

Apathetic Americans waste voting priviledges



MARK CANADY
Special to the Ink

We are about to embark upon the final phases of the process to select the man whom we feel could best run this supposedly great nation of ours. Nineteen-eighty is an election year and on November 4th millions of Americans will march to the polls and mark their ballots. In doing so, they will undoubtedly become an integral component of world history.

For millions of other Americans November 4, 1980 will be just another day. These people will not take part in the process that has made this nation the largest and most successful quasi-democracy that the world has ever known. These people will not become

an integral part of history, for history remembers actions more frequently and more vividly than inaction. These people will find any number of excuses for not voting: "I don't like any of the candidates," "My vote won't make any difference anyway," or "I don't have time."

If one chooses not to exercise his right of suffrage then that certainly is his prerogative. But it seems to be such a waste. Not because this is the "great" United States of America where every man is "free" to vote for the leader of his or her choice, and because free choice is our God-given right. You see, people have been using these lines for years to get the populace out to the polls and yet it is still considered a miracle when more

than 70 percent of the population turns out to vote. The waste will be one of human lives. The lives that were sacrificed during the early years of this nation when a person had little choice of anything in their life. The waste will be of the lives of the uncountable Black men and women who, during the forties, fifties and sixties fought with everything they had to insure that their children and grandchildren would have the right that we so often wantonly take for granted.

I place a great deal of importance on the life of any human being, and if there ever existed a person who was willing to die so that I may have the right to vote, I would be damned if I would let that person waste his life by not exercising that right.

First Blacks at UNC-CH get portrait in library

GREG CRANFORD
Special to the Ink

Editor's Note: Plans are now underway to place a painting of UNC-CH's first Black students in the Undergrad Library. Kurt Garrett is the artist. This is the first in a three-part series.

February 1, 1980 brought attention to the city of Greensboro and North Carolina A&T State University on the 20th anniversary of the lunch counter sit-in which many cite as the official beginning of the civil rights movement.

However, our town of Chapel Hill and our University campus here is not totally devoid of great landmarks in the movement.

It may seem ironic today with UNC the last to comply to HEW desegregation guidelines and come as a surprise to most

current students that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was the first white Southern school to enroll Black students. This was done on June 7, 1951, without a court order and three years before the famous 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision.

Definitely this deserves notice from anyone concerned with Black roots and the Black experience at UNC-CH. We do not have a 20th anniversary to celebrate as Greensboro did but next year we can celebrate a 30th anniversary.

When the Mississippi campus rocked with violence in the early 1960s with the arrival of James Meredith and Governor George Wallace stood in the schoolhouse door in 1963 when Deputy Attorney General Nicholar Katzenbach came to the University of Alabama to escort Vivian Malone to classes, the flagship University in North Carolina had greeted

its first Black students with little emotional outburst over a decade earlier.

On June 7, 1951, Harvey Beech of Durham, J. Kenneth Lee of Greensboro and Floyd B. McKissick of Asheville (the founder of Soul City) were admitted and two days later, a fourth Black, James Lassister of Rocky Mount was accepted. All four had been law students at North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) in Durham and were to attend the Chapel Hill law school to complete their studies. When the four entered summer session classes in 1951, the newspapers of the day noted it was the first time in its 159 year history for the University to have Negroes in its student body.

However, despite the great accomplishment of this event, the events leading up to their enrollement were not easy. Actually, the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had filed a lawsuit in 1949 on behalf of Louis Eppes, a N.C. College law student, to enter the Chapel Hill school. Thurgood Marshall, now a Supreme Court justice, represented Eppes. After a federal district court judge ruled that the two schools were equal, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision and ordered the University to admit Eppes, who had been replaced by the "first four" as plaintiffs.

Black returns in fall

Continued from p.1

valuable addition to the Tar Heel basketball program.

North Carolina's Athletic Director John Swofford and Hickory High School Principal Henry Williamson declined any comment on the Young matter.

Carolina Union is for all

* Stop saying there is a lack of Black input in programming of Carolina Union activities.

* Start today by joining one of the ten Union activity committees and let your perspective, your voice be seen and be heard.

And if you are not into programming or publicity, check out the many attractions coming your way (all of which are free or reduced for Carolina students).

This week's Union activity schedule includes "All Day at the Union" — a 12:00 noon til 12:00 midnight affair September 5 featuring indoor and outdoor games, refreshments, roller skating and a wide assortment of other activities. Also, September 10 marks the opening of the Sidney Poitier Film Festival. The lead film is "Lilies of the Field," the former hit movie which won Poitier an Oscar for Best Actor.

This is just a sample of the quality entertainment the Union offers and should continue to offer with your support. Please check with the Union information desk for news on activity scheduling and stop by Room 200 to talk with activity committee chairpersons.

Future Black Ink's will include more in-



Teresa Artis

formation on each committee along with a section highlighting the Broadway on Tour series. Meanwhile, take the initiative to make the most of your investment — through activity fees — in the Carolina Union.

— Teresa Artis,
Carolina Union Liaison

Interns work

Staff Reports

Editors and staff writers of Black Ink put their journalism skills to use during the summer vacation. But for most of them the summer break was anything except a vacation. The following served on the staffs of newspapers throughout the U.S. Black Ink Editor Linda Brown and Former Editor James Alexander Jr., served as staff reporters for the Charlotte Observer.

Associate-managing Editor Donna Whitaker was a staff reporter for the Columbia (S.C.) Record. Head copy editor Beverly Shepard and staff writer Rochelle Riley served as staff writers for the News and Observer. Special projects editor Francis Silva served as a staff writer for the (Washington, D.C.) Afro American. And Sports Editor John Hinton was a staff writer for the Summer Tar Heel.

If you need any information about *Black Ink* or want to submit any drawing, articles or Letters to the Editor, contact any of *Black Ink's* editors and managers through the BSM office. Just leave a note on the bulletin board in Room 261, Suite B of the Carolina Union (second floor). Or call the office at 933-8345.

However, if you need to contact any of the editors and managers at home, here is a list of their addresses and phone numbers.

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