

SGA Exec Council Focuses on Racism, Curriculum Problems

The Student Government Association's Executive Branch is initiating new programs to meet the needs of students at Emory. The SGA, as the governing body for all 8 schools in the University, is directing its efforts at University wide problems: racism, curriculum, university government, and relations with other campuses.

According to SGA President Charles Haynes, more students than ever will be involved in Student Government next year. Haynes hopes to work closely with the legislative branch of the SGA and with the governing councils of each school. He is especially interested in encouraging the College Council to deal with matters pertaining to the College, leaving SGA free to focus on University wide problems. Haynes organized an Executive Council last Spring to serve as his immediate Advisors and as a government task force. In addition, there are Executive and Legislative committees dealing with questions in many areas. This organizational structure is intended to find the needs of students and to effectively find solutions.

In the wake of last year's demonstrations, President Haynes and Dr. Atwood pledged to eradicate racism on the Emory campus. To meet this pledge the SGA is sponsoring an educational program on white racism beginning in September. In describing this program Haynes said: "It is my hope that incoming Freshmen will take part in the seminars and programs designed to face the problem of white racism at Emory. This is our most important priority and our deepest commitment for the coming year."

This summer Haynes signed a nation-wide call for an end to the Vietnam war. On October 15th the SGA will sponsor a day of activities designed to protest the war and to pressure the Nixon administration to bring about an end to the war. Films and speakers and a rally will highlight the effort to cease "business as usual" on the Emory campus and focus on the conflict in Vietnam.

Another important area of concentration for the SGA Executive will be University Government. The SGA will attempt to devise a plan that will bring administrators, faculty and students together in one government body. Haynes does not feel that the present system gives an adequate voice to student and faculty proposals. He envisions a coordination of effort between all three groups that gives students participatory power in the affairs of the University.

The SGA plans to work with other campuses on two levels. Firstly, the SGA is a member of the NSA and expects to work closely with the NSA to bring their programs and benefits to the campus. Secondly, Gayle Bowden has formed a new committee to improve Emory's relations to other campuses in the Atlanta area.

All of these areas are open to any student interested in participating. The new Communications Bureau will be attempting next year to solicit your opinions and suggestions and to keep you informed of what your government is doing. If you need to get something done, bring the problem to the Student Government.

BSA Gives Black Students Important Voice on Campus

by Rena Price

Organized in Spring Quarter, 1968, the Black Student Alliance, a fully chartered and approved organization of Emory University, is a new and vibrant voice on Emory's campus. Prior to its formation, the Black students at Emory lived, studied and worked in an atmosphere of acceptance—a myth clothed in smiles and pleasantries. Prior to its formation, the Black student had little power to speak out and change those policies which affect his life at Emory.

Today the Black students have catapulted [[catapulted]] into the mainstream of campus life and decisions, and that vehicle for ingress into the white power structure is the Black Student Alliance. The purposes of the organization are threefold: 1) To create a self-conscious Black community on the Emory campus; 2) To promote knowledge of Black culture and heritage, and 3) To serve as a forum for the expression of Black ideas and goals.

Consistent with these purposes, the BSA has achieved: a) a Spring production, May 1968—a chamber adaptation of *Montage of A Dream Deferred*, by Langston Hughes—produced, directed, and supported entirely by the efforts of members of BSA; b) initiator of Black man's history and literature in the University curriculum of studies; c) Brother Week—a week of activities that served to stimulate Black unity and Black [[Black]] cultural ideas; d) visible confrontation with a racist power structure in May, 1969, when Black students marched, demonstrated, picketed, and “rapped” on those institutions affecting the lives of workers and students at Emory.

Of the accomplishments of the BSA, the latter serves as a seed for promoting a conspicuous body of Blacks on campus, as well as initiating more positive action on the part of the university toward further commitment to Blacks, their culture and heritage.

For the Black students, the Alliance offers a positively structured Black organization from which Black ideas and recognitions can be fostered.

The Alliance is served by a triumvirate of officers—James Brown, Moderator, Otis Turner and Rena Price. Committees of the Alliance are Liaison, Velma Soloman, Chairman; Activities, Michael Holmes; Chairman, and Academics, James Gavin, Chairman. Other officers are Julius Williams, Treasurer; Aurelia Carro II, Recording Secretarys [[Secretary]], and Marquette Johnson, Correspondence Secretary.