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October 31, 1973 Letter to Beacon Regarding Quality of Photographs

Commission for Blacks

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
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Coordinator of Black Studies
1629 Melrose Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

October 31, 1973

Mr. Hardy Liston, Chairperson
Task Force on Blacks
Administration Building
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Dear Mr. Liston:

The attached material is indicative at least to me, of the poor quality of the photographs printed of Black people, in the UTK Daily Beacon. Such pictures are generally disgusting to some Blacks on campus, since they bear little or no resemblance to the subject. Either the Beacon is guilty of exercising poor judgement in its selection process or the photographer's are not sufficiently skilled in the art of photographing Black folk.

Black students from UTK have, at various times, complained to Mr. Ralph Boston (Coordinator of Minority Affairs) and myself relative to the apparent lack of interest on the part of the Beacon in covering Black events on campus. My complaint is that the Beacon has been irresponsible, and haphazard in its willingness to publish any available picture of a Black person.

I would like to have the Beacon staff (permanent, i.e photographers, faculty or staff advisors) interviewed. Should some semblance of journalism ethics exist, such guiding rules or regulations should be herein investigated to note the relationship between creed and deed, and to initiate the necessary steps to right said wrongs.

Sincerely,



Marvin Peek
Coordinator
Black Studies Dept.

MEP:dem

cc: Dr. Fred Venditti
Mr. Ralph Boston