

*An Alternative*

# BISA Enters Its Second Year



Wende Watson, a co-founder of BISA, says she expects student participation in BISA to grow.

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Staff Reporter

Campus life at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill can be best described as a community within itself. One of the main priorities of campus life is the assurance that the various individual needs of every student be met.

Those needs, whether they be physical, mental, social or most importantly spiritual are met by the organizations and affiliations that exist on this campus — the Baptist Student Union, Campus Y and the Black Interdenominational Student Association.

In previous years the black students at Carolina have turned to the United Christian Fellowship to meet their religious needs but as of the spring semester of 1982, BISA, a new religious organization was established. The Black Interdenominational Student Association, as noted, is a relatively young organization but, as James Exum and Wendy Watson, two students heavily involved in the running of BISA said, BISA is a student organization whose main objective is to encourage student involvement and participation. BISA was designed as an alternative to the religious organizations that already exist at Carolina. Exum points out that a major goal of BISA is "to provide a Christian service that would exist without any denominational restrictions."

"BISA is a student organization which opens its doors to any student who cares enough to get involved and participate," Exum said.

For a young organization BISA was very well-established within the first few months of operation. Its growth may be best described as extraordinary with as many as 100 to 150 people attending each worship service, Exum said. Worship services are structured on a bi-monthly basis which allows BISA the opportunity to provide transportation to local and community church services on the third and first Sundays.

Positive growth for BISA is highly expected as more students become aware of the organization's existence according to Watson, a co-founder. To increase student participation, BISA will provide a concert by the choir, Magic, in its first program of the year. The

organization hopes to be very diverse by encouraging such subculture groups of the Black Student Movement as the choir, Opeyo Dancers, and Ebony Readers Watson said.

"BISA welcomes the black fraternities and sororities who have helped in the past in such areas as ushering and providing music — both instrumental and vocal."

Not only those organizations that were noted but any student organization that would like to help in any form or fashion to give praises to God may take part in BISA.

Exum said, "BISA is designed so that any individual should feel free to respond to the service and feel free to express himself in the manner he feels fit."

Watson added, "The various subculture groups help to reveal the fact that there are other forms of praise to God, for example, dancing which is often thought to be sinful and poetry which can be very inspiring to the understanding of the biblical context of scriptural writings."

"The use of other instruments like the piano helps to enhance the service of the Lord. BISA has been very well pleased with the support of the Black Greek Council, faculty, staff and student government, not to mention the BSM, Watson said. The faculty input for this organi-

in organizational meetings. Bible study seminars will be offered every Wednesday to promote Christian growth and Bible understanding. Bi-monthly services will be held in the new Union Auditorium. Both Exum and Watson said they felt the capacity of the auditorium will offer hindrance of the effectiveness of the service.

Exum said, "It's not so much the place but the purpose that makes the service successful. It only matters if the people are limited in their worship. I believe BISA would be successful in a dorm or a tent. It makes no difference."

Watson commented — "The auditorium is very appropriate for BISA. The atmosphere is nice and comfortable with air conditioning, soft chairs and carpeting. The size is quite adequate. BISA needs at least a seating capacity of 100 to 150 and room for growth."

BISA is a student-oriented organization that encourages and thrives off student participation Exum said. This was but a brief overview of BISA and if you have any interest at all I advise you to see for yourself what BISA can do for you, he said.

From the Statement of Purpose: "BISA will address the spiritual needs of students in general and black students in particular."



James Exum, a sophomore from Charlotte, looks forward to his first year with BISA.



Dr. Sonja Stone has provided much input into the organization of BISA.

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