

Black College Students Rally in Raleigh

By Travis Mitchell
Chronicle Staff Writer

More than 700 students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) across the state gathered in the capitol last Thursday to educate state officials about the importance of black colleges and to mobilize in a show of unity.

The fate of black colleges has been threatened over the years, as national political figures and educators have debated the purpose of their existence. According to the US Department of Education, black colleges are responsible for 65% of the nation's four-year col-

lege graduates, 40% of all undergraduates eventually earning a doctoral degree, and have a graduation rate of 40% as compared to 15% for black students enrolled in majority institutions. However, debate has intensified across the nation as to the legality of such institutions.

"We are trying to dramatize the need for our historically black colleges and universities," said Alvin Cates, a senior management information systems major and student government vice-president at Winston-Salem State University. "We are trying to tell the world that our colleges and universities are important." Winston-Salem State was

well represented with over 100 students making the two-hour trip to Raleigh.

The rally was organized by the North Carolina Association of Black Student Governments. Cartes said that the organization, recently reactivated, decided to mobilize the effort. He added that the group was trying to take advantage of the political year and voter registration efforts on various campuses.

"We were very pleased with the turnout," said William Carter, a senior communications major and student government president. "Anytime black students come together for something like this, it

is positive."

The students invited political candidates, including Melvin Watt, democratic nominee for the newly-created US Congressional 12th district seat and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jim Hunt.

"A decrease in funding for Pell grants, capped at \$11,000 per student, and decreases in over \$300 million dollars in loan funding for students are reasons why Congress needs to be lobbied by young people," said Watt. "The funding for HBCUs has been cut by the Bush administration, since those things are done at the federal level and students need to make the govern-

ment responsive to their needs."

"I believe in black colleges and I will fight for black colleges," said Hunt.

He also told the *Chronicle* that he would convince the North Carolina General Assembly that investing in black colleges would promote economic growth for the state.

North Carolina A&T State University brought a bus load of students from Greensboro. Shaw University, Saint Augustine College and North Carolina Central students were also in attendance.



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After seven attempts, she finally leaves

It's said that it takes an average of seven attempts for a battered woman to successfully get away from her abuser.

Until then she's often stalked, found, and forced to return. And it's a desperate act to leave. Typically she has been allowed no access to a family checkbook or credit card, has no car available to her, and has no work outside the home. Often it's not until her children are also attacked that she risks her life to leave.

"How Well Does Our Community Respond to Domestic Violence?" will be the topic of a panel discussion on Monday, Oct. 12. Co-sponsored by Family Services, Inc. and the Winston-Salem chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) as a way of

observing National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the event will be held in the auditorium of the Forsyth County Public Library, 660 West 5th St., from 7-9 p.m.

Presenters include District Court Judge Loretta Biggs; Sheriff Ron Barker, Forsyth County; Assistant District Attorney Iris Sunshine; Captain Frank Holman, Winston-Salem police department; Joetta Shephard, director of the Family Services Shelter for battered women; and Sara Nelson, a volunteer for the Domestic Violence Crisis Line. The panel moderator is Lisa Allred, coordinator of volunteers for Family Services, a counselor of victims of domestic violence, and a NOW activist.

Statistics gathered by the

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence paint a startling picture. Domestic violence is the leading cause of death and injury for women in the U.S. each year. More than four thousand women are murdered annually by their husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends. It's estimated that 1.8 million women a year are beaten, and that 53% of the men who batter their wives eventually abuse their children also. The cost of this family violence to our society is calculated to be \$10 billion a year — for police, medical care, legal costs, missed work and shelters.

If you are interested in the videotape, "Any Day Now: Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence," please contact Shirley Koritnik at 785-4151.



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