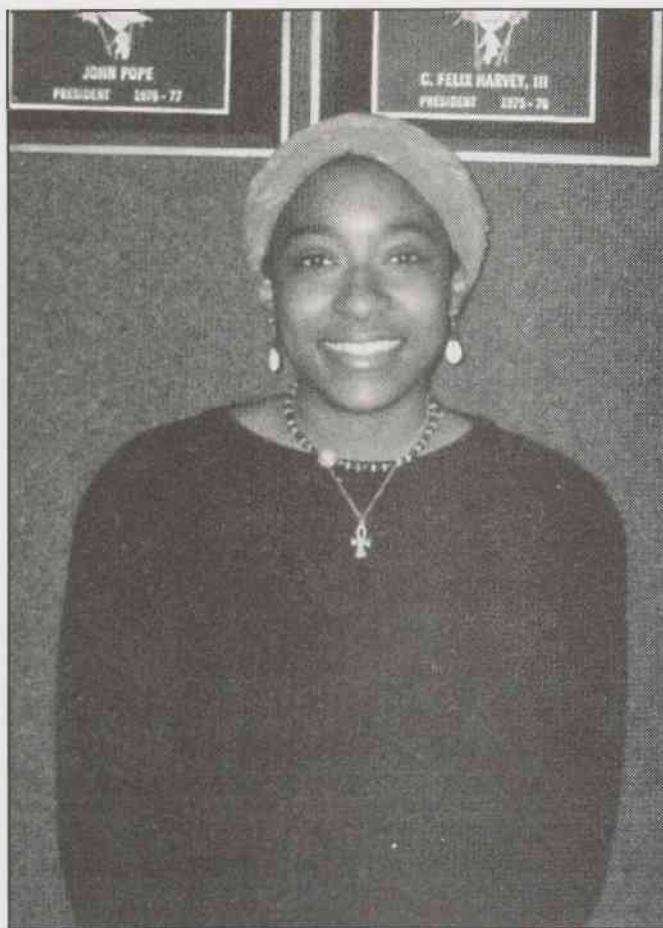

From The Editors

This year, when it came time to return to school, I was less than excited. Over the summer, I became reacquainted with my home in Greensboro. How good it felt to sleep in my own bed, lay on my own couch and eat real, home-cooked food! So when the first letter with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill logo appearing on the left-hand corner of the envelope arrived in my mailbox, reality hit hard. Moving back into my dorm room was a trial, and seeing my parents leave the Hinton James parking lot was the verdict. I was sentenced to another year of college.

All right, that may have sounded a bit depressing, but it gets better. Once my parents were gone, there was nothing to do but to face the fact that it was time. Time to begin my sophomore year, time to fight the lines at Student Stores, time to figure out how to put the sheets on my new loft and yes, it was time to decorate. I quickly hit the poster sales, spent all of my money on Target's "cool stuff" and filled my room with pictures of family and friends to keep me company. After I completed my decorating, I soon began to feel more relaxed, more comfortable,

and more prepared to take on whatever the year had in store for me.

I gave you this little glimpse into my life to make a point. Really. Once I created an environment that was reflective of me, I



Courtney McSwain
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was at peace. Perhaps this is because I come from a long line of creators. As slaves, my ancestors created a venue to praise the Lord, even in the midst of oppression. As free women, my ancestors created club movements to uplift the

black community. As aspiring intellectuals, my ancestors created Historically Black Colleges and Universities because whites refused to acknowledge the intellect within the black mind. Here at UNC-CH, my ancestors have created a movement to increase black presence, provide for the expression of black culture and to recognize black achievement.

Now as we approach the new millennium, it's our time to create. We must create a state of peace in a world filled with frustration. We must create a state of activism in a world filled with injustice. This year at the **Black Ink**, it is our mission to play an important role in these creations. We have dedicated this publication as a forum for your information and expression of opinions on pressing issues facing the black community. In creating a space for this publication on our campus, we have created a space for you.

Welcome.

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