The Register, 1992-11-20
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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Black teens start smoking later, study says

Black teen-agers, who as a group lag behind their white classmates in economic and educational opportunities, have a significant early health advantage over their white peers, a new study concludes.

Black teens are considerably less likely than white teens to take up smoking during those formative years, said Dr. Sandra W. Henden, research assistant professor of health behavior and health education in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

Henden presented her findings last Tuesday at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Washington, D.C.

"Unfortunately, by the time they get into their thirties, the percentage of blacks who smoke surpasses the percentage of whites who smoke," Henden said.

In her study, Henden reviewed a series of national and regional surveys that included data about smoking activity. Among them was a sample of 1,532 adolescents in the Mass Media Smoking Study conducted by Dr. Karl Bismarck, also of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health, and colleagues.

Continued on page 5

New university partnership to aid biomedical Ph.D. students

By Liz Lucas

UNC CH News Service

CHAPEL HILL—A new partnership among four University of North Carolina system schools will help bring minority students into doctoral programs in the biomedical sciences.

The Partnership for Minority Access to Doctoral Degrees, funded by a two-year, $280,576 grant from the National Institutes of Health, will offer qualified minority students joint admission to master’s programs at one of two historically black state institutions and doctoral programs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Students will receive funding for master’s degree work in biomedical science programs at N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro and N.C. Central University in Durham, said Dr. Henry Deaman, dean of the UNC-CH Graduate School and project coordinator. The grant will fund the first year of doctoral study at UNC-CH. Later, Ph.D. work will be supported by other UNC-CH sources.

This is a way of bringing good minority students into our graduate program, and at the same time it brings our faculty—so much closer to the faculty of our partner institutions," Deaman said. "We’re investing in the future."

The United States faces a shortage of minority holding Ph.D.s. While the number of black students

Continued on page 5

Lawyer: law test "excludes minorities" from legal studies

by Cory Carwright

Staff Reporter

A local lawyer has charged that the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) is designed to exclude minorities from law schools, and is reaching a free LSAT preparation course to help black students overcome the hurdle the test represents.

"The legal profession has historically excluded minorities in comparison with other professions," said Greensboro attorney Geoffrey Mangum, who is white. "The Law School Admissions Test is used primarily as a tool to exclude minorities rather than to provide an accurate prediction of how a student may fare during his first year of law school.

"Some people who administer this test know that minorities consistently score an average of 30 percent less than whites and they say, 'I don't know why that's the case,' he said, 'and I don't agree with them."

"There's about 23,000 black lawyers in the U.S., and if the legal profession is discriminating against minorities, that number would probably be about 115,000," said Mangum, a 1979 graduate of Wake Forest Law School.

African-Americans have been unable to make a major impact into the legal profession, he said.

"Between 1940 and 1980, the legal profession was made up of approximately one-half percent of African-American attorneys," Mangum said. "It wasn't until 1980 that they reached the 1 percent mark and by 1990 (the number) had only climbed to 3 percent."

Greater diversity in the ethnic backgrounds of lawyers would promote more ethical behavior among attorneys, Mangum said.

"There are nearly 800,000 lawyers in the U.S., and 0.7 percent of them are white males and many of them lack ethics," he said. "With a greater diversity of people in the profession, there will be less widespread tolerance for the blatant unethical behavior of white males in the profession."

Mangum, who volunteers between 110 and 120 hours per year to teach the course, said that blacks should not be alone in supporting this type of program, and that everyone had an obligation to try and help society."

"That's part of what the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King's vision was all about: people living together and helping one another out," he said.

"No one has ever offered or given me money of any kind, nor do I want any," Mangum said. "However, I think there would be a national program with attorneys all across the country volunteering their time. As far as I know, I'm the only attorney in the country that does this, and that doesn't speak well for my fellow attorneys."

Mangum said he encouraged all African-American students interested in pursuing a legal career to look at the system of legal education and the entire profession as "something they must take from with all the skill and perseverance they possibly if they intend to succeed."

The LSAT course meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings at 6:30 p.m. in W.T. Gibbs Hall through Dec. 3, except Thanksgiving week.

Interested students can call (919)721-0099.
The American Minority Students

Law School Admissions Test

*Free Preparation Course*

For Minority College Juniors, Seniors, & Graduates

Six Tues. & Thurs. Nights 6:30p.m. - 9:30p.m.

November
10th - 12th
17th - 19th

December
1st-3rd

Room 318 Gibbs Hall
*N.C. A&T Campus

Geoffrey C. Mangum, Attorney At Law
Instructor
Space Is Limited, So Call Now
For Registration Information Call:
(919) 275-0999

*Next National LSAT Date is Dec. 5, 1992

TOP TEN SCARIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH

7. Megalomaniac Third World Dictators.
5. Heavily armed hot dog vendors.
4. Carsick brother in the seat next to you.
3. Brain surgeon with hiccups.
2. Anyone with a cranky disposition and a chainsaw.
1. People who offer you drugs.

PTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

Bill Nave saved these kids from drowning, but he’s not a lifeguard.

Verleeta Wooten found several new stars, but she’s not an astronomer.

And Ivan Neal put out a lot of fires, but he’s not a firefighter.

These are teachers. But to the kids they reach, they’re heroes.

USE A LITTLE RESTRAINT WITH YOUR KIDS.

Sometimes you just gotta put kids in their place. And when you’re on the road, that place is buckled in their own safety belts, and firmly. Do this, and your kids will be more than ready for the long road ahead of them.

YOU COULD LEARN A LOT FROM A DUMMY.

BUCKLE YOUR SAFETY BELT.
Terres, a smooth transition, since most high school seniors are 18 or 19 years old, and some students on the college level are in the same age group," George said. "The French II and III level classes in high school are more advanced than the French I (101) level in college." However, George said, she has noticed some differences. "The main difference on the college level is the maturity and higher interest level of student, knowing they are paying for their education," she said. "(But) absenteeism is a problem with college students. I didn't have that problem in high school." George said she was inspired to study French by her sister and a strong desire to learn.

"Coming from a family of eight, to be a teacher was great," she said.

George obtained her undergraduate degree in French and chemistry from Allen University in Columbia, S.C., and a master's degree from New York State University. She has also studied at colleges ranging from the Columbia Teachers College in New York City to Ohio State University.

"I was always eager to learn," George said.

Hooping it up

A&T! A&T! A&T!

A&T and Homecoming Week 2002

A&T Men's Basketball Coach Don Corbett introduces his players and previews the upcoming season in a recent Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference press luncheon. Other MEAC coaches were also on hand to evaluate their teams' prospects.

Forum examines changing role of black universities

WINSTON-SALEM—As part of its centennial celebration, Winston-Salem State University hosted a forum Wednesday on traditionally black universities, which will later be aired statewide on public television.

The discussion, part of a series called the Black Issues Forum and "traditionally black universities," which were earlier on public television.

The panelists included the owners of historically black colleges and universities as well as schools and land-grant colleges. Many of these schools have now become multi-purpose institutions offering a variety of professional and graduate degrees.

The first private and religiously affiliated schools, which opened following emancipation, educated the freedmen and trained teachers for the black community. In the beginning, traditionally black universities were the only places for African-Americans to get an education in a racially integrated environment.

Historically black colleges and universities are an asset to communities beyond their own campuses. They provide educational opportunities to people who might not have otherwise had the chance to attend college.

Frataternity to stage homeless benefit

An A&T fraternity hopes to publicize the plight of the homeless and raise money to assist them by staging a "sleepout." Members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity hosted a "sleepout" in front of their on-campus "homeless," said spokesman Kevin Wilkins. The funds will be given to the Greensboro Urban Ministry to provide meals and clothing for the homeless during the upcoming holiday season.

Last year's sleepout raised $1,500, Wilkins said.

Section of AIDS quilt to be displayed locally

GREENSBORO—A portion of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt began a tour of the southern states, including North Carolina. Some evolved into the multi-faceted black universities of today.

Historically black colleges and universities are a crossroads, experts on the panel said. While some schools have better qualified students, others suffer from declining enrollments.

These schools must now find a way to stay at the forefront of African-American education, they concluded, particularly when studies indicate that by the year 2000, 33 percent of students attending public schools will be from minority groups.

PBS will broadcast the display on Nov. 15 at 9 p.m.

Student TV news program provides broadcast experience

by Jacqueline Pittman

Staff Reporter

A student-produced television news show is giving aspiring Don Railers and television news anchors a taste of the broadcast journalism before they graduate from college.

A&T News Magazine, which airs three times per semester on Comcast channel 8, features stories on events at North Carolina A&T's campus that are reported, written, and filmed by communications students.

"It gives me a chance to practice my overall look (and) the way I want to talk before I hit the big time," said the show's co-host Jenise Bryson.

Bryson, a senior journalism major, said, "Although she took her work at the university very seriously, some students did not understand the level of commitment needed to succeed in the business."

It seems to me that (some of) those who want to be part of the TV show do not want to put in the time and effort that are actually required," she said. "They think it is not serious. I am serious about this, even though there are not many people left in my major who want to be reporters."

Co-host Cordelia Black said that she was learning the television business and saw no limits to the way she is it. She said, "I could go, because she had the opportunity to contribute to the show in many ways."

First, I am amazed," she said. "Second, I am a cohost, and third, I am a producer. It is very cool.

"They do all of it," said Linus Jeter. "I never thought about it before." Kenneth Torres, the television studio production manager, said, "He's real work." His experience helped him insite that students produced a "fear of the program as a whole."

"My job is to make sure they do it in the way it is done professionally," he said. "I know what it takes. I know the importance of doing it right." The show's producers believe that putting the show on the air will give the audience a feel for what is involved in the show weekly. Linder said in addition to the meetings, reporters will get a chance to show their ideas and get their scripts approved. Co-producer Nancy Torkins said that the main purpose of A&T News Magazine was to give students an opportunity to get practical experience, to help the students build a portfolio and to provide an instrument for the university in public events.

Fraternity demonstrates help for the homeless

An A&T fraternity hopes to publicize the plight of the homeless and raise money to assist them by staging a "sleepout." Members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity hosted a "sleepout" in front of their on-campus "homeless," said spokesman Kevin Wilkins. The funds will be given to the Greensboro Urban Ministry to provide meals and clothing for the homeless during the upcoming holiday season.

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THE A&T REGISTER

NOVEMBER 20, 1992

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For the record

A photo in the Nov. 2 issue of the A&T Register incorrectly attributes a quote to a speaker at a history class meeting. Student Government Association (SGA) President Erica Smith. In the picture, she was pictured was her fellow SGA President Alicia Smith, who also serves on the SGA. The Register regrets the error.

The event demonstrates the hardships faced by the homeless, which creates empathy among the student body, he noted.

"The (fraternity) brothers attempt to put themselves in the position of the homeless by actually spending a night in the cold," said Wilkins. "Phi Beta Sigma is concerned about the plight of those in our communities and through (our) service projects to improve conditions for those less fortunate."

The event features a slide show, an effort to bring awareness to the AIDS epidemic.

"The NAMES Project Foundation displays portions of the quilt worldwide to encourage visitors to better understand and respond to the AIDS epidemic, to provide a positive means of expression for those grieving the death of a loved one and to raise the necessary funds for people living with AIDS."

The local quilt display is free and open to the public.

For more information about the foundation, call the A&T ad hoc committee at 209-6330.

To the president of the student association (SGA)
Lady Aggies face uncertain season after loss of three key starters

Fast tempo game planned for "powerhouse" league by Keith Bullard

Sports Editor

The Lady Aggie basketball team hopes to at least match last season's fourth-place finish in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) this year, despite the loss of three key players.

Head Coach Tim Avery said that the absence of center Eileen Patterson, the team's third-best scorer, along with the gap left by departed forwards Hope Rush and Angela Ferguson, made the outlook for this year's team uncertain.

Although the Lady Aggies are picked to finish in fourth place in the MEAC, said Avery, "You really don't know where a team is going to finish...All that you can do is prepare your team—game in, game out—to do the very best you can do, try to get the most out of itself," he said. "If they work extremely hard, who knows what might happen this year."

Last season's 14-12 record demonstrates how a team that is missing important players can still achieve a winning season, Avery said. "That goes to show that even though they had lost key players from the previous year, if you work hard, you can still win..."

Avery said the team's toughest opponents would be South Carolina State, Florida A&M and Howard University.

South Carolina State won the MEAC conference and tournament last year. Florida A&M has returned to the conference after a six-year absence, and expects to finish second this year.

After taking a look at the powerhouse conference in the league, Avery said he would change his game plan this year; stressing a fast-tempo game to push the ball up-court and get the easiest baskets. Because A&M is not the tallest in the league, it will use speed to compensate, he added.

"Going going to try and play a steady game from start to finish," Avery said. "We will be aggressive, intelligent and try to stay focused in the half game..."

"I think Hill with only six returning seniors will be the game for us...Hill said she felt the team would do well, but they wanted the team to take it slow...and we still think we're going to pick up tournament time..." said Hill. "We're young and we have to gradually get into the swing of things. You just can't hop on the floor and say I'm ready for the MEAC. You have to play together get to know your teammates..."

Staci Kyle will return at the post guard position this year. Kyle who possesses good "ball handling skills and court presence, averaged 3 pg and 3 rpg's with 148 assists and only 75 turnovers for the year..." When asked why she doesn't shoot more, Kyle said. "It was a normal season for me...Just come out this year and you'll see...

As one of the most experienced players, Kyle will look to provide leadership to the younger players. She has set no personal goals except to be a 100% starter..." she said.

Young guns: The Lady Aggies in the starting lineup this year are: Jordan Burke, a jumper, and Keshia Abney, a rebounder from A&T. Burke is a six-foot stunner who has been vying for a scholarship.

Burke will be working on rebounding for the Lady Aggies, while Abney will be working on her post game..." said Avery.

Avery will ask Burke to rebound, work hard and get it back on the floor..." he said. "I'm asking Burke to rebound, work hard and get it back on the floor..."

High hopes: A&T Lady Aggies Basketball Coach Tim Avery discuss his team's strategies and roster for the new season at a MEAC press conference

1992 MEAC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. N.C. A&amp;T</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Florida A&amp;M</td>
<td>4-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. S.C. State</td>
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<td>6. Bethune Cookman</td>
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<td>7. Morgan State</td>
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Aggies name new assistant

by Teresa Renee Monroe

Staff Reporter

The Aggie Athletic Department has brought in a new face, one that's not unfamiliar to A&T basketball.

New Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Charles E. Howard graduated from A&T in 1989 with bachelor of science degrees in business management and business education.

After graduating, Howard taught computer application at Bun High School in Bun, N.C. He has also worked as an assistant basketball coach at Fayetteville State University, and as a math lab assistant at Fayetteville State University.

The 25-year-old said that working an assistant coach for a Division I team was a great career opportunity for someone his age, but working under Head Coach Don Corbett was a plus.

"Corbett has a great mind for basketball and life," Howard stated.

Howard has already established an open-door policy for the players to encourage them to come to him with any problems.

said that he would try to encourage "hard work and dedication" among members of his team.

There is "more to basketball than (scoring) the players," he added.

Saturday: Come out and support the Aggie football team as they take on conference rival South Carolina State and go after a consecutive MEAC championship. Post-season play hopes are also up for grabs. Game time is set for 1:30 from Aggie Stadium.

Aggies suffered a hard defeat at Appalachian State 42-6.

Go Aggies

SPORTS CALENDAR

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

DECEMBER 4: Clemson Open, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.

AGGIE BASKETBALL MEN

DECEMBER 1: UNC Charlotte, Greensboro, 8:00 pm; 4-5 First Bank Classic, Milwaukee, WI, TBA

SHERIDAN POLL

1. Grambling State 8-2-0
2. Central St. California 9-1-1
3. Hampton 7-3-0
4. Florida A&M 6-3-0
5. Alcorn State 6-3-0
6. N.C. A&T 8-2-0
7. S.C. State 7-3-0
8. Jackson State 7-3-0
9. Savannah State 8-3-0
10. Delaware State 6-4-0

Sherryan Poll

by Joseph S. Padgett

(Editor)

Sheridan Poll
Imagine a Supermarkt

Without the Right Chemistry.

Imagine a Supermarkt
Without Hocchiel Celanese.

Try picking up two liters of soda — without the bottle. Or a toothbrush, without the handle. At Hocchiel Celanese we make chemical that go into quality products that you use every day:ulares, clothing, tires and toothbrushes, and the unmaskable plastic bottle for your favorite soda. And we use our imagination to make those products even better. For instance, we're exploring recycling technology to help turn used plastic soda bottles into new soda bottles.

We put our imagination to work every day to find innovative ways to make the world a better place. If you want to put your imagination to work, imagine yourself at Hocchiel Celanese.

For more information about Hocchiel Celanese, contact the University Recruiting Director, Hocchiel Celanese, 400 N. College Dr., Building B, Route 302-280, PO Box 2000, Somerville, New Jer- sey 08876. Or, call toll free 1-800-446-3269.

Ph.D. Program from page 1

earning a degree in chemistry, it still lags behind the more than 1,100 awarded 15 years ago. In 1991, 933 black students earned doctorates — a 4 percent increase over the previous year.

N.C. Central and A&T offer master's degrees in several biomedical fields. The new partnership offers an attractive way for students at those schools in pursuit of graduate education, Dearman said.

Pembroke State University, which has a large American Indian and black enrollment, also is a partner in the new program. Although PSU does not offer master's degrees in the biomedical sciences, it will funnel outstanding minority bachelor's degree students into programs at the other campuses.

The three universities were asked to join the partnership with UNC because they successfully competed for awards to Research Careers (MARC) grants, another National Institute of Health program designed to encourage minorities to attend graduate school.

Each student participating in the program will be awarded a fellowship valued at $20,000 a year. Students will receive $13,000 a year for their two years of master's work and $16,000 during the first year of doctoral study at UNC-Chapel Hill. The rest of this money will support program activities at the partner universities.

The program began enrolling students this fall. One NCCU master's student joined in September, and another will follow in January. Two will be selected for A&T master's programs in January. Admission decisions are made jointly by faculty from both the master's and doctoral campuses.

Faculty from partner schools will work together from the start of a student's graduate education, Dearman said. "One or more representatives from our (UNC CH) faculty be on the student's master's examining committee at A&T or Central, and one or more from their faculty will be on the doctoral committee here."

Dearman said: "Students should benefit from the continuity of academic advisors and faculty colleagues and mentors, said Dr. Les Brinson, chairman of the NCCU department of psychology and a program coordinator for the school.

"At the doctoral level this is important," Brinson said. "Your professional colleagues make all the difference in the world. They will be advocates for the students from the beginning to the end."

Dearman said the program helps address minority students' concerns about graduate education and their academic qualifications. "They start out in a supportive minority institution, but they've got our faculty members already involved in their education," he said. "Then they move to Chapel Hill, but they haven't just jumped directly into the swamp. They've gotten in gradually.""}

The program is looking for students "with academic promise," Dearman said. "We will determine the likelihood that a student will become a good scientist in many ways."

Students don't have to be scientific standouts at an early age, he added. "We're trying to enroll the pool (of minority doctoral students) by getting after the students who have substantial promise but aren't necessarily the superstars. Right now the superstars can get fellowships anywhere because everyone is trying to recruit the same outstanding students." Campus coordinators at A&T, NCCU and PSU said they are excited about the program's potential impact.

"This is an excellent opportunity for minorities who would obviously be competitive in areas of psychology, chemistry and biology," NCCU's Brinson said. "We've had this commitment for a long time, but a commitment without means is rather shallow." Students will be attracted to the program for several reasons, Brinson predicted. Drawing points include guaranteed admission at the chance to remain in a Research state, particularly in the Research Triangle area, he said.

The partnership will open new doors for A&T to obtain a master's degree," Williamsson said. "Right now, there is no state money to pay for master's students here. Because of the magnitude of funding, we should be able to get good students, "

I'm very hopeful some of the Ph.D.s who matriculate will come back here to A&T," Williamsson said.

A&T will award Ph.D.s in chemistry. NCCU will award Ph.D.s in psychology. PSU will award Ph.D.s in pharmacy.

For more information contact the University Recruiting Director, Hocchiel Celanese, 400 N. College Dr., Building B, Route 302-280, PO Box 2000, Somerville, New Jersey 08876. Or, call toll free 1-800-446-3269.

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"Environmental racism" is hazardous to the health of minorities

By John A. Powell

Native America's most prominent political leader... has been this counterbalance since slavery, but now it seems to be time for a revolution. A revolution is defined as a complete or fundamental change. A revolution is also defined as the overthrow or radical change of a social system and replaced by another system. Someone has to be the leader.

The general consensus seems to be that the election of Bill Clinton as President will make little difference. Like Abraham Lincoln, Clinton will do what’s best for the country. Lincoln decided to write the Emancipation Proclamation which made slavery illegal in the Union states and made slavery illegal in the Confederate states upon the defeat of the Confederacy.

The basis of his decision was that the abolition of slavery would reunite the Union. But if the illegality of slavery had brought the civil war then there might not be stores today such as "Slaves-U-L," or "Cotton Pickers Guild." Clinton must do what is believable in the eyes of the majority. Since we are considered a minority, our needs are in afterthought. I do not think Clinton is out to social and economic empowerment.

The now is a L.A. form of revolution. This kind of revolution is a pre-modern, reformative alternative in modern-day America. Most aspects of the riots were negative: the violence, the looting and burning, and the renewed fear of blacks which made it impossible to get around.

One positive result of the riots was the informing and educating of the American public. Race riots are concentrated in low-income, minority communities--deliberately--by the white-dominated police. That's the same unequal treasuring of people we are all--not even--we sometimes even welcome--the location of, say, an incinerator near their neighborhoods, looking to such facilities for economic gain. But although the incinerator may bring some money to local neighborhoods, they are usually only a few of the lowest paying jobs--hardly enough to "save" the quality of life. Meanwhile, property values go down when an incinerator is placed, and those who can afford to move away, further reducing the area's tax base and further depressing the community. Language barriers in some areas, along with lack of information about the health risks posed by waste disposal facilities, are another factor that prevents the poor from protecting the site of hazardous facilities in their midst. And even when poor and minority people are aware that health problems are associated with living near sources of pollution, they simply do not have the political power to fend off the proposed facility. The affluent and politically empowered, on the other hand, can stop hazardous facilities out of their neighborhoods. Environmental racism.

According to a landmark study by the Commission on Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, there is a closed or abandoned hazardous waste site no more than half of all African-American and Hispanic communities. Some examples:

• In Houston, Texas, an overwhelming number of the waste disposal sites and incinerators, both public and private, are located in predominantly black neighborhoods.

• In Los Angeles, California, the "dirtiest" neighborhood (in terms of discharge) is 55 percent black and 35 percent Hispanic and contains 18 companies that, in 1989, discharged 33 million pounds of waste chemicals.

• In New York, a sewage treatment plant originally ised to rise on a site farther downtown, opened, in Harlem in 1986. Well-organized and politically powerful communities were able to block construction of the plant in their neighborhoods.

One of the most notorious cases of environmental racism is "Cancer Alley" in Louisiana, a 75-mile stretch along the Mississippi River that is home to 125 petrochemical companies. While producing 20 percent of the nation's petrochemicals, these companies have exacted two billion pounds of toxic chemicals between 1987 and 1989 (more than in any other state) on an area inhabited by poor, mostly black residents. The area is awash in a massive human experiment conducted without consent of the environmentalists, scientists, and Dr. Velma Campbell, a local physician. At least one member of the formerly poor and very small family in Sunliner, Louisiana, for example, has health problems attributable to the operations of the Placid Refining Company. Of course, the company denies all responsibility for the cancers experienced by the area's residents from contaminated water, food, and air, as well as for their respiratory and vision problems. And it is true that the Placid refinery is in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency standards. But we all know that hazardous and toxic substances do not believe our threat to health, even though science has not yet been able to prove the connection.

The absence of proof notwithstanding, the residents of these areas have started to organize. In fact, minorities generally are becoming more aware of their illegal, hazardous problems, forming grass roots groups to fight environmental waste disposal and industrial plants that either exist, or are proposed for, their residential areas. At the same time, mainstream environmental groups, whose leaders and members have been mostly white in the past, are now attempting to recruit environmental minority members and be sensitive to minority concerns.

The first civil rights laws involving environmental issues...seek to prevent the construction of a toxic waste incinerator in a mostly low-income, Hispanic immigrant community in Kentflex, California. The suit argues that local residents were excluded from the decision-making process in violation of state environmental and civil rights laws.