

Asa Bell

Asa Bell stated that in order to carry on Martin Luther King's legacy, blacks need to remember what King stood for and what the civil rights movement was all about.

"There's a lot of apathy around here and we've seemed to have forgotten where we've come from," Bell said.

Bell, 21, is a senior political science major from Wadesboro, NC. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Student Government Executive Assistant, and an emergency medical technician for South Orange Rescue Squad.

Much of what King was up against still exists, he said.

"We need to tackle these problems head on," said Bell.

With minority recruitment, Bell said the administration did not do all it could have.

"Now that the consent decree is over,

there is no one except black students on campus who will be concerned about recruitment," he said.

According to Bell, if apathy persists on campus, the interests and concerns of black students will be "pushed under the rug."

It is important that issues do not go unnoticed and untackled, said Bell. "If we are to stay here, then attitudes will have to be such," he said. "We will have to let the administration know that we will not settle for non-existence here. We will not let a 7.9 percent population dwindle down to 1 or 2 percent," Bell said.

Bell said that he hopes more blacks will participate in Student Government. Civil rights go hand-in-hand with political participation, he said.

"UNC's future for black students can be bright if we make it bright," Bell said. "But we cannot let this apathy persist."



(photo by Reubena Whitted)

Cassandra Butts

Cassandra Butts is a 21 year old senior political science major from Brooklyn, New York. She is a student government executive assistant, a member of the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group, and committee chairperson of the newly formed Black Women United.

"One of my favorite quotes is King's 'An injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere,'" said Butts. Butts said she believes that we should strive for civil rights internationally, as well as on our own campus.

"It is important that we look abroad, just as King did," she said.

The abuses of human rights go on all over the world, said Butts. On many occasions, King spoke out against Vietnam and Apartheid, she said.

"We have to look not only in our own backyard, but across the fence also," Butts said.

Upperclassmen should strive to make UNC a better environment for blacks, according to Butts.

"Coming in as a freshman can be very intimidating," she said.

Butts said she believes that the university should still be concerned with black enrollment.

She suggested that the university look for the reasons why UNC does not attract more black students. She said that the university should also strive to improve the situation of the blacks on campus now.

"Getting us here is one thing; keeping us here is another," she said.



(photo by Reubena Whitted)

