

# Black Student Movement

## Black Student Movement • Black Student Movement Elections 1991 • Black Student Movement • Black Student Movement • Black Student Movement

*Editors' Note:* This week *Black Ink* is running the pictures and platforms of candidates that are on the ballot for positions within the Black Student Movement. The *Ink* will accept platforms for write-in candidates for the March 4th issue. If you wish to be included in this issue, please contact us no later than Wednesday, Feb. 27.



**Stormie Forte For BSM Vice-President**

The ultimate duty for the vice-president of any organization is to assume the duties and the responsibilities of the president in his/her absence. In addition, the vice-president of the BSM is responsible for organizing and serving as the chairperson of the freshman class

committee (FCC). The FCC is a very important part of the BSM because the freshmen will have a major impact on future operations.

It is very important for freshmen to get involved with many different groups on campus. One means of achieving this is by

working with some of the sub-groups in the Campus Y such as the Big Buddy program. Freshmen could develop close relationships with area youth involved in the program. This would give the little buddies an opportunity to have role models other than professional athletes, movie stars and entertainers. Having served as a Big Buddy, I realize the importance of having such a program. By seeing positive role models, these youth see proof that blacks can reach their goals and erase some the stereotypes that exist in America.

Habitat for Humanity and Students for the Advancement of Race Relations (SARR) are also sub-groups of the Campus Y that the FCC could involve itself in. Habitat for Humanity is a group that builds homes for low-income families. The FCC could set aside one weekend a semester to help Habitat for Humanity. This would help establish a good relationship between the black community and the BSM.

Throughout this school year, many racial incidents have occurred on campus. I feel this is due in part to a lack of awareness of the different cultures around us. When

I say us, I do not mean the BSM alone, but the entire University community. As a participant in a series of workshops called "Racism: Our Common Bondage," I realize how important relationships with people of different races and cultures are to our campus and to the world. The members of SARR also recognize this as being extremely important; therefore, I feel the FCC should co-sponsor a program with SARR for Race Relations Week.

The projects mentioned above are focused on the role of the FCC's interaction with the campus and the community. In addition, I feel one major undertaking for the FCC should be fundraising for the future Black Cultural Center. Fundraisers could be as simple as selling candy in the Pit for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day. Great Hall parties have always been a good resource for fundraisers in the past and I think many people would support these parties if they were for a very worthy cause. There are numerous ways to raise money, and I believe the BCC could be a reality for the Class of 1995 if they work very hard for it.

After speaking with various members of the BSM, I realize there is a lot of work that needs to be done internally. Oftentimes a lack of communication or cooperation can cause an incredible

amount of hardships for the parties involved, as well as for the group as a whole. I feel the BSM has an incredible amount of potential and good leadership is the means necessary to maximizing that potential.

The Gospel Choir, the Ebony Readers, the Opeyo! Dancers, and *Black Ink* are the auxiliary groups of the BSM. Oftentimes they are considered to be the BSM by some people on campus. I feel that cooperation among these groups can only strengthen the BSM. Therefore, I propose a annual fundraiser for the auxiliary groups. On a certain weekend of the year the groups should put on a joint fundraiser. Hopefully, this would alleviate some of the problems that occur due to budget shortfalls.

I realize lately that the BSM has received criticism from the campus community and has been accused of being troublesome. I realize that the image of the BSM has to become more positive. I think the suggestions and ideas I have can be instrumental in bringing about a change for the BSM and its image. I am not one to make idle promises; consequently, if I didn't think my suggestions would help, I wouldn't offer them. I know I can get the job done as vice-president of the BSM. I will serve to the best of my ability. Together we can make a difference.



**Arnie Epps For BSM Vice-President**

### ACTIVISM THROUGH CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

The Black Student Movement has taken a vital role in the empowerment of UNC's African-Americans. This role encompasses educating the masses on the problems we need to counter at the University. My commitment is not only to the African-American

community at UNC but also the African-American community as a whole. I envision us using our culture as a tool that can empower us academically to better serve the community. My platform consists of a two-point thrust that includes cultural and community activism. **Experience:** Member, Freshman Class Com-