

Where Do You Think We Stand?

By Fred Hall
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Out of curiosity, I recently asked about 80 students on the first day of my class in Black-White relations to rate race relations in present-day American society on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "very bad" and 10 being "very good."

I asked them to raise their hands as I called out each number backward from 10. Somewhat to my surprise, virtually no hands were raised before I got to 5. The model response was 3, with 4 running a close second, so I guess you could

say that the consensus ran at about a 3.5. My teaching assistant, Ellington Graves, even went so far as to give things a 1, but he was virtually the only one who did so.

Later that day, as I reflected on how I would answer my own question (I did not do so in front of my students at the time), sadly, the more I thought about it, the more I found it was hard to disagree with Mr. Graves. Why? With the caveat (caution) that I am cognizant of the tremendous improvement that has taken place on an interpersonal level with race relations in American society in general and in the South

in particular [see the September 1992 Social Science Newsletter of UNC's Institute for Research in Social Science], being more of a macro-sociologist than a micro-sociologist, I offer here, off the top of my head, a partial list for starters:

1. In the late 1980's, there was a documented decline in black life expectancy while there was a corresponding increase in white life expectancy;
2. Black higher educational attainment lags dismally behind that of whites, particularly in obtaining graduate and professional degrees;
3. Black unemployment rates

remain at least twice those of whites;

4. Black household income remains about two thirds of white household income;

5. Black poverty rates remain about three times those of whites, with black children being particularly hard-hit;

6. Black infant mortality remains appreciably higher than white infant mortality;

7. The Rodney King verdict and the L.A. aftermath;

8. This list could go on and on. . .

As a noted black leader said in another context, "ADD IT UP!"

My own impression is that

instead of moving forward in the last decade or so, we appear in many areas to be moving backward. I usually think of myself as an optimist, but at times it seems that the glass is far less than "half-empty;" it certainly does not appear to be more than "half-full."

What would be *your* rating of race relations in America? On this campus? Which way do you think things are going? Does your arithmetic come out any differently than mine?

I invite your measured response. Drop me a note or a line at the Department of Sociology.

1992 Homecoming Queen Policy

Editor's note: This policy was submitted by the Carolina Athletic Association.

I. Statement of Intent

Due to the controversy arising during the selection of the 1991 Homecoming Queen, the Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) has decided to reevaluate the selection procedure. After discussions with various campus groups who traditionally sponsor an applicant, we have authored the following policy, which will guide the 1992 contest. Once ratified by the CAA Cabinet, this policy is not open to change. The CAA, all applicants, and sponsoring organizations will abide by the letter of this document.

II. Procedure

This year's selection will consist of three parts, each of which will be a weighted fraction of a final score that will determine the winner. The three parts and their weighted importance are as follows:

Application Review (one-sixth of total score)

Interview (one-sixth of total score)

General Student Body Vote (two-third of total score)

The scores will be calculated and verified by the CAA and will be held in strictest confidence. The following sections discuss each of the steps in more detail:

III. Application Review

All applications received by

the CAA prior to the deadline (to be set later and strictly adhered to) will be passed on to a review board consisting of representatives from campus organizations not sponsoring a candidate. The board will be sequestered during the review, and names and sponsoring organizations will be removed from the applications. Each panelist will score each application on a scale of one to 10. These scores will be averaged and the applicant ranked in order of finish. Where the CAA deems the judges' scores to reflect a significant drop in the quality of the applications, a cut-off will be made. Those applicants above the cut will move on to the interview stage.

IV. Interview

The CAA will select a panel of not less than three and not more than six judges from the University community to interview each applicant advancing to this stage. All interviews will take place on the same day, and will be scored, like the applications, on a scale of one to 10. As before, the CAA will decide where an appropriate cut-off point is, and the top applicants will be placed on the ballot for the general campus vote. The scores from the application reviews will be irrelevant in this phase, so that all candidates enter the interview stage on an equal footing.

V. General Campus Vote

The vote will be monitored by

the elections board. When votes have been counted, each candidate's actual number of votes will be converted to a percentage of total votes, which in turn will be converted to the 10 point scale. For instance, if a candidate receives 27% of the total vote, she will receive a 2.7 on the scale. This figure will be multiplied by four and added to her application and interview scores for a total. The candidate with the highest score is the 1992 Homecoming Queen.

Sample: 2.7 (general vote two-thirds of total) x 4 = 10.8

8.2 on Review one-sixth of total

7.3 on Interview

one-sixth of total

10.8 + 8.2 + 7.3 = 26.3 total score

*To avoid a tie, decimal places will be carried out as far as necessary.

VI. Service Project

This year the Homecoming Queen will be required to perform a service project of her own choosing. The applicant's essay question will ask her to describe this project. If the CAA finds a proposed project either not feasible or inappropriate, the applicant will be given one opportunity to rewrite the essay. In this event, the deadline will be extended for the applicant.



Kappa Sweetheart

The Brothers of the Theta Omicron Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. would like to invite all interested ladies to an interest meeting concerning the Kappa Kourt Service and Social Organization.

Thursday, Sept. 17, 1992
at 6:30 p.m. in 208 Manning Hall



The Mu Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi
Alpha Fraternity Inc.
Presents the 3rd Annual Morrison
Sleepout for the Homeless

Fri. Sept. 18 at 10 p.m. (after the
rally) to 6 a.m.

See a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha for
sponsorship information

SUPPORT THE HOMELESS