

In Perspective

The sports mirror?

by **MONICA PARHAM**
Staff Writer

In recent months two sports figures, Al Campanis of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder have made questionable remarks regarding black athletes. Their statements have ranged from "blacks may not have all the capacities to lead" to "blacks bred in slavery to be physically superior". Unfortunately, such attitudes exist not only in the sports world, but also in areas such as business and education.

Consider Al Campanis' remark about blacks not having the capacities to lead. Since that now infamous interview on national television, much has been made of the fact that there are no black managers in Major League Baseball or black head coaches in the National Football League.

"So what?" you may ask. Of course I am offended by that statement, but since I don't plan to be a coach, why worry about it? Why? Note that there is not a single black Chief Executive Officer of a Fortune 500 company.

Put Mr. Campanis' remark into the mouth of a personnel manager. "Well, blacks are some of our most loyal workers on the assembly line, but I don't think that they have the capabilities of becoming managers. All of the complex work that managing involves — working with figures, auditing finances, dealing with worker complaints, and dealing with the Board of Directors. Our line workers are

happy with their jobs, they know that they are doing a good job, and they are paid well enough, so why put them into a position where they are destined to fail?"

For young black college graduates entering the labor force, the implications of attitudes such as Mr. Campanis' could be quite severe.

Too many people ignorantly hold Mr. Snyder's same belief that blacks are somehow "physically different". This attitude is even beginning to affect black youth. Many of these teenagers feel that all they have to do to succeed in life is be able to shoot a basketball or run a football. They see superstars such as Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson, and somehow that English and biology look less important; after all, Shakespeare won't exactly put that Ferrari in the driveway.

However, the chances of a college player making it into the NFL (note you still have to get to college in the first place) are 1 in 1000, and even if a young person makes it, one turn of the knee could be the end of the road. The average length of a pro career in any sport is three years.

Somehow we have to convince these people that their brains can be developed as much as our friend Jimmy the Greek claims their thighs are.

Perhaps in a strange sort of way we can thank Jimmy the Greek and Mr. Campanis. Maybe their statements will shock us out of the complacency that we seem to have fallen into.

What do you think?

by **GERDA D. GALLOP**
Staff Writer

For many minority students, the departure of Hayden Renwick, former associate dean and director of the Office for Student Counseling, was both a shock and a devastating loss. Renwick served as a reassuring voice from the inside who understood the needs and concerns of minority students, especially blacks on campus. He knew how "the system" operated and attempted to show blacks how they could beat that system in order to succeed at Carolina.

Below are some responses to the question, "How do you think that Dean Renwick's departure will affect black students at UNC?"

"Minority students should be concerned because the future of the Office for Student Counseling may be in jeopardy by Dean Renwick's leaving. If minority students lose the Office for Student Counseling, they will lose a support system which is the major support system for minority students."

Teressa McKoy, junior, biology pre-med

"Dean Renwick has been with the University for many years, and he's been a role model. He's had experience with

black students for many years, and he's worked hard to meet our needs. Even if they have a replacement, they won't be as effective as Renwick. Renwick already knew how to help black students. When he left, black students lost. What are blacks going to do now? Who do we look to for help?"

Joseph Love, junior, economics

"I think that it's going to set back the progress that the minority students were making. We don't have anyone who knows the system — someone who can tell us how to get around."

Teresa Smith, junior, administrative criminal justice/psychology

"The black students that need him will think that the school did something to make him leave, because he seemed happy in his position. You can't really replace him. Students felt so close to Renwick. He was so straightforward, you didn't have any doubts about what was going on."

Nicole Majette, freshman, broadcast journalism

"His presence will be missed greatly because he has proven to be an incredible asset to the black community here at Carolina."

Renarta Clanton, sophomore, broadcast journalism

*Those who stand tall in our
presence appear to be of unusual height because,
in most cases, they stand
on the shoulders of giants who have preceded them.*

J.H.F.

The RAW Essentials

by **DIANA LOWERY**
Associate Editor

I went to see Eddie Murphy's *Raw* one night with nothing to do. I expected the movie to be somewhat boring since Eddie was doing close to two hours of stand-up comedy. What I received was beyond any expectations gathered.

Eddie quite literally busted on black men and somewhat on women. His radical statement of the night — "All men cheat!" No matter how good a man's woman is, he will cheat on her. It's in their blood and their sexual organs.

In Eddie's explicit style, he covered the areas of: sex, marriage, love and relationships. Never should a man get mar-

ried anytime soon because he doesn't know what the outcome will be. If any problem arises and divorce pops up — no matter how poor a female was before she went into the relationship, she will come out with half of everything that the man had. And as Eddie said, men just don't want to do that.

He asks that every man be wary of females that they plan to marry.

Eddie had the whole theatre audience rolling with laughter until the end when he started telling jokes about his father. Then it got a little dry but paying the theatre ticket price was worth it.

I left the theatre wondering as I'm sure every other female was wondering — Do all men really cheat?

Power in Politics

by **RICHARD J. WHITE, III**
News Editor

Participation in the political process has long been a major concern in the black community. The time is approaching to elect campus leaders and officers, and eventually, national leaders. At the end of it all, it will be interesting to see to what extent the black community, here at the University and across the nation, has participated in these important elections. We need to get our act together.

In the time remaining before elections, take the time to learn about the student body presidential and *Daily Tar Heel* candidates. Become familiar with their stand on issues and concerns. All decisions that are made while they are in office will affect us in some way or another. Every vote counts. One of the benefits of voting is that the candidate receiving our votes becomes accountable. To ensure that the student body president is responsive to our concerns, we need to do all that we can to elect the best candidate.

In the community, there needs to be a singleness in effort. It is marvelous to have many voices, but we need to be singing the same song, preferably in tune. We need to define focus, and set forth an agenda for the upcoming year. Let us look closely at ourselves to identify, encourage, elect, and support articulate, imaginative and expressive leaders. We must utilize those among us who have exceptional skills in critical thinking and effective planning.

The black community has always been a place of nurture. We must commend our sisters and brothers for their ac-

complishments and encourage them to do more. Most importantly, need to show each other more respect. No matter how many ways we find to separate ourselves, our history makes us one. We must make a commitment to that history which the nation celebrates this month. We must demand that the truth be told. If education is the transmission of culture, we must see to it that our heritage is preserved and transmitted as well.

On this campus, there are several areas of concern. The BSM should not be an organization best known for the performing arts. Its political arm must be strengthened. The only way to receive more space for the Black Cultural Center is to generate a demand through well-attended, qualitative, fresh and informative programming that not only entertains, but also promotes mind development. If the environment on this campus was more welcoming and if a greater appreciation for those things "black" in programming, faculty members, and course offerings existed, more emphasis could be placed on retention rather than recruitment. There is something quaint about the internal fabric of this University. A more intellectually and culturally-oriented environment is needed. And finally, we must rally around the office of Student Counseling now that we have lost a cherished advocate in Hayden Renwick.

These are some areas that we must look into and consider when we look at a new chancellor, student body or Black Student Movement candidate. Let us make it our business to preserve our heritage through political participation.

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.