

Minority students question recruitment honesty

By Don Strausburger

On paper, John and Ken are typical Capitol Campus students. John is an engineering student, while Ken is a humanities major.

Unfortunately, the college careers of these two suffer from a continuing problem in the Penn State system -- low black enrollment.

In its 1983 Minority Report, Penn State noted that only 64 of the 2452 Capitol students, approximately 2.6 percent, were black. In fact, of the 55,200 students enrolled at all Penn State campuses, 2.64 percent were black.

The black enrollment problem has many implications and is the result of several problems which must be considered. Most importantly, black enrollment yields dollars for the university in the form of government funding. As the minority population grows, so do the government funds, according to John Thomas, a member of the Black Student Union at Capitol Campus.

Three of the campus black students cite ineffective recruiting techniques as a contributing source to low black enrollment. Ken Stiggers, a second-year student and Black Student Union treasurer, said that campus representatives "came with the right offer" while giving a "false representation of the school." He added that he received "promises without deliveries."

Thomas suggests that the recruiters sensationalize the campus social atmosphere by playing up a supposed "brotherhood" among students. Actually, Capitol Campus is highly competitive and lacks needed peer assistance in certain fields.

Tony Perry, a senior, observes that the problem is not necessarily in the recruiting techniques, but in the target areas. "Suburbia and the middle-class blacks are being ignored," he said.

The Admissions Office at Capitol agrees with Perry's assessment. The recruiting staff needs to reach into the suburbs, according to Mary Gundel, Director of Admissions. She said that more people have been added for specific recruiting mostly in the state's urban areas.

With that focus on Pennsylvania's urban areas, particularly Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the recruiting stands to be ineffective at best. In Philadelphia, for example, minority students already have many choices educationally within the city. This makes it difficult to get them out of the city, Dave Doaty, a Student Affairs representative, said. He

added though that Capitol Campus is "trying to make an effort."

Another of the problems faced by Capitol in its recruiting efforts results from being an upper-division institution. In her installation speech, Provost/Dean Ruth Leventhal said that our academic standing "limits our ability to reach down into junior and senior high schools to encourage youngsters, in particular women and minorities, to take math, science, computers, and composition courses."

Once a black student is accepted and attends Capitol, he faces a new and very challenging dilemma. The student must now deal with the cultural shock which, although it affects all new students, hits minority students hardest. The shock which is equally created by school and community is "devastating," Stiggers said. As one of two black students on his dormitory floor last year, Stiggers said that you sometimes "feel alone" because "different races can't associate."

While the race ratio at Capitol Campus is a serious

problem for administration, students are particularly affected by the racial imbalance of the student population. With only 64 black students on campus, the ratio only stands to hurt relations between the dif-



"It's difficult to get [minorities] away from the city."

- Dave Doaty

ferent races. Stiggers sums up the ratio problem as being "subtle, yet powerful." When you least expect it, the ratio hits you, Stiggers concluded.

The recruitment of blacks and the resulting race ratio will be discussed further with the upcoming release of the 1984

Minority Report which will be released soon, according to James D. South, Director of Student Affairs. With the release of this report, the effects of the already implemented recruiting programs should begin to show the program's effectiveness.

Black enrollment jumps by 41 %

By Phil Galewitz
Special to the Capitol
Times From The Weekly
Collegian

The number of black freshman enrolled at the University has increased 41 percent to 643, Robert Dunham, vice president for academic services, said.

Of the 10,084 new freshman admitted to the University, 6.4 percent are black. This is the University's largest increase of blacks ever, Dunham said. In 1983, including both in- and

out-of-state students, 457 blacks entered as freshman.

Pennsylvania blacks, who help to attain the University's Title VI obligation to increase the number of blacks at the University, increased by 74 percent, Dunham said.

As of last spring, 2.8 percent of the University's population was black. The current percentage of blacks in the University will be announced later this month.

Title VI legislation requires the University to reach 5 percent total black student enrollment by 1988.

