

# Crisis ends after months

By Tonya Widemon  
Editor-in-Chief

Sometimes a crisis is just the thing to bring a group together.

Although from mid-July until late September the BSM had to function without student activities funds, activities were never stifled. In the afternoons, the office atmosphere was a kind of social center where students could drop by, leave notes or take care of business.

Without funds, however, some committees had been hampered. The Cultural Committee had not booked artists for the semester; there had been no supplies to print the "Weekly Ink" announcement sheets; and the BLACK INK newspaper had not been published. Ironically, the most active body within the

BSM during this period was the Gospel Choir—the center of controversy.

## The Controversy

BSM funds were officially frozen July 27, when Student Body Treasurer Mike O'Neal discovered that the choir was maintaining an account at North Carolina National Bank, thus making the entire organization in violation of treasury laws enacted in April. BSM officers as well as officers of other organizations charged, said that O'Neal never informed them of the change of treasury laws.

BSM Chairman D. Lester Diggs said that O'Neal gave him verbal notice about the outside account on July 25. Diggs said that this was the first he had ever heard about the choir's account.

During the first week of September, the Central Committee, a body of the BSM subgroup heads that makes up a

legislative group, began the first of many weekly and emergency meetings to set strategies in coping with the Campus Governing Council (CGC) crisis.

The choir had no representative on the Central Committee, nor had it received student government funds until the 1975-76 budget year. The outside account was established in 1972. The BSM stood firmly on the argument that until this year, the choir had been financially autonomous and therefore had not previously been in violation of laws.

Between Central Committee meetings, occurred frustrating and heated investigative confrontations with CGC and the CGC Finance Committee.

On Sept. 15, after a two hour debate, more than 20 BSM representatives were outraged that again no action had been

taken by CGC concerning unfreezing funds. After adjournment by CGC Speaker Dan Besse, the status of BSM funds was left unclear. Two resolutions had been presented and defeated: one to release BSM general funds except the choir's, and another resolution to continue the freeze on all funds.

The same night, Diggs called an emergency BSM general body meeting. About 50 Blacks congregated in Upendo Lounge in Chase Hall until about 2 a.m. to organize a demonstration and expression of solidarity and grievances against CGC actions, and to draw up a set of demands to Chancellor Ferebee Taylor.

By word of mouth, more than 200 Blacks had received word that a peaceful demonstration would take place that morning. Singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and chanting "Power to the People," students marched from the Pit to South Building.

BSM Special Projects Chairman George "Buddy" Ray kept morale up during the wait with chants of "We ain't goin' no where, no where," and "We want the Chancellor." BSM choir members sang and poetry was read.

Inside, representatives presented Taylor with demands for \$12,000 from the Chancellor's discretionary funds and for the formation of a committee to investigate CGC's actions.

Taylor did not honor either demand, but suggested that the group take their actions to Student Body President Bill Bates. Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton, Associate Dean of Special Programs Harold Wallace, and Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences H. Bentley Renwick accompanied.

The next day BSM funds were first unfrozen by Bates; they were frozen and unfrozen again by the Finance Committee; and frozen again by O'Neal and Finance Committee Chairman Bill Strickland.

It seemed to a lot of students in BSM

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# BLACK INK

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## Monroe, female attains top post

by Allen Johnson  
Sports Editor

When a Black student attains a prominent position of leadership at a predominantly white university chances are likely that he has accomplished a first. When that Black student happens to be a female those chances are even greater.

Andromeda Monroe, a junior political science major from Fayetteville, garnered more than her share of firsts, when she was appointed to the position of student attorney general under the administration of Student Body President Bill Bates. Monroe is the first Black woman to hold the top judiciary position, and the highest ranking Black woman ever in Student Government.

Monroe noted that she felt her appointment was significant in the sense that it "shows that a Black female can get a high position in Student Government." She cited the fact that the office of attorney general is the highest appointed position and the second highest position in Student Government.

Although her position is an enviable one in terms of prestige and practical experience (Monroe intends a career in law), it does have certain disadvantages. One drawback is the fact that the attorney general has a certain amount of power in determining a student's fate.

"My freshman and sophomore year," she explained, "when I was a staff member and actually got to do cases (she served as a court prosecutor) I got to talk to material witnesses in cases, talk to professors, and more or less plan the outline for the case and present it in court."

"As attorney general you're basically an administrator. You talk to the defendants who have been accused of cheating or whatever, and the principle characters who have been involved with the case and decide whether the case will go to court or not. I sometimes wish I didn't have to bring charges against

people, but the evidence is there and I can't be blind to the situation."

Monroe also observed that student court is becoming more legalistic with many defendants hiring professional attorneys to advise them on cases. "So what happens," she said, "is that we have to be very technical and legalistic which means that we have to do everything in the correct order that the instrument says. If we don't, we could be taken to civil court."

"Sometimes it seems as if you can't have that personal touch with the defendant anymore," she added, "because that person (the defendant) might wind up trying to sue you in the long run."

Concerning the controversial tenure of Mike O'Neal as student body treasurer, Monroe observed that if O'Neal would lessen his visibility, student government and the Bates administration could probably accomplish more.

"Mike is a nice person—personally," she said, "however he has this sense of commitment to his job whereby he feels he can't bend at all to anyone. I think he has a distorted view of what justice is."

Monroe also criticized Campus Governing Council's (CGC) handling of the funding violations by student organizations, noting that it is the only major issue which CGC has taken a stand on, aside from "petty arguments," and that she doubted whether CGC had dealt with the organizations in a "humane manner."

"People were ignorant of the law, and it wasn't their fault that they didn't know it," she said.

Monroe concluded that Student Government still has the ability to initiate positive action.

"The executive branch, if it gets itself out of the cloud that surrounded it because of the *Tar Heel* incident and the *Campus Life* incident, etc.," she said, "it could probably do some really good things. But right now the issue is still the same—Mike O'Neal."



Andromeda Monroe

## Afro-Am survival conference meets

by Queenie Mackey  
Staff Writer

Addressed to "The Survival of Black Studies," the North Carolina Conference on Black Studies proposed to create a statewide organization to undertake the challenge of institutionalizing Black Studies.

The organizational meeting of the conference convened Oct. 4-5, at Quail Roost Conference Center in Rougemont.

Co-sponsors of the conference were the Curriculum in Afro-American Studies and the Afro-American Affairs Committee of the BSM. Attending the conference were some 60 teachers, directors, and students of Black Studies representing elementary, junior high, high school and higher education.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Russell Adams, Chairman Afro-American Studies Department, Howard University, Washington, D.C. Adams spoke on "The State of Black Studies in the Nation."

Adams traced the Black studies movement from the self-study research activities of the 19th century Negro convention movement to the 1960's when Black students demanded scholarly attention to the Black experience. In the interest of maintaining social stability, administrators funded Black studies programs. In some instances these programs were term-funded and were not expected to be refunded, hence to be phased out. On the other hand, those

programs which received line-item budgeting within the university have survived. Since the rationale for Black studies has ceased to be an explosive issue, the challenge of institutionalizing Black studies is basically a bureaucratic one—Who? What? When? How?

Adams said Black studies is not the only discipline to have evolved out of a social problem. Other disciplines also originated to address certain needs, such as sociology and political science.

Four panelists addressed themselves to "The State of Black Studies in North Carolina." Representing a predominantly Black university, Prof. Valerie Edmundson of Fayetteville State stressed the importance of local history. Clifton Collins of the Social Studies Division of the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction raised questions regarding the changing clientele for Black studies, citing the frequent abuse of Black studies programs by administrators who use them as a dumping ground for discipline problems.

Dr. Roberta Ann Dunbar, director of UNC-CH African studies, presented a survey of African Studies programs in North Carolina colleges and universities, and also stressed the importance of studying African and Afro-American cultural linkages as manifested in North Carolina history. Prof. Ruth Kennedy, from the NCCU English department, gave tentative conclusions from a survey showing how Black literature courses are taught in North Carolina high schools.