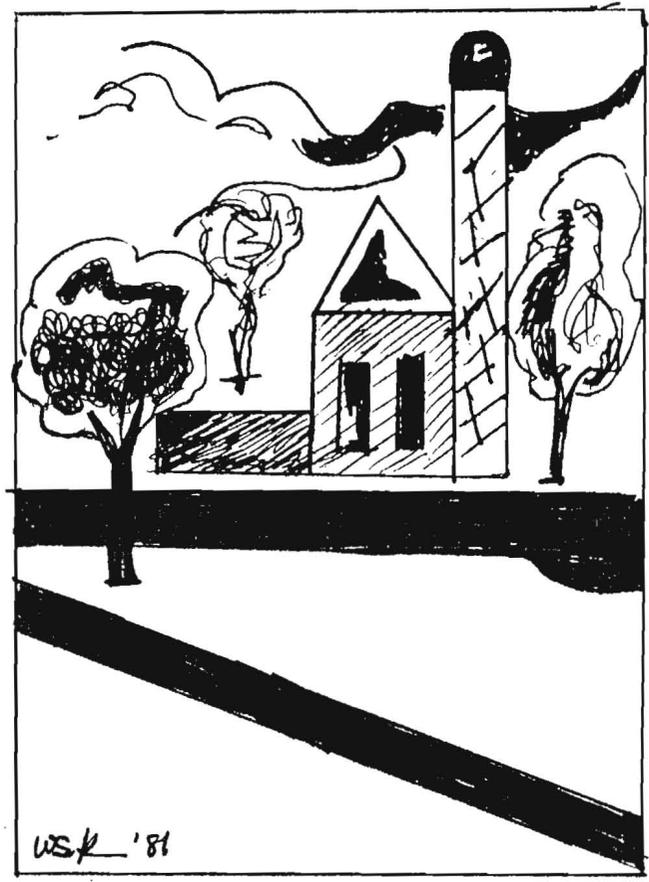


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The
Black Student Organization



KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

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CONSTITUTION OF THE BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATION

PURPOSE:

We, the students of Kalamazoo College, in response to a need, to provide a more integrated atmosphere, that will stimulate awareness in the Afro-American culture, identity and ideologies, initiate this constitution.

ARTICLE I: Name.

This body shall be known as the Black Student Organization.

ARTICLE II: Membership.

Membership is open to all students of Kalamazoo College, who are sincerely committed to the purpose and continuation of said organization.

ARTICLE III: General Business Meetings.

- A. The Black Student Organization shall meet weekly at a time and place designated by the co-chairpersons with the consensus of the members.
- B. A member can vote at any official meeting unless he has missed the last two previous official meetings. Voting will be by role call. There will be a sign-in sheet at every official meeting. Each member shall be responsible for signing in.
- C. The quorum of the organization shall be a simple majority of the voting membership. For a bill to pass, a 2/3 majority of the quorum is necessary for passage of said bill.
- D. The co-chairpersons shall also have the power to call special meetings.

ARTICLE IV: Powers and Duties of the Officers.

- A. The officers shall consist of:
 1. Two co-chairpersons who shall:
 - a. Preside over all general business meetings.
 - b. Be responsible for the execution of all decisions rendered by the organization.
 - c. Represent the organization on all matters unless another party is delegated by the co-chairpersons.
 2. One secretary who shall:
 - a. Record the minutes of all official meetings and post the minutes on the bulletin board. At the beginning of the next official meeting, said person shall read the minutes of the previous meeting.

- b. Will be responsible for preparation of all official correspondence, as well as reports requested by the co-chairpersons and treasurer.
- c. Will be responsible for the attendance list of members at each meeting.

3. A treasurer who shall;

- a. Disburse funds upon request of the co-chairpersons with the approval of the members.
- b. Keep a complete and accurate account of all receipts and disbursement of funds.
- c. Give weekly reports of the organization's financial position.

B. The Executive Committee

- 1. Authorize expenditures of group funds subject to organization approval.
- 2. Have disagreement between committee decided by a vote of the membership.
- 3. Executive Committee shall be composed of the organization's officers.
- 4. All officers shall be responsible for training and the leaving of information pertaining to their respective offices of their successors.

ARTICLE V: Elections.

- A. Elections shall be held at the first meeting of each quarter.
- B. Two co-chairpersons, one secretary, and the treasurer shall be elected at the beginning of each quarter.
 - 1. The officers shall serve for two consecutive quarters.
 - 2. The officers may be elected an unlimited number of times.

ARTICLE VI: Removal from office.

- A. A two-thirds majority of all members can remove an officer.
- B. Reasons for removal would be failure to comply with ARTICLE IV.

ARTICLE VII: Amendments.

- A. An amendment to this constitution may be initiated and approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership that is eligible to vote.
- B. There must be one week notice before the vote on an amendment can take place.

The Black Student Organization gained its impetus during the Spring quarter of 1968, in the wake of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Additionally, Kalamazoo College has never had a sizable native-born black student body in a significant amount, but on the wake of the Rev. Dr. King's assassination, Kalamazoo College, like many colleges and universities around the country that were classified as being non-black colleges and universities, sought out these young men and women which had not been seriously recruited prior to that dastardly deed.

The Great Lakes Colleges Association, an organization composed of 12 small liberal arts colleges located in the states of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, found that most of them were faced with the same twinge of conscience that Kalamazoo College faced itself with, the exception being Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. Out of that the Black Student Organization, with similarly named titles at the other schools, was born!

The initial function of the organization was to assist black students in the process of acculturating to an environment which was strange and was being perceived (not by the students themselves, necessarily) as being hostile. It was felt, as exemplified by many of the administration, that based on the rhetoric espoused at that time by Black and White college students, a budgetary item for the organization was established as an addendum to the regularly budgeted items for student activities. From that beginning, many things developed as the organization sought to become a legitimate organization in the eyes of the entire campus community as well as the community at large.

The Black Student Organization is the only organization which has remained a viable group! The various societies appear to have fallen by the wayside, with

the office of student affairs having to pick up the slack. However, like any other organization, a consistent cadre of personalities is needed. I strongly suggest that you avail yourselves to this organization and assist in it being retained as a needed and contributing segment of this campus.

Finally, as of June 5, 1981, this organization became a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I dare say that now since most of "the dust has settled" in the wake of the reasoning for it being organized, that the perimeters have been expanded to the point that the organization has endeavored to do a variety of things for the benefit of the entire campus community.

Dr. Romeo Eldridge Phillips
Associate Professor of Education

REV. DR. MARTIN L. KING, JR. CHAPEL SERVICE

A special chapel service is held annually to commemorate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. This event occurs the Friday following Black Heritage Day, the 15th of January. The service includes the singing of the Black National Anthem, a guest speaker, and a presentation of Dr. King's accomplishments. This event is open to the entire college campus and surrounding community. The Black Student Organization recognizes the need to put an end to racism and to establish some sort of racial equilibrium in the world. We are determined and dedicated to continuing the struggle.

Faith Miles

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This year the Black Student Organization sponsored various ethnic activities during the month of February, Black History Month. In the second week, the organization sponsored a Black History Dinner which acted as a kick-off activity. By the end of that week, a Black play by a professional troupe had been performed. The following week, the organization sponsored a chapel service commemorating black music and the impact that it had on American life. The final week, a dance with professional D.J's was held. Throughout the month, daily trivia questions concerning famous blacks or situations in Black History to test the college communities knowledge. A free coke was given for the correct answer. The month was a huge success.

Ciri Webster

THE BLACK HISTORY DINNER

Each February, the Black Student Organization sponsors the Black History Dinner. Students, faculty, administrators and community members of all races come together to be reminded of and educated in the black historical experience. Noted speakers are given the opportunity to share their knowledge of that experience with the college community. This year's guest speaker was Dr. Benjamin Wilson of Western Michigan University's Afro-Americana Studies Center, who gave an audio-visual presentation on the role of blacks in western Michigan's history. The Black Student Organization sees only increasing success for the Black History Dinner in it's valuable purpose of exposing people to an integral part of our country's heritage.

Christopher Reynolds

THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

During the Spring quarter at Kalamazoo College, the members of the Black Student Organization present annually on campus an event called "The Black Arts Festival". The Black Arts Festival, like many other well-organized events presented by the Black Student Organization, is designed basically to depict the black culture at its very best. This event includes such activities as: a guest lecturer(s), movies, songs and readings by the organization, a talent show, and a dance which culminates the festival.

In the past, the Black Arts Festival has been a week long activity. Presently, it is held for three days. The length of this event depends on the membership. With the continual cooperation, dedication, and endurance of each individual member, the Black Arts Festival will always remain an intrinsic part of the enrichment of this campus.

Warren Kelly

DANCES

When Kalamazoo College's Black Student Organization gets together and throws a party/dance it is always a grand success. The organization goes out of its way to give the campus community a sensational performance by importing some of the best disc jockeys from the Motor City. They come with a complete light show, sirens, smoke machines, bubble machines, bombs, fireworks, and the latest jams guaranteed to blow your mind...like Wo! Just the slightest mention of a dance thrown by the Black Student Organization makes the K-College nerds perk up, the acid freaks come out, and the groupies unite. It's always a freaky affair....be there or be square!

Randy Gill

THE NAACP LIFE MEMBERSHIP

On June 5, 1981, the Black Student Organization was awarded a life membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Carl Breeding, president of the Michigan state chapter of the NAACP, made the presentation to then chairperson Cheryl Pearce and Provost Warren Board at the annual Freedom Fund Dinner. The Black Student Organization now joins the ranks of three other Kalamazoo organizations in the local chapter. The life membership gives a representative of the organization a vote in NAACP affairs at the local, state, regional, and national levels. The membership also entitles the Black Student Organization to a life subscription to the NAACP magazine Crisis, and two tickets to the annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

Valerie Hunter

FUTURE GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

As each quarter presents a new challenge to our organization, the Black Student Organization strives to preserve its reputation for promoting Black awareness. As such, the Black Student Organization will continue to maintain and practice the goals outlined by its constitution. In addition, future goals include:

The Black Alumni Dinner - a dinner honoring the Black Alums of Kalamazoo College.

Pre-Freshman Weekend - a weekend during the Summer quarter for black students entering the Freshman class.

Recruitment - the organization would like to increase its role in the recruitment of black students.

Black Studies - the organization firmly believes that a Black Studies Program is a vital element in a liberal arts education, and continues to fight for such a program at Kalamazoo College.

A continual effort by the members of the organization to keep in touch with the Black community, has spawned much concern and sincere interest over the plight of Blacks in America, and the struggle for recognition and equality. The Black Student Organization is committed to this struggle.

William Fowler

CURRENT BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATION MEMBERS - 1981

William Fowler	K'83
Randy Gill	K'83
Holly Golightly	K'84
Valerie Hunter	K'82
Warren Kelly	K'83
Lee McDonald	K'83
Faith Miles	K'83
Gary Patterson	K'83
Cheryl Pearce	K'82
Christopher Reynolds	K'83
Mark Riley	K'82
Susan Russell	K'83
Kenneth Sanders	K'84
Ciri Webster	K'83
Beverly Allen	Amherst