

Algenon Marbley

Blatant racism still at UNC

When I initially took office as chairman of the Black Student Movement, I was hoping that I would be able to gear my energies toward academic and other service-oriented programs. Considering the events of the past few days, it is evident that we, as an organization, cannot function only in the capacity of serving the students, but must set as a top priority the combating of the blatant racism that exists on this campus.

This is a factor known to be prevalent in this microcosm of society. People's minds are still limited and the facade of liberalism serves only to hide true racist sentiments.

These sentiments surface whenever black people make an effort to improve their plight, be it in the form of physical harassment, as evidenced by recent and past encounters with campus police, or verbal harassment, as indicated by some members of CGC.

It is disgusting to see that a segment of this campus is still immersed in the pathology of racism. This naive, racist attitude is exemplified by the fact that, although all BSM programs are open to everyone and are for the benefit of all, very few, if any, whites attend. Yet, when it comes time for monetary appropriations, the cry is, "Why give funds to an organization which comprises only five per cent of the student population?"

It is in total ignorance that such statements are made and it is in total ignorance that speakers of such words will live until they decide to transform their mentality and realize that BSM programs are designed to enhance one's knowledge of black culture and to enlighten one as to what black people are basically about.

Yes, the CGC meeting of April 23 was a most vivid point in case. Ignorance was evident as shown by the nature of most questions. Ignorance was not the most rampant force, though; forces of racism were alive and well. There were those who favored further cuts in the budget allegedly for the sake of cutting, but any fool would realize that to be only a verbal coverup of the racist spirit behind that absurd proposal.

The BSM budget was, without question, the most carefully scrutinized item on the agenda, indicating that the slightest thing that could be found would be vigorously questioned in an effort to "nail us to the cross!"

One of the most shocking things to occur during the meeting was the appearance of a campus policeman. Someone had informed him that the BSM had "taken over" the meeting.

Whoever called the policeman apparently believed that we are innately a violent people whose only bargaining mechanism is

violence. Or, maybe he was an "enlightened" individual knowing that some people on CGC are not receptive to rational reason but only listen when violence is involved.

But halt! The campus police and the masses of the uninformed are not the only people afflicted with the disease of racism. There are those sophisticated racists who are also on the rampage. There are those who work at a snail's pace in regard to Affirmative Action, and those who get their jollies by screwing black students to the wall. They are much more difficult to deal with, for they are subtle in their methodology and have had years of practice to perfect their systematic discrimination. Luckily, we are humanitarian enough to extend a helping hand to the sickly.

In any event, the Hitlerians have not ceased to exist and are moving right along with what they consider to be the business of mankind. Unfortunately, only a few people are open-minded enough to be enlightened and join the ranks of those in good health. However, the others are those who present the struggle, and we must struggle against them.

As the immortal Frederick Douglass so beautifully states, "The struggle may be a moral one or a physical one, or both a moral and physical one, but there MUST be a struggle!"

Jim Jenkins

Who'll fill Sam's shoes?

The important thing about this year's U.S. Senate election is not whether North Carolinians choose a liberal or conservative, or even a Republican or a Democrat, but whether they can find in the four major candidates a man to replace Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr.

For this year, the entire country will be watching our state to see whom we choose to replace their latest American hero. Sen. Sam has become so prominent and popular that on election eve, the commentators will refer to the winner as Sam Ervin's successor before they say anything else.

That's a mighty heavy responsibility for us to carry. And it's one we must not take lightly when we enter the voting booth.

Will he be a man who will fight for civil liberties? Will he be able to maintain his own personal integrity with all the temptations in Washington? Will he guard our freedoms with the same zealousness with which they've been guarded over the past 20 years?

In short, can he fill the shoes of the man from Morganton?

Well, what might the man from Morganton say about the four men who are

trying to take his seat in the Senate?

He'd probably start off by eliminating Republican Bill Stevens. Stevens is the governor's choice to run simply because "Vinegar Ben" Mizell didn't want to run and because state Sen. Ham Horton wanted to but couldn't get the governor's support. So in the year of Watergate and those infamous presidential income taxes, Stevens is a goner. Or, as Sam himself might say in his best Biblical tones, a sacrificial lamb.

As for Henry Hall Wilson—Henry Hall Who? Wilson has been out of the state for a decade and even though he maintains he's kept up with North Carolina, it's just too hard to believe.

A state can change so much in a decade—not just its political views or its physical appearance, but its very nature. Add that to the fact that he went to the Chicago Board of Trade. Chicago! Why, that practically makes him a Yankee! Wilson evidently wants the seat pretty badly, because he's spent more than \$300,000 so far. But Sam would tell him he's wasting his money. In this case, the prodigal son cannot return.

Robert Morgan has built a fine record as

attorney general. He's been active in consumer affairs and a dedicated public servant. But there are simply too many skeletons in his closet. Twice he supported a man for governor who wanted the state to return to the days of reconstruction, who advocated segregation at a time when the state was trying to pull itself from prejudice.

He was one of the main advocates of the Speaker Ban Law which later became an example of silly and backward politics to the whole nation. And though he backed the UNC Board of Governors as a concept because he thought it would take the politics out of education, he urged the legislature to usurp the board's authority and give East Carolina a medical school, even though experts, most of whom were picked by ECU, said it was a foolish idea.

Yet now Morgan tries to make himself all things to all people, saying that the campaigns, the speaker ban and ECU are all in the past, like suddenly some great light has dawned. Sorry, but that light through yonder window just couldn't break all of a sudden. Those skeletons must really set Sam's eyebrows to dancing.

So that leaves us with Nick Galifianakis. Galifianakis hasn't spoken out much on the issues, but that is mainly due to the fact that he's run a people's campaign. He has traveled throughout North Carolina, asking the people what they think and what they want. Nick backed civil rights legislation long before any other North Carolina lawmaker, he supported antiwar amendments and in general has been ahead of his time compared to other politicians in this state.

Now Sam's chin might quiver a bit at the mention of some of Nick's liberal views, but he'd sympathize with the Durham attorney because he did have the guts to run against Jesse Helms in the year of Nixon's mandate. Nick doesn't have the money his opponents have, having spent only one-fifth of the amounts Morgan and Wilson have shelled out.

So Nick is an underdog, but the kind of underdog who can win. Sam Ervin might like that, and he might even say, "Pick Nick."

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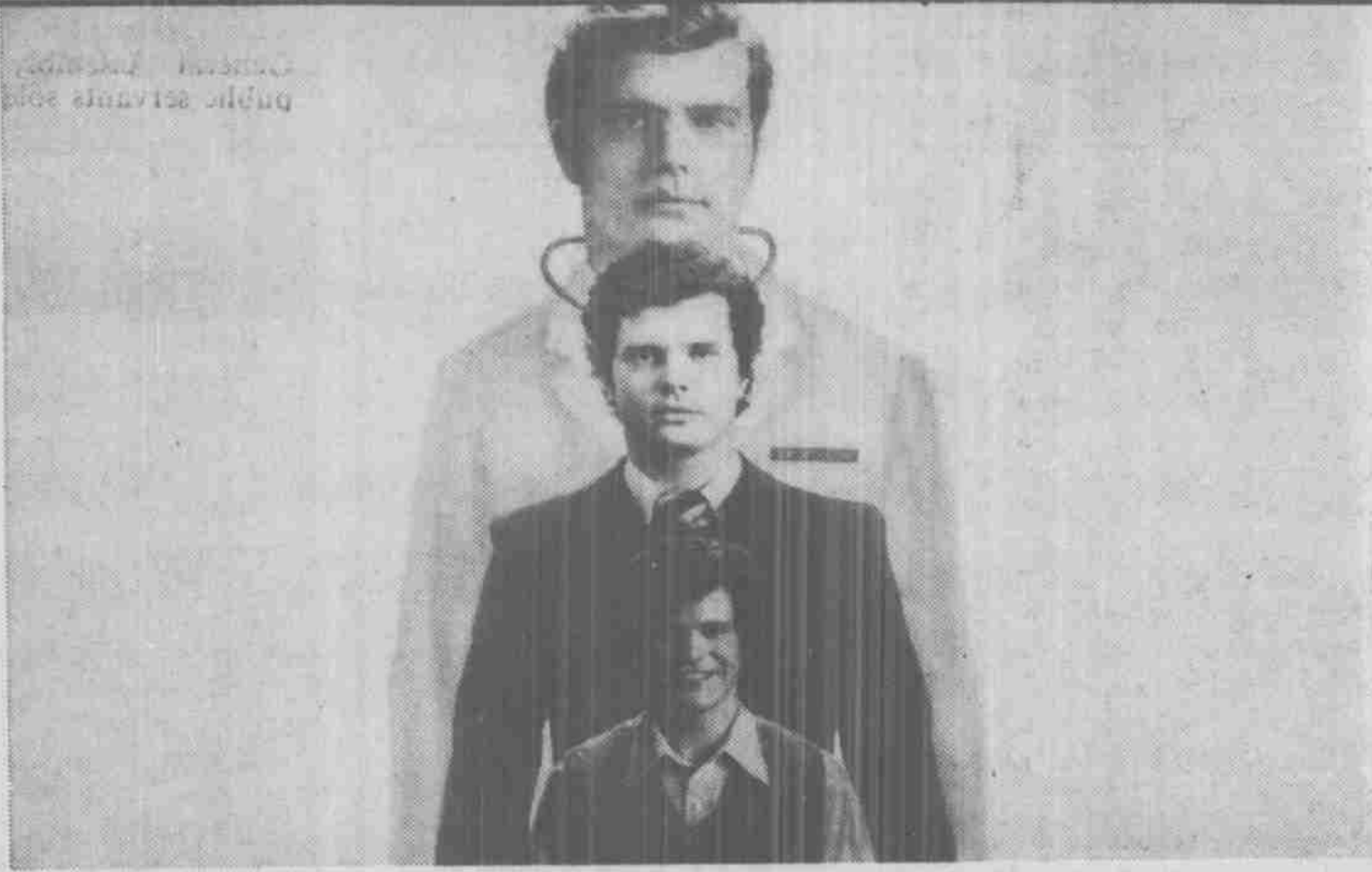
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