

Ms. BSM Becomes Ms. UNC

The election for Homecoming queen might have occurred last week.

If tradition holds for the 13th consecutive year, Thursday's election for Ms. BSM will determine who will be crowned Homecoming queen at the Maryland game Nov. 2.



KAREY WUTKOWSKI
UNIVERSITY COLUMNIST

It is a tradition that has been generally accepted, with few campus factions crying foul about the Black Student Movement dominating the Homecoming competition.

And the BSM's candidates have deserved the crown.

At UNC, the competition for Homecoming king and queen is not a traditional high school popularity contest. While popularity does play a factor in the general student body election stage of the competition, the candidates must first jump through a number of hoops that have little to do with the candidates' widespread appeal.

First, students must design a service project that could benefit the University or surrounding community. Then they have to find a campus organization to sponsor their candidacy before they can submit an application to the Carolina Athletic Association, which is in charge of organizing and running the competition.

The candidates' applications must include a résumé, recommendations from faculty or staff members and a transcript that proves they have a minimum 2.8 grade point average.

Then a panel consisting of student and administrative representatives interviews the candidates and selects three men and women to go on to the general student body election.

It is at the student body election phase that the BSM candidates dominate. While other campus groups like Queer Network for Change, the Residence Hall Association and Greek organizations have thrown their support behind candidates, few can match the power of the BSM's 600-plus members.

And the BSM actively uses those numbers in their favor.

"BSM has a great deal of unity and pride," said Lindsay Reed, president of the BSM. "That's what makes us a movement. We push each other forward and help one another."

Reed said the group likes to see its candidates represent the whole University because the BSM itself wants to have a strong presence in the larger campus community.

BSM members actively campaign for the two people they have chosen as Mr. and Ms. BSM. It is even in the BSM constitution that the group will endorse Mr. and Ms. BSM in the Homecoming election.

That endorsement means that the BSM will use its numbers to get their candidates' names out — painting the cubes, handing out quarter-sheets, sitting in the Pit, making its candidates far more visible than any other contender.

This year will be a little different. There was no election for Mr. BSM because no candidates applied, but you can be sure that the group will wholly throw its support behind Rhonda Patterson, who was announced on Saturday as the newly elected Ms. BSM.

And if she goes on to be elected as Homecoming queen, she will fall into place with a long line of other women who have taken on both titles.

While this tradition might raise some eyebrows, an attempt to uncover any sordid behind-the-scenes activity would most likely prove fruitless. The BSM simply puts forth the effort to sell its candidates to the campus community.

"In the past it has had a lot to do with BSM campaigning the most," said Laura Kiernan, Homecoming chairwoman for CAA. "They have their people behind them, and they do a fantastic job with their campaigning."

The election is not guaranteed to the BSM candidates every year. It's just that few have taken the effort to put forth a campaign that can rival those of the BSM candidates.

And that is what the campus community should want out of its Homecoming king and queen — students who have proven they are dedicated to the position.

So when Homecoming elections come around in a few weeks, pay attention to whose name you see plastered around campus and which candidates are taking the effort to make themselves a presence in the Pit.

And may the best candidates win.

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Grocery Store Shoppers Can Give to UNC-W

Program partners school, Harris Teeter

By **ASHLEY HOLT**
Staff Writer

Grocery store patrons now can donate money to UNC-Wilmington via a new partnership.

UNC-W formed the first collegiate partnership with Harris Teeter last week as part of the Together in Education Program.

The program has allocated funds to various educational facilities through

customer contribution since its founding in 1998.

When customers scan their discount cards at one of the 142 grocery stores in the South, a percentage is allocated to the school of their choice.

UNC-W now will be included on the list of educational funding recipients.

"Educating our children has been a top priority since our first day of business," Harris Teeter president Fred Morgenthal stated in a press release. "In the 2001-02 school year, we gave over \$1 million to schools throughout our market areas."

The program has donated about \$3 million to schools since 1998.

Mimi Cunningham, media spokeswoman for UNC-W, said she expects a

lot of interest in the program because of the university's large student and alumni base.

Hoggard High School, a neighboring high school involved in the program, earned \$250,000 last year with a student base of only 2,000.

UNC-W officials said they expect comparable support from the commu-

nity, students and alumni.

Pat Leonard, vice

chancellor of student affairs at UNC-W, stated in the release that funds generated through the partnership will be used to enrich campus life for students.

"Students will be actively involved in making recommendations regarding how the money should be used."

PAT LEONARD
UNC-W Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

ing recommendations regarding the money should be used," Leonard

stated.

The funds could be used for purchasing equipment at the Student Recreation Center or developing new programs at the Leadership Center.

But Leonard stated that she wants the community to be involved as well.

"I hope our community members will show gratitude for this opportunity by participating in the program," she stated.

Jessica Graham, spokeswoman for Harris Teeter, said that if UNC-W's program is successful, it could be duplicated at other colleges and universities.

"Together in Education is in test

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"(The products) are good for science, the University and for commercial enterprise." **DOUG SCHIFF**



DTH/JONATHAN SAAS

Mildred Thompson, owner of The Stitch in Time, works on stitching a formal gown Sunday afternoon. Thompson has owned the Franklin Street shop, which was started 25 years ago, for 13 years.

Taking Work to Another Level

By **KRISTIN BECKER**
Staff Writer

UNC students frequent the businesses on Franklin Street that boast bright signs and welcoming store fronts.

They drink coffee, eat pizza and shop without looking up, oblivious of businesses that are hidden from the street below.

Above the well-known stores and restaurants of Franklin is another world — a world of seamstresses, engineers and student entrepreneurs.

Up the stairs and down the quiet, indiscreet hall that also houses Spring Break Travel, there is a room where two women carefully stitch and repair

everything from jeans to delicate formal gowns.

The room, located at 133 1/2 E. Franklin St., houses a shop called The Stitch in Time, started 25 years ago by a woman from Colombia. The store has since had four owners.

The current owner, Mildred Thompson, has owned the store for 13 years.

"I swore I would never do alterations," Thompson said.

That promise to herself did not hold true, but in addition to alterations the shop makes custom-made clothes and formal dresses.

Thompson said the store does not advertise but has plenty of work

because of the praise it receives by word of mouth.

Recently, Thompson received a request to make a formal chiffon gown in two days. She says this was her challenge of the week.

"I always make the clothes look the way I would want my clothes to look," she said.

Above the enticing smells and colors of Sephora is a company that is molding the innovations of the University into marketable products.

3rd Tech is a technology transfer company that is licensed to take inventions from researchers at the

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Latino Restaurant, Center Closes Doors

Local Latinos need new place to gather

By **EMILY VASQUEZ**
Staff Writer

Earlier this month — three years to the day it opened in 1999 — El Chilango, a hub of Carboro's cultural diversity, was forced to close.

The closing came as a surprise to many in the community.

Andrea Manson, spokeswoman for El Pueblo, a nonprofit organization that serves the area's growing Latino community, said she was shocked. "It was always packed."

Manson said El Chilango was a great asset to the community. "It hasn't been just a restaurant at all."

Indeed, El Chilango, which served authentic Mexican dishes, brought much more than popular food to the community.

Owner Jacques Menache watched the Latino population in the area grow through the 1990s and saw the need for a Latin American cultural center. He decided a restaurant was the best strategy to bring Latinos and Americans together.

In addition to the authentic recipes

Menache grew up with in Mexico City, El Chilango, which was located at 506 Jones Ferry Road, featured art exhibits, salsa dancing, old-time music and Latino bands throughout the week. English and Spanish classes were offered, and a large community board was erected to provide a forum for local information.

Alderman John Herrera commended Menache's endeavors.

"We need more places where people can interact. People fear what they don't know," he said. "We need places where people can see the immigrant in a different light."

Alderman Diana McDuffee acknowledged the continually growing need for Latino integration.

"The 2000 census states that 12 percent of Carboro's population is Latino, and we must remember that this number is likely a significant undercount," McDuffee said.

"The Board of Aldermen is very interested in supporting the Latino community."

Menache's initial intention was to make El Chilango accessible to everyone. After the events of Sept. 11 this became increasingly difficult.

Menache lost many of his customers

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Patterson Crowned New Ms. BSM

News given at Black Student Movement's coronation ball

By **SHELLEY WALDEN**
Staff Writer

Rhonda Patterson was on cloud nine Saturday night after being crowned Ms. BSM at this year's Black Student Movement coronation ball, "A Walk in the Clouds."

Upon the announcement of this year's Ms. BSM, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority members enveloped Patterson in a circle and sang congratulations for a fellow sister's achievements — a ritual that, like the annual BSM ball, has long been a tradition.

"I think it was a great ceremony," Patterson said about the annual coronation ball, which has been held for more than 20 years. "It's all tradition. It means a lot because it is so traditional." This year's coronation, held at the Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel, featured music, a candlelight dinner, formalwear and a red carpet.

"I think (the ball) is an occasion to celebrate the achievements of the BSM and to encourage rededication to the Black Student Movement, and it's an opportunity to share a network as in any social setting," said BSM President Lindsay Reed.

Patrice High, the ball's organizer, said the ultimate purpose of the event is to crown Mr. and Ms. BSM and their court. The court, which consists of one junior and one sophomore, helps Ms. BSM with a service project.

The winners for the BSM court were junior Eboni Williams and sophomore Erin Davis. This is the second year that a BSM court has been elected.

High said there was no Mr. BSM crowned this year because no one applied for the position, but she thinks a Mr. BSM will continue to be crowned in future years.

Patterson's service project, which is called Empowering Voices, will involve training BSM volunteers to work with

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DTH/SHILPI PAUL

Senior Rhonda Patterson celebrates being crowned Ms. BSM at the annual Black Student Movement ball.