Black Students Union Formed at USD

Office of Public Information

Follow this and additional works at: http://digital.sandiego.edu/newsreleases

Digital USD Citation
http://digital.sandiego.edu/newsreleases/195

This Press Release is brought to you for free and open access by the USD News at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact digital@sandiego.edu.
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACK STUDENTS UNION FORMED AT USD

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--Black students' need for expression of ethnic identity led to the formation of the Black Students Union at the University of San Diego, the BSU chairman told students and faculty Thursday (May 1).

Black students organized said William Miller, BSU chairman, because "black people have problems that rise from our very being black, problems that we live with 24 hours of every day. This gives us a singularity of purpose that is very hard for others to identify with." Miller cited other ethnic groups in America associating from common interests as a precedent.

Principles and goals of the University of San Diego BSU include the inspiring of black and brown high school and junior college students to seek higher education, and once in school to stay there, Miller said.

BSU would also sponsor cultural programs and campus dialogues to promote understanding within the university community, he added.

Jon Connor, BSU Minister of Information, told the assembly, "In the past black students wanted to be baseball players because of the black baseball stars. When I walk down the streets of South East San Diego, people know I am a college man. That may turn them off, but they know I am in college. Just being there is the best inspiration we can give black high school students."

Asked if the BSU would seek black studies courses at USD, Miller replied that the organization would try to bring them about if it can. (USD will be offering a Black Literature course in the fall.)

Answering an objection that by forming a black organization of students, an "artificial barrier" was being created, Miller said, "America has been a melting pot, but a melting pot only for whites. Negros by their immediate, high visibility have always been set aside. Blacks have never been assimilated, though they have been miscegenated in some cases. The color barrier was not built by us, I was born into a society in which I was discriminated against because I am black."

Leonard Jones, is BSU prime minister. Other officers are Charles Davis, minister of defense, Belita Taylor, minister of finance, and Denise McFarland, minister of internal affairs. ####

jb/6/1/69 - 105