

The North Carolina Alumni and Friends Coalition

The North Carolina Alumni and Friends Coalition was founded in 1973 to strengthen the historically black state universities and to improve the access of black citizens to higher education in North Carolina.

The Coalition is made up of members of the national alumni associations of the five predominantly black state universities, educators,

administrators, student leaders, representatives of civic and community groups, and other concerned black citizens.

Lawrence Cooper, president of the NCCU Alumni Association, is chairperson, and Garrett Laws is director. The Coalition maintains an office at 229 South East Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Organized in December 1973, the Coalition's first major activity was the preparation of a comprehensive document describing North Carolina's continued discrimination against blacks and predominantly black institutions of higher education, and calling for specific actions to upgrade the black state universities, increase the percentage of blacks in all undergraduate programs, and bring greater equality and integration of students, faculty and staff at both black and white institutions.

This lengthy document, entitled "Dismantling the Dual System of Higher Education in North Carolina: The Black Perspective," served as a basis for building awareness in the black community of the issues and problems confronting the black universities, and as a basis for monitoring the state plan for desegregation of higher education.

When in 1977 HEW was required by the courts to order six southern states, including North Carolina, to develop new and improved plans for desegregation of higher education, the Coalition was one of the groups consulted by HEW in drawing up guidelines for acceptable plans.

After North Carolina submitted its revised plans for the university system and the community college system, the Coalition held a three-day retreat at which educational, political and lay leaders from all over the state analyzed the state plans and proposed specific measures and programs to improve them and bring them closer to HEW guidelines.

A major analytical document was developed out of this meeting and sent to HEW, state and university officials. It received extensive press coverage and was viewed as a strong support for HEW in its efforts to negotiate improvements in the North Carolina plan.

Other major activities of the Coalition over the past five years have included unsuccessful efforts to locate the new School of Veterinary Medicine at NC A&T in its accreditation crisis, review and analysis of the shortcomings in the budget for higher education submitted for this biennium, and other efforts to support the predominantly black state universities and build awareness of their situation in the black community.

In addition to informal monthly meetings, the Coalition sponsors a statewide annual banquet, and regional meetings to discuss issues facing particular black state universities.

The alumni associations of Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, NC A&T State, North Carolina Central and Winston-Salem State Universities are officially members of the Coalition, and other supportive organizations include the Black Political Caucus, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the N.C. Black Lawyers' Association.

In all its activities the Coalition, has received the support and encouragement of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Southern Education Foundation.

In unity Power prevails

The North Carolina Black Student Coalition is the rebirth of a conscious move toward improvement and stabilization of black affairs. Created in December of 1977, it is now a unified body of 14 black student organizations across the state serving more than 18,000 black students.

Our Motto, "In Unity Power Prevails" is the basis for which our goal of full participation in society will be achieved. The present alternative to this goal, black tokenism, is unacceptable.

It is most unacceptable that black students make up less than 7 percent of the largest state-supported schools when blacks make up over 25 percent of the state population. In an investigation by Associate Dean Hayden Renwick it was revealed that less black students are being admitted now than in 1974 despite the larger pool. Yet the general administration has pledged to increase the number of black students. This is not an isolated event. We don't expect the same people who fought desegregation to properly implement it.

Thus the NCBSC is presently putting together research teams to investigate the affirmative action programs on individual campuses and check their results against stated goals and guidelines for desegregation set forth by HEW this year.

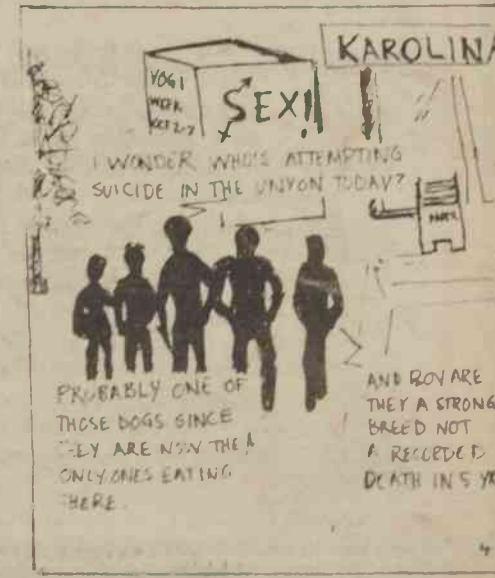
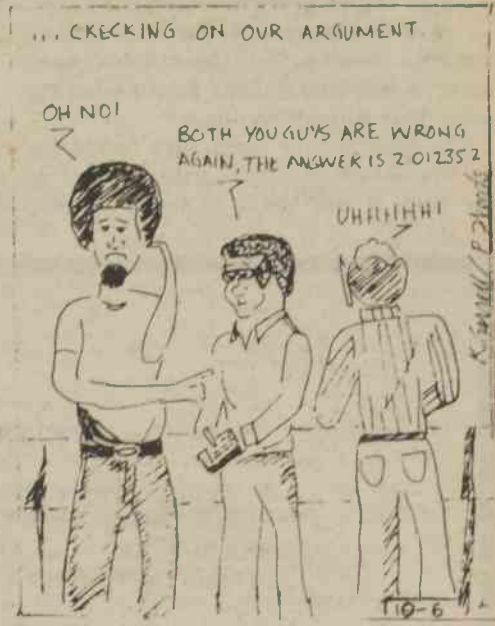
In addition to the research effort the black student coalition has intervened on the side of the defense in the case of Bostic vs. Byrd, a case similar to the Bakke case, in which Lynn Bostic has charged the UNC Law School with reverse discrimination.

The Coalition also plans to press for Black Studies programs at all the state's universities. These were promised everywhere in the sixties, but they failed to materialize at many universities, and where they do exist, they are weak or even disappearing. As a result, black students learn little of their own history and culture, and white students know nothing about blacks. The Coalition is preparing a proposal to the General Administration to fund strong programs at all 16 state campuses, and black student groups on individual campuses are being encouraged to go to their administrations for support. We have found that access to education on paper is not enough. Black students want full participation in education and in the society.

A final program planned for this year is a statewide tutorial program to help high school juniors and seniors prepare for the competency tests to be instituted in November.

It is time for all black people to demand full participation in society. The survival of our nation hinges upon our freedom to exercise that right.

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Challenge 78

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The Committee on Established Lectures announces the Fall 1978 Weil Lecture on American Citizenship

JULIAN BOND

"A View of American Citizenship" in Memorial Hall, 8 p.m. Monday November 13