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BSU Attacks SAAC Budgetary Decision

To the Editor:

For centuries, White America has waged a prolonged war against Afrikan-Americans. One aspect of this war, the systematic denial of Black Culture, was played out by SAAC last Tuesday at the BSU budget hearing. In this meeting, BSU came to ask for what is ours by right—a chance to hold events which express and promote our culture and self-identity. For us, this campus is at best a cultural void, and at worst, an imposition of foreign culture; we are forced daily to deal in an environment which allows us little opportunity to express ourselves freely. The conspicuous absence of an Afrikan American center, the few Black Studies courses, the low number of Black faculty constantly remind us of our precarious position at this university. We hardly feel comfortable here.

In this setting, the SAAC, lacking any Black representatives, had the audacity then to claim that they can define our culture for us. For these white students to pretend that they understand what we experience here is contemptuous. To claim that Al Jarreau or Roberta Flack do not necessarily represent Black Culture absurd. I fear that the SAAC would only accept those artists which represent Black culture as Whites would like to see it, not as we perceive it ourselves. The presence of such

closed minds in an institution promoting higher education should be a contradiction. It seems more the norm.

We demand to be able to define our culture (and thus ourselves) in our own terms. We refuse to withstand the kind of cultural chauvinism displayed. The ignorance and elitist white-ethnocentrism of the SAAC is more than appalling, and we as Afrikan-American students question legitimacy of a student representative body which displays such racist attitudes.

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