



Jackson: UNC needs Black lit

by Mae Helen Israel
Staff Writer

How important is a Negro literature course at a predominantly white university?

According to Dr. Blyden Jackson, professor of American Literature, it should be a required part of the curriculum for all students.

Such a course is so important that it serves as a valuable tool in the development of the identities and attitudes of Black and white students. It functions as a day to day conditioning to the Civil Rights Movement.

In fact, Dr. Jackson explained that all individuals need this knowledge to consider themselves cosmopolitan. "Such is the nature of the minority status of the Negro in America," he stated, "that the failure to understand his problems is tied in with a failure to understand minorities all over the world."

University students especially need the chance to appreciate the long and rich heritage of Negro literature. White students who do not have the institutionalized intolerances of their parents, acquire a sense of justice and understanding that they might not have had otherwise.

Course Objectives

As the instructor of the Negro Literature course (English 84) on campus, Dr. Jackson stresses several ideas.

"There is enough written by Negro authors and about them to keep the course from being labeled as 'give,'" he stated. "The object of the course is to correlate literature and criticism with the Black experience, then put this in the whole context of American life."

"I try to convey to the students a balanced and comprehensive knowledge of Negro literature," he emphasized.

Dr. Jackson points out that Negro literature is a literature of necessity. The protest motif in much of the writing is unavoidable. If whites had experienced the same oppression as Blacks, their literature would also be one of protest.

More Blacks Needed

As the first Negro professor to be hired at the University (1969), Dr. Jackson recognizes an increase in the number of Black students, faculty and employees.

He feels that more Negroes are needed at every level. He commented, "I don't want the standards of the University lowered. However, there is no

conflict in keeping the standards and hiring Negroes."

"I've been pleased with the kind of Black students who have come to the University," Dr. Jackson added. "I would especially like to give a pat on the back to those who are N.C. Fellows."

Dr. Jackson received his BA in English from Wilbur Force University and his masters and doctorate from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He taught in his hometown, Louisville, Kentucky, for 11 years before going to Fisk University. After nine years he left Fisk and went to Southern Illinois to become the head of the Department of English and then Dean of the Graduate School. He remained there until he came to UNC.

"Red is for the blood,
Black is for the people,
Green is for the land."

Wanda Wilkins on the go

by Gwen Harvey
Feature Editor

Tuesdays and Wednesdays she spends assuaging frightened patients at Chapel Hill Memorial Hospital; Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday (and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, too) she is the best person a freshman or junior transfer student could know on the fourth floor of Cobb dormitory.

Wanda Wilkins, a junior from Goldsboro, N.C., is very much excited about her rather schizophrenic life. A nursing major, this is her first year of practical experience and on-the-job training at the hospital. Her job as student nurse entails attending clinical labs and physiology and bacteriology classes besides the actual patient-nurse encounters.

"That first day is really rough," Wanda is quick to say, "but after that first time you feel like an old pro. Most of the people are overwhelmed by the fact that someone is willing to just sit down and listen to what they have to say. Sort of like administering to their psychological needs."

Which is exactly Wanda's chief function in her life as resident advisor also. "To be at the service of the students, to give general reference concerning anything from time schedules to phone numbers," she says. Wanda secured this position through Directors of Residence Life, John Meeker and Jane Poller, after having first gone

through the initial application, panel interview and final decision-hinging interview. "Each session is designed to find out what type of person the applicant is and how she will react to certain given situations," Wanda explains.

Being a resident advisor is really a twenty-four hour affair, for one has to be readily available, even giving up that needed sleep for those late night talk sessions with a troubled student. But the job is one Wanda takes as seriously as she does her periods of training at the hospital.

And indeed both jobs naturally complement each other in the valuable lessons they teach in dealing with all types of people. "The vital things involved in each," Wanda affirms, "is being observant - being able to perceive that

Class of '76 has mixed emotions

by Deborah Austin
and
Harold Kennedy
Staff Writers

The class of '76 is now an integral part of the institution of the University of North Carolina. This is exemplified by the small groups of students wandering around the library, drinking beer in their rooms on Friday night, and eating in the plush atmosphere of the Pine Room. Although the Office of Admissions claims that there is no record of the number of black students on campus, it is estimated by an admission's officer that there are approximately 235 black freshmen.

Like past classes at the University, the freshmen are concerned about its contribution to inflation, upset stomachs, aching feet and tired eyes. Freshman Jupiter Owens from Henderson comments, "the prices at the bookstore are terrible and the long lines make matters even worse," while Wilsonnii Grandy says, "the food at Chase is absolutely terrible."

Says Carol Steadman from Winston-Salem, "I've never done so much walking in my life," while Linda Little, Carol's "homegirl," admits that you can't walk into a classroom and

expect to bull jive your way through. She laughs and says, "If you don't get down to work you will flunk."

Those freshmen living in James Dormitory have a quite unique outlook. Jacquelyn McCray and her roommate, Brenda McClain, both admit that they can use less noise while they are studying. Jeannette Tatum likes the amount of space she has in her room but also says that the dorm as a whole is not as dynamic as she expected.

Then there were some freshmen like Rachel Springs and William Knight who have already had close contact with the University and who admitted that they knew basically what to expect. Knight says though, "I was very disappointed with the town. There is so little to do with only theatres that play old movies and few places to eat."

There was general concern about the scarcity of Black oriented activities so far and a sense of stunned amazement on the part of freshman guys as to how cold, selfish and standoffish the freshman girls appear. Russell Davis, a freshman from Wilmington, likes the independence which Carolina offers. Concerning social life, he points out that you have to make your own. Rhonda

Winfrey says that she has had fun at Carolina, but she has nothing to do on weekends. Rhonda rooms at Morrison Dormitory and complains that it is too quiet and does not have enough activities.

Robert Wynn, who comes from Deerfield Academy expresses his disbelief that the Black students are so disunited. After only three weeks, he has noticed that the BSM somehow lacks substance. Robert's roommate Chuck Hayes, all the way from Albany, Georgia, senses that people on the whole are very friendly and states that he has seen no pressing racial problems as of yet.

There are those freshmen like Walter Egerton who realize the great educational opportunity and have no real complaints except about the incident concerning Charles Baggett. Walter is not alone, the other freshmen are as upset as he.

This Black freshman class has not gone without the pains of finding or keeping their identity. Thelma Standback of Greensboro admits that it is very easy to feel lost. "It is like being a small fish alone in a large pond. Your name is not important, only your number." And Lewis Perry from Henderson says, "I only hope that our class is not as apathetic as the previous ones seem."

Minority affairs

by Michele Akston
Staff Writer

One of the things Richard Epps promised in his student government presidential campaign was a better link between the community and the university and a better link between minority groups and student government. Hopefully, the committee, "Community Affairs and Minority Groups," will serve this purpose.

The committee has met once this year and begun some basic ground work. In the area of community affairs it is trying to set up courses whereby people may get academic credit for community work. In the area of minority groups it is preparing a survey that will hopefully, tell them where minority groups on campus place their priorities and hence what it should work on.

The success of the committee to a large extent depends on the input of you, part of the campus minority. It cannot help Student Government work for you if you do not let it know what you want. The Committee, "Community Affairs and Minority Groups," is another tool at the disposal of minority students this year. Its usefulness depends on you . . . as well as its survival, for it must be functional to survive. If you wish to work with or give input (suggestions, advice, etc.) to the committee come by Suite C of the Union.



something is bothering a person - to consider someone else more important than yourself."

With such a hectic schedule one wonders how she finds the time to relax and enjoy herself. "I don't often," she laughs "but it's usually on Wednesday afternoons because I don't have a class 'til one on Thursdays."

But keeping busy is what really makes life interesting. Being on the go constantly teaches one to value time and to ration it wisely. "Developing a regimen is most important," she declares. "And basically it's just wanting something bad enough to go out and work for just that."

Upon receiving her B.S. in Nursing, Wanda hopes to go into public health nursing, a field she thinks really suitable for dealing with the health problems of the Black community.