

WHERE IS THE BSM HEADED IN 2000?

INSPIRING AND MOTIVATING GOALS OF UNC-CH'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL MINORITY ORGANIZATION

By Janelle Royal

What does the first academic year of the new millennium hold for the Black Student Movement? According to BSM President, Tyra Moore, there is reason for excitement. Moore says the BSM will have a new focus — to reach the “average black student” on campus. BSM will implement plans to identify and combat apathy and lack of student involvement in the organization. Moore wants to create a more inclusive organization by further developing three key aspects: leadership, scholarship and activism.

Moore believes that nurturing these characteristics in individual students will empower the BSM while cultivating leaders for other significant campus positions. “I really want the BSM to be a catalyst for minority leadership,” said Moore.

As the largest minority organization on UNC-CH's campus, the BSM's 2000-01 agenda is full. Above all, the BSM faces the challenge of preparing its members for the upcoming presidential election. The organization is holding daily drives that will continue the last day of registration for Orange County. They plan to complete their registration drive with a “dorm storm,” where members will visit dorm rooms to register voters. Throughout the election season, the BSM will hold forums to inform the campus of each candidate's platform. The BSM is primarily concerned with educating its members and inspiring political activism. Moore said, “Our goal is not to get people to vote one way or another but to get people to vote.”

In addition to the goals and new political responsibilities of this year, the BSM has formed a significant new alliance on campus. Cross First, the identifying name of campus and com-

munity members who live and promote Christian principles, are major participants in the new efforts of the BSM. The organization will also maintain their alliance with the Progressive Student Coalition, a partnership that was established last year.

The current academic year is expected not only to be a year of innovation, but one of transformation as well for the BSM. All 16 committees and 5 sub-groups will continue to fundraise. However, in past years, the BSM has

taken an active role in funds acquisition for a freestanding Black Cultural Center. In 1999-2000 the final donations were made to begin construction of the Sonya Hanes Stone Black Cultural Center. This will allow the BSM to concentrate on other fundraising efforts.

The BSM Off-Campus Committee is also changing, Committee chair, Malika Graham-Bailey has redirected the focus of this committee to

volunteer service and outreach. Big Buddy and Youth United are two programs introduced this year by Graham-Bailey. These service programs aim to give BSM members the opportunity to aid local communities.

A new year promises new focus and new challenges for the Black Student Movement. When asked what she thought would be most memorable about the BSM this year, Tyra Moore said, “...it won't be any particular goal that I've set forth.” Although they have planned to face new challenges and meet new goals, it appears that the greatest victories lie hidden, ahead.

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