

the BSM is devoted to something larger."

The BSM also made its presence felt during Homecoming last semester, when the organization criticized the CAA for eliminating Cherie Smith, the BSM-sponsored candidate for Home-

Calvin and Hobbes

HELP HELP.' MY HEAD SOMEHOW GOT TWISTED COMPLETELY AROUND! I'M FACING BACKWARD!



LOOK! I CAN READ

THE TAG ON MY SHIRT!

I CAN SEE DOWN

coming queen, during the initial selection process.

The Black Ink responded to the CAA's decision by running an editorial questioning why Smith had been eliminated. Smith told The Daily Tar Heel that the CAA didn't feel that her work

OH, WAIT, THERE'S MY

BELLY BUTTON, I MUST

JUST HAVE MY SHIRT ON

BACKWARD

minority activities was as important as the activities of other candidates.

"The campus does not want another black Homecoming queen," she said at the time. The Homecoming queens in 1989 and 1990 were black and spon-

Smith was reinstated, along with one other woman who had been eliminated,

and went on to win the contest. Doll said a misunderstanding about Smith's extracurricular activities had been the reason for her original removal from the competition.

"It's probably better to talk about this in terms of the CAA and a sponsor, not the BSM. People make the mistake because the BSM was involved - they weren't involved because she was black, they were involved because they were her sponsor.'

But Chuck Stone, professor of journalism, said race couldn't be separated from the rest of the issue. "That's still race, in the sense that

they're her sponsor," said Stone, who worked with civil rights leaders Martin Luther King and Malcolm X during the 1960s and spent 19 years at The Philadelphia Daily News. "You can't ignore the racial factor. You can't dismiss it.' Stone questioned whether the BSM would have become involved if the minority candidate had been of a different ethnic group - Japanese, for instance.

be some misconception on both parts." charged any person or campus organization with racism publicly this year. say that word, to me, you should be able to back it up," he said.

"If the BSM ever did come out and know all the facts would believe it and wouldn't participate in Homecoming."

August, said he had had the opportunity to witness two successes by the BSM; since he has been here: the naming of, the BCC and the election of the Homecoming queen. However, demands for an endowed chair named for Sonja Stone, and an African-American department have not been met, Stone said.

"They had three demands (of University administrators), and they got one," he said. "So far they've been 33 percent effective, not 100 percent. Sp you can quantify their political power.

Nevertheless, Fuse-Hall said the BSM played an important role on campus by raising certain issues that otherwise would not be addressed.

"They fulfill a necessary role," Fuse-Hall said. "Some of the issues they bring to the fore would never be ad-

I'VE GOT MY

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as BSM on-campus coordinator for all

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sored by the BSM.

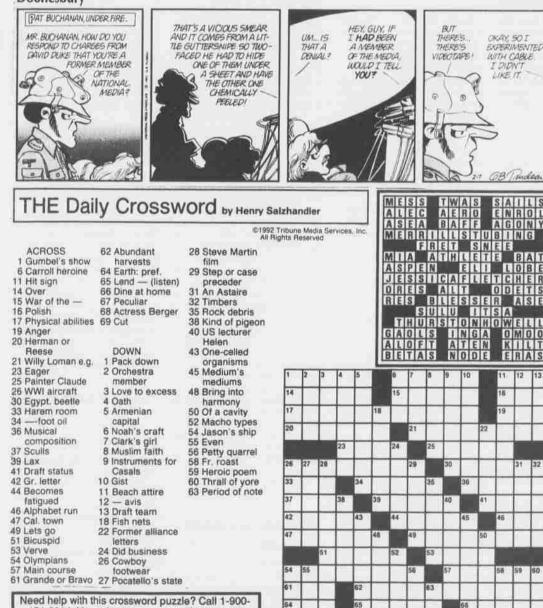
"It was not a racial issue," he said.

Epps stressed that the BSM had not "It is a powerful word, and when you

Doll said that campus organizations were concerned about being viewed as racist but that the charge could backfire. call CAA racist --- which the Black Ink did, as far as they could without actually saying it - it would be like the boy who cried wolf," he said. "At no point was I concerned about being called a racist, except that some people who didn't

Pitts said he wouldn't rule out racism

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"If it had nothing to do with race, other groups would have gotten involved," he said.

Rosalind Fuse-Hall, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said race generally could not be separated from the issues the BSM addressed. What varies in each instance is the level at which race is an issue, she said.

"I think what we need to investigate is why someone or some group is viewed as racist, what actions have been interpreted as racist, and do something to resolve the problem," Fuse-Hall said. "If someone uses that term, then maybe we need to investigate why. There may

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in the initial decision to cut Smith.

"I won't rule for it, I won't rule against it," he said. "History, I think, would support the argument that it was racist, but I can't say.

The BSM's influence, however, extends beyond student politics. The group spearheaded a movement to name the Black Cultural Center after Professor Sonja Stone after her death in August.

BSM members also organized a boycott of the Franklin Street Rite Aid store last year because of the store's placement of black hair-care products in a separate section. The manager reportedly told a white student the products had been placed at the front of the store

Stone said the organization's influence on campus does have limits.

dressed. Do you think white students are concerned about where they live on campus? It takes a group like the BSM to raise the issues

Heyd said: "I think they're necessary because they in large part make the University face up to the fact that it's not serving all students. And they do that at expense to themselves."

Epps said: "I have a conviction when believe the Black Student Movement is right, is just, in what we're fighting for. And I'm going to speak to the very end until my voice is heard. When we take on an issue, we believe it is just.

