

## Today there's a need for the black press

by Laurie Denise Willis  
Editor

"In white-oriented print and electronic media, institutionalized racism is expressed," said Jeanne Jason, executive editor of the *National Black Monitor*, in New York. The *Monitor* is a monthly with a 1,000,000 circulation.

Jason gave a lecture titled: "The Black Oriented Press" on Friday, March 21, as part of the School of Social Work's seventh annual Black Experience Workshop.

Institutionalized racism by the "white press," Jason said, needed to be stopped.

"The mass media are primarily reflectd to those who feel they can identify with the term white American," Jason said.

And many black Americans have been made painfully aware of the bias in the mass media, she said.

The black oriented press is one way in which blacks' unmet needs could receive attention, Jason said. "Increasingly more black Americans are coming to the conclusion that we need a black oriented press."

The first black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, was published in 1827 by John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish. The paper's masthead read: "We wish to plead our every cause."

Today there are more than 320 black presses worldwide, Jason said. "And contrary to what the industry estimates, black press circulation hasn't been continuously declining."

"Portrayals in print and broadcasting have so down-graded blacks that white perceptions of blacks are lowered," she said. "Blacks are fed messages depicting their differences and not belonging."

She added that white journalists have trouble calling blacks intelligent, but instead use words such as "articulate," "smooth" or "dapper."

Jason said many blacks come to themselves according to media portrayal.

She cited a statement by Percy Sutton, a black man and chairman of Inner City Broadcasting Corporation, a media firm in New York. She said Sutton said, "We are not who we think we are but what the media say we are."

Sutton also said that, "too often black reporters get jobs and think they're part of the system."

But, said Jason, minorities comprise less than 6 percent of newspapers across the country, and 60 percent of U.S. newspapers employ no minorities.

Jason received her B.A. in history in 1956 from Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Mass., and her master's in social work from the University of Chicago in 1958.

"I realized that one-on-one change as social work often brings about wasn't as effective as working in the media, so I got into journalism," she said.

## Twin

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State University, the Davises chose UNC where according to Lam, they went from "mediocre to very competitive." Both split time their sophomore year and started their junior and senior years. They ended the season undefeated in the ACC their senior year at UNC. Stacey and Tracey finished second in the ACC and qualified for the NCAA. In national competition they were defeated respectively by the seventh and fifth national ranked competitors, Dean Hall and Eric Voelker.

They agreed that wrestling was very time-consuming. Stacey commented that it was "difficult." Tracey found himself staying up later than he wanted.

Stacey enjoys basketball and other sports while Tracey likes art and drawing.

"I think we're closer than other brothers would be," was Stacey's reply

concerning his relationship with Tracey. Tracey said, "We get along well." Both agree that having a twin brother is supportive.

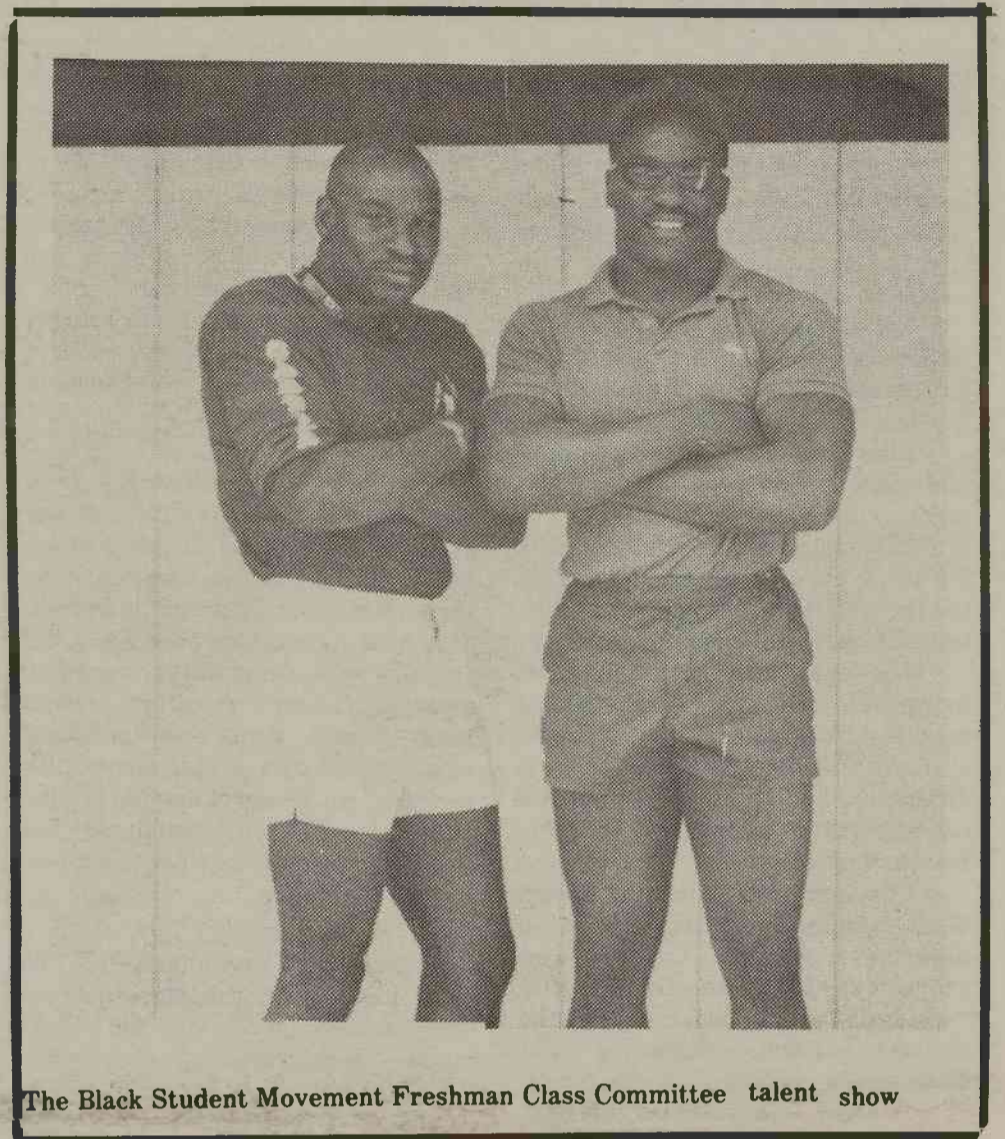
Since neither brother had given any thought to a career as professional wrestlers, Stacey would like to be a hardware technician. He exclaimed, "If I wanted to be an actor, I would go to Hollywood."

Tracey has made no major plans, but will probably remain in the area to do basic research in chemistry.

Stacey encourages underclassmen "to stay positive, to have fun, but don't overdo it." "All will work out, even when they seem like they won't."

Tracey urges underclassmen to, "Be in front of studying. There is plenty of time to party. Get those grades," he added.

Lam said, "They are tremendous athletes." "Both could have played football. They are quick, strong, and



The Black Student Movement Freshman Class Committee talent show

In honor of Darryl Blake Henderson, the Psi Delta chapter of Omega Psi Phi is offering a \$1,500 annual scholarship to be awarded to a senior member of a black Greek organization. Applicants must be planning to attend graduate school here at UNC, however, no set g.p.a. is required.

Applications can be obtained from Bob Willis in 624 Morrison, 933-4162, or Jack Brown in 20 Craige, 933-7058.

Henderson is a 1984 graduate of UNC and was working in the School of Social Work prior to his death on Jan. 13, 1986.

\*In the event that no members of a black Greek organization are planning to attend graduate school here, the scholarship will be given to a student planning to attend graduate school elsewhere.

Applications are due by April 15.

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Melanie Littlejohn, a sophomore industrial relations major from Charlotte, and Charnette Huggins, a sophomore biology/pre-med major from Wilmington, have been assisting Photography Editor Tammie Foust as lab technicians. Thanks for the good work!



photo by Tammie Foust