



The essence of freedom is understanding

Friday, October 6, 1978

BLACK STUDENT MOVEMENT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,

Vol. 11 No. 9

"Great Jones Street" premieres tomorrow

By DAVID R. SQUIRES
Editor-in-Chief

The producers of last year's campus hit "Down Home," will present an original dramatic musical play tomorrow.

"Great Jones Street" will premiere in Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 18, according to Dr. Lee Greene, director of Productions 84.

Productions 84 grew from Green's Black Literature class, English 84. The cast for the play are members of Greene's class and other campus students who volunteered their talents.

"Great Jones Street" is set in New York in 1925. It focuses on the lives of a group of people who live on a street which the city threatens to tear down in order to make way for commercial buildings. The harmonious lives of the people are dramatized—who include Southern Black migrants, European immigrants, and West Indian immigrants.

The primary purpose of the play is to dramatize some backgrounds to the Black arts of the 1920's, particularly Black literature of the period. The play, therefore, will concentrate on the artistic, historical, and in general the cultural forces that affect the lives of the middle-class residents of Jones Street.

The play will focus on representative characters, which include a writer, a singer, a dancer, a conjure woman (root worker), Marcus Garvey, a West Indian, a family of European immigrants, an athlete, an artist, a comedian, and various other characters who represent the day-to-day lives of the people on this street.



Martina Vonne Kendrick is the Black students' candidate for Miss Homecoming. Kendrick, a junior business administration major, is also a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Sweet Carolines. She seeks to make this the third consecutive year for a Black Homecoming queen at UNC.

Staff photo by James Parker

Dean Renwick-'Give minority students a chance'

By JOYCE BASS
Staff Writer

"Prestige and power don't mean much to me when I think of all the Black students who should be here and aren't. I believe in what I'm doing and I'll stand by it," said Dean Hayden B. Renwick, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences during an informal talk with graduate residents of Craige Hall recently.

Renwick has publically charged University admissions officials with denying admission to some qualified Black students. A former minority admissions officer, he is now working out of his office to improve the retention rate of minority students through such services as tutorial sessions and peer counseling.

Renwick recalled the steps and issues which led to his public statement regarding minority admissions to the Craige residents, the majority of whom were Black.

"This issue began over a year ago when I started looking at academic folders and found that special admissions were being

made in cases involving athletes and some children of alumni, while qualified Black students were being denied admission to the university," said Renwick.

He said over a five-year period, the number of Blacks applying to the university increased while the number of Blacks accepted decreased. In the five-year span, there has been an increase of only 27 minorities, according to Renwick. He further stated that he could not evaluate the 1978 records on admissions because he was denied access to the information three times.

"My charges address three big issues: the rejection of qualified minority students in 1976 and 1977 and nonutilization of currently enrolled Black students in recruitment efforts," said Renwick.

Encircled by the audience, Renwick said he was not criticizing the special admissions cases.

"I can't say cut athletic entries. I went to school on an athletic scholarship myself. I'm just saying, give minority students a chance, too."

Members of the audience addressed their questions to the role of the present minority recruiter in the admissions issue.

"I can't see any Black defending 187 years of racism. I said you have to be careful. When I saw that this person was defending the Office of Admissions, I stepped aside. I'll step on anybody who tries to hold back my Black kids," Renwick said.

Asked if he was concerned over his future at the university he said, "I have nothing to gain from this. I have or had a very influential position. I love the university and my job. That's the reason I went public with what I knew. I can't speak for every minority, but I have never seen a first class Black citizen. I can't be satisfied until I'm a first class citizen not yesterday, or tomorrow. All I tried to show were the injustices heaped on minority students."

Renwick said support from other minority faculty members has been disappointing, while student support and interest continues to build.

"No one has come to me and asked me to

document what I said. Three white females, individuals within my office and some student organizations, not the ones I thought would endorse my efforts, made endorsements. I think the lack of support can be spelled in one word, fear. Somewhere, we have got to stop the 'I'm only one person' idea. I have a clear conscience and I can sleep at night," Renwick said, smiling.

Renwick said the only visible difference between how he is received on campus now is seen in his relationship to students.

"When I walk across campus, students speak to me differently. There's a feeling of admiration there that wasn't there six months ago," he said.

He said now that the issues are out, he is waiting for someone to set up the committee that will take a close look at his documentation.

"Students can't do it, but they can ask questions as to why it hasn't been done yet," Renwick said.

"There are so many intangibles you have to look at. Two hundred years of segregation can't be solved in 20 years."