



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted everyone to ignore race, yet the sad fact of the matter is that as long as others do not, I cannot.

By Melvin Davis
Contributor

After one semester at Carolina, I find myself overwhelmed by the past achievements and tremendous potential of this University and its constituents. Nonetheless, I am also quite perturbed by the plethora of social and economic problems that reflect the plight of both the state and the nation.

Our university is besieged by financial turmoil that will topple it from among the nationally ranked colleges and universities. Libraries close early, magazine subscriptions are cancelled and fewer sections of classes are offered. In high school, condoms were used merely to prevent pregnancy; here they prevent disease and death. It goes without saying that I have experienced a lot in college. I have been presented with homosexuality head-on without any orientation or introductory course.

But aside from the financial difficulties at UNC-Chapel Hill and the adjustment from high school to college, I was most unprepared for, and am most awestruck by, the racial tension that permeates one of the most liberal (or so I thought) campuses in the nation. From the stereotypical statues in front of Davis Library to the defacement of the posters of Harvey Gantt and Mal-

colm X, racism at UNC has shown no signs of subsiding.

I am not naive or ignorant by any stretch of the imagination, but I had never experienced overt racism before. Sure, I had been followed around in clothing stores because the merchants were afraid

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Endsights

that because I am black I was going to try to steal something. I knew that people existed who hated me simply because of my skin color. Never had I been called a "damn nigger" until last fall. The initial shock gave way to the revelation that I was no longer in my cozy and isolated niche of Kinston, North Carolina. The real world had finally swarmed upon me.

Before, I thought that being called a racially derogatory name was something that happened to others, but would never happen to me—not because I am better than anyone else, but because it had never surfaced. I am now faced with some, but by no means all, or most, students and professors who use race unfairly as the deciding factor in value judgments. Administrators call such acts "isolated incidents," but I am afraid that it is not the case.

Also, while my roommate and I were studying in the Undergradu-

ate Library, I looked up to find the words "Niggers, go home" scrawled on a study carrel. I meticulously scratched out the phrase with my pencil, but was forced to ponder what had just transpired. I am bothered by the fact that people have animosity towards me be-

cause I am an African-American or because they do not understand me, but even more so, the notion that my race is inferior because of any ignorant and asinine reason brings out deep feelings of ethnic pride and an even deeper animosity. I cannot understand why some whites harbor anger in their hearts when it is they who imprisoned and are still imprisoning African-Americans and other minorities. It appears to me that we should hold the grudge, but we want peace, change, prosperity and, most importantly, opportunity. Because of the lack of understanding of diverse races and cultures and their differences, racial problems will not disappear overnight, but maybe people will begin to think more and use less rhetoric in addressing them. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted everyone to ignore race, yet the sad fact of the matter is that as long as others do not, I cannot.

Express yourself about issues that concern *Black Ink* readers. Feel free to contribute. Drop articles by Suite 108-D Student Union, or mail to *Black Ink*, CB# 5210, Student Union, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Want To Be A Service Learning Coordinator?



a.p.p.l.e.s

allowing people to plan learning experiences in service

Wouldn't it be great to get \$20,000 a year to stay in Chapel Hill and hang out with highly motivated students, work closely with faculty on innovative curriculum ideas, and strengthen students' relation with and commitment to their community.

The student body wants to pay someone to do all this and more. Students voted on February 12th to create a full-time Service-Learning Coordinator position. If you are selected for the position, you will play a crucial role in establishing the new a.p.p.l.e.s. (allowing people to plan learning experiences in service) Program at UNC. You would work with students and the Center for Teaching and Learning to make service-learning an important part of UNC's undergraduate curriculum. You would serve as a "broker" between service and academics by working with service agencies and with individual faculty members.

You would be the first Service-Learning Coordinator and thus define the position and create a legacy of Service-Learning Coordinators in the future. No previous service-learning experience or knowledge of the a.p.p.l.e.s. Program is necessary. We are looking for a person who has a passion and commitment to service, the motivation to do quality work, and the ability to work effectively with lots of different people. The minimum Qualifications are: a Bachelor's Degree, previous experience with community service, good oral and written communication skills, and flexibility with evening and weekend responsibilities. On Friday, March 21, applications were made available at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in room 316 of Wilson Library, Carolina Union information desk, Career Planning and Placement (211 Hanes Hall), and the Campus Y. Applications will be due at CTL no later than 4:00 pm, Monday April 15. For further information, call Tony Deifell or Mike Steiner at 966-1289.--Tony Deifell

Think Black Ink!

Black Ink invites all students interested in working as staff next year to an informational meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 226 of the Student Union.

TODAY!!