

Letters To the Editor

The Struggle Continues

"If you're not going to let us build our building, then put on your hood and robe" (Rev. J. Bevil).

The building of the Black Cultural Center has faced many stumbling blocks placed on it by those who do not support the idea. Time and time again, the concept of a free-standing BCC tends to emerge from the abyss that the opposition tried to enslave it in. Once again, the issue of the free-standing BCC is trying to be enslaved by the slave master. Will it follow history or will it break the chains of oppression once and for all?

Recently, the issue of the free-standing Black Cultural Center or BCC has become the topic of many debates. Although the issue seems relatively new, the idea of a free-standing BCC was first conceptualized in the late 60s. Because African Americans were, and are, a minority on the University's campus, they felt a need to have a place where they could congregate, communicate and educate themselves about each other as well as about other races. The administrators at Chapel Hill heard their cry, so they renovated the old snack bar in the Student Union for the purpose of housing the Black Cultural Center.

However, according to the laws governing the Student Union, a non-student organization may not operate under their domain. The Student Union is for student organizations and activities, while the BCC falls under the Division of Student Affairs. So, knowing this, the administrators at UNC agreed to a Black Cultural Center, while presently allowing the newly renovated space to be known as the BCC office in order to abide by the laws. Time passed, and still no BCC. The University seemed to be stalling, hoping that the leaders of this cause would graduate. They did graduate, but the problem "re-enrolled" at UNC. So more African-American students picked up the idea. Once again the great University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill seemed to be procrastinating, but instead of students' concern decreasing it has now snowballed into a revolution, as termed by the opposition and supporters.

Throughout history, African-Americans have been promised certain unalienable rights, only to have the deal reneged upon. Under the Emancipation Proclamation, every black man was promised 40 acres and a mule, but they did not get it. The blacks at Carolina were promised a free-standing Black Cultural Center, but unlike the previous deal, this deal is non-negotiable. Chancellor Paul Hardin was issued a deadline or a D-day to agree to construction of the BCC, which was Nov. 13, 1992. It is not the panther's nature to attack anyone first, but when he is attacked and backed into a corner, he will respond viciously and wipe out the aggressor. Thus, if blacks are continuously backed into the corner they will take the BCC by any means necessary.

Derek Crowson
Freshman

It Has to Start With You

About three weeks ago, I moved onto North Campus. While everyone seemed nice and friendly, I soon realized differently. My roommate, who is white, told me some information about some of the students at Carolina. He told me the racist jokes they had made about the black cultural center and other racist comments in general. Needless to say, I was upset and badgered my roommate for weeks to get the persons' names who had said it. Now, I realize that I do not even need to know. You know why? There isn't any point in finding out who said it. What am I going to do? Beat the racism out of them? Curse twenty years worth of racist thoughts out of them?

You and I know that no matter what I say to them, I will always be seen to them as an ape or a dumb nigger. I told one of my friends about this incident, and he really gave my roommate hell about finding out who said the racist comments. But why was knowing so important? To show these racists how angry they can make a black person? Well, all I know is that I am going to get my degree regardless of what those racist students say. This is not about getting something

that was mine, it is about knowing that I don't need their(whites) so-called respect to be happy.

We only have ourselves to look for support, but what is sticking together for a short-term obstacle when we can't stick together always as a people? Time after time, we criticize each other on the basis of our clothes, money, status and appearance. Wake up black people! How long is it going to take for us to realize that fighting for a BCC or some form of discrimination isn't all that it takes to free ourselves from oppression? We have to respect each other even before and after a crisis. Not to say that we shouldn't fight for our BCC or AFAM curriculum, but we need to keep this brotherhood among ourselves even after the fight is over.

You know something, I agree with Michelle Thomas when she says "I'm tired of being tired." I know that after a day of fighting for the BCC, I would be pissed off too if I had to fight my own people. Black people, free your minds, but don't look down upon someone else for freeing theirs.

It seems that there are so many divisions within our community, Greek vs. non-Greek, football team vs. Greeks, rich vs. poor, educated vs. non-educated, fair-skinned vs. dark-skinned and attractive vs. non-attractive, etc. I would go on, but my hand is getting too tired. Then you have other divisions within these divisions! No, I'm not criticizing the Greek organizations or football team for being in these groupings, but what I am doing is putting the blame on all of us for letting this trivial shit divide us. No, we don't all have to belong to the same frat or do the same thing, but we still must respect each other for what we are, what we stand for (individualistically speaking) and what we do. But until we come to the point of doing this, all I can say is that we(you and I) need a wake up pill!

Jonathan Hairston
Junior

North Campus Invitation

I am a freshman at UNC where I am

desperately seeking answers to explain the many questions I have about my life and the lives of the people around me. The question that sparked my interest for writing this editorial is one that I have been asking myself for years. Why do blacks and whites, with few exceptions, always seem to separate themselves from one another?

More specifically I ask, why are there so few blacks living in my North Campus resident hall? The fact is that there are more African-American students on average in my classroom than there are in my entire dorm. A trend has developed that most blacks live on South Campus, and are reluctant to move north of the Student Union.

To my African-American readers and peers, especially those who reside on South Campus, I urge you to put these inhibitions aside and open your minds to the proposal I am presenting to you. I invite you to move to North Campus. The opportunity now exists for you when it may not have existed in the past. I hope to belie any stereotypes that you might have of North Campus residents. You will realize that there is more to North Campus beyond the fact that there are more white residents than other minorities.

There are indeed fewer African Americans living in the north region, but about 97 percent of Asian and Native American students already reside in this area. Thus, a larger number of African-American residents are needed on North Campus to fulfill a racial and cultural balance. The University is stressing a multicultural community that should have strong roots to the residence halls. We are all hu-

man, and we must learn to live together in order to preserve the human race. Don't worry, I am not so gung-ho on my invitation that I have forgotten to consider how this area can benefit you.

It is rather obvious that North Campus is significantly closer to classrooms, libraries and Franklin Street. Indeed, it is only a four to 12 minute walk to almost any classroom. North Campus has larger dorm rooms, bathtubs and have at most five floors. More rooms on North Campus have air conditioning than in the south. The rooms in my dormitory have sinks. The hall system caters to a less "cramped" feeling that one may experience living on South Campus.

I believe, as does the Residence Hall Association and the administration, that all students, regardless of race, have the right to choose which area of campus they want to live.

I am one white North Campus resident who desires a more culturally diverse community in this area. I cannot tell or force anyone to move to North Campus, but I can hope that I have provided you with information and evidence that will persuade you to consider the move north. If you are interested in the racial diversity plan and are considering the move to North Campus, contact the Housing Department and request information about the program, and they can send you an application. There are plenty of available slots for next fall, so go for it. You, the African-American individual, are in control.

Cynthia Toms
Freshman

Black Ink Letter Policy

The Black Ink gladly accepts all letters of comments and criticism. In order to insure publication please follow these guidelines:

- Letters to the Black Ink should be short and concise. A suggested length is no more than 400 words.
- All letters are subject to be edited for space and occasionally taste.
- Letters should be signed and joined by a phone number for letter verification.