

Student Chair: Confusion Clouds Bicentennial Funding

Moran supports a Black Cultural Center but not a free-standing one

The University recently announced that \$500,000 would be allocated by the Bicentennial Committee toward the renovation of an existing facility for the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center. People seeking a free-standing BCC were dissatisfied with the decision. Some blamed the administration for the stagnation on the issue of funding a free-standing facility. Others blamed those involved with the Bicentennial. On-Campus Editor Lee Richardson, interviewed the Chairman of the Student Bicentennial Committee, Kevin Moran, to inquire about his post and his opinion about a free-standing BCC.

BLACK INK: What is your job, and what does it entail?

MORAN: Officially speaking, I am the Chairman of the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee, and, along with the other members of the committee, I serve as the "official" link between the Bicentennial Observance office, the administrative office that coordinates the Bicentennial programming, and the student body. Besides reporting to Steve Tepper, the associate general secretary for the Bicentennial, I also report to the Union Board of Directors because of its own involvement with student events programming. My responsibilities also include my sitting as a non-voting member on the Bicentennial Policy Committee, the committee that makes all final decisions concerning Bicentennial events and policies...and on a number of other Bicentennial related committees to represent the voice of the student body.

Simply put, however, I am here to help students become involved in the Bicentennial. Most of the time, this means that I work with student organizations and University departments that are immediately concerned with student activities to help them find ways in which they can participate in Bicentennial events. So far, most of this work has involved brainstorming. I'll get together with representatives of various groups and work with them to develop concepts for projects that they might like to sponsor during

the Bicentennial. After a concept has been developed, I help them propose the project to the Bicentennial Policy Committee, and if the proposal is passed, to find

year, when Rashmi Airan had my position, the committee began contacting students to invite them to work with us. Student organizations, for example, were

MORAN: The answer is yes and no. The Bicentennial Observance office has set aside a certain amount of money to be used to help fund student programs. Although the

involved. Obviously with a limited amount of money we can't do everything, but we haven't had to say "no" yet; although, sometimes we have to work with groups to make their proposals for funding a bit more realistic. My most important goal concerning the funds is that they are used in the most efficient manner possible. The committee tries as hard as possible to see that the money helps as many people as possible. While the committee and the Bicentennial Observance office will try to make the funds go as far as possible, it is important to realize that the sooner student groups submit their proposals the less they have to fear that the money might run out.

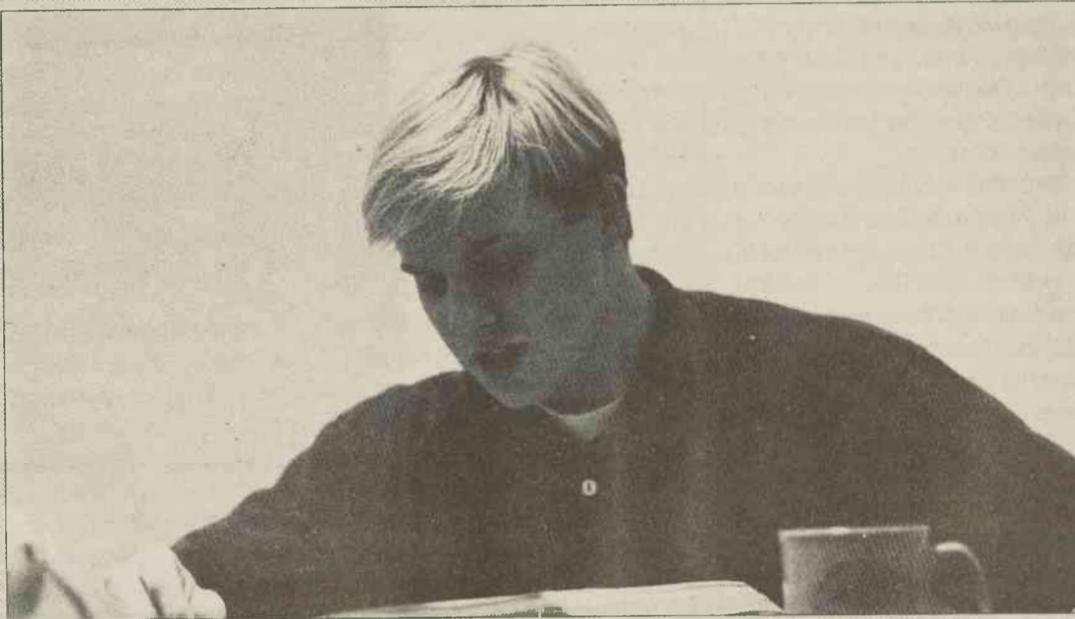
INK: Have you considered assisting the BCC with your funds?

MORAN: This is a very important question. The Student Bicentennial Planning Committee has absolutely no connections to the Bicentennial Campaign, the campaign that is raising money for projects such as an enhanced BCC. Besides which, the funds available to our committee aren't nearly enough to be put towards such a project even if we were involved in this area of the Bicentennial.

Apparently there has been a lot of confusion concerning this issue recently and I believe that this has caused some people to become wrongly disgruntled with our committee and the Bicentennial in general. I feel bad about this. I joined the Bicentennial because it appeared to be the perfect way to help the school. Not only was I excited about this type of work, but it also seemed to me that the Bicentennial was one of those few things that everyone can take part in and enjoy...one of those few things that doesn't raise some political question or cause some problem.

In terms of the BCC, people should know that the Bicentennial Campaign, as part of its goal, is trying to raise a half million dollars for new (and) expanded BCC facilities and programming. Whether or not this will be put towards a free-standing BCC is something that I don't know. I do hope, however, that people

See BCC, Page 11



Myron Pitts/Black Ink

Moran says people often confuse his committee with the Bicentennial Campaign

resources for its competition.

The final important element of my job, is that I act as a type of information service. The Bicentennial is so big, and entails so much, that it's hard for many people to grasp what is actually happening. Right now it is important for me to get out the word that the Bicentennial is occurring. You'd be amazed at how many students don't even know that the Bicentennial is taking place during the 1993-94 school year and that there are a lot of ways in which students can be involved.

INK: Exactly how do students and organizations have an impact on the Bicentennial? How do they get involved?

MORAN: Ahh. This is exactly the type of information that I am trying to spread. Students need to realize that they can have as big an impact on the Bicentennial as they want. Obviously, my committee wants all the student involvement that it can get. The student organizations and the committee just need to get in touch with each other. Starting last

invited by letter to propose ideas for projects that they would like to sponsor during the Bicentennial. This year, I have made an effort to contact personally as many organizations as possible. To some extent, these efforts have been successful. Right now, for example, I am working with the BSM, the Campus-Y, the Association of International Students, and the IM-Rec Department, to name a few groups, to develop project proposals. And, at the last policy committee meeting a proposal co-sponsored by student government, the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee and the Office of Leadership Development, for a significant leadership conference was passed. While these are successes for my committee, I have to realize that there are still over a hundred recognized student organizations that aren't yet involved. We've got our work cut out for us.

INK: Does the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee have any money to work with? And if so, how much?

committee itself does not have the money, it plays a very important role in deciding how the money is allocated. It is hard to put an exact number on how much money is available to students. I would say we have roughly between \$25,000 and \$50,000. One has to remember that the numbers are deceptive. The Bicentennial Observance office and the student committee are both strongly committed to helping students participate in the Bicentennial. Many times, we are able to find resources for student projects that are not purely monetary in nature. So, in the end students will be getting a great deal more help than just the dollar amount.

INK: Do you have any specific priorities for where the money is going? Do you have any one group you want to target?

MORAN: No, not at all. The Student Bicentennial Planning Committee is present to help all students. There are no special interests