

Black Student Union adopts street

FSU group will have a day to clean up along Woodward Avenue on July 19

By Lindsey Marshall

Democrat writer

Florida State University's Black Student Union has adopted a stretch of Woodward Avenue from West Gaines Street to West Tennessee Street, going through FSU's campus.

BSU President Harold Scott said keeping this stretch of Woodward clean is a worthwhile

community service project for the student organization. They will be unveiling the project with their first clean-up on July 19, with refreshments offered afterward to celebrate and socialize.

"We didn't even know the street was an option, but we really wanted to do it," Scott said.

"It will leave a lasting impression on the community and let people

know we're here for service."

Adopting the street was an initiative decided on by BSU's community service chairs, MarCherie Thompkins and Moise Zamor. The organization plans on doing maintenance on the street as a part of the community service projects they do every semester.

Diana Hanson, director of Tallahassee's Adopt a Street Program, estimates that 140 streets in the city have been adopted, with that number

changing as interest in the program is consistently high.

"You adopt for two years and agree to clean the stretch, which is at least half a mile, every other month," said Hanson. "A lot of groups clean more often than that, but that's what's required."

While only two years is required, Scott says that BSU plans on keeping its stretch of Woodward Avenue for as long as current members are around.

About 15 to 20 percent of the streets adopted in

Tallahassee are by FSU groups such as BSU. The rest are adopted by a variety of different groups including Florida A&M organizations, businesses, professional groups and families.

Signs are hung naming the organization responsible for the street clean up during the time of adoption. Hanson believes these signs raise awareness about keeping the streets clean.

"A lot of trash comes out of the back of truck beds and I don't think peo-

ple realize it," Hanson said. "I think the trash companies are way more aware of the problem now."

Adopting a street is a free way to give back to the community, where people can donate their time instead of money.

"It improves neighborhood property value and pride in your community," Hanson said. "You don't want it run down looking or fostering crime. You want it to be something you're proud of."