

July 7, 1988

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Dear Students,

On behalf of the Black Student Alliance (BSA), we would like to extend formal congratulations to the newly admitted students as well as those who are returning. The BSA at the University of Virginia is a community service and student government organization. The organization's purpose is to serve as a support mechanism for Black students by providing services and activities to the entire University community from a Black student perspective and by voicing the concerns of Black students.

The Black Student Alliance was established in the early 1970's by a handful of U. Va. students. 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 considerably. Some of the past problems have been solved. However, several still remain.

To some degree, the needs of the Black community have changed and will continue to change; therefore, your input and participation are essential to the BSA as well as other University-wide organizations (i.e. Honor Committee, U-Union, Residence Life, et cetera). 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 the 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 the BSA at orientation exercises as well as our first "body meeting" of the new school year.

We would again like to congratulate you and wish you success in all of your endeavors. Further, we challenge you academically, spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Enjoy all that the summer has to offer and upon your arrival, do not hesitate to contact us at Newcomb Hall, fourth floor. Our phone number is (804) 924-3589.
Peace.

Jerry Bias
Chair
Black Student Alliance