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Black student needs . . .

Continued from Page 5

The Massengale Administration does a little bit for black students and expects them to be content and grateful.

- a poor recruitment program for black staff and students, which operates on bare necessities and little money.
- an even poorer system of retention of blacks on the UNL campus.
- a \$300 allocation to aid the emergency needs of black students, in comparison to an enormous budget to finance Ivy Day.
- a Culture Center that is on the brink of being condemned.
- a disgraceful system of information that fails to inform black students of future job opportunities.
- a Panhellenic and InterFraternity Council that refuses to allow reputable black fraternities and sororities to be chartered on the campus when it is clear that the Greek system has been a major source of strength, emotional security, social enjoyment and academic achievement.
- an absence of black student assistants in the "homes" (dormitories) of black students.
- a lack of financial assistance which allows black students to continue their education.
- lack of recognition of the accomplishments of black students (excluding the accomplishments of black athletes).

So many more injustices exist on the UNL campus. Now is the time to change.

Some might look at my accomplishments and ask what right or reason do I have to complain. Plenty right and plenty reason.

I am a black woman, a student at UNL.

I can attest to the frustration of being the only black student in the classroom and having to try twice as hard just "to be."

I have had only *one* black professor, who is no longer at this university.

I have taken a black literature class, which was taught by a white teacher.

I have been in a class where the teacher has said "nigger" without it being necessary.

I have cried and worried about classes, my living conditions and my social life.

I have experienced the encouragement, kindness

and respect of only *one* professor in the School of Journalism . . . which has a higher percentage of black students than any other college within the university.

I have been to the Culture Center almost weekly for years and I have heard the utter disgust and frustration of black students who don't want to go there because of the peasant-like atmosphere.

I have been on the Culture Center Task Force and seen the efforts of blacks, Chicanos and native Americans rejected in order not to ruffle the feathers of alumni, regents and white Greeks.

I am a member of the largest black Greek organization (male or female), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., which is the victim of racist rules and regulations. Racism that Panhellenic and the InterFraternity Council perpetuates by refusing to recognize the fact that black Greeks are legitimate and necessary and have proven nationwide to be profitable to both campus and community life. Two members of the university staff (Gwendolyn Combs, director of personnel, and Dolores Simpson-Kirkland, assistant to the dean of students) belong to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; they have definitely made positive contributions to the university.

I am a victim of white roommates who have never seen blacks.

I have applied for student assistant positions and been turned away because they said I was too young and didn't have a high enough grade point average (although it did meet the 2.5 requirement).

I have been the recipient of little financial aid, making it necessary for me to hold a job constantly.

I have coordinated Black Student Orientation and seen the dwarf budget used to familiarize black students with the university and the problems faced by black students on a predominantly white campus.

I have been a victim of ignorance when it comes to policies of the Career Placement Office.

I have been faced with the dilemma of not having a job after graduation because I did not know and no effort has been made to inform me of the opportunities and the avenues.

I have seen the accomplishments and talents of black students and faculty go unrecognized. For example, I received no letter of recognition or congratulations when I was crowned Miss Black UNL or chosen first runner-up in the Miss Black Big Eight Pageant. The accomplishments of others (much more noteworthy than mine) have been swept under the rug also.

I have been denied interviews for homecoming royalty despite my great involvement in university activities, both black and white.

Yes, I have plenty right and plenty reason. I am my brother's keeper. Some say I'm lucky. I am . . . I have been blessed, if you can call my experiences a blessing.


I wrote this testimony because now is the time. Now is the time for me to speak up.

Now is the time for you to *listen*, not just hear.

Carla Johnson-Kimbrough
senior
broadcasting/public relations

UPC/Tri-Culture Presents: TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

The annual UPC/Tri-Culture honors ceremony, RIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE awards Chicano, Native American and Black students for academic and organizational achievements. Graduating seniors of the three cultures will also receive special recognition at this festive occasion. There'll be food, entertainment and fun at this year's TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE.



SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 7:00 pm, Holiday Inn, 56th and Cornhusker Highway.

Don't forget Dr. Charles King's workshop on race relations TODAY at 1:00 in the Regency Suite at the City Union
Dance after the awards ceremony

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