

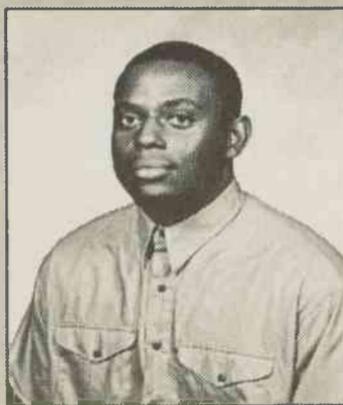
## Dear Readers,

For those of you whom I have not had the opportunity to welcome back let me now say welcome. As promised, *The Black Ink* is back under the leadership of Beth Glenn and the talented staff she has put together. I'd like to encourage you to continue to read the Ink because it will be a great way to stay aware of issues concerning black students and it will contain information regarding BSM programming, so that you'll always know what we're doing on campus.

I'd like to take this opportunity to talk a little bit about my visions for the BSM this year. As I've said many times before, we have a lot of work ahead of us. I view my main goal as putting together the internal components of the BSM. Over the years the quality of our programming and the amount of programming we have offered has diminished. This year I want to have more activities for all students to enjoy and I'm open to any suggestions you might have. Lastly, as a black student body our voice on campus has become weaker and weaker. I want to change that this year. If there is ever an occasion where you think minority representation is needed and our voice hasn't been heard, let us know so that we can respond.

We can never go forward however, without your support so I'd like to encourage you to take an active role in the BSM by becoming a member and attending programs. We'll do our best to make them to your liking and if they are not, let me know so we can make them better. Our office is in Suite A of the Carolina Union on the second floor. You can call us at 962-5658, so leave us a message and let us know what's up. Peace.

*Ladell Robbins*



## Editor's Note:

Welcome to the Black Ink. Many said it couldn't be done, but with some blood and sweat from you and my phat staff, I want to provide you with an informative, entertaining, thought-provoking publication at least every month.

Our mission is to put Blackness into words and pictures. That means we want to provide a voice that describes, analyzes, criticizes and highlights the experiences of being Black at UNC, in America and the in the world. We welcome all voices that seek to meet that goal and we'll strive to have what Dr. Cornel West called a "self-critical courageous stance," meaning we'll look at our community and its place in the larger society without rose-colored glasses. Will we call people out? Yes. Will we give people props? Yes. Will we raise question Yes. Will we tell you what we think about issues? Yes. Will we provide objective reporting? Definitely. Will we call you to action. Of course. We plan to be a community-building paper.

Let me say again how central you, The Reader, are to the Ink's success. It's my hope that the Ink can be a spot where the Black community talks to each other, just written down. The more people we actively involve, the more we can make this truly a community newspaper. You can always e-mail me at tglenn. You can call all the editors, (we're in the directory) or stop them on the yard to tell them what you want to see in our paper, and it's never too late to write for us. I hope the Ink can have a wide range of people to call on for help in all its phases of production. I hope it'll get you thinking, then talking, then acting.

*Beth Glenn*



## Keeping Score

**Holly Stepp**  
*Ink News Editor*

Although national standardized test scores for minorities lag behind the national average, UNC's minority students' scores continue to surpass the national average, according to University officials.

"Our students are usually well above the national average, and our minority students are no exception," said Tony Strickland, associate director of UNC Office of Admissions.

According to University admissions records, the Scholastic Achievement Test average score for this year's entering freshmen was about 1140. Minority freshmen scores are about 100 points lower, with most minority students scoring a little above 1000, Strickland said.

Recently released data from the American College Testing program and the Educational Testing Service, which administers the SAT and American College Test (ACT), shows increases in

scores for minorities as a whole with some individual ethnic groups showing increases in certain sections but an overall lower score of about 100 to 150 points for minorities.

Nationally, Native American students' scores have increased in the verbal section of both tests and African American students scores have increased in both the math and verbal sections of the SAT and ACT.

The national average on the SAT is 910. North Carolina average score is 865.

Strickland said standard-

ized test scores are only a small portion the criteria the University uses in determining whether a student will perform well at UNC.

"We look at scores, of course, but we also look at high school records in determining a student's ability to succeed at the University," he said.

Strickland also said that the graduation rates of the University also reflect the overall quality of all UNC students.

Traditionally lower scores for minorities have prompted some educators to say there is a racial bias in

the college admissions test. But officials at the testing services say the difference in scores comes in preparation for the tests and other factors in society.

An ACT spokesman said the questions must meet a certain criteria before being used in the test, and racial bias is among the things looked for in the questions.

A recent UNC study conducted by the UNC School of Education has suggested that academic grouping also hampers learning opportunities for minority students. ■

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