

Responses to then, now and the future

Bernadine Ward
Features Editor

"Just walking around downtown and going to classes, everything looks beautiful to me. I don't know if it's an unconscious effort to make things beautiful because I may be looking at it for the last time."

The above comment was made by Vivian Lucas, one of six students interviewed—six very different students, with one important fact in common. They are seniors and this is their reflection, their looking back, and their projections for the future.

Louis...

Louis Newsome, a pharmacy major, was lying down as I entered the room. At first I was a bit hesitant, wondering if he would give straight answers because I rarely saw his serious side. I proceeded. "How does it feel at this very moment to be a senior?"

He smiled, sat up a little, and said, "I feel a little frightened and a little excited because I'm getting into the world. I guess the dominating feeling is excitement. I really think it's been worth it, generally because the job interviews I've had have been encouraging."



Louis Newsome: a frightened and excited feeling.

"What strikes you so much about Carolina, Louis?"

"Now that I've been here, I've found that its more prestigious than I thought it was before. You talk to grad students about why they came here and they'll tell you the program they're in is one of the best in the nation. And you look at all the people who have graduated from here and are now senators, famous authors, etc., and that im-

presses me."

Vivian...

For a time, she considered going elsewhere for an education; not anymore. She said, "I can't say what it's worth right now for future plans, but I can say that it's worth it for the experiences that I've had."

"I feel like I'm getting thrown out somewhere. Not necessarily to the world, but right now I feel like I'm in oblivion. I'm just waiting for God to move for me because I don't see what I can do but wait to hear from grad school, or find a job, but I don't want a full time job now."

"I must say this because it's the most important thing that has happened to me since I've been here. I've met some very wonderful people here during my years at Carolina, but the most wonderful one of all has been Jesus. He's all right—anytime."

Evelyn...

You'd never know that Evelyn Bullock, as a freshman, used to think, "If I had to do it all over again, I'd go to a predominantly Black college. . . I'd be lost and never be able to keep up. . . I'd never have a friend other than the ones I know from Durham."

None of this has proved true for this special education major. As I entered the kitchen on fourth floor James, looking for someone to interview, there she was, surrounded by her sorors (AKA's). The last thing she said was "I'll especially miss my sorors."

She told me that little things used to frustrate her, but that she learned.

"I used to get so frustrated with little administrative things I had to do like waiting in line and registration, and so I learned how to take short cuts. I don't think I would suggest Carolina. But if someone asked me, I'd say make yourself known, learn how to manipulate, just get in the middle of things. I would tell that person to remember why he is at Carolina because we all tend to forget."

"I'm glad to be graduating, sure. But I think about after May 15 I'll be really independent with a job, and my crutch will be gone. You know what I mean? It's just like the apprehension I had when I came from high school to Carolina and from Carolina out into the big wide world."

Herb...

Zoology major Herbert Farrish is from Hillsborough and speaks very quietly and chooses his words very carefully.

"If I had to do it again, I'd definitely do it differently. I'd change my attitude toward getting my work done, my priorities."

"All I can say is, you need to be able to do things on your own without somebody telling you. You can easily lose sight of your purpose for being here."

Annette...

Annette Johnson smiles and laughs easily, and is understandably happy to be graduating. The advice she gives it a reflection of her experiences.



Annette Johnson: knowing who the right people are helps.

"I would advise students to know professors better. A lot of times I think this would have helped me. This goes for advisors too. I don't really see where my general college advisor helped me, he was impersonal."

"It's to your advantage to know how the school system works and who the right people are. It makes things easier and quicker."

Solution applauded

Allen Johnson
Associate Editor

In an era in which Blacks have consistently complained concerning the lack of representation afforded by the *Yackety Yack*, a 36-page, neatly packaged solution arrived on April 26.

The solution was entitled *Ebony Images*, a "mini-yearbook" produced by a committee of Black students who set out to reflect in pictures and text a year of Black life at Carolina.

"There are a lot of problems that we experienced due to the time element," notes mini-yearbook Editor Paula Newsome, "but

and Chick...

Robert (Chick) Watson is interested in grad school, and considers Carolina as a "stepping stone in life, personally and occupationally."

Chick is an RTVMP major, and as he puts it, "Folks look surprised when I talk about something besides beer, sex and Southwestern."

"I don't regret it. I know that I've gotten more out of college than the average student, through my relationship with teachers, extra-curricular activities and through pursuing my interests—physically and mentally."

"I'm disappointed in my major because it lacks a high degree of competitiveness as far as the work we put out. We compete with teachers via course objectives, tests and projects rather than competing with ourselves, which would bring about a more personal development. The courses are centered around grades. We've gotten caught up in a grade system so we don't learn anything."

"UNC isn't hard, but I'd be naive if I were to discount the effect of racist teachers. They're either paternalistic or they just alienate you. In either case, they place limits on what you can do."

"Any failure here was largely my fault. Between God and charisma, you can maintain a 3.0. I'm honest with my teachers as far as what I need and want from courses. Rather than going to teachers at the last of the semester, I prefer to go at the beginning and all through the semester, so I can develop a certain rapport which makes them conducive to helping me."

considering the time constraints and limited resources, we think we did pretty well."

As far as the *Yackety Yack* is involved, Newsome says, "I definitely think that the *Yack* will become more responsive to the Black community now. They even purchased a book from us although I don't know if it is because they wanted to look at the competition or because they wanted to see what facets of the Black community they are excluding."

Newsome adds that she feels the need for a Black yearbook will continue in the future.

"I feel more a part of the Black community," she explains, "than the UNC community."

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