

According to the Freshmen

The Freshman Perspective at Carolina

By Noelle Hutchins and Yalitza Ramos

The sociological definition of a community is a sense of belonging. Where does one fit in amidst a competition of superficial values among our own people? Everything is based on how good you look, how well you dress, how others perceive you, who you associate with and how smart you are.

On campus, we can never get a sincere "hi" or "how are you doing" without being judged on our outward appearance beforehand. It seems that black people are just plain stuck-up in their own way and don't want to admit or acknowledge our existence as freshmen. Sure, UNC-CH is a huge school where we may be just faces in a crowd. But are we just faces amongst our own black people too? We try to make an effort in everything that we do, but the shared heritage and generation that should be bringing us together is lost. Why?

We have been accepted into one of the most prestigious universities in the region, but we seldom think about the ancestors who paved the way for us to be here. Many people fought hard for us to have the right to step foot on a predominately white campus. A lot of us forget that.

Lately, we are preoccupied with cliques, appearance, fashion, relationships, sex and indi-

vidual freedom. It is difficult to find unity on a shallow, ignorant campus like this one. As freshmen, we don't feel a sense of belonging to our own people. Where is the tight-knit community that we were introduced to at Pre-Orientation, High School Honors Day, Minority Advising Fairs and Project Uplift? The same

familiar faces that recruited and welcomed us no longer seem to recognize or support us. We are recognized and supported more by other races than by the one that desired us to come here.

Although we try to stay positive about our college experience as a whole, would it have been better to attend a historically black university or just the same? The majority of black people here concentrate on things that have no substance or foundation. We

should realize the path of our ancestors and come together as a community to focus on the primary reasons we came: to get our education and excel as a black community in American society.

Now, can we fit in?

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