



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
CHAPEL HILL

Black Cultural Center
(919) 962-9001

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CB# 5250
Frank Porter Graham Student Union Bldg.
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599-5250

October 17, 1992

Dear Students,

I write this to all of you who have worked so very hard for the victory that the African American community, too, would be recognized, respected, and appreciated as a cultural contributor to the world and to this campus. WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THIS VICTORY YET. Indeed, it will be a process that will go on probably through out your life times as it not changed much this century. BUT YOU HAVE MADE A STATEMENT TO THE NATION THAT YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT BEING RESPECTED AS A RACE AND A CULTURE. And, the nation IS hearing you loud and clear. Indeed, everybody is waiting to see IF YOU WILL QUIT.

We will never quit fighting for freedom! NEVER. But, I must take some time off to strengthen up. The Administration has established the climate, I feel, for me to be attacked almost daily now. I am being accused of disrespecting other ethnic groups, I am accused of terrorism, and even worse. Top faculty, staff, and even Board of Trustee members are participating in these conversations. I FEEL THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP OF THIS CRISIS, OF THE PRESENT CLIMATE ON THIS CAMPUS THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE WE ASKED IF THE UNIVERSITY WOULD ALLOW A DONOR TO BEGIN TO PREPARE TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY TO BUILD A "Free standing" (close quote) building honoring Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone. THE CHANCELLOR SAY NO. We could have an extended building but not a "free standing" building. I ask you: After all, what is "a free standing Building?" I answer: That is a phrase that sprang to life in an effort to say "nicely" to us: "We don't name any buildings for African Americans." THIS IS WHAT WE PROTESTED.

Division of Student Affairs

You say you are honoring me tonight. I HONOR YOU FOR YOUR COURAGE AND INTELLIGENCE TO KNOW THAT THIS HAS TO STOP. YOU ARE THE LEADERS OF THIS MOVE AGAINST INSTITUTIONAL RACISM. YOU ARE DOING A FINE JOB. There are many who are so frightened over the change that they are doing peculiar things. But, do not let that surprise you. Oppression makes people very peculiar. Oppressed people are always afraid so they create new targets to attack.

I AM NOT QUITTING. I AM TIRED. BUT I WILL RETURN SOON AND JOIN YOU IN THE WORK THAT WE MUST DO.

I pray to God that you will not let the racism nor the afraid ones provoke you. Remain dignified in your fight. YOU ARE WINNING! DO NOT GET ANGRY, GET ALL THE MORE SERIOUS. DO not worry over your critics, work all the harder. Remember, the eyes of the nation are upon you and you really have started the Civil Rights Movement, again, in North Carolina. This time, Tim, Jimmie, and John are the Big Three who stood up as Rosa Parks did. I recognize, of course the Coalition that started it all. But it was the Football Players who got the nation's attention because these Brothers broke the tradition of this nation that says: Black Football Players are simply bodies--not brilliant minds capable of leadership.

Know that you can say in your mind, that you are men and women of a new generation. You are no longer the children of Booker T. Washington's School of Accommodationism. The Accommodationist of racism have had a full century to free our race in higher education. They are fighting maybe their last battle. WE ARE PREPARING TO MOVE INTO A NEW CENTURY!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME DURING THIS TRYING TIME. IT was hard enough for me to lose my dear and precious friend but it was even harder to have to work to push the BCC through this stage in its history. Dr. Stone never quit a battle. Her challenges on this campus were far greater than this one that I face. We fought until she (we) won. I will do the same.

Our reality as a people is changing.

Love,

Margo Crawford
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