

Black Ink

The essence of freedom is understanding

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Black Ink Symbolizes Ideas and Concepts

by Laurie Denise Willis
Staff Writer

In November 1969, UNC-CH had 70 Black students, the Black Student Movement was two years old and the first *Black Ink* editor called himself "Head HNIC".

It was a time of strife, recalled Cureton Johnson, the first HNIC of the *Black Ink*. Now 35, Johnson currently lives in Adelphi, Md., and said he often looked back on those turbulent days when the *Black Ink* began.

"At the time, we Black students strongly felt we needed an identity to express who we were and what we were about," Johnson said in a recent telephone interview. Conceived during the Black liberation movement which was sweeping the country, the *Black Ink* was an attempt to express that identity.

"We didn't always know how we were moving, where we were moving, whether we were moving right or wrong, but we knew it was a movement beyond ourselves, reaching not only Blacks at the University, but in other parts of the state as well."

The brainchild of BSM officials, the *Black Ink* was dropped into Cureton's lap during his junior year. "I thought of the name *Black Ink*... I felt it was symbolic of Black ideas and Black concepts," he recalled.

But the paper was not entirely a campus paper. He said: "to be honest, the paper was not oriented very much to campus news in the beginning. The focus was primarily on events surrounding Black culture with the major focus being on the liberation movement."

"At first, the University (CGC) said it would provide the money for the paper, but the first two issues were so radical, they withdrew the funds," he said.

The first two issues of the paper in November and December 1969 carried headlines which read "Black Brothers Down New Draft System," "Students Blast 'Police State' Action By Chapel Hill Rednecks" and "Chancellor Needs Math Course."

Johnson said he personally authored "Chancellor Needs Math Course." "The early 70s was a time when the University's Black admission policies were being scrutinized," he recalled. "Naturally, Chancellor (J.C.) Sitterson wanted to make the University look good, so he combined the undergraduate figures with the graduate figures to make it appear as if there were more Blacks in the undergraduate school.

"We corrected the misleading information and told the correct numbers."

Johnson said he knew the Chancellor read the article, but never received word from him directly; but added, "The Chancellor may have tried to ignore it, but he was more careful about his statements in the future."

However, the burning issue on campus in November 1969 was the food workers strike, according to Johnson. Black cafeteria workers were striking against SAGA Food Services because of unfair wages, split shifts and the lay-off of more than 50 workers.

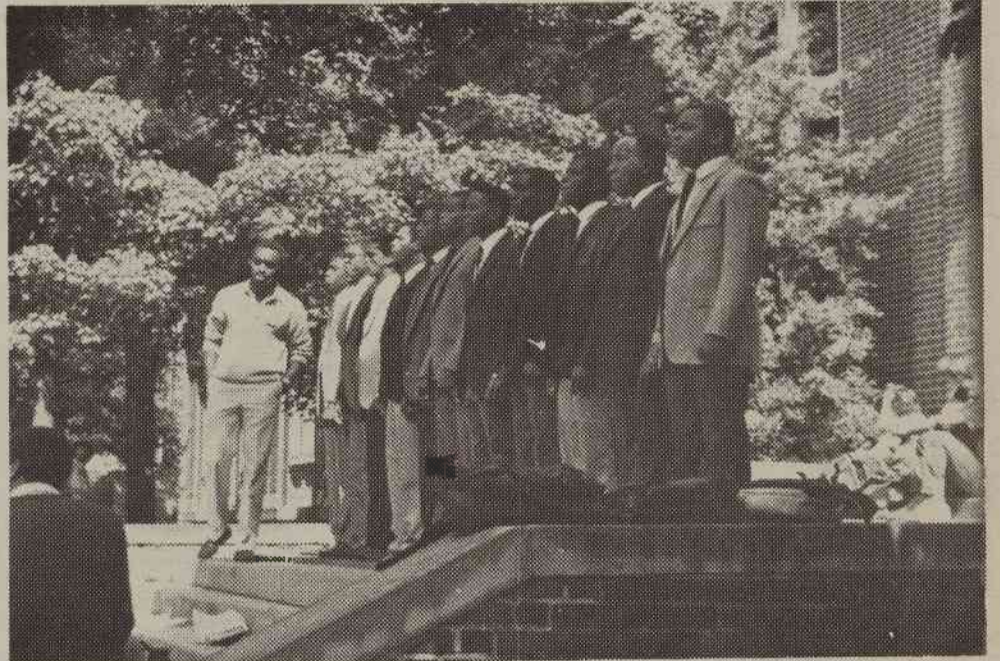
"That had the eye of the whole state--the governor, the administration and civil rights leaders," he explained.

"The cafeteria was in Murphy Hall then and the Black students would run in while white students were trying to eat, turn over the tables and spill food all over the place," he said. "They'd turn the tables up right and we'd go back in there and tear the place up again. They'd finally go set up a food serving line somewhere else and eat."

In addition, Johnson and other BSM members walked the picket lines with the workers during the two month strike and were arrested quite frequently. Johnson said, "Julius Chambers, a Black attorney up in Charlotte, would come down to Chapel Hill and bail us out if necessary...or represent us in court if necessary."

Finally, the BSM designated Dec. 8, 1969, "Black Monday," a full day of protest by Black students from around the state, but on the eve of Black Monday, SAGA and the food workers met and reached an agreement.

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The largest line on campus Alpha Phi Alpha's Sphinxmen standing in front of Lenoir Hall. They have been on line since September 23, 1984.

Will the Upendo Serve the Needs of the BSM?

by Lisa Y. Henderson
Contributing Writer

Despite a long renovation and much controversy over its use, Upendo Lounge and the South Campus Union in Chase Hall have reopened this fall. The lounge has moved from the first to the second floor, and along with its move has come another change.

According to Archie Copeland, associate director of the Carolina Union, Upendo will no longer be exclusively earmarked for use by the Black Student Movement and other Black campus organizations.

Such groups will have priority status for use of the lounge, Copeland said, but they must submit a schedule at the beginning of the school year to reserve it.

The new scheduling procedure also forbids parties after 2 a.m. in the lounge. Copeland said when Upendo fell under Union jurisdiction last spring, it also fell under Union regulations.

He also said the 2 a.m. parties posed security risks.

Johnny Smith, president of the

Black Greek Council, said the policy would cut heavily into Greek organizations' fundraising.

The new system will also effect the economic resources of the BGC system by requiring that we have to pay for security at our parties," he said.

Keith Cooper, a senior from Greensboro and BSM vice-president, said he will set up the BSM's schedule. He said he saw the new arrangement as a good one if black student organizations have the same amount of time to use the lounge as they did in years past.

Cooper also said that black students should use the facilities to show that they need them. Because the scheduling arrangement is temporary, such support may be important in making it permanent.

The South Campus Union has a long history behind its renovation and use. In 1972, the BSM first gained access to Upendo Lounge when Dean Donald Boulton, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, promised the organization space for meetings and other activities.

Plans for the renovation of the South Campus Union were discussed

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