



To whom it may concern: Get back to Black

The *Daily Tar Heel's* countless attacks against the Black leaders on this campus deserve a response from the editorial board of the **Black Ink**. As the official voice of the Black Student Movement, the **Black Ink** is dedicated to "Uhuru Ni Upinduzi," which means freedom through revolution. We intend to bring that "revolution" to the media and we are tired of the *DTH* and other publications profiting from the manipulation of our people.

BSM President Tamara Bailey said it best; "The student body can recognize the biased, sensational and slanted articles that typically involve African-American students on this campus." It seems as though every one recognizes the attacks on the leadership of Student Body President Reyna Walters and BSM President Tamara Bailey. That is everyone except the *Daily Tar Heel's* token black leaders.

During the course of the semester, Black football players pictures (even those no longer enrolled in this university) ran on the front page of the *DTH* in correlation with an unrelated incident. Every time any Black football player is accused of a crime, does the *DTH* plan to re-run pictures of every Black football player ever accused of assault? We are aware that several football players were found guilty of a serious crime, but that has nothing to do with every Black face on the field. Next time cut the subliminal messages and print, "All Black men are violent."

We realize the practice of tarnishing Black leadership and students is not a new concept of the *Daily Tar Heel* staff members. In 1969, the **Black Ink** began joyfully expressing the deepest sentiments of Black students on this campus. Where is the *Daily Tar Heel* during positive events such as the Black Student Movement Coronation Ball or the Black Alumni Reunion? The thought of scandal draws *DTH* reports, like blood draws vultures.

The truth is, if there is no scandal the *DTH* will create one. Four subgroups of the Black Student Movement had their funds temporarily suspended for simple treasury violations, but *DTH* reporters attempted to obtain the information before subgroup leaders. The executive board of the BSM decided that some subgroup leaders were not meeting standards established by the Office of BSM Treasurer. In order for a subgroups funds to remain active; they had to have a perfect attendance of treasury meetings, financial reports and one on one meeting with BSM treasurer Brian Elliot.

The *DTH* editorial published on October 22 seemed to

express concern on behalf of the **Black Ink**. The editorial read, "The subgroups of the BSM, such as its Gospel Choir, and the publication of the **Black Ink** are often very active. By freezing their funds without even an iota of an explanation, BSM's circle of elites is doing fellow members a disservice." But the only disservice in this situation came from misquoted statements and harassing phone calls from *DTH* reporters. The executive board and members of the Black Student Movement were willing to comment on the suspension of funds until the first article ran on October 19 saying, "BSM Freezes Own Funds During Group Turmoil."

Leaders of the BSM feared being misquoted and misrepresented after the October 19th headline stressing turmoil. Since there was no turmoil, BSM members vowed to remain silent until all could be notified of the details through an official press release sent on October 19. Why did the *DTH* editorial, (written by the *DTH* editorial board) fail to mention the BSM's press release on October 19? Now countless students submit letters to the editor criticizing Tamara's words; "It's none of your business." Those words were directed to the *DTH* reporters who continue to mislead its readers. Why should BSM officials give more details to reporters before meeting with individual subgroup leaders?

The BSM provided the public with accurate information that was never mentioned in the *DTH*. Anyone concerned with the issue should have attended the open Black Student Movement meeting held on Wednesday, October 21. BSM executives answered questions and provided students with more details.

Despite an effort to tarnish the Black Student Movement's positive image on this campus, the *Daily Tar Heel* must realize that the Black Student Movement will remain an active force on this campus. The war waged on Black leaders will not disguise the true power Black students and our movements have on this campus. The revolution starts here!

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