

# Blacks survive the '80s

The year of 1980 is about to end. What has it meant for Black people?

Although unemployment and inflation had been constantly gnawing at Blacks way before May, the frustrations they brought came to a head when Cubans invaded Miami and a jury found white policemen innocent of murdering a Black insurance salesman. Riots broke out and lasted for about five days. Black people could not take the injustices heaped upon them, so they took it to the streets.

Blacks in other cities did the same. They were tired of sitting back and taking it all in stride.

Yet two men campaigned for president, claiming to rid America of her economic troubles. Sure. But what about Black people? Ronald Reagan was elected on Nov. 4. What does that mean for Black People?

Not only have Black adults been handed raw deals, but somebody or some persons have gotten the gall to mess with Black children. Black youths have been found dead or are missing in Atlanta, Ga. What does this mean for Black people?

Children are not the only ones who have been targeted to die, however. Blacks in Buffalo, N.Y., and other cities have been victims of someone's bullets. And Vernon Jordan got his this summer.

What does this mean for Black people?

Injustice is nearer closer to home. An all-white jury acquitted six Ku Klux Klansmen and Nazis of five counts of first-degree murder and felonious rioting. The persons were accused of murdering Communist Workers Party members during an anti-Klan rally last November. What does the acquittal mean for Black people?

In January, the United States Senate will be predominately Republican, Conservative. The new president will follow suit. What does this mean for Black people?

All this means that Black people have to get their heads together and regroup. What will Black students at UNC-CH be doing five years from now? Mopping some white man's floor? What will the friends of those students be doing? What will their children be doing in years to come?

Black people are still slaves. The system has taken the place of the white slavemaster. When will Blacks have their freedom?

1981 is a new year, a new horizon, a new hope. Maybe the answer to the questions lie just ahead. But now is the time to start working toward the right ones. Get involved! Start caring about the future of yourself, and your posterity. If you don't, no one will.



## King

Twelve years ago the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed by a bullet as he stood on the balcony of a hotel. I was seven-years-old then. I didn't know the man, but I can remember crying in my second grade class when we saw his funeral on television.

I felt that somebody important was dead. I felt that then and I feel that now.

So much has happened since then. Sure, I have grown up, but look what kind of world I have grown up in. Inflation has skyrocketed almost 10 percent, unemployment is almost 10 percent, food prices are high and they are going higher, and the great United States does not command the respect it once could.

And now the mighty Ku Klux Klan has a risen its head. Just when some of us thought that we had gotten an inch, here comes the KKK and the Nazis (where did they come from?) trying to prove that we did them wrong.

And I have to live, not just stay, but live in an atmosphere where someone always want to know "What the Black people think?" as if Black people are novelties. I guess it's the social thing to ask these days.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DREAM? Where did we go wrong?

Many persons rallied to have Martin Luther King's birthday made a holiday. It would be a day to reflect, to plan, to hope. It would be a day of unity and a day to replenish our strength. But it never materialized. At least not in North Carolina, Massachusetts and Maryland, among other states, have made Dr. King's birthday a state holiday. Of course, North Carolina hasn't gotten it together. And what are we gonna do now?

We need to work on North Carolina leaders, persuading them to make King's birthday a holiday so that eventually his birthday will be a holiday nationwide.

But is there no hope, now that the conservatives are about to rule the nation?

Over the holidays, think about Jan. 15 and what it means. Think about King and what he stood for. Then come back in January with a new mind, heart, soul and determination to make it through the conservative tide.

Hold onto THE DREAM.

## Priorities

Perhaps UNC's Black community needs to take another look at its priorities.

In last year's student body president elections, not even one Black bothered to run for office, and few voted.

When an announcement of a Young Klansman's meeting appeared in the campus calendar of the *Daily Tar Heel*, a few Black students came out of curiosity, but no one pursued the matter any further.

On Nov. 4 Ronald Reagan was elected president of the United States. But what did Black students say or do? And even worse, those same students were denied their choice for the position of vice chancellor for student affairs, yet they said nothing voluntarily.

However, during the Homecoming queen elections, Black students decided to get seriously political for the first time all year. True, having a Black chosen as Homecoming queen used to represent much more than a title, but receiving the honor also represented unity for the whole Black population.

That unity not only suffered this year, but it was also disgraced. After being apathetic all year long, Black students criticized, offended, embarrassed and harassed over a Homecoming queen position.

Maybe if Black students would show concern for issues that needed attention, they would be able to work together on other issues.

## Student questions leaders

To the editor:

I am alarmed at the trend in this country towards racism and reactionary conservatism and must question the values of some of the men who will be assuming the powerful positions in our government.

I cringe at the thought of South Carolina's Strom Thurmond, who has spewed anti-civil rights, white supremacy rhetoric for years, at the chair of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee.

I do not like the idea of Minister Louis Farrakhan, who still preaches white devilism and black superiority, speaking at this University. Also, the civil rights oriented Carter Administration will be missed.

Most alarming, however, is the acquittal of the six Klansmen and Nazis which is one of the worst decisions ever reached by a court in these United States. These men were found innocent not only of murder, but of felonious rioting. It is difficult to accept that people were shot to death — cameras filmed it, and it was shown on television for the world to see — and no law was broken.

Other than the immediate consequences of racial tensions and public rage, there will be far-reaching ones. A friend pointed out that little children have likely seen on television scenes from the incident. These children will understand that it was a racial incident as well as a political

one, and are now going to be told that no law was broken that day. These children are growing up in the shadow of the Miami riots, the shooting of civil rights activist Vernon Jordan, and now the Greensboro decision. Racial harmony has been set back severely by these events.

As a citizen, a white male, and a college student, I urge all people to express their disgust at the all-white jury's verdict and I hope that no further violence results from this tragedy. Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream. Let us all pray that his vision was more than a dream, but a prophecy we may yet live to see.

— Jeff Knight  
524 Ehringhaus

## Rape

To the editor:

I'd like to respond to Catherine Watson's letter about your article "Rape Reports Decrease" in the Nov. 11 issue.

In my remarks to La Vie Ellison about the decrease in reported rapes, I said that Black women are often reluctant to report rape by Black men because they feel it is "unethical to turn a Black man over to the White system."

I did not mean to imply by this comment that Black women are "more tolerant of sexual assault against their bodies" than are White women. I absolutely do not believe that women do not report rape because they are "tolerant" of it. I strongly believe that women do not report rape for a variety of reasons — fear of being blamed, fear of retaliation, self-blame, fear of not being believed, and fear of police and/or court procedures to name a few reasons.

I believe that some Black women do not report rape by Black men because they do not want to turn a Black man over to the White system. This does not mean that there is something wrong with these women (i.e., that they are "tolerant" of rape), but that there is something wrong with the systems they would have to deal with if they did report the rape.

The hospital, police, court, and Rape Crisis Center people that these women would deal with if they did report the assault are usually white, middle-class, and urban. This presents problems not only for Black women, but also for White women who are poor or from rural areas.

As Linda Belden said in a report entitled "Why Women Do Not Report Sexual Assault," "This country's history of racist, ethnic, and class prejudice has a number of consequences, one of which is the minority woman's distrust of the law enforcement, court, and health care systems."

The Rape Crisis Center was formed to provide support for any woman who has been sexually assaulted. We have a policy that we will support a woman through her recovery from rape whether or not she decides to report the attack to the police. We are beginning to involve more Black women in the organization and to reach out to older women and rural women as well. Our focus is peer support and we are committed to providing that support to any woman who wants it.

Sincerely,  
Janet Colm  
Chapel Hill-Carrboro  
Rape Crisis Center

## Homecoming

To the editor:

I have tried to sit back and merely be another apathetic dongiveadamn black student here at UNC but, that just ain't my bag. I say this to say to you that this letter is an outpouring of the outrage in my soul. The straw that broke my silence is this black communities definition of UNITY.

What relevance is "black unity" if it only exists in an ail Greek stepshow or the election of a homecoming queen? Is it not more relevant that the black Greeks UNITED in an effort to improve black health awareness on this campus? I, personally, think so.

The election of Miss Homecoming is an important SYMBOL in the community but, no more so than the election of Miss BSM. Is it, in an effort to unite the black community, that Ms. Bonita Bell was harassed, threatened and ostracized? Is the position of Miss Homecoming so pertinent to the black community that we can stoop to threatening our own? If so, why? What significant role does Miss Homecoming play in strengthening the black community? What political clout does she hold?

Are not our efforts at BLACK UNITY better spent on saving our community? I hear no outcries as RHA and others are making plans to destroy our community on the basis of "segregation" when in fact we live in the most integrated as well as desegregated area on campus. Where is your unity on this issue? Where was your unity when we were given absolutely no say in the selection of the new Vice-Chancellor? Where is your unity with respect to the larger black community? The only answer I've been able to find is NOWHERE.

— Stella F. Jones

## BLACK INK

"The essence of freedom is understanding."

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