

NEWS

Discovery Seminar On Student Government

Panelists Say Black Student Leaders Should Recruit Freshmen

by Joy Thompson
Staff Writer

The key to effective Black leadership is sowing the seeds of leadership in the freshman classes, William Barber, chairman of the N.C. Association of Black Students and president of the N.C. Central University student government.

Barber along with Daniel Webb discussed "Black Student Leadership—Is It Effective" — one of the topics of the Discovery program on Feb. 23. Kenneth Harris, president of the N.C. Black Student Leadership Caucus and a UNC student, mediated the discussion.

Student leadership can only be effective if leaders can bring younger people into leadership positions, Barber said. "We have to do more than just talk to them — we have to walk with them."

Black student leaders snobbery hinders this relationship between leader and freshmen. Barber said, "We get so caught up with the material proportion of being in office, being in a few programs, having a position in power...we're too good to talk to the freshman class. We're too good to stay in a dorm; we have to go out and get an apartment. We're too good to take a stroll across campus; we'd rather ride."

"We've got to be about the business of the humbleness of leadership," Barber said. "We have to be understanding in all things. It's not the way you sit that makes you great, but its the way

you act that makes you great."

On this point Webb stepped in and described other problems. "I feel that we as a people are generally facing an identity crisis," Webb said. Leaders were too busy "throwing on masks and costumes," explained. The self-esteem of Black leaders has to be genuine.

Black leaders also have a lack of vision, Webb said. "We have to look beyond today and see tomorrow."

Webb agreed with Barber's point of sowing seeds. "Our duty is to those coming up behind us," Webb said. "They should be part of the vision."

He said charisma is not enough, but the leader has to be prepared for his position. He went on to cite several leaders in Black history like Martin Luther King who spent a great deal of time "in obscurity" studying.

The lack of unity among Blacks, Webb said, was a traditional and detrimental problem. "It is not every man for himself," he said. "We've got to come together."

Barber said as a leader, one must be accepting and welcoming. He said he had seen people look down on their brothers from Africa because the spoke differently or didn't understand everything Americans did. And Black Americans didn't try to understand Africans. "If you are to be a leader you have to go against the brand," Barber said.

Barber suggested some ways a leader could ward off student apathy. "Students have to see leaders working on the simplest project," he said. "You can't push them (students) away; you have to be right there in the forefront — in the trenches."

"You have to go to outside people," Barber said. He said leaders should create a sound lecture series covering a variety of perspectives. "You have to keep the students emotionally driven," he said.

"You can't run a serious student government by leaving a pamphlet on a desk."

Leaders should also learn about the campus and find out where the potential leadership is, Barber said. "You have to go to them and get

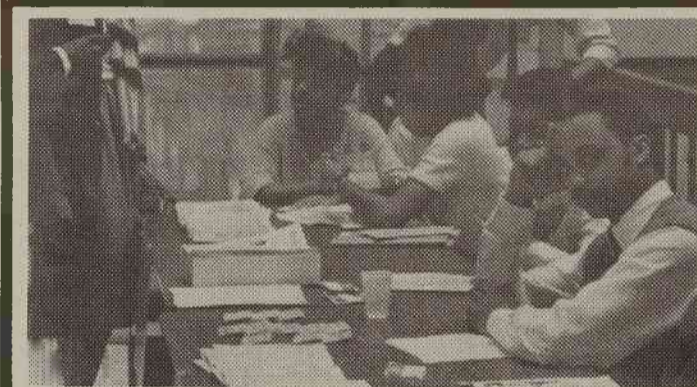
them politically involved."

"The leader can create effective student leadership," Webb said, "by specifically laying out what they are to do and then going over the agenda with the potential leaders."

Barber added that students should get recognition for their activism.

Sherrod Banks, president of the UNC Black Student Movement also gave suggestions for fighting student apathy.

"Enthusiasm is contagious," Banks said. "The leader must be of the mind-set that if there is a problem of apathy on his campus, it is his fault." "To be a leader you have to give yourself that kind of hell."



Discovery personnel sign in participants.

(Photo by Ralph Ward)

Black People Get No Breaks In Journalism

by Rhonda Hubbard
Managing Editor

"Despite what studies tell us...we (Blacks) are still a minority in newsrooms across the country," according to Miriam Thomas, a WTVD (Channel 11) television news anchorwoman.

She said of the 35 people in the newsroom at WTVD, only seven were Black.

Thomas and Allen Johnson, executive editor of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, hosted a seminar on Blacks in the Media during the Discovery program on Feb. 23.

Both professional Black journalists said Black people got no breaks in journalism.

"This is a funny business," Thomas said, "People in front of the camera are there at the whim of the directors. But it is also up to the viewers."

"If they don't like what they see, they let the station know."

Thomas said the public rarely wanted to see more than one Black anchor on a news team. However, she was unable to explain why

her news team—which caters to a market with a large Black audience—had so few Black anchors.

The competition is even worse for women, she said. "The Christine Craft case is an example that these things do happen."

There are far more women in broadcast journalism than men—probably because women have become media conscious, she said.

However, Blacks are not taken seriously by the media, she said. "We need to bring Black people out of the shadows," Thomas said. "There is a real need for a Black presence in the media so that it (news) will be real for us."

"Not white—'cause we aren't white."

Johnson echoed that sentiment by saying that Black journalists should also look to Black newspapers for careers. Johnson, a graduate of the University's journalism school and past *Black Ink* editor, said: "There is a belief that if it is Black, it can't be as good as white; but in '84, we (the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*) were the best weekly newspaper in the state."

"At this year competition of the North Carolina Scholastic Press Association, we won 13 awards and first place overall. This has never

been done by a daily or weekly newspaper in the state before."

Johnson also said that the *Chronicle* was chosen last year as the best Black newspaper in the country by the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Black newspapers allow Black people to be a part of management, Johnson pointed out. Most Black people on white daily newspaper staffs are reporters, copy editors and

photographers. "It is a white business," he said.

"There are Black people running Black newspapers—not whites," Johnson said. "There needs to be a Black perspective raised in (dealing with Black issues) instead of the perspectives that are forced on (Blacks) by white reporters."

Black newspapers also have their drawbacks, he said. "They are too concerned with getting ads and making money," he said. "They don't see that you don't have to build around advertising."

"Black people were much more outspoken when they had everything to lose—namely their lives. But we have lost that outspokenness."

Blacks Win Big At Grammys

Once again, Black pop and Rhythm and Blues stars dominated the Grammys.

Here is a partial list:

- **What's Love Got To Do With It* - Tina Turner - **Record Of The Year**
- **Can't Slow Down* - Lionel Richie - **Album Of The Year**
- **What's Love Got To Do With It* - Graham Lyle, Terry Britter, Songwriters - **Best Song Of The Year**
- **What's Love Got To Do With It* - Tina Turner - **Best Pop Female Vocalist**

Ghostbusters* - Ray Parker, Jr. - **Instrumental Pop

Better Be Good To Me* - Tina Turner - **Best Rock Female Vocalist

Purple Rain* - Prince and The Revolution - **Best Rock Group

I Feel For You* - Chaka Khan - **Best R&B Female Vocalist

Caribbean Queen* - Billy Ocean - **Best R&B Male Vocalist

I Feel For You* - Prince, song writer - **Best R&B Song

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