

## Dammit! BCC Does Not Segregate

Some arguments are built on Gibraltar, standing the onslaught of time. Such arguments are indicative of authors who carefully turn situations over in their minds, authors who prod an issue, lift it up, turn it over, make careful analyses and duly record their observations. Needless to say, this kind of argument is rare. Other arguments are formed from clay and can be broken down with just the right amount of intellectual digging or can be dissolved with the waters of reason. And then there are the arguments built on the sinking sands of ignorance. Against any type of scrutiny, these simply cannot stand. A particularly irritating example of this last type of argument is summed up by these words: "A free-standing Black Cultural Center promotes segregation."

This belief is found wanting on several counts. First, it is highly offensive to African Americans to be told that the study of their culture inevitably promotes segregation. A properly-equipped BCC is just like an Afro-American Studies course or a women studies class; it should not and will not be limited to just the groups whom the course is about. A BCC is for the edification of the entire campus. Of course, many whites, fearful of being a temporary minority, will avoid the center, and if that is the case, the finger should be pointed squarely at them for voluntarily segregating themselves (which of course is their right).

But UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin and many others have taken a different and very peculiar stance: they think that only a *free-standing* BCC would be segregative. How odd! This same chancellor, seemingly a rational fellow, told the public on March 17 that Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton was possibly looking into Chase Hall as a short-term site for a BCC. Chase Hall is on South Campus, where the vast majority of campus blacks reside, and placing a BCC there would greatly frustrate the few legitimate efforts to bring black students northward. If any BCC plan would promote segregation this one would, so one has to question the real reason the chancellor is opposed to a free-standing facility. I will be the first to say I don't know. If placement of the center did determine its level of multiracial interaction, then one question immediately surfaces. What if the center was housed in a centralized place on North Campus as promised by the UNC Board of Trustees, according to some students? A place like Howell Hall, for instance?

The extremely conservative campus publication, *The Carolina Critic*, has taken a similarly extreme position on the BCC. They liken BCC-supporters to white supremacists in South Africa, who want to uphold the system of oppression and injustice there. I suppose then, that once we angry negroes carve out our spot on the University landscape, we will begin our reign of unchecked terror and systematically deny whites the opportunity to go to class and vote in campus elections? That this comparison can even crop up in a respected academic institution proves the statement made by one contemporary rap musician: public education is making some dumber.

When someone or some institution does not want to do something, there are always legitimate arguments against doing it. These arguments range from the rock-hard ones to just simply saying, "I don't want to do it." For instance, a multicultural center makes sense, although one is led to question why this idea remained unmentioned until students began agitating for a black cultural center. I would even rather hear a frank denial than a ridiculous argument built on not even sand, but excrement. Because no matter which way you turn it chancellor, it still stinks.

God Bless, Myron B. Pitts

## Black Ink

"I know me roots and culture (murderer.)"

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# Inside Black Ink

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## Cover Story

### IT'S NOT ALL THEY WANTED

Students at N.C. State battled five years for an African-American Cultural Center, and they got one -- housed in an annex to the student union. Those involved in that movement encourage students here to seek a free-standing building. Page 6.

### A LULL OF SORTS

The Black Cultural Center was officially named for late professor Sonja Haynes Stone amid a campuswide controversy over whether the BCC should become an independent structure. Page 3.

### RING THE ALARM!

Frustrated by recent editorials in *The Carolina Critic* and *The Daily Tar Heel* that oppose a free-standing BCC, writer Charles McNair issues a call to arms to black students.  
•Critic editor compares BCC-supporters to white supremacists. Page 4.  
•Students in movement misrepresented. Page 10.

### MY PEOPLE, MY PEOPLE

One writer says the apathy toward the BCC displayed by black students is downright disgraceful, and the Greenlaw Hall wall-sitters exemplify this nonchalance. Page 4.

### RACIST INCIDENT OF THE MONTH

Two black students found a nasty surprise when they returned to their Hinton James room after Spring Break. Page 5.

### FINALLY, LETTERS

•Wonderboy comes under heavy fire. Page 5.  
•An organizer for Race Relations Week defends their selection of Sister Souljah as keynote speaker. Page 5.

### READ HIS LIPS, "NO FREE-STANDING BCC"

The chancellor addressed campus issues ranging from the housekeepers to the BCC at a press conference March 17. Page 8

### THE UNDAUNTED COLUMNIST

Never wanting to bore his readership, Wonderboy comes out in support of multicultural center. Page 12.

### About the Cover

N.C. State University has done with its African-American Cultural Center what Chancellor Paul Hardin and others want to do with UNC's Black Cultural Center, i.e., make it a permanent part of the Student Union. The director of State's center encouraged UNC students to continue their fight for a free-standing facility. Page 6