

NEWSLETTER

February is Black History Month, a time to recognize outstanding black men and women, and their contributions in building America. The BSA (Black Student Alliance) has put this newsletter together, so that the campus as a whole can become involved in Black History Month.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

WHAT MUST WE DO TO CREATE AN OPEN SOCIETY?

American society has gotten lost somewhere along the way. The goal in society must be to move beyond racism and create an Open Society—a society, in which, each human being can develop to the maximum of his or her potential, a society, in which, ethnic and cultural differences have no basis for judgement. An Open Society is a society that offers choices and options. But in an Open Society, the exercise of such a choice would not be penalized with inadequate services, discriminatory practices, and open hostility. It would be but one of many choices that individuals would be free to make within their own framework of self-discovery.

An Open Society would offer people the chance to get to know others for what they are on the inside—to go beyond the surface of the skin itself. Each person has something unique and valuable to contribute to American society.

An Open Society has to be based on equality. This does not mean “equal opportunity” which is a word that seems to “form” on the lips of Americans these days, nor does it mean that everyone must do as well as everyone else. Many people assume that because some laws have been passed and some doors have been opened, that Blacks have equal opportunities. But as long as Blacks have the disadvantage when it comes to jobs, health, education, and housing, equal opportunity is a myth.

What must we do to create an Open Society in America? In order to create an Open Society, there must be commitment from all Americans. Building an Open Society will require hard, determined work by all people—Black and white. We all as people suffer under the present society in America, and we both can transform society into something decent and humane. I believe that one day whites and Blacks will learn to work together and create the Open Society that America needs. It will be difficult, but if we work together, we will attain the goals we set together as people. In order to restore dignity, escape hatred, and restore decency all citizens must learn that the color of the skin has nothing to do with the ability of the individual. We must learn to look deep within our hearts to find the goodness in a person, respect one another, and then finally love each other, and not the color of each other.

Yolanda D. Carter

BSA President