

GRAPEVINE

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

WEEK ENDING: MARCH 30, 1979
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Alumni Reunion a success

The Ten Year Anniversary celebration of the Office of Minority Student Affairs which was held this past weekend was an overwhelming success. For the 35 or more alumni who attended, it provided an opportunity to catch up on what their former classmates have been doing since they graduated, and also a chance to see what has been going on at the University of Rochester since then. The participants in the celebration came from the Classes of 1971 through 1977, with most participants coming from the Class of 1975.

The weekend began with an Open House at the Department of Special Student Services offices in Lattimore 107 and 127. Several alumni stopped by to say hello and to sign the guest register provided for the occasion. Many of the older alumni remarked how strange it felt to walk around campus as an alumnus and see "all those young people." The weather was excellent as the alumni began to arrive on Friday, which seemed to be a good omen for the weekend. The Coffeehouse sponsored by ABDA on Friday night put everyone in a relaxed mood as the alumni who were there were called upon to introduce themselves and to relate what they have been doing since they left the U of R. The bid whist tournament which followed the Coffeehouse was well attended by undergraduates as well as alumni.

On Saturday morning only a few alumni were able to get out of bed early enough to make the meeting with the D.S.S.S. staff and student group representatives, but those who were there were brought up to date on the condition of the Black student groups on campus and were able to compare these groups with those that existed when they were here. The meeting was just getting heated up when it had to be stopped so everyone could go to the luncheon in the Faculty Club. That event turned out to be more interesting than many people expected. Provost O'Brien, the keynote speaker, spoke for several minutes about the low minority representation in the undergraduate classes and the even lower representation in the graduate schools and faculty. But his use of the word "minority" was challenged by Rev. James A. Goins, who explained that Blacks make up 22% of the population of the United States. According to Rev. Goins, since no other ethnic group comes even close to that figure, we certainly cannot be called a minority. Several alumni, and undergraduates as well, challenged the Provost to stop making excuses for the statistics and to do something about it instead. A promise was made to all present that steps would be taken to rectify the situation as well as to improve the experience of Black students at the U of R. Provost O'Brien said that the UR

Administration had made a commitment to this task and invited everyone to contribute their ideas and input to the process. Time alone will tell whether the promises made will be fulfilled.

The alumni "let it all hang out" Saturday night at a buffet/disco in the May Room and at the Casablanca Disco on North Clinton Avenue downtown where a reunion party sponsored by Randy Rosso (Class of '77) rocked into the wee hours of the morning.

The weekend events were capped off by a 1 p.m. service on Sunday in the Chapel, featuring music by the U of R Gospel Choir, the Mount Olivet Baptist Youth Choir, the Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church choir, and God's Children. Closing remarks and the benediction were given by Rev. James A. Goins. At 3 p.m. the Black Seeds performed in the May Room.

The celebration was enjoyed by everyone who participated. It fulfilled a variety of purposes, social, academic and intellectual, and set a precedent for closer relations between Black undergraduates and alumni. As Michael Tyler said during the luncheon on Saturday, this weekend was truly "history in the making". Hopefully, this is the beginning of a new tradition at the University of Rochester.

Congratulations...

...to Foreign Student Adviser Judy Abelman and her husband Barry Goldfarb on the birth of their first child, a son, Adam, on Saturday, March 25 at Strong Memorial Hospital. Mother and child have been released from the hospital and both are doing well.

Don't forget the deadline for application to the New York State Assembly Summre Intern Program is April 5. Seniors and graduate students during the 1979-80 school year who have good academic records are eligible to apply. If interested see Barbara Harris-Smith for application forms or call x2864.

Applications for on-campus housing for the 1979-80 academic year are available in Residence Halls offices until April 13.

English Language workshops are still being offered by the English Dept. on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. in Morey 501. Sessions will be held April 3, 10, 17, and 24. For more information call 275-4202.

Black Economist speaks here

On Monday, March 26, 1979, the Outside Speakers Committee presented Black economist Dr. Thomas Sowell of U.C.L.A. Dr. Sowell, probably best known for his publications Black Education: Myth and Tragedies and Affirmative Action Reconsidered, told the rather sparse crowd in Hubbell Auditorium that he makes no distinction between affirmative action and quota systems, that the only difference would be a "point of conception", and that they "accomplish nothing at great cost". He feels this way primarily because he does not consider Blacks a minority. Breaking Whites into sub-groups, Sowell relayed that Anglo-Saxons constitute 14% of the American population, followed by German-Americans with 13%. Since Blacks are third with 11%, Sowell contends that "the notion of Blacks being a minority is not accurate."

Furthermore, Sowell feels that the National Average of Income is used with bias to justify policies. He dubbed the National Average scale a "continuum rather than a minority-majority dichotomy" and drew a chart to support his idea. On the chart he listed every conceivable group of Americans and wrote their proportionate income to the National Average (100%). Jews led the way with 170% and second from the bottom were Blacks with 62%. Sowell then said that the difference could be attributed to location and age of the groups. The last census showed that 53% of all Blacks lived in the South, a traditionally low income area. This same area showed virtually no Jews. Also, the average age of groups varies greatly, and so there are more adults in each Jewish family that can work. Nevertheless, his argument lacked common sense. Perhaps he was correct when he said that Mexican-Americans and Puerto-Rican Americans have the lowest per capita income, and that the reason that the National Average shows them 1-14 points above Blacks is attributable to location, but he never really explained the vast difference between 170% and 62%, only implying that it was not due to discrimination. He stated that in areas totally under the control of the individual, there is still disproportionate representation.

Sowell also believes that the minimum wage law was detrimental to Black teenagers because "being unemployed with the hypothetical chance of the minimum wage does not pay bills." However, he did not state why Blacks were exclusive.

Dr. Sowell will be on tour in the East before returning to his post at U.C.L.A. An intelligent, but not necessarily prolific speaker, Sowell is a former research director for the Hoover Institute.

****by Angela Norris****

NOTICES

WORLD BROADCAST PRESENTS:

March 29--Eritrea With the Guerrillas

A portrait of an Eritrean town held by guerrillas. The town has survived in the long, bitter struggle against the Ethiopians, but now the Ethiopians have some help--Cuban and Russian "advisors."

April 5--Bogota, One Day

The people of Bogota, from the runaway street children to the rich and powerful elite. Behind the scenes of one of South America's few remaining democracies.

See your local listings for time and channel.

GOSPELFEST

Sponsored by the U of R Gospel Choir

Sunday, April 1, 1979

8:15 p.m.

Strong Auditorium

Featuring choirs from area churches

Adults \$2.00

Children under 12 \$1.50

Students w/ I.D. \$1.00

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EVENING OF NOSTALGIA

"DISCO"

Sponsored by the Sweethearts of Alpha Phi Alpha, in conjunction with the Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on Friday, March 30 in the Alpha Den in the basement of Sage. Admission is 50¢.

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W I N !

\$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00

Take a chance on winning some money and help the U of R Gospel Choir raise money at the same time. Buy a raffle ticket from any member of the Gospel Choir and keep your fingers crossed! Tickets cost 50¢ each. Drawing will be held on April 27, 1979.

The Sweethearts and Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. present a Fashion Show, on Saturday April 7 at 9 p.m. in the Frederick Douglass Building. Ticket information will be forthcoming in the next "Grapevine".