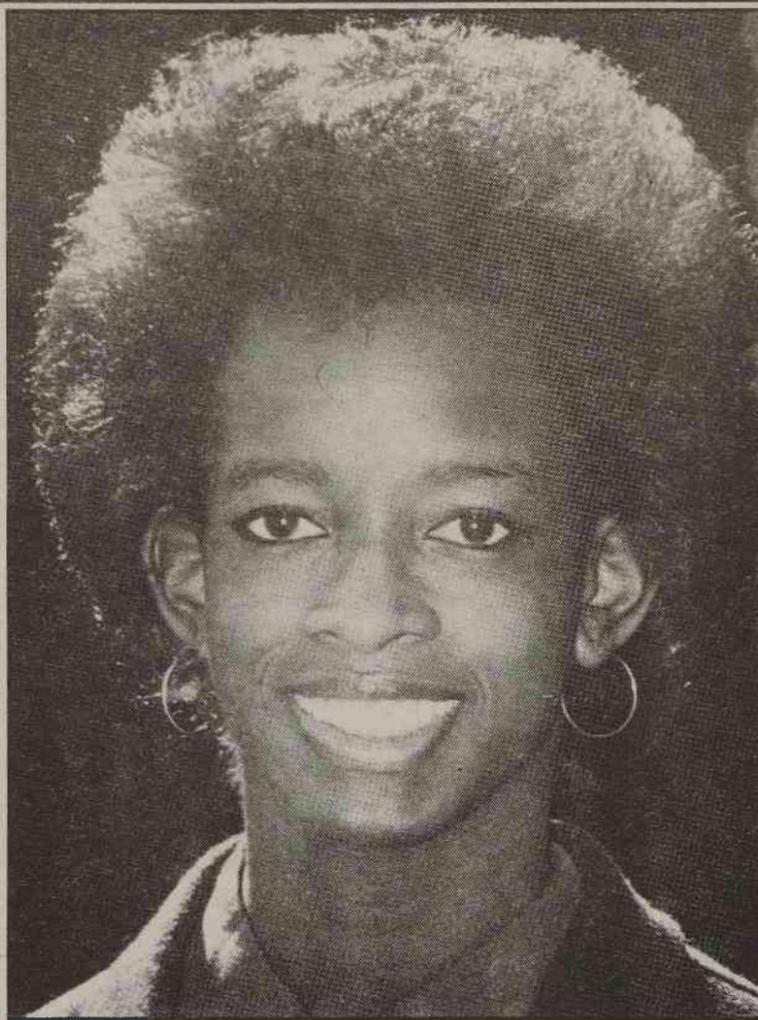


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VOTE!

his nation known. We must use our right proudly so that the efforts of those great men and women that paved our way will not be wasted. **WE MUST VOTE.** Register to vote, become a member of the BSM and get involved— make your voice known. Voting power is almighty power. I cannot stress enough the importance of all of the members of the BSM voting in the March 8th (for that matter, all of the members of the African-American race voting in general). You are not just voting for yourself, you are voting for your mother and father before you and all of their mothers and fathers before them— you are voting for those that never had the right or the chance. Remember them. Honor them. Use your power. **VOTE.**

Akinwale N'Gai Wright



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Hundreds of years ago, our ancestors were brought to these shores and began the struggle for racial equality. Racism, discrimination and ignorance still plague our nation and promote dissension. As students at UNC, we do not exist in a vacuum; we too, continue to struggle for racial equality. As our largest Black organization, the BSM should advance the struggle for racial equality on this campus. Improvements are necessary in three areas—educational, political and cultural. I believe development of all three levels are an essential part of a successful collegiate career.

The BSM should address retention by increasing awareness of the Office of Student Counseling and its services. Our ultimate goal should be the expansion of the office and the appropriately renaming it the Division of Minority Student Affairs. The BSM should continue and expand its current recruitment programs through the on-campus coordinator position. The BSM can also spearhead efforts to increase cultural diversity in the classroom. We should work towards the implementation of a program in which tenure is awarded based upon the instructor's ability to incorporate a pluralistic point of view. An instructor who ignores the contributions of other cultures is failing the students and should not be awarded a permanent position.

The BSM needs to take an active role in securing funds for our Black Cultural Center. Before we can guarantee a building, we must secure the funding. The BSM has the resources and the influence to assist in this effort. The BSM can pursue the acquisition of funds from the Black Alumni Association as well as other sources of private and public support. The BSM can also educate the campus community about why we need a center and how the BCC will fulfill that need. On a more internal level, the BSM needs to increase its own cultural programming. We should expand current events like Discovery and implement year-round programs and events that reflect the diversity and beauty of our culture.

While addressing educational and cultural needs is imperative, the BSM also needs to serve as a viable political force on this campus. Our educational and cultural aspirations must be secured by politically protecting our rights and privileges. Where would we be if the BSM had not protested the proposed restructuring of the OSC? The BSM must emerge as the greatest advocate of our African-American family. The BSM also needs to ensure that African-Americans are represented in various organizations. If we want to affect change we've got to become involved. This can be done by informing African-Americans about

campus organizations and the benefits of active participation. However, the BSM can set the example by increasing our interaction and involvement with other campus groups.

The BSM exists not to advance the personal goals of its leaders, but to uphold the desires of its constituents. The BSM must be an organization that is governed by the interests and concerns of African-American students. As president, I want to increase membership qualitatively as well as quantitatively. The BSM should not be an organization of surface members, but of active participants who affect change. I would like to restructure the central committee to place more power back into the hands of the general body, establish clear, attainable goals, and serve as the executor of your needs and interests. I have worked with the BSM for three years and I can bring my experience, demonstrated commitment and insight to the organization and to the presidential office. The BSM needs you; **you** make the BSM successful. Tomorrow, vote for me and take the first step towards a successful BSM.

Sabrina Evans is a junior Speech/ Communications major from Brooklyn, New York.