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The Black Grapevine

A Plea to the Talented Tenth

In September 1903 W.E.B. Du Bois, African American historian and sociologist, advocated the concept of the Talented Tenth. This theory emphasized the necessity for higher education in order to develop leadership among the most able ten percent of Black Americans. According to Du Bois, "The Negro race, like all races, is going to be saved by its exceptional men" (Du Bois: 1903).

In supporting this claim, he pointed out that "From the very first it has been the educated and intelligent of the Negro people that have led and



elevated the mass..." (Du Bois: 1903). He also posed the question: "Can the masses of the Negro people be in any possible way more quickly raised than by the effort and example this aristocracy of talent and character" (Du Bois: 1903)? He states that it is necessary for the "college-bred Negro" to be the leader of the group as the Negro people need social leadership more than most groups as they have lack traditions, established customs and strong family ties to fall back upon.

Do you think that today's "Talented Tenth" are living up to Du Bois' expectations?

Presidential Welcome

Hotep! (Hello) Members of the Black Student Union,

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Black Student Union, I would like to welcome the Class of 2010 and returning members. The Executive Board's mission is to facilitate an uplifting and enjoyable university experience for our members. The Black Student Union (BSU) has been a major contributor to my memorable and advantageous university experience. Throughout my journey with the Black Student Union as a past President and Undergraduate Advisor, I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge to continue the elevation of the Black Student Union.

As the Black Student Union

prepares to celebrate 40 years of existence, the continued dedication of BSU's members is needed to keep our organization in the respectable position as one of the university's most established student groups. Our theme for 2006-2007 is: The Awakening. The Executive Board is dedicated to revitalizing the lost consciousness of our generation's community problems. Becoming an ACTIVE member of the Black Student Union is not only an important aspect of your university experience but a commitment to uplifting the African-American community.

To continue our successful path, we have an array of meeting topics, the Sickle Cell Charity Auction, Black Solidarity Week, Harlem Night, The Black Affair,

The Black Student Union Conference, B.L.A.C.K. D.A.Y., Health Fairs, Black Explosion, Women's Appreciation Dinner, and Men's Appreciation Dinner. I urge you to become apart of the ever-changing Black Student Union by becoming an active member on a committee. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, feel free to call us at 716-645-3029 or email us at bsu1967@gmail.com, walk-ins are welcome at our office at 307 Student Union. You can also visit our website at <http://buffalo.edu/sa/bsu>. Good luck with classes!

Sincerely,
Simone Hicks
President

Do You Know B.S.U.?

The Black Student Union (B.S.U.) was established in 1967 and was made an official student organization in 1968. Within a year of its formation, the University at Buffalo's first club for people of color counted one thousand members. In the first few years of its existence, the Black Student Union made its mark on the Buffalo community through a breakfast program that began by catering to 130 pupils at the Westminster House in October of 1969 and continued doing so for several years that followed. Shortly after, in 1972, five demands were submitted to the university's president at the time, President Ketter, requiring the creation of a Black Studies department, the reappointment and guaranteed permanency until retirement of two Black faculty members, the involvement of minority faculty members in the tenure review of other minority faculty, ongoing dialogue between minority students and faculty and the academic departments on minority issues as well as communication between the president's office and the Black contingency.

Given that the Union was founded during a time of turmoil for Blacks in America as well as Blacks worldwide, the main aim was to unite the university's Black community in an attempt to foster self-liberating ideals as well as the liberation of other oppressed people. Even though the current situation of America's Black population is not as calamitous as it was in the sixties, the Black Student Union is still adheres to the bases upon which the organization was established. Included in these is the desire to preserve and perpetuate Black culture, dignity and self-awareness by educating members about issues that previously and currently hinder progress within the Black community.

Membership Requirements

In order to obtain membership in the Black Student Union, one must either be a part-time or full-time undergraduate or graduate student, an alumni or a member of the faculty. In addition, one must also have attended five general or committee meetings per semester.

B.S.U. Activities

Welcome Back BBQ: 9/3/2006

1st General Meeting: 9/6/2006

Sickle Cell Charity Auction: 9/30/06

Skating Jam: 10/14/2006

Black Solidarity Week: 11/6-10/2006

The Black Affair: Mr. & Mrs. Black Student Union: 12/1/2006

Pre-Kwanzaa Dinner: 12/9/2006

Leadership Conference: 2/3/2007

Jazzy Night: 2/10/2007

Black Explosion Fashion & Cultural Show: 2/24/2007

Small-Keels Memorial BBQ: 4/22/2007

*The Black Student Union
In Association With
Alpha Beta Sigma Sorority, Inc.
present their
Annual Sickle Cell Charity Auction
September 30th, 2006*

TO PARTICIPATE, SEND AN E-MAIL TO: bsu1967@gmail.com

PROCEEDS GO TO SICKLE CELL ANEMIA RESEARCH

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