

Achievers make the most of their full scholarships

by Laurie Denise Willis
Editor

The Morehead Scholarship allows students to attend UNC tuition free, and it affords them adventurous summers with exciting and educational jobs.

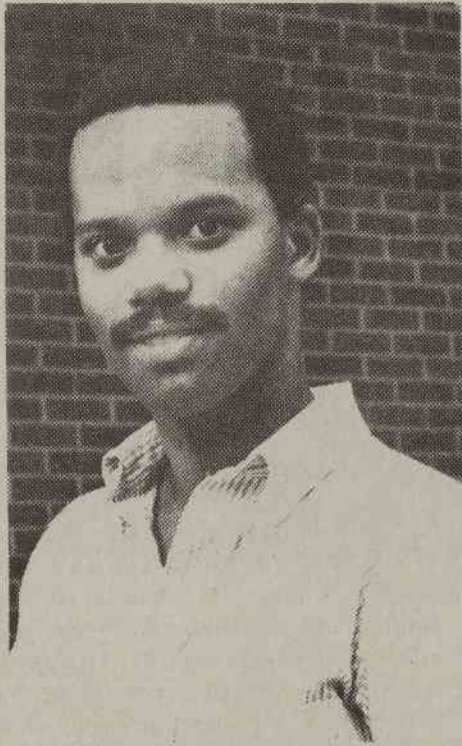
Paul Dominic Edwards and Lisa Henderson, Moreheads, have achieved academic excellence at UNC while participating in numerous extracurricular activities.

Edwards, a junior biology/pre-med major from Raleigh and Henderson, a senior English major from Wilson, are both members of the Black Student Movement, and Black Greek organizations.

But for them, priority lies with academics.

Henderson is president of the Kappa Omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a member of the Black Writers' Guild, the Cellar Door poetry editor, a member of the Society of Hellenas, and an English Conversation tutor.

Edwards, who is a member of the Mu Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre med honor society which requires at least a 3.0 g.p.a., is on the Human Relations committee of the Carolina Union, was a lab assistant for the biology department in the fall of 1985, was a minority adviser his sophomore year and was a member of the UNC jazz combo his freshman year.



Paul Edwards Photo by Tammi Foust

Both he and Henderson agreed that black students, particularly during their freshmen years, should concentrate heavily on their studies and "getting off to a good start."

"I think it's too easy to be diverted in Chapel Hill... to be successful here you have to discipline yourself," said Henderson. "High school backgrounds can definitely be a factor here, but good study habits are just good study habits."

Edwards cited adjustment as a big problem for blacks. "Adjusting to the environment in terms of being in classes where they're (blacks) one of two or three blacks can be hard. Also, not having dealt with the racism that exists here can be a problem for them."

Edwards said he didn't think the University has done as much as it could to help with recruitment and retention of blacks. "The University isn't making the effort it should with the retention of blacks... not as dedicated to the problem as they should be," Edwards said.

Henderson said she certainly thinks the University could do more, but she said she wasn't quite sure if the proposed mandatory tutorials was the answer. "This University is so large I think it's difficult to start doing things for people that they should be doing for themselves."

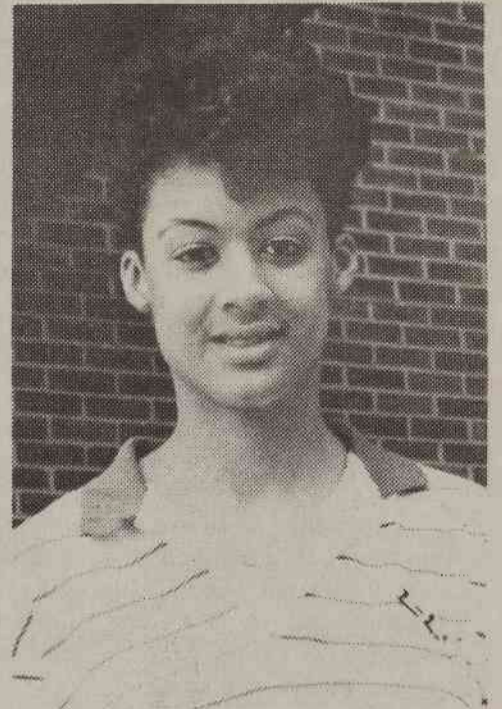
She also said she didn't think blacks are as active with campus organizations as they could be. "It's easy not to be active here."

And as far as the BSM is concerned, Henderson said she doesn't think blacks perceive the BSM as a body that does things. Edwards said people aren't aware of the changes they could help make through the BSM. "Blacks need to get inside the system to help make their situation better."

He said that blacks especially needed to become more involved with

Student Government.

"The BSM is a good tool for changing things, but who gives the BSM money?" Blacks "sort of have to help each other out," he said. "Student government is a good example of a



Lisa Henderson Photo by Tammi Foust

Lisa Henderson

group that cries out for more black involvement because they're right in there making changes. If you're going to make changes you need to get in there with the people who make changes and eventually become one of

'The Cosby Show'

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Overall, 47 percent of the 177 people who watch the show weekly, said their lives were similar to the ones depicted on the screen.

This identification apparently stretches across educational lines as well. Although the Huxtable parents both have graduate degrees, they still seem reachable to the educated, as well as the less-educated. While 56 percent of the 22 people answering with graduate degrees said their lives are similar to the ones on the show, 62 percent of the people with high school degrees said their lives were similar.

Among races, the identification rates seemed to vary little.

Of the 34 whites interviewed, 32 percent said their lives were similar to the lives on the show. Thirty-nine percent of the 90 blacks interviewed said their lives paralleled the Huxtables'.

Other reasons for the show's success are its main character played by Bill Cosby, and the enduring popularity of family shows, said Singleton. But this show is different from those produced in the early 70's, he said.

"A lot of people like the show because it carries positive messages. It seemed in recent years, that all family shows made the parents look like fools, but in this one, the parents

are in control and the kids are nice."

Evidently, many people watch the show for those reasons.

Freshman Jennie Langfahl agrees that the show deals with issues everyone can identify with. "I just think it deals with issues that I dealt with at home." She added that she thought the humor of Bill Cosby was an asset to the show.

Fellow student Monica Martinez, a junior anthropology major, watched the show every week simply "because it's funny," she said.

Not only UNC students watch the show. The survey revealed that people living in the urban and rural

areas of North Carolina also watch it.

Thirty-one percent of the respondents who described where they lived as being urban, watch weekly, while 30 percent of those living in rural areas said they watched weekly.

The only negative statistic dealt with the actual portrayal of a real black family on television. Respondents were asked if the lifestyle depicted on the show accurately reflects lifestyles of most black families. Only 7 percent of 585 people answering said most blacks enjoy that lifestyle.

Twenty-six percent of the 585 said most blacks may reach this status, while 30 percent of the 585 said blacks may never reach this lifestyle.

Overall, 76 percent of all those interviewed had seen the show at least once.

The Carolina Poll is sponsored by the UNC-CH School of Journalism and the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences. The sample was provided by KPC Research.

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Photographers and Writers are encouraged to join The Black Ink staff.

Melanie Littlejohn, a sophomore industrial relations major from Charlotte, and Charnette Huggins, a sophomore biology/pre-med major from Wilmington, have been assisting Photography Editor Tammie Foust as lab technicians. Thanks for the good work!