

# Insights : BSM is Only As Strong As Weakest Part

From The President's Desk:

The Black Student Movement has addressed several issues that have been pertinent to minority student life on this campus.

The Black Cultural Center three years ago was only an idea on paper. Plans and deadlines had been set, but there was no concrete or tangible place. Even though it is a very small, temporary site, today, there is a center and it plays a very important part of university life for all students who take advantage of its services and programs.

The Harvey Beech Minority Retention Scholarship has the potential to be an instrumental part of financial assistance for students who have demonstrated academic improvement, as well as involvement with the university community.

However, it is up to you, the students who will be here next year, to assist in setting up the scholarship and make sure that it will never be forgotten. It was the hope of one past president, Kenneth Perry, that the most qualified student who met the requirements for the fund be awarded the money whenever funds became available. I hope that this dream will soon become a reality.

During the past year, BSM relations with the Daily Tar Heel have not been as positive as they should have been. Several stories, such as Alvin Poussaint, Maya Angelou and the Keith Edwards Benefit were omitted. However, we have improved our communication with the present editors and have increased minority coverage with the newspaper. It looks like a positive step in the right

direction.

Before I end, I must address something that has bothered me for a long time. A body is only as good as its parts. Can you imagine an organism that has a weak leg, a broken arm, a headache and terrible vision running a marathon for two hours? How about a twenty years . Well, the BSM has been running its race for twenty-three years and it could not survive with malfunctioning parts. Every member has a part whether it be the voice, the cell or the toe. Each is as important as the other, for without one, the organism would not be able to function to its fullest capability. Ask yourself "Which part am I" and "Am I fulfilling my duty?" If you are, then you are to be commended for your effort and highly saluted. If not, then realize that the other parts are working twice as hard

to make up for your inability to properly do the job. I encourage each person to actively do their part in the BSM; there are enough parts to go around to everyone.

For some reason it may seem that the BSM has not done a lot of things for the campus, but let's list them. We have the electing of a homecoming queen, increasing in amount of fundraising money, selling of BSM t-shirts, coordinating and sponsoring Ms. BSM pageant, submitting of budget, assisting in hosting Alvin Poussaint and Angela Davis, organizing a BSM block for Dream Girls and working with the different campus organizations. We also can not forget the subgroups, the BSM gospel Choir, Ebony Readers and the Opeyo Dancers who have all performed throughout the campus and university community.



The BSM has tried to lay a solid foundation for the next administration so that they will be able to take over their positions smoothly. Next year, I feel confident that the motivation and support for the organization will do nothing but increase and prosper. However, it cannot do that without **YOU!**

*Tonya Blanks is the present Black Student Movement President. She has been involved in the BSM since her freshman year and has been vice president of BSM for the past year and a half.*

