

The retention, recruitment and graduation of African-American students at UNC is a serious problem. Although strides have been made toward making UNC a place where African-Americans and other people of color live, study and graduate with the same amount of comfort as their white counterparts, there is still a problem. Unfortunately, with present budget crisis this is a problem that stand a good chance of worsening.

In this issue of Black Ink, we will begin a two part series dealing with this problem of retention, recruitment and graduation of minority students at UNC. Debbie Baker traces the steps that UNC has made toward making this university a place where students of color can live, study and graduate with the same ease as that white counterparts. Baker also examines the problems that still exists and the fact that, inspite of these problems, there are students who excel at UNC.

Although I feel that it is important that we all realize the problems African-American students face at UNC, I also believe that it is important that we remember that black students do achieve at this university. It so easy for us to look around and allow the pressures of this university to hinder us from our initial goal, academic success. We must keep the achievements of our fellow African-American classmates, both past and present, in sight and remember that it is possible for all of us to succeed!

I hope you all have a good week. Remember to look for the continuation to both "We're Gonna Make It" and Malcolm X --Peace, Erika F. Campbell

This issue, the third issue of Black Ink for the 1990-1991 academic year, was originally laid out to be 16 pages. As production of this issue went on as usual, usual things began happening—typographical errors, hasty layout/design in order to meet deadline, inconsistencies in style, etc. We decided then to put everything on hold and to make a commitment to excellence. The Pre-Orientation and the Black Cultural Center issues were good, but could have been greatly improved with a little more time, care, and correction of obvious mistakes.

With all of the articles submitted to Black Ink this past week we could have easily come out with a 16 page issue—a mediocre 16 page issue. Instead we decided to slow down, be more critical, and turn out an eight-page version that African-Americans at UNC could be proud of. I think that all faculty, staff, and students at UNC would prefer a pretty good eight page paper as opposed to one that was mediocre yet 16 pages.

Now that the novelty of Black Ink being published as scheduled is over, its contents must, in turn, be scrutinized, and improved. With this declaration of a commitment to quality, we, as non-journalism majors have come to an impasse and have done, and improved all that we can do and improve. We need help to improve and to become a newspaper that African-Americans will be proud of. We need help to become a newspaper that other periodicals on campus will genuinely respect as equals. We need your help.

I would like to apologize to those who submitted articles, but are not featured in this week's issue. Please be patient with us as we showcase your material over the next few issues. — Akinwale N'Gai Wright

Black Ink

"The Essence of Freedom is Understanding"

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Many thanks to all who made this issue possible!!

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Monday, September 17, 1990



About the Cover

Statistics for African-American students at UNC and nationwide are not at all encouraging. Despite these statistics, African-American do indeed excel in all areas of academia. Despite the statistics, we're gonna make it.

Cover Story photos by David Minton



About the Back

Black Ink begins its four part series on Malcolm X by looking at a sketch of the man and his life.

Story by Teresa Jefferson