

ling BCC Kicks Into High Gear

The Shot Heard Round the World: Students Bum Rush Hardin's House

By Tuere Randall
Ink Staff Writer

What happened on the night of September 3, 1992 was magical. Picture this: on this campus about 10 Nubian princes and princesses were transformed into African gods and goddesses as we marched into the night to "The Pit" and then to Chancellor Hardin's house to demand our free-standing Black Cultural Center. And though our voices rang loudly and clearly in the darkness of the night, we received no citations; and there were no arrests. Even still, we were heard. We made it very clear that we would no longer sit back and allow the systematic deprivation of African-Americans that has become the legacy of this campus. It pleases me even more because this is exactly the kind of support I wanted to see more frequently last year when I wrote to you, my brothers and sisters, of our apathetic nature. It became apparent that those students who came to that event witnessed what was perhaps the birth of what was the mass awakening of African-American consciousness on this campus, because what followed exactly a week later was the most exhilarating moment of my college career. What looked like about one thousand students marched from "The Pit" to the South Building led by members of the Coalition to Deliver to Chancellor Hardin an ultimatum: by Friday, November 3, 1992, if he does not comply with the wish for a Black Cultural Center, we will have no other choice but to take direct action. The sheer thrill of supporting each other was beautiful and emotionally stirring. We are making history together, pushing forward together, and hopefully we will never turn back to the cluelessness and apathy that had seemingly become characteristic of African-American students here. It is never too late to join the struggle, but we do not have the time or patience for half-steppin'. So come correct or just don't come. I want you to realize this: if a free-standing B.C.C. is what we want, need and deserve, we must

first understand WHY we want, need and ultimately will have one. I was reading through the Chancellor's letter to the freshmen, where he lauds Carolina and prides this University on being "a place where intelligent and inquisitive students with varied talents and interests, different cultural backgrounds, and diverse dreams and aspirations can come together to learn and to grow." So being the intelligent and inquisitive students that we are, we ask why is it that this administration is so adamant about denying us this building which will commemorate the life of Sonja Haynes Stone, who fought for the recognition of varied talents and contributions made by different people (especially African-Americans), so that people of any cultural background with their diverse dreams and aspirations can come together to learn and grow. We are the people who gave birth to civilization (thus the concept of a higher institute of learning), it is my belief (and I am sure many of you share this sentiment) that college is the cultural crossroads of education. There is no better place to celebrate the culture and heritage of others than at college, especially at a University as large as ours. We owe it to ourselves to love OUR heritage and to teach others how they have benefitted and reaped the rewards of our contributions. We have that responsibility and duty to humanity because for years it has so conveniently left our history out of

(his-story) books. Let us ask ourselves this: when we go to our friends' houses, do they not take us

they let the first Black student attend this university. By instating a Black Cultural Center, we would be

promoting integration because integration can only occur if smaller ethnic groups can have an equal interaction and exchange of ideas, culture and knowledge with the majority. Why not a multicultural center? Simply because other people of color have made significant contributions to the world and it would be unfair to restrict the amount of space they may want and need to reflect themselves. Would the Tri-Delts



Hitchcock Speaks As BAC Members Look On

in and show us photo albums? Do they not tell and teach us things about how their family is special and unique? Would we not do those same things with a B.C.C.? T.D. McNeil, the woman who first sparked the first protest march, said something that struck me: "An obstacle is something you see when you take your focus off your goal." We cannot afford to be unfocused because there are too many people. They will call us separatists and

share a house with the Tri-Sigs? I THINK NOT! We are a loving and forgiving people. How else could we tolerate a campus that has several of its buildings named after klansmen—a point so eloquently made by April Turner at the "speak-out." Do you think that Jews would tolerate a Hitler Hall, or study in a Goebbels Library? HELL NO! I regret that more people do not see that this should indeed be a multi-racial effort. I am sorry that some



Onlookers Watch As Students Gather

White people who came to the speak-out felt targeted by some of the remarks made or that they may be the brunt of 400 years of frustration. To you I say this: this is not about you as an individual, this struggle is larger than that. You

probably worse things behind our backs because we will not settle for a multicultural center. We know we are not separatists because we recognize separatism all too well. Separatists are what they were the 160 years (approximately) before

could not undo, nor do we hold you responsible for the centuries of victimization perpetuated by the Caucasian race against people of color in the diaspora. But you can do your part: spread the word and encourage others to come out and

make yourselves known to Chancellor Hardin who mistakenly sees this struggle as a "Black Thing." Besides, it is very human to feel emotions like frustration or even hatred for the injustice that is methodically dealt to us by the "powers that be" at this university. These emotions fuel our potential energy, and in order to turn that potential energy into kinetic energy, we must have unity among ourselves. Chris Miller of Alpha Phi Alpha spoke of the brotherhood and sisterhood that he wishes would exist between all Greeks. Reggie O'Rourke of Kappa Alpha Psi, responding to this pledged his willingness to put aside traditional rivalries and differences. It was amazing that night to see the unity of which they spoke come to life when we left the Pit. Like disciples of Jesus, we went to spread the "Good News" and when we met back in the Pit and watched our numbers quadruple, the unity materialized. And again I watched it become solid and concrete as I looked down from inside the South Building and saw the ocean of black fists held high, staunchly, fervently demanding a BCC. There is strength in numbers my brothers and sisters, enough strength to unite us into one voice that this administration can not ignore. The freshmen should be commended because they were a great presence at the march on September 3rd. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to you for believing in this cause which is so new to you.

"The die has been cast." We can only go forward now, and now we have so many intelligent, gifted and articulate leaders who are more willing to show us the way. We have only to feel it in our hearts and be involved. Come to the BSM meetings. Support BAC. Work through the different organizations and the various committees. Come to the planned events. I offer you: erase all of the evils of racism and ignorance on this campus. Let us bask in the beauty of being black.

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