

GRAPEVINE

The Department of Special Student Services
The University of Rochester
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Week Ending: December 3, 1982
Volume X, Number 10
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THE PROVOST MEETS WITH THE BSU

On Thursday, December 2, 1982, Provost O'Brien met with the Black Students Union at its general meeting. Provost O'Brien opened his remarks by stating that "the concerns of black students are concerns we all share." In particular, he alluded to his dissatisfaction with the numbers of black students and black full-time faculty members at the university. He proceeded to outline the current picture of blacks within the university. He concluded his visit by entertaining questions from the BSU members, and then accepting a list of concerns drawn up by the BSU.

As O'Brien began his presentation he emphasized two points: (1) we should not try to discuss what "the university" should do, since a university is not a solid entity, but a "layered, quasi-democratic system with no single pressure point," and (2) a university works by persuasion, indirect influence. And the way a provost exerts influence is through budgeting. O'Brien then passed out copies of "Blacks at the University: A New Effort Underway." He called this article (printed in the Spring/Summer 1982 issue of the Rochester Review) the first university statement on the plight of black faculty, students, and staff. As a preface to his comments he directed everyone to this passage:

Our goal is not to achieve a particular number of black students, faculty, and staff. It is to become a community where blacks make up a much larger proportion of the community at all levels, so that the sense of isolation is removed, and the whole university can be not only a more responsible but a more interesting and enjoyable place.

O'Brien then cited a number of facts that depicted the situation of blacks at the university: (1) the number of black undergraduates has hovered about a meager 150, approximately 4% of the total number, for at least the past five years, (2) the largest number of blacks lies in the freshmen class, and this number declines steadily from freshmen to senior class, (3) the number of black full-time faculty members in all the seven colleges of the university was two until this year; now that number is eleven.

To some folks at the meeting the figures that O'Brien presented came as quite a surprise for several reasons. I, myself, have attended this university for four years and did not know until this year that there was more than just one black full-time faculty member here. Those who may not have taken Afro-American History here may not have even known of one black full-time faculty member. As for the eleven new black faculty, the majority of black undergraduates would have had no knowledge of their presence had BSU neglected to invite the provost to their meeting. The majority of non-black students

GRAPEVINE 1982ACADEMIC TIPS

Writing a research paper can sometimes be an overwhelming task. Thesis statements, footnotes, and bibliographies can all seem to be terms from another language. The Grapevine would like to take some of the mystery out of writing a research paper. Here are some steps to follow in your quest for:

THE PERFECT RESEARCH PAPERChoosing the Subject

For many students, the frustrations start here. How do you choose a subject? Here are three easy guidelines to follow. You must:

1. Be able to handle the subject.
2. Have an interest in the subject. (We know it is not always easy.)
3. Satisfy your professor's requirements. (Above all!)

Narrowing the Topic

This can sometimes be a difficult task. My best advice is to follow two easy steps:

1. Try looking your topic up in an encyclopedia. Encyclopedias provide an excellent overview of a topic. In reading, you will probably focus upon one aspect of the subject that interests you particularly. That is your narrowed topic.
2. If all else fails, ASK YOUR PROFESSOR FOR HELP.

The Thesis Statement

You must have a thesis statement for an effective paper. Decide what it is you wish your paper to say. That is your thesis statement. The thesis statement forms the foundation upon which your paper will be built. Do not try to write a paper without it. You will only be making more aggravation for yourself.

Researching: To Note Card, Or Not To Note Card; That Is The Question

If you are undecided whether to use note cards, stop deliberating. **USE THE NOTE CARDS.** Here is the procedure:

1. Use 4" x 6" or 5" x 8" cards for taking notes.
2. Make sure your cards are labeled and coded clearly so that you know from what source the information came.
3. When using a source, make sure you get all the information that you will need the first time around. It can be time consuming to go back for info you forgot.

GRAPEVINE 1982ISO NEWS1983 CAMBRIDGE SUMMER PROGRAM

The University of New Hampshire, in cooperation with Gonville and Caius College of Cambridge University, offers matriculated university students a series of courses in English literature and the humanities "taught by a distinguished British and American faculty." The program lasts six weeks, July 4 to August 12, and would be the equivalent of a half-semester's work. More information and application forms is available in the International Student Office, Psy 217. The deadline for completed applications is April 1, 1983.

ENCOUNTER IRELAND 1983

How about studying and traveling in Ireland this summer? The Encounter Ireland Summer Scholarship Program is a one month program offering a combination of academic, cultural and social activities designed to introduce the student to the Irish way of life. The 1983 program begins July 18 and ends August 18. The first three weeks are spent in Dublin and the final week is free for travel around Ireland. For more information and an application form, stop by the ISO, Psy 217. Deadline is June 10, 1983.

ATTENTION ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MAKING TRAVEL PLANS

If you are going abroad, be sure you purchase your "passport to low-cost travel," the International Student Identity Card. It proves to anyone who needs to know, anywhere in the world, that you are a student and are eligible for special student privileges, discounts, and travel bargains.

Other privileges are: lower air fares
tours, accomodations
reduced or free admission to many museums, theaters, cultural
and historic sites

How to obtain your ISIC: Bring to the International Student Office the following:

- One vending machine-size photo 1 1/2" x 2"
- \$6 application fee (includes travel insurance described in ISIC information booklet) Cash preferred.
- Proof of student status (your U of R ID)

GOING TO VISIT NEW YORK CITY? NEED A BED IN THE BIG APPLE?

There's a 1485 room building in the heart of New York City where you can find a place to stay for next to nothing! It's called the William Sloane House, home of the New York Student Center, a joint service of the Council on International Educational Exchange, and the YMCA. It's a cross between a student union, college dorm (with recreational facilities), and budget hotel! Rates are single rooms per night, \$17; doubles, \$22 for holders of ISIC holders (described above). Rates slightly higher for non-holders. The William Sloane House is conveniently located one block from Madison Square Garden and a short walk from Penn Station, major department stores, theatres, etc. at 356 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001 (212) 695-0291 for Student Center Services and (212) 760-5680 for individual reservations (24 hours daily).

O'BRIEN / BSU (CONT.)

will not know of the new black faculty unless they too ask, or express some concern at having more black faculty at the U of R. The desperately poor number of black undergraduates was the least surprising fact that O'Brien noted. This fact becomes quite apparent as black students find themselves attending classes (large and small) in which they are the only black person present.

Provost O'Brien spoke for about fifteen minutes, then the floor was opened to questions. In reference to the tiny number of black students, and the fact that the number decreases from freshmen to senior class, one student asked what policies or programs the university has aimed at the retention of black students. O'Brien responded that no such programs exist; however, he said that the problem is studied a great deal. O'Brien stressed the point that it is not so much the academic attractiveness of the university, but the quality of student life, that is responsible for the attrition of black students. He pointed to Dr. Bernard Gifford and the Quality of Student Life Committee as people who could better address this problem. One student wondered why it was necessary to financially coerce the colleges into hiring black faculty. As O'Brien explained it the colleges tend to seek highly specialized faculty, and with such a small pool of black Ph.D.'s it is difficult, if not impossible, to find one with all of the desired qualifications. He further stated that by using the budgeting process you could "encourage" the departments to set aside some of those qualifications in order to hire an otherwise qualified black person.

After many more questions and answers the BSU president read a list of concerns which the provost agreed to give his attention to. That list included the following concerns:

- (1) improvng race relations on campus
- (2) raising the consciousness of white students to Black History and race relations
- (3) improving the numbers of black faculty, students, and staff
- (4) developing a program of Afro-American Studies
- (5) developing more courses on race relations
- (6) instituting programs to retain black students
- (7) the appointment of someone to handle cases of discrimination, and racism
- (8) re-establishing the RA Race Relations Workshop, so that these individuals can serve as positive liasons between other students

This meeting with Provost O'Brien was only the beginning for the BSU. The BSU plans to meet again with Provost O'Brien, and also with other administrators. The BSU will be following up on the implementation, improvement, and progress of programs relating to these as well as other concerns. The membership will be keeping their eyes open to make sure that faculty and administrators are responding positively to their needs.

By: Brenda M. Hawkins

ACADEMIC TIPS (CONT.)

4. Put one idea from one source on each card.
5. Organize your cards into sub-areas of your topic as you go along. Don't wait until you have finished-you'll be sorry!
6. Try to keep notes brief and in your own words unless using a direct quote. If quoting, DO NOT forget the quotation marks.

Making an Outline

This comes after taking notes. Your notes should already be grouped into several general areas. The main topic of each group will now become a heading for your outline. Next, sort each group into smaller sub-groups. These sub-groups will become the sub-divisions of your outline. The arrangement and sequence of your notes will provide you with an outline for your paper. An outline is a system that puts things into chronological and/or sequential order. The ideas should build upon and relate to one another.

Writing Your Drafts

You should make two drafts, a rough copy and the final copy, which you will be handing into your professor. Before starting the first draft, take time to review what you have done so far. Evaluate your outline. Does it break down into three large sections, the introduction, the research or evidence section, and the conclusion?

After assessing the outline, you are ready to start your first draft. Putting the first words on paper is often hard for many people. Never fear, if you have followed the directions on note taking, your paper is already two-thirds of the way done. Just take it easy and the words will come. Above all-DON'T PANIC. Use your outline as an organizational tool. Put the note cards from each section into sequential order. That is the beauty of note cards. You can keep fiddling with them until you are satisfied.

After finishing your first draft, it is time to revise and edit. Here are some problems to look for:

- Are the same ideas stated repeatedly?
- Are there quotations that are too long?
- Are there certain sections that are too long compared to the rest of the paper?
- Are there any glaring errors in grammar? Punctuation?

Next Week: The Final Draft; The Mystery of Footnotes; and Ending It All: The Bibliography

"Academic Tips" was excerpted from Susan B. Lawrence's Writing It Right.

-Lori C. Doneghy

NOTES

*The University of Rochester Gospel Choir will be sponsoring a Christmas concert in the Interfaith Chapel on Sunday December 12, 1982 at 3:30pm. All are welcome.

*On Friday December 10, 1982 the Department of Special Student Services sponsors the Kwanzaa Celebration Dinner at 6:00pm in the Wilson Commons May Room. Students wishing to attend the dinner must sign off board. Call x2864 to leave your name and social security number.

*The Ford Foundation is sponsoring Post Doctoral Fellowships for minorities. Closing date for applications is January 14, 1983. For more information contact Marion Walker in Psych.227.