

"Bird" Backus Has Finally Landed In America!



Staff photo by James Parker

Adrian Backus: Concluded educational challenge.

Adrian (Bird) Backus, a UNC-Montpellier, France participant, has concluded nine months of study at Universite Paul Valery. "This educational challenge was an opportunity to excel in social and academic domains," Backus stated.

He played guard on the University basketball team which won the Regional Cup de Conseil of South France, gave lectures in the local high school, sang with the University Choir, and sang Gospel music along with two girls from Lincoln University in a musical.

Backus presented a Sportsmanship Basketball Award, given for the first time at his suggestion. He and Debra Seward, another UNC participant, cycled cross country from the Mediterranean coast to

the Atlantic coast. "This was a sure way to gain sufficient knowledge of France as a country and people," he commented.

At the University he met people from all over the world because of the friendly social environment around the campus and the dormitory. He attended a Protestant Church which manifested its communal love for all Christians.

He states that "one lives daily by the Grace of God, memories of home and letters."

He continued: "Nothing can replace my international friendships. I await the day when all mankind will recognize his prejudices and correct them, primarily by judging each human being individually.

After this vital step has been taken, our world should then become more unified. However, my definition of unity is people, love, and ideas which cannot be separated; each part plays an important role in the development of our changing society."

"Bird" says, "the strong support of my family and friends of UNC helped make my stay another successful step in life."

In conclusion, he commented, "I hope that these comments urge other UNC Blacks to strive for higher goals in life. Here at UNC, we must always move forward with pride. At UNC we have great academic competition; therefore, our heads cannot be lowered because we, the Blacks of UNC, are continuously striving for success."

To Be Or Not To Be?

The Black Campus Ministry

Delbra McIntyre
News Editor

Sunday morning worship services, revival services, Parents Day Program and several social events are a few of the services that have been provided by the Black Campus Ministry.

Whether or not these or similar services will continue is somewhat questionable.

The Black Campus Ministry has been a part of University life since 1972 when the Rev. Preston Jones was hired as the first fulltime Black Campus Minister. The ministry has since then grown to become the number one institution to many students.

"The ministry as it is presently constituted does not have sufficient funds with which to continue a part time or a full time ministry in the form that it has been known in the past five years," said Rev. Milton Lewis, presently serving as part time Black Campus Minister.

After September 1, the ministry will no longer exist unless some means of funding it are established.

According to Rev. Lewis, the goals and intentions of the BCM are. 1. to serve as a catalyst between Black and White students, 2. to provide counseling and outreach to minority students from an academic, social, and psychological standpoint, 3. to encourage the hiring of additional Black faculty and staff at UNC and 4. to provide a meaningful program to help students relate to each other from a Christian perspective as they seek to attain educational competence.

Many students have expressed the desire for the continuation of the ministry for several reasons. They have said that the Black Campus Ministry has enabled them to become closer to the Lord, thus creating a new and more exciting life and it has also provided some source of refuge from the pressure and tension of academic life.

Minority Advisors Selected

Kathy Gabriel

The minority advisor program began four years ago. The advisors were to serve as a link of communication between Dean Renwick and the freshmen. "Their functions are to make the freshmen feel comfortable and wanted, help in course and teacher selection and help the freshmen become adjusted psychologically and socially as well as academically," says Renwick.

For the 1977-78 school year, the minority advisors selected were: Marion Crump, Jeanne Mask, Tracey Black, Nina Ford, Sheila Lewis, Eddie Smith, Katherine Umstead, Agnes Spright, Sandra Bennett, Patricia McDougald, Larry Patterson, and Shirley Thompson. Also serving as advisors are Thomas Hunter, Barbi Welch, Darlene Fields, Stephanie Crawford, Karen Stevenson, Michael Kennedy, Jon Floyd, Calvin Bell, Karen King, Tommy Mayo, Roz Fuse, Martina Kendricks, Lynne Marvin, Yolanda Scarlett and Valinda Brown.

Requirements for becoming a minority advisor included having a 2.5 Q.P. average, being a sophomore or junior, going through a selection process by former advisors and final selection is done by Associate Dean Renwick.

At the present time there are only 10% academically ineligible minority students from the sophomore class as compared to 28% in the present junior class.

Orientation Held

Pam Dockery

As a result of the difficulties experienced by previous graduate students in adjusting to the UNC college community, the BSM initiated its first Graduate Orientation Program in an effort to not only make their transition easier, but also to unify the students.

The Orientation, held on August 22 in Upendo Lounge, included an address by Dr. Marion Phillips, Assistant Dean of the School of Medicine, a reception, and a discussion period. Dr. Phillips delivered an address on "self perception," challenging the students with the question, "Achievement or quota -- how do you perceive yourself?"

The reception gave students an opportunity to intermingle and get acquainted. Following the reception, the students formed discussion groups, exchanging practical information about social outlets, church, homes, and eating places, as well as feedback on Dr. Phillip's presentation.



Rising to the Occasion -- During the Upward Bound Summer Olympics, held at A and T State University, this volleyball official made certain that her authority would be the highest on the court. Incidentally, she officiated excellently and never lost her balance.