

## LETTERS

## White student comments on Black Ink

Dear Editor:

No more need to resist. I know I had earned my Sealy Posturepedic Experience for Friday night, and nobody was going to draw me back from dream time. Coming out of the Union, I saw some thoughtless Black person had left many copies of *Black Ink*. I said to my White self, "White person, you know you will give up an hour of sleep just to read the BSM magazine, do yourself a favor and leave it right where it is; you wouldn't stay awake for the *Tar Heel*, would you?"

My self makes me smile sometimes.

Yes, we did read *Black Ink* at the expense of Friday night Z-time. No, I wouldn't do it for the *Tar Heel*.

I wouldn't be doing myself a favor if I read the *Tar Heel* at midnight, but *Black Ink* is a different story.

By printing *Black Ink*, the BSM does everybody a favor. It is to the advantage of every person on this campus, including White people, that unique Black expression is promoted in every way possible. The same is true for Black expression that is true for everything else at UNC (and in life): that we are cheating ourselves and everyone else if we look away, preferring to see more familiar objects.

Given that we make the effort, UNC students and the communities we influence will come away with thinking and learning skills and a desire to seek new perspectives that will help us move more gracefully. An appreciation

of history and the present experience of other rational minds will cut down on wasted motion in whatever work we do after graduation.

We all recognize as a primary human weakness the habit of seeing only what we want to see, but hopefully while we are at the University people will call to our attention things we need but might otherwise find it easier to look away from. A little extra effort today, stuck in the right places, will be an investment in the true path of least resistance for years to come.

Unfortunately, most White people (and a frightening number of Blacks as well) do not perceive the path of least resistance to lie with an open-eyes, open-hands perspective on minority races and cultures. That would take terrific energy and a gut-wrenching change of heart since the majority perspective "works" (note the "golden rule, 'He who has the gold, makes the rules' ") and it seems unnecessary to make an extra effort to capture an understanding of where minorities are coming from.

Someone whose name I forgot said that Whites regard Black lives as a "shadow play through which (Whites) can move at will." People of the majority are unwilling or unable to penetrate the energy barrier to see Black expression as a teacher of experience worthy of their attention and admiration.

That energy barrier hangs shackles on every body of Black expression. BSM gets clobbered by fund freezes and fights for space in

Upendo lounge. Why aren't Ebony Readers, Opeyo Dancers, BSM Gospel Choir sent on tour by the University? Why is there no exchange of professors with the Black universities in the UNC system? And don't expect to see any clear Black expression in the *Tar Heel* (that's just for news, you know)! I wouldn't attribute the official inaction, the sins of omission, to hostility so much as to lack of virility.

Many people are fearful today (students fearful for their futures and staff fearful for their jobs), thus they prefer to surround themselves with marshmallows and seek out a proven, easy track. Unfortunately, that means the only people willing or able to promote aggressive, effective minority expression are the minorities themselves.

It's unlikely many Whites will seek out the pages of *Black Ink* to find Black expression, but I'm glad it's there, making me lose sleep and giving me a look at something I need to see. Yes, even White people need to follow the path of least resistance. Doing anything else

would break those everlasting, exalted laws of physics learned by all pre-med and pre-dental students.

But it shames and saddens me so many of my fellow Whites (and Blacks as well) refuse to appreciate or appropriate the experience of Black Americans.

Under greatest opposition Blacks have managed to feed their children, mind their affairs, and still find resources to sling blood for every inch of ground they gain in this society. Anybody can learn from people like that; any rational person would do himself a favor by going out of his way to apprehend some of that experience and master some of those skills.

Keep up the good work of projects like *Black Ink*. I hope those who produce these things will remain patient and leave that back door open so some of my fellow White people can stick their head in and look around, and perhaps come away with a gift from some of you.

Steve Aceto

Continued on Page 12

## BCF members enjoy annual retreat

Teresa Williams  
Staff Writer

Camping outdoors. Exciting games of football, softball, and volleyball. Delicious food. Swimming. Praising the Lord.

During the weekend of April 22-23, members of the Black Christian Fellowship (BCF) enjoyed these activities and many more. The retreat was open not only to the members of the BCF, but to their guests, Christian as well as non-Christian.

Stan Reid, a BCF member, feels that the primary purpose of

the retreat was for "praising the Lord, singing, sharing, and uplifting His name." He added, "I went expecting a blessing, and I received it."

Many of those who attended regarded the weekend as an opportunity to get to know other Christians and as a time to be together other than on Sunday. To some, it was a time to find solitude and self-satisfaction which can't always be found on campus.

The retreat, say participants, dispelled one major misconception that non-Christians have about Christians. It proved that Christians can and do have fun, they noted.

## Johnson sets example

During the past four years at Carolina there have been certain names and faces that have continually grown to a popular status. Among this list of names is one person who has gained popularity not only within the Black community, but within the white community as well. This person is none other than outgoing *Black Ink* Editor, Allen Johnson.

Mr. Johnson has been an ideal example for the community to follow. He has shown us all that talk doesn't always have to be cheap. Mr. Johnson not only gives ideas and suggestions for innovative expansions, but he does all he possibly can to see that the approved suggestions are carried out. Through the publication of *Black Ink*, we can see that Allen is not a person of mere words, but a man who makes some of his "wildest dreams" come true for the benefit of his peers and the community.

Nevertheless, he places emphasis on the fact that none of the changes and improvements that came about could have been possible without the cooperation and dedication of a hard working staff.

Allen feels that staff members were the key element in the production of the improved publication.

Under the leadership of Mr. Johnson, the staff was able to publish thirteen issues of *Black Ink* during the past year, the greatest number of issues in the entire history of *Black Ink*.

Also, from Mr. Johnson originated the idea of selling ads, selling subscriptions and having fundraising projects to increase our budget for the year. All three ideas turned out to be highly successful and will be continued during the following year.

The *Black Ink* staff is grateful for the example that Mr. Johnson has shown us. He has laid a foundation that we know we can continue to build on.

Fortunately enough for us, Mr. Johnson will be returning next year for graduate school.

He will serve on the staff as associate editor during this time. Now the staff would like to say, "thank you Allen and good luck with graduate school."



Staff photo by Wekesa Madzimoyo

*Black Ink* staff pays tribute to outgoing Editor Allen Johnson whose dedication and determination changed mere words into reality for *Black Ink*.