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US makes statement by recognizing King holiday

In January 1986 the nation will celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. What some people fail to realize is that this national holiday is not simply for Martin Luther King Jr. the man, but what he stood for.

Dr. King stood for non-violent change in a society that was mired in racism and inequality. Dr. King was aware that he could not change attitudes overnight or even in the immediate future. Nevertheless he persevered. He formulated a strategy of non-violent protest during a time when it appeared the only change came through violent confrontation.

Sen. Jesse Helms tried in vain to block the passage of this bill. He implied that King was not worthy of such an honor. He based such claims on the FBI files amassed on King during the Civil Rights movement. Since the files are to remain locked until 2027, and the two major people involved with the files, King and Hoover—are dead, such accusations by Helms are merely heresy.

By ratifying the Martin Luther King national holiday, the United States Senate has made a statement to the world that we are a nation that embraces the idea of equality.

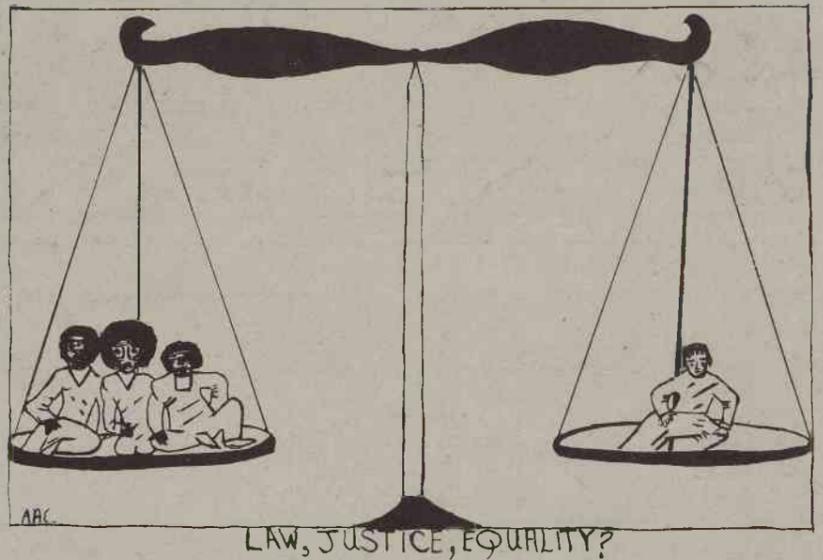
Campus blacks must unify

Unity on this campus is important. It assures that all who represent different perspectives can come together to get the job done and to keep the University running smoothly. Because unity is such an important component in running the University it must be actively sought by all who participate in the university community — administrators, students, blacks, and whites.

Unity within the black student community is also important. If we are to receive equal privileges we must be ready to stand together and voice our opinions in unison.

In order for us to work together it is imperative that we sit down and work out our difference — not try to hide or sugar-coat them under the guise of black unity. We are not contributing to black unity when we fail to take into consideration how our actions will affect others in the black student community. We are also not promoting black unity when a handful of students take it upon themselves to dictate what information the students can and cannot understand.

A word of caution to our student leaders: Don't underestimate the intellect of your fellow students. The majority of your peers don't need to be spoon-fed select information under the banner of preserving unity. Black student unity must be actively sought. Organizations must come together in compromise and consensus. Only then will we have true black unity on campus.



BSM president speaks

Current status of BSM

By Sherrod Banks
BSM President

Sherrod Banks, a junior political science/AFAM major, is president of the BSM. The following is a statement on the status of current BSM administration.

The Black Student Movement has never seen such contrasting years as last and this year. This BSM is a different BSM, enhanced in several ways. Excitement over this difference compels me to write my first state of the BSM article. As president, I'm obligated to communicate our status to you, and as members you deserve that information. Here it is, the way it is—the BSM yesterday and today.

Last fall the BSM was a fragmented organization with battle lines drawn between the Central Committee and the Gospel Choir. However, this central committee embraces a harmonious relationship with the choir. We no longer fight each other, rather we fight together for the preservation of our largest cultural subgroup.

Membership was a grave concern for last year's leadership, with only about 275 people joining during the fall, a reduction of approximately 350 members from the previous year. This fall we already have over 500 members and the membership increases weekly.

BSM cultural subgroups are more dynamic than ever. Our euphonic choir, over 60 members strong, cut a live album in April. The Opeyo Dancers, whose dramatic and powerful performances earned them the most outstanding subgroup award, awaits their annual Fall Invitational Dance Recital on Nov. 4. Our most provocative subgroup, the Ebony Readers are progressing to the performance of not only poems, but plays as well.

What can I say about Black Ink that it doesn't say about itself? Under the current leadership of editor Gwen Hailey the Ink's staff grew from about 10 people to more than 28, and is still growing. The paper's circulation, writing, photography, and aesthetics are better, reflecting its foundation of organization and dedication.

Financially we taste a sweeter slice of the CGC budgetary pie. Our 1983 appropriation represents a 29% increase over the 1982 appropriation. Although we appreciate this gain, we realize it's not enough. Our subgroups and Black Ink enrich UNC's diversity more than any other organizational groups. We should be rewarded and supported for our contribution.

This administration seeks to reactivate standing committees (i.e. Special Projects and Freshman Class Committees) which were very productive in years past. The Special Projects Committee is a freelance committee that coordinates activities, but with an economic mind set. The Freshman Class Committee, also a freelance committee, plans fun class activities like talent shows, jams, fashion shows, and etc.... We believe in total membership involvement.

Yesterday's BSM was an isolated organization not realizing the importance of support groups for a stronger BSM. Today we not only realize this, but we actively solicit the support of our friends like UCF, who co-sponsored our homecoming queen nominee, and BGC who co-sponsored our homecoming ball. These relationships once thrived, yet they somehow died. We work to restore them; we need them.

We branch out involving ourselves with other university organizations and institutions. BSM co-sponsored the honorable Shirley Chisolm with the Association of Women Students. Our subgroups sponsored a cultural program for the Minority Career Fair. BSM On Campus Coordinator and University Affairs coordinated a successful Pre-Orientation. And the BSM along with Student and University Affairs assembled a beautiful memorial service for our departed friends.

We are more cohesive in our endeavors, more financially secure, and have better relations with other campus organizations and institutions. Considering all we attempt to do, there is still more that we want to do. And there is more that we will do; I guarantee it. Today I want you to realize one thing: BSM yesterday and today, there is a difference. ■

BLACK INK

If blackness can be converted into words and pictures,
we intend to do it



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