

# In Perspective

## One Step At A Time

by **MONICA PARHAM**  
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King, Jr. stressed that a positive change can result from non-violent protest and the collective call of the people for change. For years blacks and other concerned students have been using nonviolent means to effect change at the University of North Carolina. Recently there have been encouraging signs that UNC is becoming more responsive to the needs and interests of the black community, and indeed a concerned community at large.

In her speech on November 17, Coretta Scott King stressed that total divestment from South Africa should be a top priority for universities and corporations. After a long and sometimes bitter struggle, earlier this year the University agreed to divest. A major factor behind this decision was the effectiveness of student-led, nonviolent protest. Students were seen protesting at high-profile events such as the inauguration of UNC President C.D. Spangler. The protesters received even wider coverage when they chained themselves to radiators inside South Building. While some people may question these tactics, there is no doubt that they had a strong effect on the actions of the Board of Trustees. Coupled with other nonviolent protests, such as a Black Student Movement march to South Building and student and faculty petitions, plus many other less visible actions, the desired goal of divestment was achieved.

Another positive change brought about by student activism was the creation of the Black Cultural Center, or BCC. There had been calls for a Black Cultural Center for several years, but recently the issue had become dormant. With the revitalization of the BSM, the issue once again came to the forefront. Editorials were written to the *Daily Tar Heel* and other publications. Students began wearing BCC buttons to show their support. The Administration, seeing that students were truly interested, took the necessary steps, and in October the BCC was opened.

While we have come a long way at UNC, there is still a long way to go. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders always stressed the maxim that "God helps those who help themselves." In keeping with this maxim and Dr. King's dream, blacks must get more involved and more in control of their own destinies. If you are concerned about some of the problems facing blacks at UNC, join the Prejudice Reduction Committee or the Minority Concerns Committee. Become active in the Black Student Movement or Black Women United. To protect future UNC students, become a minority recruiter, tutor for Upward Bound, or become a Big Buddy. Extend your concerns globally and join the Campus Y. As long as we just sit back and complain, nothing is going to change. Show UNC and the world that you are concerned, and keep Dr. King's dream alive.

## Remembrance Day

by **DIANA LOWERY**  
Associate Editor

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is an important landmark in black history. It establishes for us a day on which we can celebrate the accomplishments of one who can be termed a "Great" man.

Just as many others, including Martin Luther King, Jr.'s wife, are now trying to bring about total peace and equality, we should also try on this day to accomplish the same. We as blacks on this campus should forget apathetic tendencies and for once stand up and be counted.

It is for us young black students, as Mrs. Coretta Scott King said in her speech in Memorial Hall November 20, to carry on and become the leaders of the future. This is to be done with total unity, upon which anything can be accomplished.

The main contention among black leaders today is civil rights, which some

people on this campus seem to take as a joking matter. When protestors march for civil rights, is that funny? Martin Luther King, Jr. stressed nonviolent demonstration to accomplish peaceful reform. Why should this then be considered humorous?

On a certain day during Human Rights Week (November 15-20) marchers were parading through the yard chanting for human rights and as they passed the wall in front of the Undergrad, they were laughed at by fellow blacks. I consider those laughing blacks as simple minds with little understanding of what the issue of human rights involves. For those people who seemed not to understand, rights for blacks are also included in the fight. I just wanted to clear up that misconception.

To end this tirade, I would like to say that as always, and as Soul Train's Don Cornelius says, "I leave you peace, love and soul."

## Join the Black Ink Staff!

Anyone interested in writing or being a photographer for the *Black Ink* during the spring semester should contact the editor, Sherry Whitesides, at 933-0458. Interested persons do not have to be journalism majors.

