



## Making A Solid Transition

*Words of advice from a fellow classmate*

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*"My body was given back to me sprawled out, distorted, recoloured, clad in mourning... The Negro is an animal, the Negro is ugly; look, a nigger and it's cold. The nigger is... cold, and the little boy is trembling because he is afraid of the nigger..."—Aime Cesaire, Return to My Native Land*

Welcome back to good ol' Carolina everybody. And I'd like to give an extra-special welcome to entering Class of 1995! Welcome to what many of your Caucasian counterparts call "The Southern Part of Heaven." Carolina is a great place for undergraduate training, and you

ought to be proud to be a Tarheel. Here is your time to shine!

Since this is the Pre-Orientation issue of Black Ink, the first of the academic year, I want to dedicate this article to you, the freshman class. This article is of considerable length, so please bear with me. But I feel I must include all of these thoughts because each is intended to benefit you. So let us begin:

### Making A Solid Transition

Much of what I will say is solely for the purpose of making your transition to college life at Carolina that much less painful and that much more complete. What do I mean when I use the word transition? I am talking about settling into the Carolina atmosphere; weathering the blows

of change. A transition includes more than a physical displacement. It embraces an emotion process as well—one which seems to affect African Americans more severely. It is this process of transition which I am sympathetic to and hope to diminish its negative effects.

Which brings me back to my opening quote. Go ahead and read it again. Go ahead! What do I mean, you ask? Well, first, I want to get your attention. Second, I want you to understand that there are some people on this campus that will view you in such a manner. Not only does this make your transition more difficult (nobody likes to be where they are unwanted or despised), but it creates a tension on campus that interferes with their transition as

well. What is important to understand is that these hateful students must learn to get along with you just like you must learn to get along with them. Remember, racism is a double-edged sword that cuts both ways—one group is oppressed while the oppressor is tortured by his own guilty conscious. If someone looks at you strangely, or with that "hate stare" which some of us know all too well, respond not with hatred and anger, but with a smile and a loud, chipper "Hello! How are you?" You just might break through and make a new friend. And if they aren't man or woman enough to respond respectfully, they will sit there stewing in their own juices! Trust me, it really burns them up! Knowing this, you ought to feel a helluva lot better.

But remember, it's easier to make a successful transition with friends.

### Assert Your Right for Self-Determination

*"The only thing white people have that black people need or should want, is power—and no one holds power forever. White people cannot, in the generality, be taken as models on how to live. The white man is himself in sore need of new standards, which will release him from his confusion"—James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time*

We have all heard of the white man's theory of the Great American Melting Pot. We know see "Solid Transition," p. 10