

What Do You Think?

As we approach the middle of the month, it is necessary to remember how important February is. Unfortunately, not all Americans—not all blacks even—realize Black History Month's importance. "Is the importance of Black History Month realized by blacks, or do most blacks see it as 'just another month'?"

Allan Younger, freshman business major from Raleigh.

Through past experience, it hasn't been emphasized enough outside of school. Despite the media's and public school's efforts to emphasize Black History Month, I don't think black people, or people in general realize the importance of knowing their culture."



Michael Telford, freshman economics major from Charlotte.

"I would say the blacks I interact with take Black History Month seriously. This is due to the fact that the black organizations are top notch. Also, I've seen a lot of unity amongst the blacks on this campus."



Carla Powell, sophomore RTVMP major from Lenoir.

"I think they try to recognize and make it special, but the original meaning of Black History Month has been lost. This is evidenced in the fact that most blacks today do not know their heritage."



Reginald Davis, sophomore education major from Henderson.

"It is taken for granted to a great degree, especially on this campus. Although the BSM is attempting to promote awareness, I believe the majority of black students at UNC are either unconcerned or uninvolved."

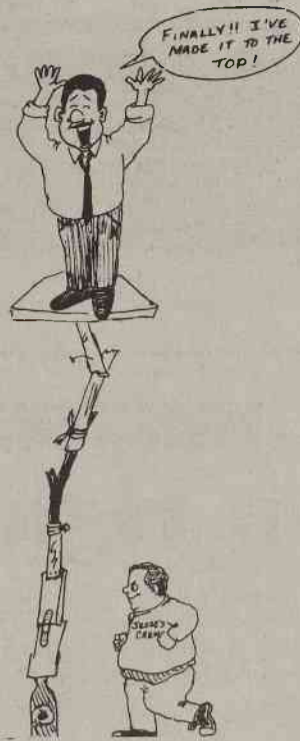


Sonya Henderson, junior nursing major from Winston-Salem.

"I feel that most blacks are aware of it, but I don't think they whole-heartedly realize its significance to the black race in pertaining to our heritage and culture."



photo by Tammie Foust



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The Carolina Union will present Annette Parker and Yours Truly on Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. in Great Hall. They will sing top 40 hits, jazz and love songs in a romantic, nightclub atmosphere.

They will perform until 10 p.m. at this Valentine's Eve special program. Beer and wine will be allowed with proof of age.

Contact Anne Morgan, 929-2545.

It's Coming Up

Delta Sigma Theta Sweetheart Affair, Feb. 15, 9 pm - 2 am, Great Hall. \$5 single, \$8 couple.

Black Student Body General Meeting, Feb. 19, 5:30.
Discovery Weekend, Feb. 22-23.

Alpha Phi Alpha Male/Female Relationship Workshop, Feb. 25, 7:00, Upendo Lounge.

Anti-Apartheid Meetings every Wed. at 6:00.

Viewpoint

Marjorie Roach
Assistant Editor

It was first started in 1964 as a corrective measure against decades of discrimination but today, 22 years later, discrimination has not ceased and affirmative action is under fire again after slowly cooking on the burner of the Reagan administration. The Reagan administration has long attacked numerical goals for women and blacks as unfair. They say counting by race is a form of racism.

Now in congress, sitting at a standstill, the fate of affirmative action devised to overcome or prevent racial and sexual discrimination is uncertain. Its purpose is sadly distorted by the likes of Attorney General, Edwin Meese. Meese was quoted in the Sept. 18 issue of the *New York Times* as comparing supporters of racial employment quotas to Americans who once argued "that slavery was good not only for slaves but for society." But what Meese fails to understand is that the system of slavery was an oppressive control meant to keep blacks in an inferior status in society. After being enslaved for 245 years then discriminated against for 142 more years, affirmative action aims to make up for past discriminatory practices. The concept is not just to place blacks in a company that has never employed a black, but to set up recruiting programs that seek out minorities or post job vacancy notices so that current employees can ask to be considered for advanced positions. Warren A. Hemphill, an equal employment officer who heads the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Coalition of Small Agencies said, "Affirmative action includes all programs that help a qualified work force that is reflective of the nation's diversity."

The Civil Right's Act of 1964 gave birth to affirmative action during President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration. Johnson said in a speech at the Howard University commencement on June 4, 1965, "You do not wipe out scars of centuries by saying 'now you're free to go where you want and do as you desire.'" "You do not take a person who for years has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bringing him up to the starting line of a race and then say 'you're free to compete,' and justly believe that you have been completely fair."

Black Ink

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