

Us Tokens are Denied Respect and a Black Studies Department, Garrison Says

from page 7

(unless the shoe fits of course) because to me it is an attempt to downplay the legacy of 300 years of slavery, a burden which most homosexuals, handicaps and white women do not carry.

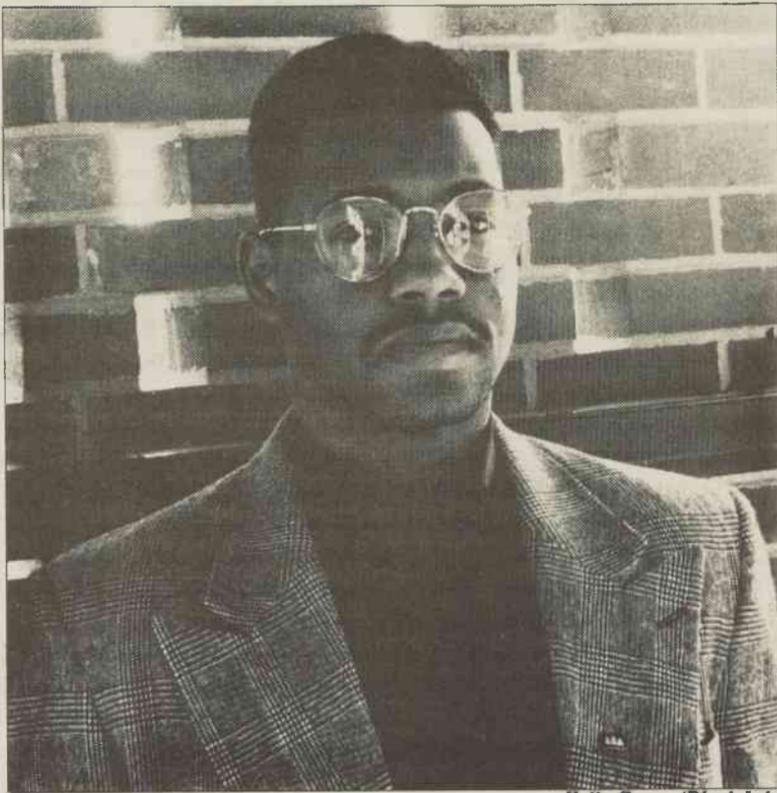
I am mad because what I thought was an academic reputation turned out to be a system which is hopelessly biased against women and black people. I am mad at this system because it is void of an African/African-American Studies Department. I am mad because the Afri-Afam Curriculum is a collection of TA's and a lot of well meaning white folks who often spew out pseudo-intellectual, eurocentric hog-wash. I'm even mad at the fact that there are zero Native American professors, or Native Americans period. I am mad because the administration does not tolerate blatant racism, although other forms of racism are purposely over-looked (just the housekeepers and female police officers).

I am mad at those who are perfectly willing to believe pseudo-intellectual, eurocentric hogwash, and participate in tokenism. These "colorblind" people sport green contacts and prefer the lighter members of the African-American community; these are the stereotypical tokens, the kind that the University welcomes with open arms smiling and singing the assimilation blues. Sometimes I wish I had gone to Morehouse, Howard or Hampton. Carolina

seems to be a place where liberal whites come to purge themselves from the guilt of racism and conservative whites fine-tune their skills of covert racism. Sometimes, I feel like a homeless black man, put at UNC to provide white students with a new sociological experience; that's diversity, that's why I'm here,

that's why I'm a token. I for one am not willing to participate in pig pickin's and square dancin' just to accommodate the intolerant, ignorant and misguided.

I've been here for almost four years, and I'm now beginning to realize what my father, a successful graduate of North Carolina Central and North Carolina A & T



Kelly Greene/Black Ink

Among things that anger Garrison are the teaching assistants and the well-meaning whites in the AFAM curriculum who "spew out pseudo-intellectual, eurocentric hogwash."

Universities meant when he asked me:

"Why don't you apply to Hampton? You'll realize around your junior year whether you really feel at home at Carolina or not."

Now I know what he was trying to say. I just hope my education will provide me with valuable experience in dealing with racist

and sexist institutions- the cornerstones of American society.

For those who say, dammit, you should not have come here in the first place- you know what you can do for me (even if you are not here tonight). In fact, during my freshman year, a member of the UNC Board of Trustees reportedly made a comment that blacks should go to a black school if they want a black culture. This is typical of UNC, as are: 1) Statues at Davis Library which portray student life, supposedly; 2) The "No nigger" homecoming queen incidents of '90-'91 and '91-'92; 3) The "No niggers" in the Senate incident, during Harvey Gantt's campaign. Four various acts of ignorance and stupidity among other too numerous to recount.

A lot of people on this campus and in this world don't respect me as a black person--that's how I know I'm a token and I'm mad. I'm mad because in 1989, predominately-white schools enrolled 80% of black college students but produced only 60% of black college graduates. I'm mad because according to an

August 1990 survey in "Black Enterprise" magazine, 57.7% of black parents prefer that their child go to a black college- mine did; 86.6% think black colleges serve a purpose that white schools cannot serve and 40.3% think it's worse for African-American students to attend a white college versus a black college.

You all know what I'm talking about when I say I'm mad. You know what I'm talking about when I say I'm a token. I'm a token because I don't have the opportunity to study in the black studies department at this, one of the best schools in the nation (ha). I'm a token because of federal law, i.e. diversity. They overlooked the fact that I am qualified to be here just like they did before 1954. I know I'm a token because I'm meant to be seen and not heard, so I apologize if I've offended anyone- I'm still young and I'm still a token. But my responsibility as a token is to dispel the notion that I don't belong here and that is my challenge to you. As William Gray, CEO and president of the UNCF said, "Young black professionals who attended majority institutions, who are the beneficiaries of the push for freedom and equality, they more than anyone else have an obligation to help develop a new generation of leaders out of the underprivileged and the underclass. If the "Talented Tenth" is not willing to get involved in the empowerment and liberation of the rest of their people we will never be free." So in closing, if you must be a token, be a talented token. Thank you, applause, clap, hallelujah.

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Epps, First SBP to Sit on Board, Wants to Bring Back Experience as an Adult

from page 12

D. G. Martin, secretary of the University and principle liaison with the governors committee, said while the position can be filled at any time, a decision will be made by the Board of Governor's in early March.

Although there are no specific qualifications for the position, Martin said the board will be looking for a commitment to education.

"The trustee has to be very active and supportive of higher education," he said.

Both Arnie Epps, Black Student Movement president and a cousin

to Richard Epps, and Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Donald Boulton said Epps fits the bill.

"He brings a conviction of being really concerned about positive education for everyone," Arnie Epps said.

Boulton, who came to the University the same year Richard Epps was elected student body president in 1972 and 73, said Epps was the type of person he would like to work with.

"I would know that I have someone who has the student body

at heart," Boulton said about the prospect of Epps being elected.

While Epps was the first student body president to sit on the BOT, he looks forward to returning as a voting member.

"I think that coming back as an adult member, I can bring a fairly broad depth of experience across the board," he said.