In Perspective

Black Talk

The summer has come and gone and classes are well under way. But before the semester advances, let's take this opportunity to check our syllabus.

In retrospect, it is no great mystery that the challenges of the 1960's engendered much unity among black students. At numerous universities, the evidence includes the development of Afro-American and African studies departments and the recognition of black student organizations as the official voice of black students.

As the year progresses, let's consider rallying around each other. Certainly, our presence on the university campus should not mean that we have to sacrifice the bonds that have held us together throughout our history. We as black students need to set our own agenda, to plan and to support our actions.

As a group and as individuals, we must keep our mentality intact for we will become the leaders that leave Chapel Hill and go forth. Therefore, we, being "the educated, the enlightened, the informed," become responsible for our fellow sisters and brothers. We set the standards that determine the quality of their existence. Arrogance and selfishness should be checked at the door.

Let's utilize this UNC experience to practice for the real world. In doing so, we have a choice to make. We have to make wise investments today to receive the dividends tomorrow. We must either affirm our identity or jeopardize our future.

The adjective "Black" when referring to our people is not a derogatory word. On many occasions we find ourselves one among many in the classroom — an integrated setting. Realize that in our uniqueness, we are not experts on our cultural background and tendencies. We don't know it all and we don't have to defend ourselves on those grounds.

We know how some people regard us, but let's not allow their negativity to tear us down or apart. We know who we are!

But if we must do so, let's put anger and hostility in their proper place. When all

doesn't go as we would like, let's investigate every aspect before we proclaim "Racism!" We know how some people regard us, but let's not allow their negativity to tear us down or apart. We know who we are!

Accordingly, we feel the way we allow ourselves to feel and the way we allow others to make us feel. A strong sense of self will deter such ill thoughts. Let's promote positive energy among each other and share in a sense of community. Let's be happy and feel good about ourselves.

Throughout the remainder of this semester and this year, let's retain positive thoughts. Stand tall with head high.

Welcome back to the Black Ink.

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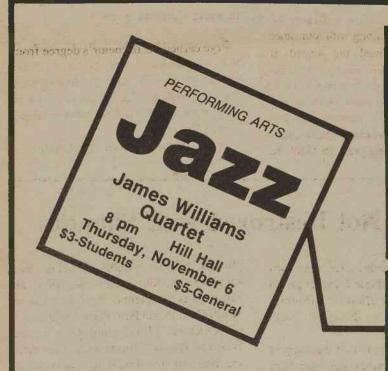
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