

The Campus Echo
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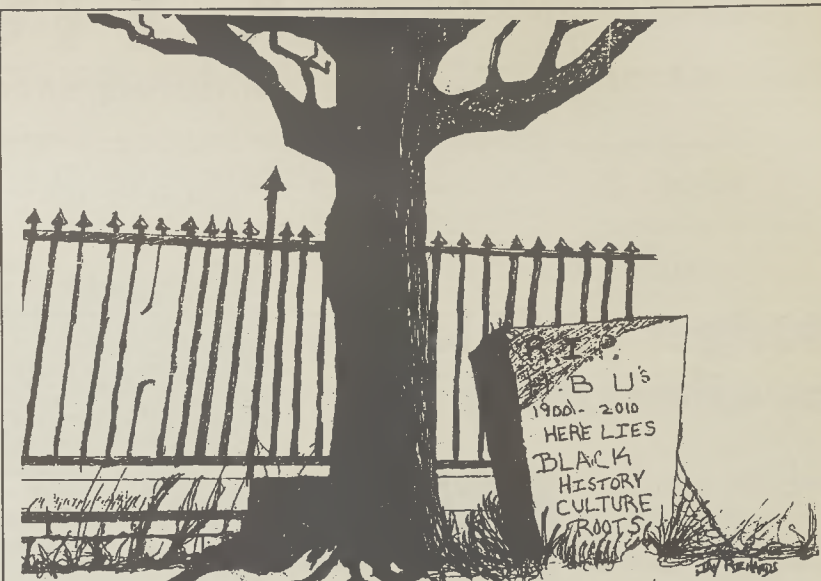
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The Echo office is located in Room 319 of the Farrison-Newton Communications Building, NCCU. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to submit articles, editorials, and art. Student participation is vital to the quality of our reporting, please volunteer.

Policy on Letters

The Campus Echo welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters and articles, as needed.

A Prophecy Made Manifest... by Jay Richards



The Dim Future of Historically Black Universities

OPINIONS

Minority Presence Grant not needed to keep whites

I am applying to the Library School at North Carolina Central University this fall and am beginning to cast about for grants. One possible grant would be the Minority Presence Grant.

At NCCU, this grant goes to whites, as well as to Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans. Native Americans have their own grant.

Although I do not feel entitled to this grant, I have taken it for two years. Money is money, after all. But should I keep taking it as a graduate student?

The grant dates back to the huge battle which raged between the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the University of North Carolina throughout the 1970's, as the Department tried to force the University to desegregate its campuses, a struggle which Arnold K. King describes in his book, *The Multicampus University of North Carolina Comes of Age*.

HEW was responsible for enforcing Title 6 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as it applied to schools which received federal funds; Title 6 forbids all discrimination on the basis of "race, color or national origin."

HEW believed that the desegregation of historically Black campuses was just as important as the desegregation of white ones, so part of UNC's final consent decree, or legal compromise, was to promise to make Black campuses at least 15 percent white and white campuses at least 10.7 percent Black by 1987.

These goals have stayed the same since then. The Minority Presence Grant is, thus, offered to students to help the University system achieve its quotas, and has nothing to do with merit.

Money or Respect?

What did HEW have in mind twenty years ago? It may have hoped to heal some of the wounds that racism had inflicted on North Carolina.

It may have hoped to foster tolerance when it ordered UNC to increase the number of white students on Black campuses.

Then, too, UNC back in the 1970s gave less money to black campuses than to white ones and HEW hoped

that if black campuses had more white students, they would get more money and respect.

For this reason, HEW also tried to create programs on black campuses which would be unduplicated anywhere else in the system, so that anyone, regardless of ethnicity, who wanted to obtain those particular degrees would be forced to attend a black college.

I am the inheritor of the results of all this turmoil. For the last two years, my "white person's grant" has climbed steadily from a low of one hundred dollars to a high this semester of four hundred dollars: a small portion of my aid package, granted, but useful. I have never felt entitled to it, though I have never sent it back either. And I would be lying if I claimed that it did not recruit me, initially, on some level.

Let me tell you why I chose NCCU. I cannot speak for all white undergraduates, but I doubt I am unique. I was too diffident to even try to get into UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State was too far to commute.

I am a re-entry student, and I did not want to move to go back to school. Once I enrolled, I stayed, because I like it here. The classes are small, the teachers are excellent, (at least in the English department) and from the social standpoint, NCCU probably has more older students than, say, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Financial Lure

The indisputable financial lure of the Minority Presence Grant pales in comparison to the huge overall amount of aid NCCU has awarded me, particularly my senior year.

The UNC system could stop applying the Minority Presence Grant to whites at NCCU and still retain our presence. The days of racial apartheid are gone.

You may consider this statement naive, but it is more true than you know. Graduate students in many of NCCU's programs are actually predominantly white these days, which tells us that the grant has achieved what it set out to do, and is no longer needed.

Melissa Packard

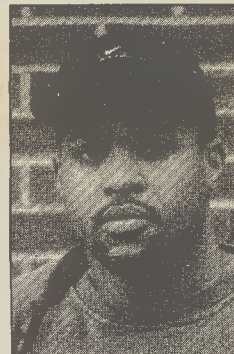
What do you think about the media coverage of the diversity issue?

"When I first saw it, it came up on WTVD 11. I don't think we had enough people talking about what the student body was saying.

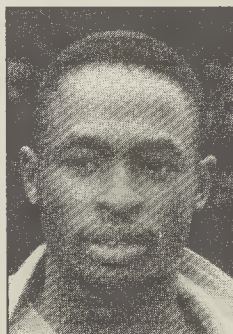
You were hearing about how the administration felt about it.

I don't think there has been enough coverage about how the student body and the people that go to Central feel about that.

If they do bring in more students, I want to know how will it change the university."



Jermaine Daniels, Senior



Ulysess Hicks, graduate student

"I heard about it on one of the popular radio stations. I can sympathize with the situation they were in.

The university wants to bring in money and I can agree with that.

The dislike with meeting quotas is that black universities have been meeting theirs and white institutions are falling short.

Bringing in minorities is fine; Asians, Mexicans and others though, not just whites."

Epiphany

By Alicia B. Williams

At the Honors convocation, I marveled at the many students that were acknowledged for academic achievement.

I laughed to myself at how Barry Saunders commented in a recent *News and Observer* commentary that the "black students at NCCU (don't) have nearly as many options," in the selection of routes of higher education.

As I looked around the McLendon-McDougald gymnasium, and saw a myriad of black faces, I could have laughed out loud.

In addition to Saunders' absence, I failed to see overwhelming numbers of the outside accusers that have flooded the airwaves and pages of newsprint to tell the masses of how the Black students at NCCU are barring white students from entrance to the University.

My soul was glad when I looked over the many pages of the Honors convocation and saw the names of so many, who had achieved so much, but suddenly I realized something else.

Grades don't mean a thing.

Yeah, they look good on paper, and earn great graduation gifts, but they only reveal the ability to obey as commanded.

To survive this corrupt world system, we need to open our inner eyes and listen to the soul that cries out from within.

Do you think the white media sent black reporters to get the scoop on us to present the truth?

Do you think that the main people speaking freely to the media are chosen because they really know what's going on, or they are hand-chosen because they operate from emotion?

Do you really think that all that is happening to this university is haphazard?

Read on:

Common student goals override differences

Recent articles in the "News and Observer," and the "Campus Echo" dealing with the recruitment of minority students in order to obtain diversity prompted me to think about my position as an older, minority student at North Carolina Central University.

From an administrative standpoint, NCCU administrators and faculty have a greater understanding of the obstacles faced by people who are juggling many facets of their lives to attend school and complete their education than their counterparts at

other universities.

For some, the concern is to carry forward old college credits, for others, it is the ability to coordinate family, job and scholastic work load.

For the most part, our needs are being met.

I cannot say that I had no anxiety about my decision to attend NCCU, but choosing to attend school here is one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Of course, there are times I feel strange and out of place, mostly

because I am older than many of the parents of my classmates, and sometimes, because of my own sense that I am different; however, our common goal as students, education, overrides this difference.

I have not been isolated or been made to feel uncomfortable, and, when I graduate in 1997, I will accept my degree with gratitude for having been personally enriched by the relationships I have experienced.

Sharon Mayer