

THE BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE
P. O. BOX 419 NEWCOMB HALL
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

27 July 1985

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Black Student Alliance (BSA), I would like to extend my formal congratulations, on your admittance to the University of Virginia. The BSA at the University of Virginia exists as a support system for students who happen to be Afro-American. The Office of Afro-American Affairs (housed in the Luther P. Jackson House) and the Carter G. Woodson Institute are two other very important support systems. BSA is totally student run, while the Luther P. Jackson House and the Carter G. Woodson Institute are administrative offices which have always been overwhelmingly supportive of BSA policies, procedures, and demands. Both of these administrative offices and the BSA are essential.

In the early 70's, a handful of U.VA students formed The Black Student Alliance at which time it was named 'Black Students for Freedom.' Realizing that their strength was in their unity, they did not hesitate to bring their collective effort into existence. Faced with the problems of institutionalized racism, which often results when minorities are found at predominately Euro-American institutions, those dedicated few set out to address and deal with their situation. Since that time, the organization and the Black student population has grown, some of the problems have been solved, however, many still remain.

Today, the needs of the Black community have changed and will continue to change; therefore, your input and participation are essential to BSA as well as other university-wide organizations. Your input does not have to coincide with existing policies. We would rather you maintain your character and individuality so that we may continue to learn from one another. If BSA is going to provide any real intrinsic value to us, it must not only reflect the past, but access the present. It must be dynamic in order to suggest a new direction for the University, to serve as a strong link between the past and present, and to go forth outlining or at least suggesting future directions. You will hear more about BSA at our first 'body meeting' of the new school year during orientation.

In closing, I would again like to congratulate you and wish you much success in furthering your achievements as well as the most fruitful of experiences. Further, I challenge you academically, spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Take care of yourself and enjoy the rest of your summer. Upon your arrival or around the first of September, don't hesitate to contact the BSA (924-3589) if you or your parents are in need of information with regards to reasonable lodging and/or food. Looking forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,



Shedrick Lorenzo Barber
Chairman, BSA