

## Seek Knowledge, Not Ignorance

I know that Doug and the rest of the editorial page crew at The Daily Tar Heel must love the BSM for generating at least one "Black people are whining letter" a day. If nothing else, they at least fill space, right? We are also glad that the BSM President, Sabrina Evans, has not dignified these letters with a response. However, due to the fact that we have little to talk about and find some of these articles slightly amusing, we decided to comment on a few of the letters.

First of all, what's with the "Black people are so oversensitive" kick? And why blame the DTH for giving African Americans "racist fervor." We will grant that reading "Silly child rips up black person poster" or some variation on this theme gets really old. However, there is enough racism, both blatant and subtle, directly confronting black students on this campus that we do not need to read the DTH to become upset. Besides, the idea that some students on campus have nothing better to do than deface publicity that promotes African-American speakers is sickening in and of itself.

In addition to being called oversensitive for being upset that our posters and other publicity are being defaced, black students have now been deemed silly for boycotting Rite Aid. Sure, Rite Aid has the right to put their products where they want. They can even tell people that the reason why they place black hair care products on the isle in front of the door and the cash register is because the people who buy these products pose a security threat. This is America. As Humpty says, "Do what you like." But don't expect African-Americans to support a store where we are considered security threats based on our color. We can understand that some white students do not know how it feels to be treated as such, but before you begin your desperate tirade in the DTH, why not stop and ask black students why they are boycotting. Or come to a BSM meeting and ask what's going on? Neither our meetings nor our membership is closed to nonblack students.

Maybe if students would attend BSM meetings they would understand that the BSM is not a group of students that ask for money and whine about racism. Actually, very little of our time is spent concerning ourselves with the racism that exists on this campus. Really, we'd much rather promote African-American culture and understanding, than concern ourselves with the negatives of campus life.

We at the Black Ink, and the BSM in general, really do try to understand why all students feel the way they do. We know it does very little good to argue back and forth, and realize that it is only ignorance that creates bitter bickering in the pages of the DTH. It would be so nice if every student who sat down to write a letter berating the BSM, would just take ten minutes and talk to someone and ask them why we do the things we do. And if you can't find anyone, you can always drop by Suite 108-D. —Erika F. Campbell and Akinwale N'Gai Wright

# Black Ink

*"The essence of freedom is understanding"*

*Editors-in-Chief*

Erika F. Campbell, Akinwale N'Gai Wright

*Assistant Editors:* Debbie Baker, James Benton

*Business Manager:* Andre Tippens

*Staff:* James Benton, Chris Brown, Corey Brown, Lem Butler, Teresa Jefferson, Tim Little, Roger Madison, Chandra McLean, Anthony Peay, Daniel Peddle, Myron B. Pitts, Tonika Tillman

*Calendar Coordinator:* Raquel Bushnell

*Contributors:* Miesha Alexander, Michael Caldwell, Amie Epps, Hardy Floyd, Stormie Forte, Vangie King, Christa Ray, Grant Vinik, Abbott Whitney, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority/Kappa Omicron chapter

# Inside Black Ink

Monday, February 25, 1991

----Cover Story----

BSM Elections 1991 are here again. This week Black Ink presents the platforms and pictures of the present candidates for BSM vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

--Black Student Movement Elections 1991..... Pages 6-7

----Current Events----

The Black Cultural Center (BCC) at UNC has contributed to setting the tone for the University to embrace diversity in campus culture and the curriculum. The BCC recognizes African-American culture as part of intellectual, artistic, and creative development.

--BCC Needed To Achieve Cultural Democracy..... Page 3

----Forum----

Democracy is breaking out all over and the Republic of South Africa is no exception.

--On The Current Situation In South Africa..... Page 4

----Reflections----

Over the years, hundreds of artists have emerged who carry on the tradition of gospel music. On Saturday, February 9, 1991, the gospel world mourned the death of the Rev. James Cleveland.

--My Soul Is Rested..... Page 5

----People, Arts and Entertainment----

--Who's The Top Among Female Vocalists

--Point After Touchdown..... Pages 8-9

----Commentary----

Discover your strengths and use them to combat the attitudes that may have negative effects upon your life ahead.

--Combatting Subtle Racism.....Page 10

----Endsights----

--Having Black History Month All Year

--A Tribute To Little Known African-Americans..... Page 11

About the Cover

## BSM Elections 1991

*Black Ink*, founded in 1969, is the weekly newspaper of the Black Student Movement at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is published Mondays during the academic year and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, religion, race, ethnic origin or handicap. All manuscripts, letters, photos, illustrations and other materials submitted are welcome and must be signed. The *Black Ink* office is located in Suite 108-D of the Student Union. Mailing address, CB# 5210 Student Union, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Phone, 933-4336. One year subscription in U.S. and possessions \$20.00. Single copy, \$1.00 (Make checks payable to *Black Ink*). Any announcement or advertisement to be printed must be submitted the Wednesday before any publication date. *Black Ink* is published completely by university students on the SCAPEGOAT desktop publishing system and printed by Village Printing Company.