

# GRAPEVINE

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICES  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
EDITOR: ANGELA NORRIS

WEEK ENDING: NOVEMBER 14, 1980  
VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 12  
CO-EDITOR: PHYLLIS CHEREBIN

## THE FUTURE OF BLACK EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Black students at the U of R are said to be far more passive than their predecessors of the 60's and early 70's. Indeed, this tranquil group has had educational opportunities handed to them at a cost that they often forget about--someone else's blood, someone else's determination and someone else's actions. The 1960's have been written off as a decade of revolutionaries with long hair, dirty blue jeans, and radical ideals. The 1969 take-over of the Faculty Club has been reduced to an acute anomaly in U of R history; ideological support of Blacks has been replaced by indifference, fear or racism. Few students think that racial warfare is a possibility on campus, and that belief is supported by the university's admission policies which keep Black students distinctly in the minority and effectively outnumbered. The financial aid office also lends its support by luring Black students here with high financial aid packets but not increasing the award as expenses increase. Certainly, this also holds true with white students, or so they tell me, but it effects a greater percentage of Blacks. The fatal blow usually comes in the junior or senior year, and all financial aid officers can say is "no," or more aptly, "we tried."

Let us assume, for the moment, that the admissions office is trying very hard to increase the Black applicant pool, and that the financial aid office is supporting that effort. If that is so, then someone is failing miserably. In 1969, the University of Rochester admitted approximately 100 Black students; in 1980 the number was 30. After pondering over the question why, Dean of Admissions, Tim Scholl, says that "Black students are going elsewhere." In another day and age, that may have been a profound answer, but today it is less than satisfying--especially in light of certain developments on the university campus and in the nation.

On Tuesday, November 11, the Times Union and the New York Times published articles about Ronald Reagan's study group

which is to make policy recommendations to the president-elect. One of the members of that board is the U or R's own chancellor W. Allen Wallis. According to the New York Times (page c4, column 3):

W. Allen Wallis, chancellor of the University of Rochester, another advisor, said he recommended closing university files to students who wanted to see teacher recommendations, eliminating regulations about providing access to the handicapped, discarding specifications about laboratory experiments on human subjects and animals, discontinuing affirmative action programs, revitalizing basic research and adopting a voucher system.

Critics of the voucher system, including many educators, have said that the system benefits the rich. "Blacks in the inner city are ignorant," Mr. Wallis said of the voucher program. "But they're not stupid. They're concerned about their kids."

According to the Times Union, Mr. Wallis does not remember the New York Times reporter questioning him about affirmative action. He has not made any recommendations about affirmative action, he continued, but does find the program "burdensome some to colleges and university [sic] and questionable whether they accomplish anything." (Times Union)

Although I am understandably concerned about his stand on affirmative action, I also find the committee's other projected activities troublesome. Considering the political climate of the country, the time is not right to rewrite regulations: this would only serve to strip people of their basic human rights--that is all people except for White males. The recent cross-burning at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts serves to illustrate the fact that minorities must be protected by the law when racism is supported in society.

I challenge Mr. Wallis and the board to listen to students and other groups who will be effected by the policies that they will propose. Rest assured that Blacks, women, students, other concerned Americans and the Grapevine will be watching.

\*\*By Angela Norris

NOTICE: The Association of Black Drama and the Arts is presenting Broken Chains. three one act plays at Todd theater on November 13-15. Tickets are \$1:00 for U of R students, and \$2:00 for all other students with I.D., and \$2:50 for the general public.

## U OF R GOSPEL CHOIR VISITS BROWN UNIVERSITY

This past weekend, November 7-9, the U of R Gospel Choir travelled to Brown University. The choir was invited to participate in the first annual Gospel Showcase, which featured groups from various colleges in the Northeast. Besides the Brown choirs and the U of R choir, participating choirs included those from Boston University and Dartmouth.

In some ways the U of R choir was linked to the Gospel Showcase by stronger ties than solidarity with other New England colleges. The honorable Reverend Darryl Smaw who is presently working at Brown, was formerly a Colgate Divinity student and an active participant in River Campus events. In fact, he was the founder of a forerunner of the current Gospel Choir. In 1972 Rev. Smaw was instrumental in forming the Sojourner Truth Gospel Choir. Despite the fact that the Sojourner Truth choir later failed, Rev. Smaw planted the seed which later grew into the present 30 member gospel choir. Members of the Sojourner Truth choir later went on to form the present U of R Gospel Choir with the help of Rev. Eaton of the campus ministry.

Despite the rigors of the eight hour drive to and from the Brown campus in Providence, Rhode Island, the trip provided both excitement and enlightenment for the 30 members that made the trip. During Saturday morning and afternoon the choir members toured the Brown campus and downtown Providence attractions. The most attractive sites were the shopping centers and food shops in the restored shopping district. Choir members also toured the Black student operated Third World House which houses the Brown equivalent of the Black Students' Union.

However, the highlight of the trip began when the singing started. Rev. Smaw got the evening off to an emotional start with an opening address and song. Throughout the performances of the first groups a steady fire and momentum built up within the audience as the show progressed. Each group contributed to that momentum until it exploded in enthusiasm during the performances of the Boston University, U of R and Brown choirs.

The spirit of love which filled the room was phenomenal. The feeling of love was so real that you could probably have reached out and touched it. The good feelings surrounded everyone in the audience and filled them with joy. When the choir members left Brown, they left feeling better about themselves, the people they met, and the state of things in general. In fact, we had such a good time that we have been invited back for next year and we have already accepted the invitation.

The Black Students' Union held a "brainstorming session" on Thursday, November 6, 1980, at 8:00 p.m. in Wilson Commons. The goal of this meeting was to allow members to offer some input into the planning of activities for the remainder of the academic year.

Committee reports were first on the agenda. Social Chairperson Scott Smith announced a dance to be held on November 21, 1980 and asked for members' assistance in organizing the event. Due to the fact that Smith will be studying abroad next semester, the need for a new Social Chairperson was discussed.

Community Affairs Chairperson Steve Bryant expressed thanks to those who helped make the Baden Street Settlement Halloween party a success and extended an invitation for members to attend his committee meetings. He announced that Margaret Polk in the admissions office is looking for students interested in housing perspective students; a list was passed around for those interested.

There were several guests present at the session. Margaret Perry of the English Department offered her assistance to the BSU. Kimba Chery and Paul Coal from the Speakers' Bureau expressed their desire to bring several prominent speakers to the U of R including Bobbi Humphrey, and entertainer, Frank Banister, a National Black Network sports-caster, Peter Bailey, former editor of Ebony, Dr. Walter Cooper, a scientist with Kodak, and Vinnie Burroughs, a performer.

The floor was then opened for discussion. The following ideas were brought up:

- co-sponsoring with other groups to bring Vernon Jordan on campus
- publishing an informative BSU/Grapevine newsletter
- bringing non-political speakers such as Henry Lewis Gates to campus
- attending "Ain't Misbehavin'"
- taking an excursion to Buffalo to attend the Stevie Wonder concert
- having an International Fiesta
- bringing an African Dance troupe to campus
- having a Black American Art Exhibit at Harnett Gallery

Robert Gamble, President, indicated that all suggestions would be considered carefully and the meeting was adjourned. If you have any questions or suggestions, please come to the next BSU meeting to be held on Thursday, November 20, 1980 at 8:00 p.m.

Carolyn Stokes BSU secretary