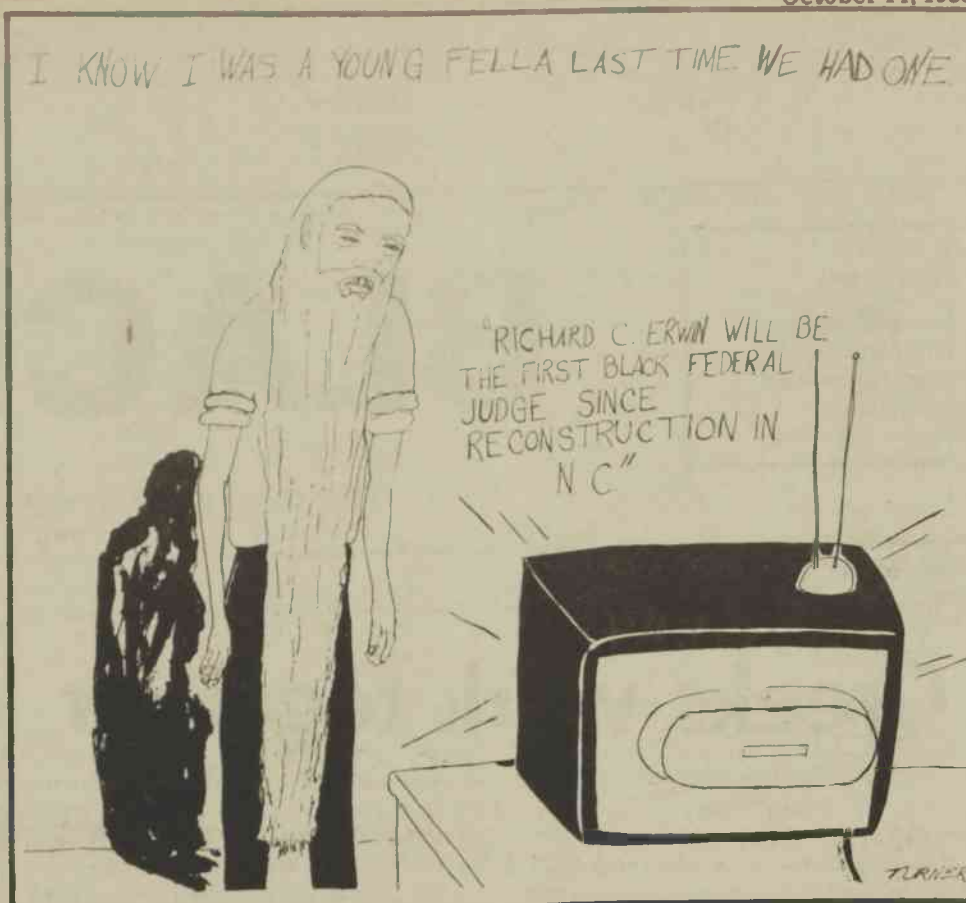
the Klan. And at the perfect time, the defense is now on the stand at the Klan/Nazi trial in Greensboro.

Only now students will simply forget the incident, and not wake up again until another scene like that in Greensboro last November, or until five or six other Blacks are denied tenure.

Instead of addressing the issues when small problems occur, most Black students would rather wait until something like slavery became legal again before they began to worry. They don't want to appear militant, yet they don't mind appearing ignorant.

If students would only keep the interest they have when disasters occur, then maybe the disasters will not get a chance to occur.

Incidents like the one near the pit Oct. 1, should not be so easily forgotten, and should never happen again. Black students do not have to become militant, just interested.



Graduate students respond to GAC article

To the Editor:

I would like to begin this letter by stating the first inaccuracy of this article — the title "GAC Will Try Again." When was the first attempt? In general the article is unfair, inaccurate, negative and in general discouraging: both, to those graduate students who *did* attend the first meeting, and to those who may have been interested in attending the upcoming meeting. A reporter was not present and no attempt was made to interview any of the graduate student members, and Carla J. Robinson was grossly misquoted.

More specifically: In the two years I have been

on Carolina's campus BSM has never formally tried to organize or solidify the Black and minority graduate students on this campus. As a new student, myself and many others — especially those not from North Carolina and not Carolina Alumni or alumni of any other schools in the state — felt particularly isolated to our own departments, lonely and in unfamiliar territory. (NOTE: many of the people I shared these feelings with last fall were at this meeting, or have expressed an interest in GAC). On several occasions the gap between the undergraduates and graduates on this campus was apparent — "Was BSM for everyone? What about other organiza-

tions such as the Choir or the Dance group? How can we meet other Black students — grads and undergrads — just to get to know people? — many questions like this were topics of conversation among new Black graduate students, and still are. Many of us were looking for social as well as service involvement on campus-recruitment, tutoring, and just a basic improvement of communication with the main campus and more involvement. Surely, many of the graduate programs have their own minority groups and many programs more than fill the hours of the day — but, for those of us at the meeting and speaking for many others, we still wanted to be involved, to be a part of a whole student body. These concerns were responsible for the genesis of the idea of the Graduate Action Committee as an adjunct to BSM last spring. The idea was not just to get graduate students more involved in BSM activities as stated, but to provide a base for graduate students who simply wanted to be *involved* on this campus — the nature of the activity would be decided by the group. Out of this last meeting, we do have a lot of ideas of our own.

The fourteen students who attended the last meeting were not largely "old" students, but new students with ideas and energy. The statement of "Only fourteen..." is negative and a gross misquote. From the last meeting we decided that before proceeding with a steering committee and definite plans, that we should first try to make contact with the minority students in every graduate program on campus by phone, to explain the organization, discuss potential involvement and this type of thing. Most of these calls have been made — many schools with organizations who wish to be directly involved will probably send a representative of their group — other departments will be on a mailing list. Needless to say this task was shared by the group — and I think a successful attempt has been made for the first time to unite graduate students and pull us all toward the university as a whole.

Without writing the article your reporter should have written on GAC. I would just like to say that my strongest objections to this front page piece are with the tone and misinformation. Two individuals came up from their books and said "There is more on this campus than what we know. We want more — and so do others." This was last spring. Receiving a minimal amount of encouragement and support from BSM, these two individuals thought all summer and instead of sinking into the prevailing apathy of the Graduate School in general (largely due to lack of outreach and encouragement) when fall came they carried phase I through to completion. I write this letter as one of those two individuals, as a graduate student, and in support of my roommate — Carla J. Robinson. It would have been so easy to have just been too busy, and to have just thrown out the whole idea — and no one promises success. But there is a wealth of interested, energetic, inspiring, and dedicated minority graduate students on this campus. To not take advantage of *anything* they have to offer or to encourage and nurture their ideas would be a shame and a loss. Please, stand behind us as we gather our strength to work with you on this cam-

pus. And yes, we will try again, next week and for many to come — and we will keep trying.

— Valeria Lynn Moore
The School of Public Health
Department of Epidemiology

To the Editor:

As the Graduate Representative to BSM, I feel that several comments on your article "GAC Will Try Again" (BLACK INK, 9/30/80) are in order. While the article was correct in stating that efforts are being made to organize the Graduate Action Committee (GAC) in order "to get graduate students more involved in BSM activities and to increase interaction among Black graduate students in different University departments," it was incorrect on at least two other points.

First, I do not recall saying that "only 14 people attended the first meeting" (emphasis mine). Fourteen people did attend the meeting, but they were 14 people who took time out of their busy schedules to attend because they recognize the need for interaction among Black students on this campus. The main purpose of this meeting was not to see how many people would show up, but rather to see if Black graduate students are interested in seeing GAC get off the ground. The 14 students present assured me that this interest does in fact exist.

Second, I do not recall implying that the purpose of our second meeting (to be held Wednesday, October 8th) is to "try (once) again" to get people involved. As a matter of fact, the purpose of this meeting is to plan one or two activities which GAC can sponsor in the near future. So, as you can see, we are past the trying stage. We are planning and doing. And whether 1, 4, "only 14" or 414 people attend the second meeting, we will continue our efforts, because the interest definitely exists. (After all, don't most organizations start with a core of committed, interested people and then build up?)

— Carla J. Robinson
BSM Graduate Representative

Fisk students show interest

To the Editor:

After reading your September 16, 1980 issue of the Black Ink, some of us here at Fisk University have become interested in your struggles at UNC. We too have had a few problems on our campus, but unlike yours, our problems were not directly racial but administrative.

We understand your angers and dismays but our word of advice is: don't act out of emotion. We had a few experiences where our emotions, rather than our intellect took over and we suffered because of it. Think before you act and once you've set a goal, go after it. As your motto says: Believe in Today; Strive for Tomorrow; Move toward the future. Your struggle is our struggle.

— A few understanding parties

This letter is unassociated with the Student Government, The Fisk Forum or the administration of Fisk University.

BLACK INK

"The essence of freedom is understanding."

BLACK INK

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