

BSM charged for productive year

President stresses outreach, projects

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
STAFF WRITER

The days of local sit-ins and headline-making protests might be fading away, but the Black Student Movement at UNC is still very much alive.

Because although overt racism might be a thing of the past, discrimination still exists, said Brandon Hodges, BSM president.

"In a lot of ways, those things are here but more subtle today," he said.

One of the largest on-campus groups has hit the ground running this year, drawing hundreds of people to its first meeting of the year Sept. 7 to advocate for their perennial goal of eliminating residual discrimination.

The political action committee, a BSM subcommittee that advocates for workers' rights, is asking everyone to report any manager who mistreats an Aramark Corp. employee.

"We really can be a strong voice and make a big impact in these workers' lives," said Christina Lee, co-chairwoman of the committee, at the group's second meeting of the year Wednesday night.

Hodges said one of his main goals is to increase diversity on campus.

"We're making strides, but as a progressive university in the South, we need to set a better example," he said.

Hodges said BSM members should reach out to minority students who might not feel comfortable coming to UNC. He said he is working with the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs office and going to local high school recruitment meetings to show potential students what BSM is all about.

"We need to put a face to what we're doing on campus," Hodges said.

BSM also is involved in numerous public service projects — ranging from Hurricane Katrina relief efforts to working with Habitat for Humanity — to keep in contact with the community.

But Hodges said it would be a shame to contain the organization's positive message to Chapel Hill town limits. "I want to carry the messages of BSM past the walls of UNC," he said.

The group is working to bring a bus load of people to the Millions More Movement in Washington, D.C., in October. The march will celebrate the 10 year anniversary



Brandon Hodges, president of the Black Student Movement, speaks to members of the campus group at Wednesday's general body meeting.

of the Million Man March, one of the largest demonstrations in the history of the nation's capital.

But make no mistake — the BSM is not all about business.

The group's top priority is to embrace black culture and strive for unity among its members, according to the preamble members recite at the beginning of each meeting.

As members begin each meeting with a verse of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," by James Weldon Johnson,

and end standing in a circle to share the week's news, one thing is clear: The BSM cares about unity.

Freshman David Sneed said it was this aspect that attracted him to the organization.

"This is a really positive group," Sneed said. "I came from a high school that had three African Americans, so this is an amazing thing for me."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Schools seek break in federal standards

BY SETH PEAVEY
STAFF WRITER

Schools working to enroll students displaced by Hurricane Katrina could be penalized for their kindness under the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Students who missed class time because of the storm now are having to transfer to new school systems, and education officials say they're concerned the new arrivals might not be able to meet the same standards as normal students.

"These students come from devastated areas, have had a traumatic experience and now are having to adjust to a new school," said Vanessa Lillie, a spokeswoman for the National Education Association.

More than 247,000 public and private school students in Louisiana and 125,000 in Mississippi have been displaced, she said.

She argued that many of those students will be put at a disadvantage from having to adjust to new schools in states with different curricula.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to make measurable yearly progress in test scores or face possible penalties.

A school that fails to meet federal goals for two consecutive years is labeled in need of improvement, and if students continue to fall short, the school could face a loss of funding.

"These schools who open their arms to students are going to be punished financially for accepting these students," Lillie said. "The NEA is asking for a year extension for schools that have taken in large numbers of students."

The organization sent a letter Sept. 1 to U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings asking her to consider this proposal.

But for school systems flooded with thousands of evacuees, a more immediate concern is making sure the new students are enrolled as

soon as possible.

More than 6,500 students have registered with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

So far, 4,400 have been assigned to a school, and even fewer have actually begun to attend, said Tai St. Julien, a public information officer with the school system.

"We are making the necessary arrangements for these students to become permanent students," she said.

For now, the new arrivals will be required to meet the same standards as other students, she said.

North Carolina has welcomed 651 school-age children so far, according to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

The academic refugees have not put any real strain on N.C. schools, said Vanessa Jeter, director of communications for DPI.

But in Texas, the sheer number of transfers is stretching resources.

"As of Monday, we had approximately 33,318 (new students)," said DeEtta Culbertson, a spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency.

Some formerly shuttered schools have been reopened, and the maximum teacher-to-student ratio required by the state has been waived in some cases, she said.

But so far, she said, the state has been able to accommodate all of the relocated students.

The Texas Education Agency also sent a letter to the U.S. Education Department on Thursday asking for more funding and more flexibility when it comes to No Child Left Behind.

Spellings has not responded yet to the demands, but she met with about 40 different education groups last week and has shown a willingness to negotiate, Lillie said. "They had a very productive meeting."

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OPHELIA

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approach was already inflicting damage in the form of beach erosion.

By 5 p.m., more than 40,000 Progress Energy customers had reported power outages in New Hanover County alone, Hayes said.

Ophelia was downgraded to a tropical storm Monday but regained its Category 1 status Tuesday.

Projections Wednesday evening were much higher than those released later in the night.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Dan Bartholf said Hurricane winds and higher surges are expected to hit the sounds and the Outer Banks all morning and afternoon.

Schools throughout the coastal plain were closed well before the storm arrived. UNC-Wilmington is closed today, while classes at East Carolina University were tentatively scheduled to resume at noon.

Aside from restoring electricity and repairing public and private property, any long-term recovery effort will consist of beach renourishment in the coastal communities, Hayes said.

Veterans of hurricane recovery said the process should not be too challenging, considering the relative weakness of Ophelia.

"I've been through several storms here," Hayes said. "Compared to Fran and Bonnie, this one is almost a non-event."

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PARTNERSHIP

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the athletics department in collecting donations at Kenan Stadium, Carolina Katrina Relief members will be located throughout campus collecting donations in exchange for Mardi Gras beads.

At least 10,000 blue Mardi Gras beads will be handed out in 12 different locations across campus.

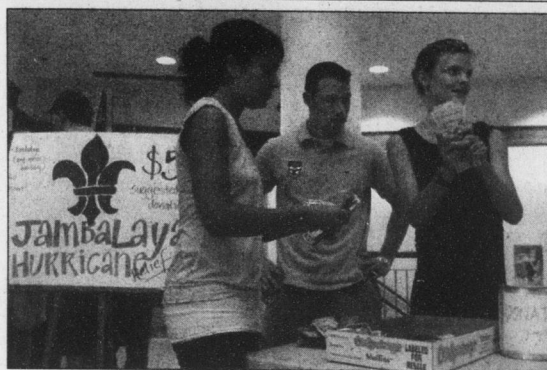
"As people walk to the game, we'll be getting donations," said Mark Sussman, president of N.C. Hillel. "We're asking for donations of at least \$1."

Sussman and others raised \$200 Tuesday and \$70 Wednesday handing out the beads in the Pit, and he said he anticipates they will sell out Saturday.

"It's only gaining momentum," he said. Other fundraising efforts on campus also continue to increase in strength.

As of 9 p.m. Wednesday, UNC One Card donations and Pit collections totaled \$16,545.

But Lynn Blanchard, director of the Carolina Center For Public



Farah Whitley-Sebti (left), law student, counts funds raised at the School of Law with Chaz Lusk, also in the school, and Carrie Buell, of Baton Rouge.

Service, said in an e-mail that other collection efforts across campus — including \$3,000 raised by the football team and matched by Coach John Bunting and a \$10,000 pledge by the School of Public Health — total nearly \$31,800.

The Daily Tar Heel will be collecting new socks and underwear for hurricane victims in the Pit

until the end of the month. And next Wednesday, the Campus Y Nourish International will donate \$1 per plate to the Red Cross.

"As long as the people get all the money they need, that's all that matters," Curry said.

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TUITION

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areas of the matter of tuition.

"I don't think we should go in with any preconceived notions on about what we should or should not be doing," he said after the meeting.

It's important to keep the trustees' philosophy in mind, he said, but the task force also must be aware of all the factors in tuition discussions.

The task force will conduct more research and discussions before drafting a specific tuition proposal,

which is set to go before the Board of Trustees in November.

"I think what we'll find is in the next couple weeks we'll get real quantitative," Shelton said.

In the mean time, the task force has been heavily focused on determining which areas of campus most need the revenue from a possible increase.

Last week, the task force focused on the graduate students' resources, which many members said have declined in recent years. They revisited the issue again Wednesday.

Some members clarified ear-

lier statements about how faculty would respond to tuition revenue going toward graduate students rather than faculty salary raises.

The two interests are not mutually exclusive, and many favor both, some task force members said.

"It's not that we don't want an emphasis on faculty salaries," said task force member Steven Matson, chairman of the biology department. "It's that we don't want faculty salaries increased at the expense of graduate salaries."

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HEARINGS

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approach without commenting on the outcome or the judgment in a particular case," Roberts said in response. "But you do need to look at the real-world impact in this area and I think in other areas as well."

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wisc., brought up the subject of capital punishment, asking Roberts if there is a potential in the modern court system to sentence an innocent person to death.

"I think there is a risk in any enterprise that is a human enterprise," Roberts said.

Approaching the death penalty question from a more technical route, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., asked about a discrepancy in Supreme Court rules involving clemency cases.

The court usually requires the consent of four justices to hear a case, but five are needed to grant a stay of execution.

Roberts said he would be inclined to grant a stay if four of his colleagues felt it appropriate.

"You don't want to moot the case by not staying the sentence," he said.

Roberts also assured the committee that he would bring no bias to the bench.

"I know why the phrase 'Equal Justice Under Law' is carved in marble above the Supreme Court entrance," he said.

At the day's end, not much was revealed about the nominee, said Georg Vanberg, professor of political science at UNC.

"I do think that the value of hearings like this is pretty limited," he said. "We've come to a point where — with the division of the parties — where nominees are required to hide their views, or one side or the other will come out against them."

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Smile with Dr. T

by Peter A. Tzendzalian, DDS



Q: What should I do for a toothache?

A: A toothache is not normal. It's a sign that something is wrong. You can address the pain of a toothache with an anti-inflammatory drug like aspirin or ibuprofen, but you should call your dentist immediately to set up an appointment. Warning: never apply aspirin directly to a sore gum. The acid in aspirin can burn and severely irritate gum tissue. In some cases a toothache could be caused by nothing more serious than a particle of food stuck between teeth. Try flossing and rinse your mouth with warm salt water. If that doesn't succeed in dislodging the particle, don't try to force the particle out yourself. Call your dentist. When a tooth starts to ache—throbbing pain can get pretty intense—it's more likely that decay and infection is very deep. It may have reached the tooth's pulp, the sensitive, soft tissue containing nerves inside the tooth. At this point, the tooth needs the attention of a dentist. The best way to avoid a toothache, of course, is to brush, floss and visit your dentist regularly.

Presented as a service to the UNC Chapel Hill Community by Dr. Peter A. Tzendzalian, DDS. Questions? Call me.

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