



Attrition rate curbed

Evelyn F. Dove
Staff Writer

The attrition rate of Black students, heretofore, has been anything but desirable. There is always at least one reason! Normally, the first or second year of college life "separates the men from the boys, the weak from the strong, and the fortunate from the unfortunate."

Many minority students with exceptional minds have left Carolina because of social pressures. Others have left because they were faced with insurmountable personal problems. What a waste it has been!

A new program, the Minority Student Advisory Program has been initiated to help prevent the high percentage of minority dropouts. The goal of the program is to keep minority students in Carolina once they are accepted.

Mr. H.B. Renwick, recently assistant dean in the college of Arts and Sciences, is heading the program which he proposed.

Every minority freshman has an assigned advisor who assists him in whatever capacity he needs. The advisors, also minority students, are knowledgeable of pressures and problems that concern the Carolina minority student.

No matter how large or small the problem, the advisor is usually able to provide sound advice and a willing ear. He is interested in preventing college dropouts, raising the quality point averages of minority students and making college life more endurable for students. He tries to impress upon the students that the long-believed concept that one could be successful by majoring in "partying" and occasionally minoring in "book-ing" is but a myth. Academic survival is composed of a great amount of serious studying flavored by a moderate amount of socializing.

Entities such as the Reading Program, the Guidance Testing Center, the Writing Lab, and the revised Q.P.A. system for qualification for the dean's list are explained to the new students. Everything on campus that is pertinent to their completion of a four-year college career

is made available to them through the program.

Last spring, the minority student advisors were appointed by Renwick; in following years, they will be selected by the senior students. At the beginning of the program each advisor was assigned ten prospective minority freshmen.

The advisors see five students a week (and are available 24 hours a day, if needed) to check on their progress in academics and extra-curricular activities. During hour-long sessions, students are directed to the proper persons or organizations for help. Those students experiencing academic difficulties are referred to tutors or other minority advisors majoring in the particular area.

The advisors suggest that all upperclass students be cooperative if ever called upon.

The advisors are: Debra Austin, T.E. Frazier, Wonnona Swayze, Evelyn Dove, Patricia Davis, Samuel Rhyne, Deborah Wilder, Carolyn Moore, Robinsom Fulwood, Joseph High, Brenda Davis, Ethelyn Burton, Trent Chavis, Charles Fayton, Clarence Ellis, Charles Harris,

Sabrina Andrews, Maria Harrison, Reginald Burns, Orlando Hudson, Joan Richardson, Clarence Brewton, Carolyn Washington, Roy Whitaker, Reynauld Williams, Eric Dean and Thurbert Baker.

Most are paid through university funds but some are volunteers. They meet once per month with the director to discuss difficulties and uncertainties.

At the end of the two semesters, freshmen will evaluate advisors on their execution of duties.

Renwick is optimistic about the program. He is working hard to see that its goals are reached and that its strategies are effective. If, four years from now, each minority student who entered UNC in 1974 leaves in good standing, then the hours, plans and energies put into the program will not have been in vain, he said. Already the number of students who leave school during the first six weeks of a school year has been cut more than 90 percent.

The program will be a continuing one. Interested upperclassmen with at least a 2.5 average may contact Renwick in South Building.



H. Bentley Renwick

Rev. Jones explains departure

by Faye Mitchell
Feature Editor

"Many folks felt I was fired. Actually I had two offers when I decided to leave. One was to become director of the Wesley Foundation at UNC-G, the other to become minister of a church in a transitional neighborhood in Raleigh."

These are the words of Rev. Preston Jones, former UNC chaplain of the Black Campus Ministry. His position came to an unexpected end in early September.

"The problem at UNC is the lack of funds," he said. "The ministerial appointment was for three years. After that time the position would terminate, in May 1975, if no other funds came in."

"I had started to love UNC," he continued, "I thought the ministry was starting to do things. I think somehow, somehow the ministry needs to continue."

The ministry was founded by the foundation for a Black Campus Ministry. The United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, and the Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina compose the Foundation, in addition to two foundations.

"There is a need for long range work to be started, and a continuous long range goal," he said. "With the dedication of the board I believe more will be done."

Jones says he saw improved relationships and rapport develop while he was campus minister.

"When I came, many people did not know I was coming," he commented. "People in general tend to stereotype ministers, but that does not mean he cannot survive. When I left relationships were very much improved over when I arrived."

"I worked consistently to develop relationships within the university, with the Black Student Movement, the Black Christian

Fellowship, and other groups in Chapel Hill. It's not all a religious thing.

Issues should be important to the minister," Jones continued. "He must take an active stand, be supportive to what he sees as right. That means he may not always agree with popular opinion."

Jones reflected on his personal experience at UNC.

"I feel I had an opportunity to grow, to learn," he said. "I'm sure that if I went back to the ministry at UNC I would do things that were not the same."

"The fact that I was at UNC gave me a chance to learn. Being at a large university complex has made me a better person. I am able to minister with a different perspective."

Would Jones return to UNC?

"The University of North Carolina is a great place to many things," he replied. "I don't leave out the possibility. I don't know what the future holds. I'd give it consideration."

Black series presented on NCET

REDDING STORY

by Faye Mitchell
Feature Editor

Black participation in the television medium is not limited to "Get Christy Love," "That's My Mama," "Sanford and Son" and "Good Times."

There is now black input in the North Carolina Educational Network. A weekly series, "Heritage of Hope," presenting positive black programming that explores the history and culture of black people.

"The whole idea grew out of our family experience," explained Evangeline Grant Redding. "Our parents could not understand when the slick-headed boy they sent off to college came back a full blown militant."

Redding and her brother, Gary Grant, are the producers of this two-part series. Evan-Redd Productions,

their company, received the first grant ever given by the North Carolina Educational Network to do this series.

"One of the problems," Redding said, "is the younger generation has lost some of the concepts we once understood. We got them from our parents, or somewhere."

"Our youth do not have the same understanding of the church, community, and discrimination," she continued, pointing out that the church is one of the most entrenched communities in black culture.

"We're in need of some common thread, we get too many of our beliefs from the media."

One of the problems is that there is no written history of blacks in America; American publishing companies saw to that. Our show used the spiritual as a unifying thread, and a means of teaching history through

song."

The show air time is Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m., from Oct. 1 through Dec. 3. "Black Rhythms" was the name of the first show, which dealt with the patterns blacks establish daily in their dance, music, and dress.

Other shows include a study of the spiritual, as first studied by Rev. Miles Mark Davis, a feature on the black woman, and a two-part examination of Nat Turner. "We'll Never Turn Back" studies the progress of blacks in one of the series.

"We aim for positive programming," Redding said. "Not just to entertain."

Redding and Grant grew up in eastern North Carolina, and much of the program was taped there. Redding writes the scripts, and her brother dramatizes them. She has a

degree in Sociology from North Carolina Central University (NCCU).

Grant double majored in English and Drama.

Enough emphasis cannot be placed on black participation in the media, said Redding.

"There are almost 1,000 TV stations in America, and not one is black owned," she said. "Evan-Redd is the only production company acting as a legal entity."

"The fact that we're in TV impresses them," she said. "It shows them there is no need for their fears."

"Our technical director is black. He is responsible for the visualization of the show. I think it is significant that blacks write, direct, and produce the show."

Several difficulties encumbered the show's progress. It was taped at

the Greensboro studio, with an old white traditionalist crew.

"It took us eight months to do this show," she said. "It could have been done faster with a black crew, or even a younger crew."

North Carolina Educational Network deserves a lot of credit," she said. "They accepted us for what we were, but we realize there was no love lost. They need this kind of thing."

Not only is Redding busy with filming and editing a TV series, but she is on the board of WAFR, keeps various speaking engagements, and is the mother of two children.

"I'm lucky," she said. "My husband does not try to stop me. We know we've got what it takes. I wouldn't be surprised if in a couple of years we were a national TV show."