

Richardson: Blacks have a purpose here

Says BSM has right to protest

by CAROL WILLIS
Staff Writer

"Blacks hold a vital purpose on campus. There is work to be done here and any Black student that wants to get involved would come. The campus needs their help." So spoke Student Body President Billy Richardson in a recent interview with *Black Ink*. The candidness of this statement and the earnest effort made toward greater Black participation in Student Government seem strange coming from Suite C. It is rare that any white student of such position cares or dares to speak so frankly about Black potential in student government but Richardson wants to be an exception.

"The Administration made a big mistake in not consulting the BSM," Richardson answered when asked about the changing of Upendo lounge into a snack bar. "Moving Servomation downstairs has its advantages, but not at this cost," he said. Richardson says that he feels that the Upendo is necessary for Black students, and that if for any reason it is done away with, the idea of the Upendo could be continued. "If it is done away with, the Blacks should help reinitiate it—not whites." He explained that since Black and whites come from basically segregated communities, the drastic change from living in a Black community to joining the campus community is tremendous. He said any effort by whites to produce a new Upendo-like setting may be resented by some Blacks and therefore the Black community should be responsible for maintaining it.

Richardson went on to say that he felt the BSM was right in voicing their dissatisfaction with the Upendo situation and that meeting with the Space Committee is the best possible solution for now.

He feels that the BSM's "annual" march on South Building would be a mistake and should only be used as a last resort.

"Working with South Building on a one to one basis is better," he said. He suggests that we concentrate on obtaining a space upstairs in Chase.

While campaigning for President, Richardson said that he felt students do not get a fair shake on campus and that he intended to do something about this. What has he done? A committee, the Housing Advisory Board, consisting of 4 students and 5 faculty or staff members has been formed. At present a Transportation and Parking Board is being set up to consist of 4 students and 4 faculty or staff members. Attendance at all staff-faculty meetings where students can attend is stressed. "Trying to initiate programs rather than reacting to the Administration's programs is important."

Since his election, Richardson has tried actively to recruit Blacks on his staff. "It is more than just appointments. I hope that attitudes have changed. I want to help Blacks develop their potential in student government to work with us, not just for us." Some of the Blacks recently appointed by Richardson are:

- Marshal Reid—Atlantic Coast Conference Ticket Chairman
- Vivian Rhone—Union Activities Board of Directors
- Gwen Bullock—Reorientation
- Andromeda Monroe—Top Advisor, Supreme Court Social Justice
- Byron Horton—CGC
- Mike Dixon—delegate for North Carolina Assoc. of Student Government
- Roland Staten—Conference Planning Committee
- Phyllis Pickett—Housing Advisory Board



Billy Richardson concerning Upendo situation: "Moving Servomation downstairs has its advantages, but not at this cost."

Gordon Cureton—Top consultant on CGC, Speaker pro tempore of CGC

Terry Stinson and Denzil Day—Environmental Awareness

Many blacks serve on the Human Rights Relationship Committee.

Richardson stressed that there were many people who are working hard and are doing a good job. He made a tremendous effort to remember everybody. "Everybody is important I would hate to leave anyone out," Richardson said.

Sonya Stone keynote speaker

Conference on Black studies meets in Charlotte

A year ago the North Carolina Conference of Black Studies (NCCBS) met to establish a statewide organization to develop guidelines for Black studies on the junior high, senior high, and college levels. This year at its second annual meeting held in Charlotte on October 9, Dr. Sonja Stone, director of Afro-American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill will be a keynote speaker.

This year, like last year, the NCCBS will be organizing, structuring, strengthening, and developing their influence throughout the state. Their immediate goal is "to assess the state of Black studies in North Carolina and to find out just where Black studies are offered and what kinds of problems program coordinators and teachers of Black studies are facing," said Dr. Stone, who is also the NCCBS conference governor for the Piedmont area.

Ms. Stone said once this goal has been achieved, NCCBS hopes to be in a position to make suggestions to school systems, universities, and community groups as to how to develop a strong Black studies' program throughout the state. Although, the organization is new, NCCBS members hope that within one to two years, they will have established a comprehensive curriculum guide for Black studies' teachers of all the different divisions of study, from arts to sciences.

A lot of credit for the development of NCCBS is attributed to the Black students because of their contributions on every level of organization. "We wouldn't have a Black Student Movement were it not for the Black student. They are clearly the leaders of the organization," said Ms.



Staff photo by Phil Geddie

Stone.

In addition to Ms. Stone Black students who are members of NCCBS are just as enthusiastic about the organization. Queenie Mackey, a senior journalism major who has been involved with NCCBS for the past year said, "The program is promoting uniformity in Black studies in North Carolina which gives Blacks a

better understanding and knowledge of their heritage."

The Black student's role in NCCBS can be to contribute skills, resources, ideas, and "to go in with an open mind and you figure out how to help NCCBS reach their goals whether through moral support, money contributions, or experiences," said Ms. Mackey. Ms. Mackey also said

NCCBS helps in job placement and recruitment into universities.

NCCBS wants members from the Black student body without regard to majors. "The concerns of Black studies cut across everybody's major whether science or social science, what we're about is building a better Black community," said Ms. Stone.