

No 40 Acres, No Mule and No BCC

Hello.

The University will not be getting a free-standing, Black Cultural Center anytime soon. Maybe it would be helpful to examine the opponents of this idea and the reasons behind their resistance:

The Uninformed Set

Some students oppose a BCC of any kind, because they think it would be the exclusive domain of black people. One student, enrolled in a black politics class last semester, admitted she would feel intimidated if she entered the current BCC, a tiny portion of the Student Union. But the BCC is designed to be a learning center for everyone interested in expanding their knowledge of the black race. In this regard, it is no different from classes in Afro-American or women's studies. Sure, you can expect to see a higher percentage of blacks in an AFAM class or the BCC and a larger number of women in a women's studies course, but why should the prospect of being a temporary minority discourage people from seeking positive education?

The Pseudo-Multiculturalist Faction

These students, embodied by student body presidential candidate John Moody, say a multicultural center is what the campus needs. Really, most people espousing this idea are more concerned with undermining the effort to gain an independent BCC than they are with a center offering a diverse cultural perspective. They are like members of Congress, who defeat pieces of legislation by attaching to them an array of other (and often unrelated) issues. These legislative "riders," ostensibly put there to make the bill acceptable to a greater number of people, in effect make the bill unacceptable to everyone. No significant movement on behalf of a multicultural center has been implemented by any other campus minority. On the other hand, black students have agitated for a free-standing BCC 14 years. Curiously, only whites have mentioned a multicultural center to me.

The Apathetic Majority

Real culpability for the unrealized dream of an independent BCC lies with the rest of us who have not joined the struggle. This includes blacks, whites and the University. Even attempts to build a BCC with private contributions, and this is the only way we are going to see one here at UNC-Chapel Hill, are hindered by administrators and a student body whose support for the idea has been tepid at best. Of course, the question arises whether the lack of support can be attributed to apathy or opposition, and a student poll on the question might be in order.

The Racists

They are present in all the categories mentioned above. This is the quietest group, but we know they are there.

God Bless,
Myron B. Pitts

Black Ink

"The essence of freedom is understanding"

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Inside Black Ink

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Cover Story

A BLACKOUT OF BLACK FILMS

Except for the Chelsea, movie theaters in Chapel Hill rarely showcase the cinematic contributions of black directors and writers. Owners and operators of local theaters explain why. Page 4.

THE MOVEMENT GATHERS MOMENTUM

Marsha Tinnen, leader of the University's discontented housekeepers, talks to the Ink about the progress she and her colleagues have made. Page 3.

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE

As Media Issues columnist Melchee Tate tells us, television is not always accurate in its portrayal of African Americans. Page 3.

NEWS

- The Black Student Movement has a brief message of unity for all of us. Page 6.
- Cassandra Caldwell, latest recipient of the annual Martin Luther King scholarship, says some blacks have forgotten the dream. Page 6.

THE INDUSTRIOUS PROFESSOR

He makes woodcrafts in his home. He writes poetry. His travels have taken him to, among other places, Maryland, the Virgin Islands, Connecticut and Michigan. By the way, English professor J. Lee Greene has also taught at the University for 16 years. Page 7.

WE BROUGHT IT ON OURSELVES

Wonderboy laments the boring gifts he receives during the holidays. Page 8.

About the Cover

The films of directors like Spike Lee have no "juice" with Chapel Hill movie theaters. The Varsity, Ram and Plaza I-III rarely play the works of black writers and directors. A spokeswoman for the Plaza said their theater prefers intellectual films over ones that involve "a bunch of people shooting each other." Page 4.

Black Ink, founded in 1969, is the weekly newspaper of the Black Student Movement at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is published Mondays during the academic year and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, religion, race, ethnic origin or handicap. All manuscripts, letters, photos, illustrations and other materials submitted are welcome and must be signed. The *Black Ink* office is located in Suite 108-D of the Student Union. Mailing address, CB# 5210 Student Union, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Phone, 962-4336. One year subscription in U.S. and possessions \$20.00. Single copy, \$1.00 (Make checks payable to *Black Ink*). Any announcement or advertisement to be printed must be submitted the Wednesday before any publication date. *Black Ink* is published completely by university students on the SCAPEGOAT desktop publishing system and printed by Village Printing Company.