

# Schools' black students report harassment

ATLANTA (AP)— Harassment by white college students and cold shoulders from white professors are among the problems reported by black students who attend predominantly white schools.

"They just don't want us there," Michelle Dye said of her white peers at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She was among those attending a seminar on issues facing black students at white schools.

"I've been fighting since my first quarter," she said, recalling how she was shot in the leg with a BB gun while walking by a men's dorm on the south Georgia campus. "It's pathetic to go through that kind of stuff while you're trying to get an education."

At Louisiana State University of New Orleans, a white fraternity displayed a rebel flag last year during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade on campus, according to student Frederick Barrow.

In an era when many blacks attend predominantly white institutions, such racial incidents are not unusual, according to more than 300 students and faculty

from 14 states who participated in the Georgia State University seminar. The seminar ended Saturday.

Statistics from the Southern Regional Education Board show that more than 66 percent of the nation's 1.08 million black college students now attend predominantly white institutions.

More than a dozen traditionally black colleges have closed in the last two decades, and still others are being merged with white institutions.

At the seminar, some black students complained that white faculty members didn't devote enough time to them.

"It's sad when you see the professor has time to talk with white students after class, but when a black approaches that same professor, then all of a sudden he has to rush off to his office. That really hurts," said Kevin Brown, a senior at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus.

Almost all students agreed that what they needed most was more black faculty members. Even at schools where there are black

faculty, students say there are too few.

At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, said student Madeline Shaw, "there are only 10 black faculty members out of 500, and out of the 10, only two are tenured."

Some black faculty at white institutions say black students need advice on how to cope with racial stress.

"I try to get across to them that there is racism, and it's not going to go away, not in their lifetime," said black staff member Dr. Cleon Arrington, associate vice president of research at GSU. "But what they can do to cope with it is to strive for excellence, not mediocrity. Only by being better than their white counterparts will they have an equal share of the rewards."

Some whites feel that advances in race relations are gradually coming about.

"For the most part, my generation is less bigoted than generations past," said Doug Tudor, student president at Old Dominion, "but it's hard for some white students to overcome racist attitudes

if they were raised in a bigoted manner."

Ms. Shaw said negative racial attitudes can not be corrected by students alone. "One of the first steps to eliminating racism on campuses is for the administration to take an official stand against racist behavior of any kind."

Although integration has been urged by the NAACP, some black students fear they are losing part of their heritage.

"It's just another way whites are trying to take away some of our black culture," said Todd Dunn, a senior at Georgia Southwestern.

Dunn and some fellow black students at Georgia Southwestern recently organized the Concerned Students Association after a white professor was accused by a black female student of calling her a "black bitch."

In the days after the incident, 100 members of the association occupied the campus administration building.

Last Wednesday, the students protested at a weekly assembly meeting because Towery was suspended with pay rather than fired.

## Long pledges support

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In response to some skeptics who perceive his run for County Commission as a stepping stone, he said that he was not interested in going to Washington and that he had no immediate intention of running for another position, "certainly not within the next four years." Although Long would not rule out possibly "going to Raleigh at some future point," he stressed that his real concern was the need for progress in Forsyth County.

"No matter how difficult, I will become involved," he said. "One hundred percent of my effort will be as a commissioner, if I am elected."

Long clarified a recent controversy over his alleged alliance with

Mazie Woodruff, an Afro-American candidate for the County Commission who formerly held a commission seat. Reports that he and Woodruff were a team spawned rumors that Woodruff was offering Afro-American votes to white candidates, as she had been accused of doing in a previous election.

He said that after several meetings in December with members of the local Democratic Party, he agreed to commit himself to the party and enter the commissioners' race. He then talked with about 75 people, he said, including Woodruff, about his intentions. He said when she informed him that she might be running, he told her he would support the Democratic

Party ticket "to the hilt," including her candidacy if she won the May 3 primary election.

Long said that his commitment to Woodruff was a commitment he also made to another Afro-American candidate for the County Commission, Ann Simmons. He said that his intention was to deliver the Democrat ticket in November and to support each individual candidate on the ticket by campaigning and fund-raising.

Long also expressed concern over the conditions at the county jail. "The jail situation has gone on for too long without anyone seriously addressing it," he said. He said it seemed that no one was "taking into consideration the

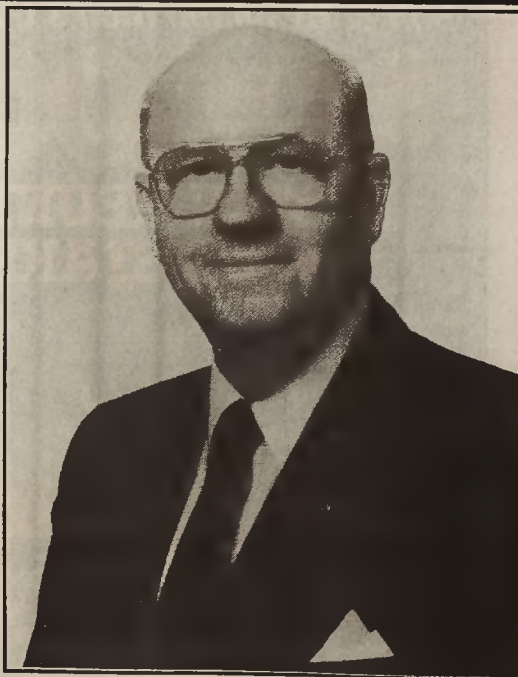
decent treatment of humanity" and that the situation should be remedied immediately.

He said that as County Commissioner he would "do everything possible to assure we have dramatically improved jail conditions."

"Particularly, I would call for the construction of a new jail facility," he said. "I believe we should determine what logical new locations are available to assure appropriate spacing, and determine an architectural plan that is acceptable to the commission, the court system and anyone else involved."

"We should proceed with a substantial sense of urgency," he said, noting that all funding opportunities should be explored.

## Harold Hardison



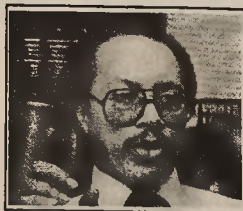
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