

Will Wilder's Speech Set A Trend?

Or Will It Simply Set A Precedent?

Douglas Wilder, governor of Virginia, is quite accustomed to breaking new ground. He excited the African American community by becoming the first Black governor to be elected to the position. And in May he will please many African Americans within the UNC community by becoming the first African American to speak at a UNC commencement ceremony.

It is thrilling to know that a man of such great magnitude will honor the graduating class of 1992 and our university with his presence. The 1992 Senior Class Marshalls and their leaders, Pete Holthausen and Chris Brown, are to be commended. Not only did they work hard at finding an incredible speaker for their commencement, but they also kept their promise to diversify senior class activities.

And although we are pleased, excited and anxiously awaiting graduation, there is a dark cloud that overcast this event. The fact that no other class nor the administration has gone out of their way to have a commencement speaker that is not a white male is disgraceful. We have never had a woman, a Native American, a Hispanic, an African American or any other minority speak at this university. In light of the diversity of students at UNC and across the state of North Carolina, this is truly a shame.

We hope that UNC's Class of 1992 has set not only a precedent, but a trend. Yes, there are white men who are dynamic speakers and would grace anyone's commencement. But the many dynamic women and people of color, many of whom are from this very state, must not be overlooked when we are bestowing the privilege of a commencement day speaker. To do so is to do a great disservice not only to these fine people, but also to ourselves.-- Erika F. Campbell and Akinwole N'Gai Wright

Black Ink

"The essence of freedom is understanding"

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Inside Black Ink

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----Cover Story----

"Grief," "shock" and "shame" — the words appeared over and over again in the nation's press after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. African Americans had lost their most compelling spokesman and white America had lost its most effective bridge to black America.

--Time Magazine's Coverage of "The Assassination" Pages 6-7

----Current Events----

On May 12 in Kenan Stadium, Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder will speak at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's commencement, being the first black person to ever do so.

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----Reflections----

Black people must fight for the enforcement of Affirmative Action to ensure that African American students receive fair consideration in their attempts to receive admissions to top-ranked institution of higher learning.

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----People, Arts and Entertainment----

--Album Review: Kill at Will and Ralph Tresvant

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----Commentary----

"I am angry at the schools and universities that continue to miseducate students on American history and the essential role of African Americans in American history. I am irritated by the parents who perpetuate racism by instilling into their children the same outdated, ethnocentric, intolerant values they received from their parents."

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Time's Coverage of "The Assassination"

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