FEATURES

Baker State University: A Series

It's 9 a.m. and the campus is pretty as a picture or at least that's how it looks to Sharriff Parks, as he approached Baker State University's campus in his shiny black jeep. He never thought he would be a student at a historically black college.

Today, is the first day of school and his first class is at 11 a.m. (At his previous school the rules were a little different, you didn't have to attend the first day of class.)

As Sharriff pulls up to the student union, he noticed that the union at the college he transferred from was much larger than Baker State's. As he walked slowly into the union he began to smile as he looked at all of the beautiful African paintings and pictures of African-American achievers on the walls. It made him feel like he had stepped into a history book.

In all of the excitement, Sharriff bumped into a beautiful, cocoa- brownskinned "sista." "Excuse me miss," said Sharriff. "That's okay! Are you new here?," she asked. "I am a transfer student from New York. My name is Sharriff Parks, and your name?" "My name is Chenzy. It's African like your name," she said. Sharriff had no idea of the significance of his name or its background. Hopefully, Chenzy, his new friend will help him......

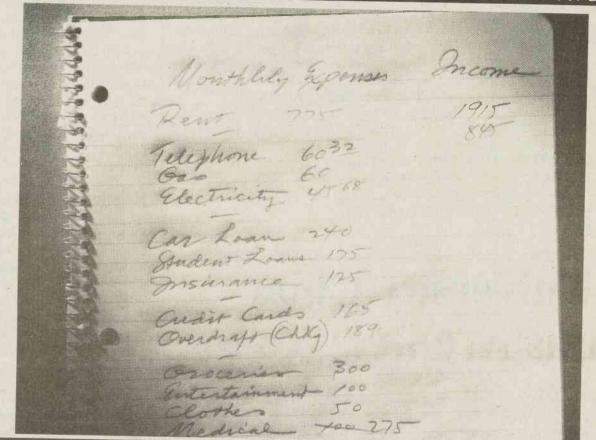
The last thought on Kevin Smith's mind, a North Carolinian's, mind was coming to college. On- the-other hand, since he stays in trouble, going to jail would have been the first. Sitting in the passenger seat of his mother's 1992 Cadillac, he has a frown on his face.

Enrolling at Baker State University became a reality when Kevin managed to earn his General Education Diploma (GED) during the summer. Making this deal with his mother and Officer Johnson was not the real deal. Officer Johnson of Tingle County, a very close friend of Kevin, had known him since he was young and from his stays at detention centers. If he continued his education, Johnson would stay off of his case. Now Kevin must be good and keep himself out of trouble.

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