

Two Black Dorm Residents Find Noose on Door

By Jacqueline Charles
Associate Editor

When two UNC students returned from Spring Break a few weeks ago, they found an unexpected guest -- a noose hanging on the door of their South Campus dorm room.

Two days later, Corey Sturdivant and Melvin Browning of 258 Hinton James Hall, received a letter signed by Bill Russell, a person claiming to be the grand master of the Superior Order of the Holy Cross.

"The letter was apologizing for the noose on the door and said it (the noose) was meant for a suitemate who had been initiated into this

group, which I took to be the KKK," said Sturdivant, who with his roommate are the only blacks in the suite.

Although the two sophomores said they viewed the noose as a sick joke, the letter was an indication that things had gone too far.

"That was definitely racial harassment and I didn't find it funny," said Sturdivant, a speech communications major from Lilesville.

Browning, a RTVMP major from Stanton Island, N.Y., agreed.

"When you consider the historical significance of the noose to black men in the South, it's damn insulting," he said. "People were



killed unlawfully and you consider it a joke."

Although the University police, dean of student offices and the housing department were notified of the incident, a lack of evidence is making it difficult to find out who is responsible, Hinton James Area Director Bill Latham said.

Two weeks ago, Latham sent a letter to all James residents reminding them of University policy on racial harassment.

"Also, we hoped with the letter,

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The Readers Write In

Wonderboy! column revolting, divisive

To the editor:

Rarely does anything as vile as Wonderboy! make it into print.

John McCann may be a rational human being, but he certainly does not masquerade as one in the column, which surpasses itself week after week with its revolting, low-level divisive diatribe. A particularly disgusting sample comes from the Feb. 18 column on Mike Tyson.

Wonderboy says, in all his insight about Desiree Washington, for "her to leave with a man of Tyson's character and go to his hotel room at 2 o'clock in the morning tells you that she ain't nothing but a high-priced-ho'." He also repeatedly calls black women bitches and other derogatory terms.

He seems to have a fascination with rape, falling to the fallacy that it is an imagined problem, a made-up crime. In the March 24 column, Wonderboy decides that "Did Black Brother X rape her — probably not. However, being a female, Soul Sister X has the privilege to say so...Also, realize that females have the upper hand in the bootie-business."

I won't even insult readers by trying to explain why this is insane, why this is a prime example of stupidity. Anyone with the power

to reason can figure it out. Wonderboy obviously does not have this ability.

Perhaps Wonderboy will jump to his defense and say that he is merely playing Devil's advocate, that he really does not believe the drivel that he writes. Maybe he is trying to encourage dialogue and spur a reaction.

If so, he fails miserably. Acting and writing with the mind of a deranged 10-year-old with no sense of morals or justice is not the way to encourage thought. It is a sorry attempt.

Certainly he has the right to write and think as he pleases, and to publish his views. But by voluntarily running that column, Black Ink sends a message of intolerance and sexual frustration with every issue. Black Ink becomes identified with the closed-minded, dogmatic politics of sexual hatred.

If that is the image that a magazine for blacks and supporters of the black community wants to present, so be it. But don't wonder why black men have a bad image when Wonderboy makes them look like sex-hungry, mindless lunatics. And don't wonder when black women are repeatedly dehumanized and degraded. Wonderboy does both in one fell swoop.

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Race Relations Week should open minds

To the editor:

In response to the DTH article of March 24 entitled "SARR speaker unfit for Race Relations Week," no, the organizers of Race Relations Week did not screw up with their choice of Sister Souljah as the keynote speaker of the week.

It seems almost tiring explaining to proponents of the "establishment's" methodology the varied methods of achieving given goals. Yes, Race Relations Week did have a purpose to "achieve harmony in this increasing multicultural world," and was "a chance to further understand and respect people of all cultures," and countless issues from the Arab-Israeli conflict to racial significance in the work place were addressed in the various workshops. Yet it seems hard for many to grasp ideals (presented by Sister Souljah) that would illuminate innate prejudices within themselves. Even more importantly than the stated goals of Race Relations Week, Sister Souljah made everyone actually think about the inequalities present on our campus and indeed all over the nation.

Frequently in my experiences on this campus, I have heard

multiculturalism, racial harmony and cooperation preached. Yet the proponents of this utopian philosophy have an advantage that the minority presence lacks: respect, equality and a more than adequate representation on this campus (i.e. Board of Trustees, named buildings, etc). Multiculturalism, in my opinion should be the end result, yet I'll be damned if I cannot celebrate my African heritage first. I suggest everyone take time to do this also. This is something that the white majority on this campus must remember. Race Relations Week is not or should not fall under a (false) candy-coated penumbra of racial harmony, it should also be a chance for people of different cultures to express how they feel, and to express how they would like to be treated.

In reference to the time of the lecture, the author commented, "It's a shame to think such an important message could have been credited with much more meaning had it been delivered at another time." It seems universal in this "great nation" we call America that the concerns of black people need to be addressed at "another time." This sounds like Chancellor Hardin's 14-year delay on a Black Cultural Center. When is the right time? In February, when the U.S. government has set aside a month for black people to celebrate our heritage?

Like the author writes, "WE should mean everyone," not just

African Americans, in reference to Sister Souljah's wording, yet it seems funny, historically (including present day) that this defense is only used when the integrity of the majority is threatened. I, as an African American know all too well that feeling. So how does it feel? Now maybe we have accomplished something.

Race Relations Week is not just what one sees on the outside. There are certain underlying aspects also to be addressed. If anything, I hope that the program opened the mind's of blacks as well as whites not to exclude the various other minority groups. It seems almost superfluous, like many more before me have discovered, to explain to society that everything is not okay. Only each of us alone can evaluate ourselves as to what our role is in regard to race relations. Sister Souljah candidly and effectively started us on this ever-so-important journey. In my opinion, that is what Race Relations Week is all about. You can quote me on that. And in response to the editorial written on March 25 in The Daily Tar Heel, "Sister Souljah's remark filled with anti-Semitism," Hal, give me a call, I would enjoy the opportunity to educate you as to what time it really is.

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