



BLACK INK



The essence of freedom is understanding

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BLACK STUDENT MOVEMENT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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UNC plans festivities

Black History Celebration has roots in Chicago

By RAMONA BROWN
Editor

Denmark Vessey, Sojourner Truth, Henry Hyland Garnett, Matrin Delaney, Paul Cuffe, and Richard Allen are names not traditionally found in United States history books. However, these persons are just a few of the many black Americans who have contributed to the building of America.

These Americans are recognized in February, which is designed as national Black History Month.

It is through the concern for the past of black Americans that Carter G. Woodson initiated the celebration of black history.

Through his concern Woodson, the Father

of Black History, founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in Chicago in 1915.

Woodson devised a celebration of the history of blacks as an attempt to involve not only scholars and educators, but also people throughout the United States.

Woodson's main objective for initiating Black History Month was to use the celebration as a vehicle to spread the contributions of black Americans to the people of the United States.

Woodson's attempt to stimulate interest in the history of blacks resulted in the initiation of Negro History Week in 1915 which later became Black History Month in 1926.

During the month of February, various

activities will take place on the UNC-Ch campus to commemorate the triumphs of black Americans, and to instill a continued appreciation of the Black past.

The fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture will be held Feb. 12. This year's speaker will be Judge A. Leon Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Higginbotham, an educator, and lecturer, will speak on the topic, "Race and the American Legal Process."

The African-Afro-American studies curriculum will sponsor lectures during the months of February and March. On Feb. 15, Benjamin Quarles, author of seven books

and Emeritus professor of History at Morgan State University, will speak on "The American Dream: The Black Interpretation."

Mary Helen Washington, author of **Black-eyed Susan** and **Midnight Birds**, and musicologist Eileen Southern, will appear in March as part of the lecture series.

The Black Student Movement has a tentatively scheduled culture attractions such as Startime Review, which is the equivalent of a black show.

The African Film Series, sponsored by the curriculum in African and Afro-American Studies will continue this semester with its films on South Africa.

Freshmen score low

By REGINA GASKINS
Staff Writer

Hayden B. Renwick, Associate Dean of the college of Arts and Sciences, said at the black freshmen class meeting, Jan. 26 that half the class had quality point averages below 2.0.

Renwick said that out of a class of 453 students, 232 had QPAs below 2.0, which is approximately 51 percent of the class.

However, thirty-five students have QPAs of 3.0 or better.

This was a drop from last year's freshman class, he said who had the best percentage of students above 2.0 during the past eight years he has been at the University.

Part of the student's problem was a "reverse order of priority," he said.

"Students are getting involved with activities that have no grade point value," he said. "I can't think of anything that would take priority over academics — not in college."

Bonnie Foust, a freshman journalism major from Rocky Mount, said she feels there is a problem when freshmen put high school and college on the same level.

"Most of the students had good high school grades when they came to Carolina,"

she said. "High school was easier, and they think they can spend the same amount of time studying in college as in high school."

Renwick and some minority advisers said the low number of students attending tutorial sessions is another problem with the current freshmen class.

The tutorial program averages approximately 35 students per week, about 8 percent of the class, Renwick said; yet approximately 106 students have QPAs below 1.5.

Never the less, last year the tutorial program averaged less than 30 students per week.

Renwick said, "We've never had enough students to say whether tutorial helps or not." But he added he thinks it does.

"The biggest thing with the tutorial program is the stigma attached to it," he said.

Students would rather risk bad grades than risk being thought stupid because they go to the tutorial program, according to some present at the meeting.

"It's better to let them think you're stupid than to flunk out, and let them know it," Renwick said. "I would be disappointed in any student who has the nerve to come in my office, and hasn't been to tutorial."

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Watson takes position

By DENISE JOYNER
and ADNEATRIA PARKER
Staff Writers

Jan. 1, 1982, not only marked a new year but also the day Wende Watson, an Afro-American Studies major, officially assumed the position of chairperson of the Black Student Movement.

Watson took the position after Mark Canady, former BSM chairperson, resigned in order to run for Student Body President.

Formerly vice-chairperson of the BSM, Watson said she feels more accountable for her actions after assuming her position.

She said she has two goals for the BSM during her term.

Watson said she would like to see the BSM address a larger percentage of the campus in terms of graduate and professional students, and see Black Ink come out more regularly.

During the past month Watson began to make some changes.

"We will be emphasizing the constitution more now and stressing the importance of organizational structure as outlined by the constitution," she said.

Another change will be in the coordination between the chairperson and the Central Committee.

"I want to clearly outline the duties of the Central Committee members," Watson said. "I see the members of the BSM Committee as BSM leaders. I'm not the 'only' leader. I see myself as the captain."

Now, the BSM now has three executive assistants instead of only a vice-chairperson. "That has never been done in BSM history," she said.

Watson said she works very closely with the executive assistants, and is able to share the responsibilities once excepted of one person.

Her most important job is "strengthening the organization of the BSM," she said.

"I really want the Central Committee to work as a team, instead of the CC members



New chairperson Wende Watson

feeling that they have all the responsibility on themselves," she said.

Watson said she thought it was important to have a cultural committee subgroup coordinator. She said by leaving the overall responsibility of coordinating activities to the cultural committee coordinator, the subgroup coordinator could address more specific duties. The duties could include making sure that different subgroup meetings are not scheduled for the same time, and keeping abreast of what the subgroups are doing.

The BSM will hold elections in March. Watson said she has not decided whether she will run for re-election.

"I am eligible to run, but regardless of whether I do or not, I plan to be very active in the BSM.

"Although it keeps me very busy I enjoy it because I'm participating in something I believe in, and have faith in."

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