

# The editor speaks...

"In which the editor appears from nowhere, places himself on your tender mercies, and then disappears forevermore - unless ye seek him out."

After having toyed with addressing you with a somber, egomaniacal statement like, "I am your new editor and will be producing the Journal for you for the next year, etc. etc.", I thought that I would suggest some ways that you can use YOUR paper to your best advantage. Granted, these avenues have always been open to you, but very few have taken advantage of them in the past. And as you probably well know, any person or organization is only as good as its inputs. We welcome any and all input, good or bad, scatological or praiseworthy, written or verbal (no violence please, our staff members are so vital and few you might knock out a whole page.)

Well, here they are, in no particular order at all:

**LETTERS** - Letters can be about anything at all and generally fall into two categories. The printable and unprintable. We can tell the printable ones from the unprintable ones because the unprintable ones ask us not to print them. Both kinds are valuable. With the first we fill up space and get your views before the University community and, with the second, we get your opinion on some aspect of something that for some reason you don't want publicized. It would be greatly appreciated if you would sign your name so perhaps we could get together and discuss the matter. If you request, **The Journal** will hold your name in the strictest confidence. The main thing is we want to know how you feel about what's happening - with us or anything.

**EDITORIAL RESPONSES** - If we write an editorial or article that just makes your blood boil or even something you agree with, let us know. Writing this kind of thing is good for the soul, releases tensions, and could perhaps accomplish something. You write it, we'll read it - and print it if you don't tell us not to.

**CALENDAR** - Items for the calendar include group meetings, events, activities, movies, orgies and the like. They should include all pertinent information. All impertinent information, we reserve the right to edit, rearrange and make comprehensible if it's not already. Keep 'em short and sweet.

**CLASSIFIEDS** - It is of perpetual amazement to me that as I stroll around campus I see things tacked on bulletin boards all over. The usual patter seems to be to make up a bunch of them on 3 x 5 index cards and stick them everywhere. If somewhere in this process you would give one to us we would run it once, space permitting, in your paper - which, by the way, is read by more than 5,000 people very week. Maybe you don't think it's worth it - I do.

**LEADS FOR STORIES** - If you think there's something we should be writing about and we aren't, why don't you tell us about it? We'll either change our ways or tell you why.

**JOIN THE STAFF** - If you're interested, we'll put you to work. Drop by the Journal office in B-4 in the University Center. If no one's there, leave your phone number and we'll give you a call. There's not much time left this year but there's always next year.

That's about all. The rest is up to you.



# The black and cable t.v.

by don keaton

Black people must come to see the broadcasting airwaves as property of the people and realize that the media has the potential to shape their vision of themselves and the world. Blacks were denied the opportunity to participate as policy makers in over-the-air broadcasting. There is now an opportunity for participation in the direction of the communications network of the future. I'm referring to cable television.

Cable television is growing in importance to manpower and economic development all over the world. It can provide two-way visual communications, public services, computer hook-ups, program banks of video tapes. Cable television could well become complementary to and competitive with commercial broadcasting. It is time that community needs, not corporate interests, determine the direction of the communications network.

The implications for the black and poor communities are clear. It is imperative that blacks assure their legitimate prerogatives in this new and exploding medium.

The Federal Communications Commission first exercised jurisdiction over Cable television (CATV) in 1962, establishing final rules in 1965 for

those systems which received signals by microwave. Originally developed for improved reception in mountain areas, CATV quickly spread to urban regions. Broadcasters, telephone companies, theater owners became aroused by CATV's challenge. The FCC then established rules which restricted CATV from entering into top markets. This stoked it potential.

Recently the FCC has proposed rules governing CATV which might open up its great economic potential. It is even considering banning broadcast station owners from owning the cables in their areas. Recently the Commission issued new policy statements which opened the door to future CATV. A flood of cable operators and new competitors have been rushing city and local

governments in pursuit of franchises to build CATV networks. The future is clear; The telecommunications industry is expanding rapidly. This means jobs and business opportunities will be created.

At present, about 2500 CATV systems are operating in the U.S. serving 6 percent of the population. By 1980, 85 percent of TV reception in the United States will be by cable based on a report by the Quantum

Science Corporation. Jobs will be created for black film makers, producers, directors, etc. Jobs connected with installation, manufacturing, and repair.

Minorities must not allow to slide, either through oversight or neglect, this unique opportunity to influence and own CATV systems. CATV is destined to dominate the communications network of the cities. However, minorities and local CATV owners are not the only special interest groups aware of the potential. Broadcasters and telephone companies as well as some of America's largest industrial complexes are well aware.

Thirty seven percent of the ownership of CATV is already in TV or broadcasting interests. Minorities must be prepared to deal with, and to outdeal the competition; to assert their right to a fair share of ownership within the community.

It was to achieve this end - black ownership of cable TV within the nations major cities, that BEST (Black Efforts for Soul in Television) was formed. William D. Wright, the national coordinator for BEST state in Black Business Digest that responsiveness, diversity and accessibility are absent from over-the-air commercial broadcasting, but must be present in Cable television.

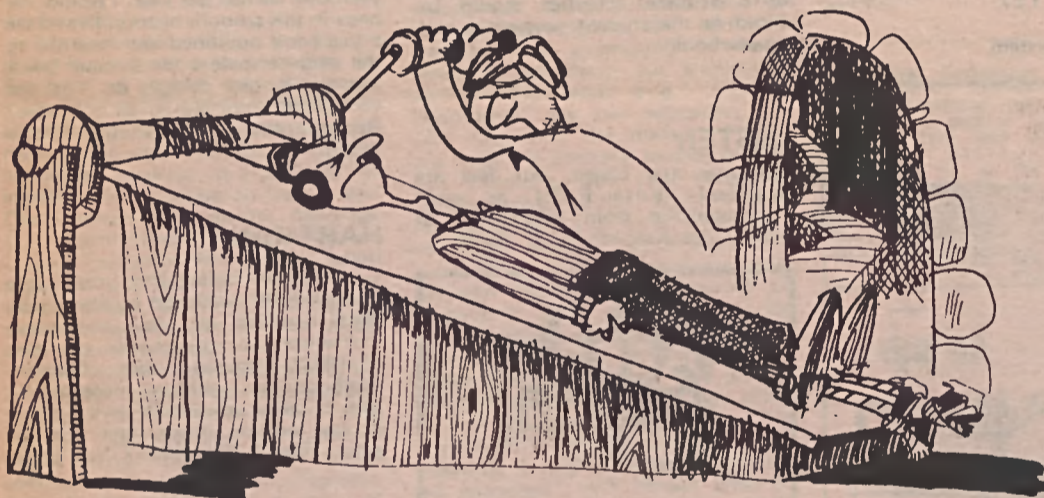
This is only possible if CATV is locally-operated; if existing media (radio, TV, newspapers, magazines, and telephone companies) do not own or operate Cable TV; if the cost of buying air time is low and available to all, regardless of political beliefs. It is important that the community control the decision making process in the determination of programming and ownership.

The time has come for the Black community to reap the benefits of this industry of the future.

## pages of opinion

UNCC

Opinions of the Journal are expressed on its editorial pages and all unsigned editorials are the majority opinion of the Editorial Board. Letter and columns represent only the opinions of the individual writers. Opposing views may be printed by contacting the Editor.



# The process takes

# its toll

With all the "new" grading proposals in the air, one can't help but wonder what is going through the heads of the people who are making them up. Are they trying to devise something that is more punitive than the present system? It appears in all the proposals advanced heretofore that this is the case. When the actual grade policy is lightened, the requirements to stay in school are tightened. The framers of these proposals seem to be agreed that the present system is inadequate - the question is how to change it so that it is equitable and amenable both to students and to faculty. In other words - a compromise.

With any grading system certainly there are drawbacks, however the existing system can be made responsive with just two simple changes:

1) The institution of a system of F deletion. This means that if you took a course and failed it you could take it again and if you passed the F would be deleted and the grade you made the second time would be substituted.

2) The implementation of unlimited withdrawals from courses whether you are passing or failing up until the week before exams. In other words, unlimited drops.

3) The maintenance of the present system of quality point ratio to credit hours.

It is not the purpose of education to confine and constrict - even punish-students for not making "satisfactory" progress. If a student is dedicated enough to keep taking courses he has failed under this system, before he flunks out of school then he is demonstrating "satisfactory" progress. Since the same quality point ratio to credit hours would remain in effect, a student would be placed on academic probation or suspended just the same as under the present system unless he, on his own initiative, retook the courses that he had failed, thereby demonstrating the required proficiency in the subject. This would take place without the student's record being clouded with the stigma of an F in a course in which he later made a better grade.

The punitive aspects of the present system would be erased with a system of unlimited drops. Since a student signs up of a course, should he not be the one who decides when he should leave it? Most of us know when we are no longer benefiting from a course (especially when we're failing it). One of the worse feelings in the whole of our college experience is to be caught in a course in which we are no longer interested, but can't leave because of failing grades. In some instances, there is no possible way to pass and there is no way out. This is tantamount to being forced to fail.

There are perhaps as many reasons to abolish the bad aspects of the present system as there are to keep the good ones. If we have to measure progress, why not do it in a way that is least harmful to the people who are involved. Sure, there will be abuses in a system of this kind, just as there are abuses under the system that is now in existence. But, if changes are to be made, let's make them for the better-not for the worst.

by lloyd rose and july

