



Cover Story

For 25 years, the BSM has played an intricate role in the lives of students, faculty and staff at the University. As the student-led organization moves into its 26th year, former presidents say it must not forget its beginnings.

Time for BCC Debate to End

You knew it seemed a little too good to be true — a free-standing Black Cultural Center, that is.

Here I was, little Ms. naive (well, maybe not quite), thinking that once the Board of Trustees voted for a free-standing BCC, the toughest fight would be over.

But now, thanks to former BOT member John Pope who placed an ad in the Chapel Hill Herald News opposing a BCC, and to the person who wasted their money on those airplanes during the Homecoming game, the fight for a free-standing Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center seems far from over. Students now have to engage themselves in a war against propaganda and ignorance.

But that's all right, because Black students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill know what they want and why they want it.

As for the opponents of a free-standing BCC, it's time for some new arguments. For three years, advocates of a center have heard everything from a BCC would be separatist and racist to, it shouldn't be built on public land or with public funds (the latest scenario). Well, I'm tired of these same old trite argument. Aren't you? In case BCC opponents haven't realized it yet, their arguments don't wash.

First of all, Black students and BCC supporters alike are not asking for a BCC. The last time I checked, we had one. If memory serves me correctly, the sign hanging on the glass-enclosed former snack bar in the Student Union does read, "Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center Office."

Secondly, the racist and separatist argument is weak. Things are what you make them. If whites or any opponent of a BCC stay out of the center because of thier feelings on the matter, and decline to attend programs or take a class in the facility, then of course it will be separatist. But just remember it is you, not blacks, who is making the facility separatist and it is you, not Blacks, who is practicing racism.

Third, all I have to ask is, don't Blacks pay taxes, too?

For too long Blacks have only been taught the basics. There is more to the Black experience in America than slavery, the underground railroad, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. While it's great and necessary to know about these things and people, it is also necessary for Blacks to learn about the other "greats" who often go unmentioned or unnoticed because teachers are either too lazy or don't care enough to seek out the information.

A free-standing Black Cultural Center here at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will not create some great revolutionary movement or solve society's woes. But, it will be a step in the right direction, especially for a University that was built by Black folks.

Furthermore, if the fight, and the fight alone, for such a center brought together groups who may not have otherwise worked together (you know who you are) then imagine what the center itself would do?

So to the John Popes of the world who have nothing else better to do than lobby against a free-standing Black Cultural Center and the rest of you far-right liberals who want everything to be rosy and peachy, I advise you to find yourselves a new argument. Because if I didn't know any better I would say that it was change, and the eradication of racial and ethnic ignorance, that you were scared of, rather than the promotion of racism and separatism. And guess what? I don't know any better. Peace!

Inside Black Ink Monday, November 1, 1993

Black Women United
makes its return to
campus after a two year
absence

Hardy takes the crown
making her the fifth black
queen in a row

**For those
who doubt**
"where the Ink
at?"

**Brown Skin
Philanthropist**
gives back to the
community

**Development
office**
makes plans for
BCC fund raising

South Africa
project aims to
educate

No she didn't
oh yes Tonya
Crew did!

**Freshmen
Beware:**
Columnist Jarvis
Harris is here

Handguns
are killing us
softly or are
they?

**Letters to the
Editor**

Sports
Columnist Corey
Brown talks
about the NFL

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For the Record
looks at the latest from
Tony Toni Tone, KRS-
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