

# Endsights:

*"As a community, we will REAP what we sow. We must not become victims of our own inaction, but shining examples of citizens in action."*

By Nigel Long  
Contributor

The Reinvestment and Educational Action Program (REAP) is a series of community oriented projects addressing educational, political and economic issues facing the African-American community. The program is sponsored by the Civic Investment Committee, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to uplifting the community through civic and economic reinvestment, with members in several cities throughout the southeast.

REAP is based on the philosophy that the black community is best uplifted by those seeking to uplift themselves as individuals. This campus is full of people of color striving to better themselves academically, artistically and athletically. These are the kinds of individuals needed to inspire a sense of hope and pride in a people who are increasingly being described as mentally and spiritually lifeless. Individuals of this caliber are realistically the best role models for not only young people of color, but young people in general.

REAP is composed of projects such as the Role Models program in local elementary schools, voter registration drives on campus and in the community, and economic literacy projects targeting the African-American community. These projects allow civic-minded students of culture to make an immeasurable contribution to the community, while contributing only a few hours a week.

What are some of the beliefs espoused by the Civic Investment Committee? Many of the beliefs espoused by the CIC fall into the following categories: education, politics and economics.

## On Education

We believe that education is not merely the imparting of information. Education should allow the individual to think critically and do for self. It must allow him or her not only to expand his mental boundaries, but also to expand his realm of opportunities. It is more than education, it is edification. It is a tool that allow an individual to extract himself from a negative environment and make the best of his or her situation.

Education does not merely involve being taught by instruction it is also acquired by observation. In fact, it is often inspired by observation. This is why it is important that young people be provided with positive role models. The CIC Role Model Program allows people to impact the lives of elementary-age students by spending an hour to two hours a week in a third or fourth grade class. This project allows students to be not only role models for young people of color, but role models for young people of all ethnicities and cultures.

## On Politics

Politically, it is vital to get people of color to register and vote in large numbers. We must learn to study the issues and vote for the candidates that offer the best program for not only the black community but for his or her entire constituency. The health of the body of constituents directly affects the health of the black community. This demands that we step beyond partisan politics and judge candidates by their individual agendas and not those of their

political parties.

The CIC will spear head a community voter registration drive. It is not merely a registration drive, this is an information drive. Information is one of the most potent tools in the political process. Through canvassing specific areas of Orange County with publications and campaign literature, we are providing a necessary element in this upcoming election.

## On Economics

The issue of economics is the keynote to the entire reinvestment program. Any community seeking to control its destiny must fire exercise control of its capital or economic resources. This requires an understanding of the economic power of the black community and the individual. We term this "Economic Literacy." By offering financial services and educating the public about "green power," we are contributing to the economic literacy of the community. We are also seeking to make financial investment in black America by establishing a public trust fund for the promotion of education, cultural arts and civic oriented endeavors. The CIC also believes that people should be informed about more than the economics of the stocks and bond markets on Wall Street. People should be made aware of economic opportunities that exist that exists on our streets. Black professionals have been educated away from the corner store and into the corner. Many have virtually ignored the building blocks of a strong economy, that is the entrepreneur. Our Jewish, Oriental and Arab brothers and sisters understand this concept of "cornerstore" economics and continually use it to their collective advantage. We must reinvest in the small Black and Brown businesses that operate in our communities. As individuals, we should make it a habit to purchase goods and services from a Black owned and operated business at least once a week.

We realize that there is not one program for addressing our most pressing concerns. People and organizations must deal with the situations and conditions as they find them. Furthermore, we can not hope to solve all of our social and economic problems. However, actions that we as individuals choose to take, no matter how small, will enrich our personal lives as well as the life of the Black community. As a community, we will REAP what we sow. We must not become victims of our own inaction, but shining examples of our citizens in action.

In order to find out more information concerning the Civic Investment Committee, please contact Nigel Long (933-4804), Malcolm Turner (933-4602), Chris Miller (933-2379), Bob Curry (933-3345), or Clay Barrow (933-2382).

Express yourself about issues that concern **Black Ink** readers. Articles should be three pages long, typed double spaced (include year, major, and hometown). Drop your article by Suite 108-D Student Union, or mail to **Black Ink**, CB# 5210, Student Union, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514



## Should We Insist Upon Separation?

In the September 4th issue of the "Black Ink", Terrence Garrison wrote that for two years he has been waiting for a "real" Black Cultural Center. He argued that many of the faculty members do not support the Black Cultural Center and that it is up to the African-American student body and "miscellaneous supporters" to provide the necessary funds. First of all, the BCC is the only Cultural Center that exists on the campus of UNC-CH. No other minority group on this campus has a Cultural Center. I would like to know who are "miscellaneous supporters"? In his article "When Will UNC-CH Get its Black Cultural Center?", Garrison stated in the 1st paragraph, 21st line, "We should do this by mobilizing the entire African-American student body (and miscellaneous supporters) to solicit funds..." Do you refer to "miscellaneous supporters" as interested, open-minded people who think that a Black Cultural Center would be a chance to learn about African-American history and who would be willing to support the Cultural Center by giving funds or volunteering their time? Or are they people who aren't as significant as the "African-American student body"? Garrison also stated that "African-American students at UNC-CH have been victimized by the lack of understanding of African-American culture"—I agree, but so are other minority groups. He further stated that "African-American students would not be satisfied with a small space in the Frank Porter Graham Student Union." On the second floor of the Student Union sits the "Native American Cultural Center"—a single desk, crammed into a small room together with a huge file cabinet, three wooden chairs, and a larger desk—which belongs to a different organization. How could we, as Native American students, be so selfish to ask for anything more than a closet for a cultural center?

The lack of Native American faculty/staff at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is a serious problem. Until this year, the Native American students had no faculty as role models. The Carolina Indian Circle provided the Chancellor of this University, Paul Hardin, with an ample supply of qualified candidates eager to join the UNC-CH faculty/staff.

I propose that a committee (composed of a representative from different cultures) be selected to plan one cultural center in a single building. No, I do not mean one huge room with a few paintings illustrating a part of a particular history, but a building with different floors; each floor housing a different culture. Of course, this plan is costly, but if we are dedicated and willing to put a little elbow grease into planning, volunteering spare time, and sharing ideas for funding, this plan could definitely work.

Locating multiple cultures in one building would unite those cultures and give each other the chance to appreciate cultures other than their own. After all, one minority group is not more important than another. I leave you with a question—Do we work and live together in harmony, or should we insist on separation?—Trey Previtte is a junior French major from Fayetteville, NC.

Think **Black Ink**...

**TODAY!!**

**Black Ink** will hold a staff meeting today in room 226 of the Carolina Union at 6:30. All interested UNC students and staff are welcome.