

# BCC Celebrates Anniversary This Week

Staff Report

Students and workers celebrated their successes Monday in the 10-year-long struggle to build a freestanding center highlighting the campus' black culture. The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center's workers gave out cake and ice cream in the Pit to kick off its annual BCC Awareness Week, which will run through Friday. Ange-Marie Hancock, BCC program coordinator and publicist said the center would not just be celebrated this week, but throughout year. "We are commemorating the fact we've been doing these program for 10 years," Hancock said. "We also want to spotlight the need

for our new building. We are making great progress. We want to make this the year of the BCC," she said. Hancock said the quest to raise \$7.5 million for a freestanding black cultural center was becoming more tangible. "Hopefully, our 10th year in the Student Union office will be our last," Hancock said. She said BCC Awareness Week



BCC Director Gerald Horne said BCC Awareness Week would show the commitment level of the center.

would also focus on the students who made the BCC possible. "We are commemorating different students who tried to even get us a place at all, and those who have been working for the freestanding center." On Thursday, BCC Awareness Week programs will feature former UNC football players Tim Smith and John Bradley, who played during the early 1990s, she said. "They will be here to encourage people to stay involved in the BCC," Hancock said. Gerald Horne, director of the BCC, said in a press release that student and University interest in the BCC ran high. "Many of our neighbors on campus and in the community have expressed a

desire to know more about the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center's contribution to the intellectual climate of the University," he said. "BCC Awareness Week will demonstrate just how much we do with the help of committed students," Horne said. The center is named for Sonja Haynes Stone, a faculty member for more than 17 years before her death in 1991. A center advocate, Stone dedicated her life to improving race relations on campus and in the community. All seeking to learn more about the center are encouraged to drop by its suite in the Student Union from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. today through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

# C-TOPS Stresses Academic Focus

C-TOPS emphasized academics and prospective majors more this summer than in past years.

By LAURA STOEHR  
Assistant University Editor

While students at this year's C-TOPS program participated in activities of C-TOPS past like the safe sex game, they also participated in new programs that focused more on academic life. In response to suggestions from University administrators, the Freshmen Focus Council and last year's freshman class, this year's C-TOPS was revamped to provide students with more academic information, said Butch Garris, an orientation leader coordinator. "I thought the presentations did help us in preparation for Caroline and stuff," said Kathryn Johnson, a freshman from Wilson. "They made us feel at home with the campus, too." Meg Carstens, a freshman from Huntsville, Ala. agreed. "I'm from out of state and I had a lot of questions that needed to be answered." Last spring, the Freshmen Focus Council surveyed freshmen opinions about C-TOPS and found students were only partially satisfied with the program. This summer, a presentation was created to give students more information about their prospective major. Kim Watkins, an orientation leader coordi-

nator, said each orientation leader researched a group of majors to present. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions to leaders about what classes to take for their majors and also received general information about how to weather the college transition. On the third day of C-TOPS, students alternated registering for classes with setting up their e-mail accounts. Additional events were held to replace the free time of years past. A session called "It's Time to Play" featured a basketball tournament and other games at Woollen Gymnasium. Garris said his main criticism of this year's C-TOPS was its redundancy. He said information from the General College was presented to students three times in two days and ice-breaker activities consumed the first day. Student Body Vice President Emily Williamson said student government would conduct a survey of freshmen in a few weeks. Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Susan Kitchen and Garris said more work needed to be done with the transfer student orientation session. "I think a focus group of transfer students could help us improve (the program)," she said. "But as for the C-TOPS part, it's more a matter of fine tuning things. We're going to make it better every year."

The University Editors can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# General Assembly Wants Fewer Sessions

Legislators complained the number of sessions made it difficult to handle their jobs and pursue other interests.

By EMILY CRAMER  
Staff Writer

N.C. General Assembly members are anticipating the arrival of a bill that will reduce the amount of time they spend in Raleigh every year. Republicans and Democrats alike feel the absence of session limits has forced them to remain in the Capitol Building full time, creating problems for those

who have outside interests or jobs. Senator Howard Lee, D-Dist. 16, said he favored the bill because it would limit legislative sessions to 135 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years. "I strongly support it," he said. "We are taking too much time and it's becoming a burden to people who have businesses outside of the legislature." Senator Virginia Foxx, R-Dist. 12, said shorter legislative sessions were necessary. She proposed strategies to shorten the amount of time spent in Raleigh including a flat-rate salary per year instead of payment by the day. "I don't think we should be getting (paid) per diem because that encourages

people to stay in town," she said. "When you are getting paid a flat rate, I think people will spend less time." Foxx also explained a need for term limits for those in leadership positions, such as the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem. She said they would better remember life in the proletariat, making them more sympathetic to the lifestyles of senators and representatives. "I'd like to see us have term limits for leadership so that power won't be concentrated in small groups," she said. Senator William Martin, D-Dist. 31, said he did not believe shorter sessions were the way to go. He said they would actually cause extra work to be dealt with in special meetings.

He explained the rapid growth of North Carolina created more issues to address in Congressional sessions. "North Carolina is the 10th largest state in terms of population and the two party system is becoming more complex," he said. "When you have a lot of substantive issues, it tends to bog things down some." Martin also said accelerating consideration of congressional issues could cause problems because the time for significant thought would be shortened. "There is a danger of rushing through legislation without deliberating enough."

The State & National Editors can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Campus Calendar

**Tuesday**  
noon - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will present a screening of "Don't Believe the Hype," a film about the history of the BCC. It will be shown in the BCC, which is located on the main floor of the Student Union.  
4 p.m. - The BCC, the Institute of African American Research, the Association of Minority Business Students and the Alliance of Black Graduate and Professional Students will jointly sponsor a Welcome Back Graduate Reception. It will be held in the BCC.  
6 p.m. - The Yackety-Yak, the

University's yearbook, will hold an interest meeting for staff positions, in Union 106.  
6:30 p.m. - Carolina H.O.P.E. will have its first meeting in Union 212. The club promotes abstinence until marriage, and this meeting will include discussion and games.  
7 p.m. - The Carolina Athletic Association Homecoming Committee will hold an interest meeting in 104 Howell Hall. If you can not make it to the meeting, but would still like to help, call 932-6904.  
7 p.m. - The Carolina Otaku Uprising: The Japanese Animation Club will hold its first meeting of the year in 113 Dey Hall.

# Lawsuit Challenges Diversity of Charter Schools

By MATT LECLERCQ  
Staff Writer

The outcome of a Durham lawsuit aimed at ridding the state's charter schools of racial quotas could change the way Orange County's charter schools recruit students. The N.C. Foundation for Individual Rights filed a preliminary injunction for Durham's Healthy Start Academy on Aug. 14. The suit aims to disable a state law requiring charter schools to "reasonably

reflect the racial diversity" of surrounding schools within one year of beginning classes. Black students make up 99.9 percent of Healthy Start Academy enrollment, while Durham's population is only 45 percent black, principal Thomas Williams said. Under current law, the school could have its charter revoked if it did not meet the quota. Leaders of the three charter schools in Orange County all said they had not recruited students based on race.

School in the Community, a Carrboro charter school, is closest to complying with the quota requirement. It has nearly an even mix of minorities and whites, administrator Debra McHenry said. However, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools had a minority population of only 30 percent last year, spokeswoman Kim Hoke said. But McHenry said she considered diversity to be more than just a racial mix. "Diversity is a lot of things - learning styles, personalities, family backgrounds," she said. "We are a school of choice - all I can do is be sure I'm reaching out to all in the community. I have no way of making people come." Village Charter School in Chapel Hill had a minority enrollment of nearly 40 percent last year, said principal Nancy Adams, adding that she was not worried about meeting racial quotas. "We only promote the programs of our schools, and people choose us based on our programs," she said. "We feel we need to just treat children as children." Orange County Charter School Principal Mike Wilhoit said state leaders and charter school principals should be open to racial diversity. Williams said despite the students'

dramatic gains in test scores at Healthy Start Academy, the school has had difficulty recruiting white students. "We recruit white kids all over the city," he said. "But they will not come to this (pre-dominantly black) part of town. There's no way you are going to get white kids to bus eight miles here." But Bill Wilson, manager of government relations with the North Carolina Association of Educators, said Healthy Start Academy had failed in its efforts to recruit white students. Plans to diversify the school over several years should be discussed, he said. "I've not heard any proposals by any of the (charter) schools to do that." The state board of education announced in July that it would not revoke charters because of the quota this year, said Bill Phillips, press secretary for Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker. Wicker, a state board member, was named as one of the defendants in the law suit. "The state board wants to watch what happens this year," Phillips said. Also, a General Assembly bill could change the quota to a required "good-faith" effort by charter schools to diversify.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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