

# No Pity for Hardin

By Scott B. Wilkens  
Contributor

*"You hate me! You really hate me!  
You all hate me!"*

*-Chancellor Paul Hardin*

Hardin said these words during a meeting held on Sept. 16 with the coalition. They came after an hour of discussion during which both sides repeatedly stated their positions. As the meeting progressed, it became clear that the chancellor was losing control of his communication skills. He repeatedly cradled his head in his arms, moaning as if in physical agony. At one point, the chancellor looked at

Margo Crawford, director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, and said condescendingly: "Come on now Margo! Get a little bit smarter!"

Although this remark was made in the midst of a tense meeting, I feel that it indicates a total lack of respect on the part of the chancellor, if not blatant racism. Believe me, I do not want to believe that our chancellor is racist. After all, he was supposedly an activist for Civil Rights in the 1960s. However, in 1992 he makes it painfully obvious that racism, however subtle, is alive and kicking.

As I said in the Dean E. Smith Center on Friday night (Sept. 18),

the administration does not view all students equally. A white face carries a lot more weight than a black face. When asked how many white students it would take to change his mind on the BCC, Chancellor Hardin responded, "Quite a few." Meanwhile, thousands of black students support the concept of a free-standing Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center. I don't know about y'all, but I sense a whopper of a double standard.

Let us for a moment set aside the BCC issue. Ask yourself what the chancellor and his administration have done to improve campus race relations. Not one cotton-pickin' thing. They haven't even talked

about doing anything. Yes, they did solicit a committee report on race relations, which characterized them as "chilled." But reports don't do any good if you are not prepared to act on them.

On this basis alone, every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill should be angry with Chancellor Hardin. What does he get paid six figures for anyway? I can tell you that his salary is not based on competence or diligence.

I know that my rhetoric sounds harsh. Perhaps you are saying to yourself, "Scott sure is being mean to the chancellor. I really feel sorry for him." Believe me, I do not get my jollies out of criticizing Paul

Hardin. In fact, it pains me deeply that he has so gravely maligned our campus. Please don't feel sorry for Paul Hardin. He does not deserve your pity. When we don't do our homework, do our professors pat us on the back and tell us they shouldn't have assigned so much? Do our professors exempt us from all future homework assignments so that we can spend more time with friends?

The coalition doesn't hate the chancellor; it is just trying to make him do his job.

## Asian students speak on the BCC

By Billy Fan & Hubie Yang  
Contributors

African Americans know what it means to be left out. Throughout history and during many glorious achievements, African Americans have faced systematic oppression. Yet through resilience, they have overcome. Much of America was built on their sweat, blood and pain. The greatest irony is that they have always been told that their achievements were made possible by white America.

Fourteen years ago, the Black Student Movement was promised a free-standing black cultural center. At that time, the Asian-American population at the University was relatively small. Unable to organize an effective voice, Asian Americans and other ethnic minorities at the University relied on the BSM to act as standard bearers. The Asian-American student population has grown since then. Today, Asian Americans comprise about four to five percent of the student population. It has been implied by many that Asian students at the University and throughout the nation have been politically apathetic; that, in fact, they have not contributed to the struggle for civil rights and further, that they do not deserve to enjoy the fruits of the civil rights struggle.

### There's more to this issue than just black and white

While our participation has not been as visible as the African Americans', a parallel can be discovered. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized that America could never truly be just if even one minority voice remained crushed under the weight of majority oppression. The coined phrase, "Fight the powers that be," is in recognition that power institutionalizes cultural perspectives. We all know that African-American history was systematically left out of the nation's history books.

Only the efforts of men like King and Malcolm X reaffirmed that there was another voice and that voice belonged to the oppressed minority. At this university, the BSM has been the leading protector of civil rights. Asian Americans and other ethnic groups have benefitted from the BSM's sacrifices. Like the movement at the University, it was again the struggle of African Americans and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s that spawned the multicultural movement. But such a multicultural movement took place at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1980s. At Berkeley, Asian students comprised the "majority minority," and they led a coalition that included African Ameri-

can and Hispanic American students. They chose to call their union a multicultural center.

The multicultural movement sought to rectify the problem of institutionalized oppression by empowering all minority voices, even those too weak to be heard on their own. If we Asian-American students at this university have seemed "politically apathetic," the point is that we don't want to be—we want our voices heard, the same way the African Americans wanted their voices heard in the great Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

The African-American community can truly understand the pain of having a minority voice lost among a powerful, cultural society. But likewise, we Asian Americans are fearful of being a "minority within a larger minority." Not only does our voice run the risk of being unheard by the establishment, we are concerned that our voice will be drowned out by the "majority minority." It is our deepest hope that our African-American friends will not institutionalize specific cultural perspectives. African Americans have contributed greatly to this state and nation and currently constitute the largest minority at the Univer-

sity. But let us not forget the contributions of other immigrants and their impact on the nation's history and culture. With the changing demographics in this nation and at this university, Asians and Hispanics will grow as political communities and the United States will become more ethnically diverse. Instead of growing apart, we must grow together. The more divided we are as people of color, the easier it is for the establishment to oppress us all.

We are extremely impressed by the energy, organization, skills and fundraising abilities of the BSM. Other campus ethnic groups have long looked to the BSM as a role model; a leader to model our own struggle after as we attempt to gain political empowerment on this campus and in this nation. We Asian Americans know that the African-American community will not forget us in our struggles. We recognize that the fight for a free-standing black cultural center has been the struggle of the BSM. Regardless of what anyone thinks the building should be named, we realize that it is the BSM's prerogative to name the center.

There is a misconception that the only racial tension on this cam-

pus is between blacks and whites. The aftermath of the Rodney King verdict illustrates that the "Rainbow Coalition" is quickly becoming a "Rainbow Collision." We do not want Asian Americans to become a "pawn" in the administration's racial "chess game." We don't want to be a part of the efforts to divide this campus, and we surely do not want to dilute your efforts to obtain a building that would promote the African-American culture.

We support the construction of a building that would promote African-American culture. We support it knowing that it will be fully endowed by private funds. We support it knowing that it will be open to the entire University community and that its meeting rooms and auditoriums will be open to all campus ethnic groups. The African-American community can truly understand the pain implicit in the politics of exclusion. We know that the BSM at this university will not forget it here.

*Editor's note: This article does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asian Students Association or other Asians at UNC.*