

COF tries to aid disadvantaged

The Carolina Opportunity Fund (COF), a new student group on the UNC campus, was formed early this semester to raise money to establish a scholarship fund for minority and disadvantaged students.

Joe Stallings, chairman of the group, said the idea for COF was devised last spring after a meeting of the Consultative Forum, a group of administrators, faculty members and students, appointed by the chancellor to study campus problems.

During the meeting, representatives of the administration presented a need for scholarship money for needy and disadvantaged students.

Recent cutbacks in federal spending had caused a severe shortage of federal aid to colleges and universities.

"The reduction of funds resulted in the crisis we are trying to overcome," Stallings said.

The faculty responded with a decision to hold a fund-raising drive of their own. Contributions from faculty paychecks would raise thousands of dollars per year.

Alumni responded by increasing their gifts to the University by several thousand dollars.

An informal group of students discussed the problem, Stallings said, and the need for a

commitment by students on campus to raise funds was pointed out. They felt that it was important to let people know students are concerned and want to help deserving students come to the University.

The theory behind COF is to get people from all the major organizations on campus to pool their resources (equipment, manpower, etc.) in an effort to raise funds. By providing services and activities students can participate in COF is attempting to raise more than \$10,000 this year, Stallings said.

Stallings related that when COF was organized, the group tried to

get as far away as possible from the normal rigid committee structure.

Stallings was chosen as chairman to coordinate and do the groundwork for the group. Ideas were generated from group meetings and suggestions were sought from campus organizations.

Approximately 150 students have participated in COF activities ranging from selling programs to planning a talent show. The same loose structure has been retained with decisions being made by people doing the work.

A new group of about 25 students within COF begun to go to organizations, dorms, etc. on campus as well as to major businesses in the county and state, asking for aid and contributions.

Several individuals in the state have been contacted who want to participate and contribute to COF. Summer jobs for minority and disadvantaged young people have been offered by many businesses throughout the state. The group is planning to ask the North Carolina Legislature to appropriate funds for scholarships at State colleges.

Student participation has provided a basis for credibility in the outside community. Students can approach others and say, "This is how much we have collected for this cause; what are you willing to contribute?" Stallings said.

Concerning administration of funds, Stallings said a special account will probably be set up on the Student Aid Office. The scholarship will be awarded to minority and disadvantaged students suggested through the normal financial assistance channels.

Students in COF will be given

the opportunity to review student applications. The group will also be able to suggest names of people deserving scholarships.

Stallings explained how the scholarship fund would be handled. The interest on the principal that is raised this year will be for a scholarship, with the principal remaining in the bank. This way, Stallings said, the fund would become a permanent one enabling students who previously were turned away from the University simply because there wasn't enough money to come to school.

The group would like to see the fund-raising process continued. Now that the groundwork has been established it should be easier in later years to raise money, Stallings said.

The first project undertaken by COF this year was the selling of football programs. This initial effort netted a \$275 profit.

"This project served its intended purpose," Stallings said. "It got people involved and made others aware of our purpose. It also provided us with money for operating expenses."

COF offered a free steak dinner to the student selling the most programs at each game and two concert tickets to the student selling the most programs overall. Tom Vass, a sophomore, won by selling the most programs both weeks.

A raffle was held by COF the Duke-Carolina game. The grand prize, the game ball from the contest, was won by UNC sophomore Ken Hastings more than \$1,200 was raised in the raffle.

Future activities include a variety show, a roller derby and benefit rock concerts.



Helping underprivileged

Students find COF work beneficial

The Carolina Opportunity Fund an organization of students interested in helping minority and disadvantaged students come to the university.

Many people who have the ability and talent to make definite contributions to the community have been turned away in the past because there simply wasn't enough money available.

Students working through COF are able to give minority and disadvantaged students the opportunity they deserve to develop themselves to the fullest, COF chairman Joe Stallings said.

Bob Slaughter, co-ordinator of the Duke-Carolina football raffle, spoke of student reaction to the activities sponsored thus far.

"I'm very pleased with the amount of student participation we have had. People have been coming to us and asking what they can do to help," he said.

According to Slaughter, the Athletic Department has been extremely instrumental in COF activities. The department allowed students to sell football programs and help with the football raffle.

"Members of the alumni have also contacted us. Several alumni

asked to sell raffle tickets. They have shown a great deal of interest in helping us," Slaughter said.

Cindy McGaughey, a junior working on publicity for the group, said that COF not only brings interested students together to work actively for a common cause but it is also a "lot of fun."

Senior political science and history major Mike Padrick is in charge of contacting business organizations and industries throughout the state.

In seeking help from the community and the state, COF members would like to obtain grants for scholarships and summer

work for minority and disadvantaged students.

"With money as tight as it is now we have as yet been unsuccessful in securing grants. The businesses, however, have responded very favorable to the summer work program," Padrick said.

Padrick feels that COF is something students have needed for a long time. It can help fill the void that now exists in the University. In the past, many students have been unable to come to college because of inadequate funds.

"For a change there is something positive coming from the student

body. We have recognized the social injustice that exists and are doing something about it," Padrick said.

The Order of the Old Well has also shown great interest in working with the COF. Order member Bob Slade is chairman of a committee to provide liasons to different firms throughout the state.

Diane Gooch, who is involved in preparations for the Dec. 12 talent show, spoke briefly about the group's activities. She expressed thanks to the many people who spent time and effort in auditioning and rehearsing for the show.

Stallings said that the idea of the fund has been well accepted by all



Joe Stallings

the students he has come into contact with personally.

Full support has also been given by Consolidated University President William C. Friday, Athletic Director Homer Rice and the Student Aid Office.



Joe Stallings, chairman of the Carolina Opportunity Fund (COF), gives a game ball from the Duke-Carolina

football game to Ken Hastings. Hastings won the COF raffle which raised over \$1,200 for scholarship funds.

\$100,000 is goal of scholarship fund

The Carolina Opportunity Fund (COF), an organization formed to establish a permanent scholarship fund for minority and disadvantaged students, is attempting to raise more than \$100,000 this year.

The fund-raising drive entails a series of programs aimed at providing services and student activities.

Fall activities included the sale of football programs and a raffle of the Duke-Carolina football game ball.

A talent show is now in the planning for Dec. 12. This entertainment festival produced by COF will be held in Memorial Hall at 8 p.m.

A drum soloist, a professional modern dancer and a poet are just a few of the performers who will be on hand to entertain.

The San Francisco Bay Bombers will be featured in a roller derby scheduled for the second week in February. The derby will be held in Carmichael Auditorium with reserved seats at \$3 and \$4.

Tickets will be sold at half price to students. Two-dollar general admission tickets will be sold at the door. The Order of the Grail is responsible for spearheading the derby.

Two benefit concerts will be given by COF this spring. Several performers have been

contacted but final arrangements have not been made.

Joe Stallings, chairman of COF, said he is pleased with the response the group has received thus far. Close to \$1,500 has been collected and he is optimistic about achieving their goal of \$100,000.

Approximately 150 students have participated in the planning and initiation of projects this year, Stallings said. But there's still plenty to do for anyone who is willing to work.

Anyone interested in working with COF should contact Stallings in the Student Government offices in Suite C of the Student Union.

Stories
by
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