

NEWS

Make Tutorials Mandatory

by Darlene Campbell
Staff Writer

A majority of Black students at the University flunk out because they don't participate in volunteer academic programs such as tutorials which the University refuses to make mandatory, UNC Dean Hayden B. Renwick said at a Discovery seminar Feb. 23.

Renwick said of the 342 Black freshmen at the University, only 19 of them had a B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) average while 190 of them had below a C (2.0) average.

Of the 1,357 Black students at UNC-CH, only 80 have a B average while 553 of them have below a C average, he said.

Renwick started a minority student counseling program 16 years ago with the purpose of helping minority students deal with academics. "I know that I have one of the best retention programs in the country," Renwick said.

Yet, this program is not as successful as it is at other universities in the nation because "the one thing that we don't have like other colleges is a mandatory system," he said.

The University administrator knows that the only way these programs will work is to use some kind of mandatory plan, Renwick said. "The University refuses to create a mandatory system because it costs too much money," he explained. "They (UNC-CH) go and hire a beautiful staff for mandatory tutorials for football players. If you are going to provide mandatory sessions for athletes, provide them for all students."

While the University knows that the only way that these programs will work is to use some kind of mandatory plan, Black students believe that they have arrived, and that they are equal to white students, Renwick said.

"The students have got to be able to sift through what people are trying to do to them. They can't do this—that is why students are flunking out."

Renwick said students didn't help their own cause when they refused to attend class or refused to pass in assignments. Some programs were not reaching many students, because they were actually running away from an education, he said.

Black enrollment was dropping. In 1982, there were 467 Black freshmen while in 1983 there were 427, and in 1984 there were only 342, Renwick said.

Renwick used the results of six workshops for freshmen last fall as an example of the lack of student participation in the programs. Only two students of the 342 Black freshmen attended, he said.

Last fall, an average of 21 students per week attended tutorials, Renwick said. That's about four persons per session in which there were always more tutors than students, he added. "Now you think it's ironic why Black students flunk out?"

"All day, students sit on a wall that is approximately 50 feet from a \$1 million library," Renwick said. "The only time you can get 500 or more Black students together at one time is to have one of two things—a stepshow or a jam."

"These things would not disturb me if I could tell you that Black students were doing an average job. However, I have talked to 25 students who had less than a 1.0. One dude even flunked jogging."

"The University requires that a student have a 1.5 grade point average to return the sophomore year; a 1.7 to return the junior year; and a 2.0 to graduate. Do you realize that two C's and two D's can give you a 1.5. Some students can't get a 1.5. College is for academics—you can party at home."

Renwick said "mandatory" was the key word to the solution of the problem.

He offered such solutions as:

- * Having a cut-off point for SAT scores with any student scoring below this point attending tutorial sessions.
- * After mid-terms, every student have a progress report issued with students not performing satisfactorily attending tutorials.

Renwick also established such programs as the minority advising program in which participants must have a 2.5 GPA or better. He said, "In the program's 12 years of existence, there has never been a student who didn't graduate, including three Rhodes Scholars."

He said one of the reasons he designed the program so that only those with a 2.5 or better could participate was because students should take pride in their academic performance. There is no other organization outside of one sorority requiring Black students have a high GPA to participate, he said.

A Minority Academic Achievement Ceremony to honor students in the Minority Advising Program and minority students with a 3.0 cumulative average will be held April 19.

"I don't know of a single program other than this one that recognizes Black achievers on this campus ... not a single program," Renwick said.

Renwick said he hoped to have a mandatory reading program next year. "I will complain and raise hell but I will never quit on my students," Renwick said.

Justice Frye Gives Address



(DTH file photo by Ava Long)

Justice Henry Frye

by Kenneth A. Harris
Staff Writer

Black people need to establish a firm economic base in order to achieve and maintain power in the American political system, Henry E. Frye, N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice, said at the Discovery banquet Feb. 23.

Frye, a 1959 graduate from the University's School of Law, spoke to approximately 150 alumni and students during the Black Alumni Reunion banquet.

A strong financial backing, as well as a college education, will help Black people gain control in political matters, Frye said. "Politics without economics is like a ship on sinking sand."

He added, politics will determine the role of Black people in the future.

During the time of Reconstruction (1860s), Blacks were active in politics in the state. Since that time there has been a steady decline in the number of Blacks in the state legislature.

"During the 1890s, Blacks were very much a part of the government of the state of North Carolina, and, in fact, in many other Southern states," Frye said.

"We had more Blacks in the legislature in North Carolina in 1868 than we have today."

Frye served in both Houses of the General Assembly from 1969 to 1982. He received statewide recognition early in legislative career by suggesting that the legislature adjourn in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

"That had little to do in making anything better for Black people in North Carolina," Frye said. "But, first impressions are important."

He made comparisons to the University's racial climate during the 1950s and the present. He said while racism was not institutionalized, "there were two clearly separate worlds" for Black people and white people.

Frye said he tried to overcome racism by establishing a reputation as a scholar among his peers. "I got represented as being a scholar based on the first examination," he said.

Black students should choose a goal and stay with it according to Frye, "because somewhere there is someone counting on you to make it."

He told the group to seek advice whenever they needed it. "When a professional offers your advice, take advantage of it," Frye said.

In 1983, Gov. James B. Hunt appointed Frye to the Court to replace J. Phillip Carlton. Frye was elected to an eight-year term in Nov. 1984.



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