



Richard Bland College
of WILLIAM & MARY

NORRIS V. SCHEV, et.al.

327 F. Supp.1368 (1971)

PLAINTIFFS
(Hill, Tucker and Marsh)

DEFENDANTS
(OAG, Hisrhler/Fleishler & McIlwane)

Ethel M. Morris

VSU Faculty

VSU Students

*Select Black
HS Students*

Governor (Holton)

SCHEV

W&M/VSU Boards

RBC President

THE PARTIES

SUMMARY

In 1971, a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia decided the 14th Amendment case *Norris v. State Council of Higher Education (aka VSU Injunction)*, by enjoining “[Richard] Bland and its parent [sic], William and Mary, from escalating Bland into a four-year college.”

NORRIS V. SCHEV, et.al.
327 F. Supp.1368 (E.D. 1971)



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OTHER RELIEF SOUGHT

MERGE RBC and VSU

- Court denied merger
- Denial w/o prejudice
- No established need to join facilities
- Future developments may
- change need
- Court thought w/in purview
- of SCHEV

VIRGINIA DEVELOP DESEGREGATION PLAN

- Court rejected that it had authority to order desegregation plan
- Role of legislature
- Legislature needs to be added as party



DECISION BASIS

NORRIS V. SCHEV, et.al.
327 F. Supp.1368 (E.D. 1971)

- Court concluded that the escalation of RBC would interfere with VSU's ability to desegregate (recruitment from similar geographical region)
- VA was still operating a racially identifiable dual system of higher education.
- Appropriation Act of 1970, Item # 600, outlined W&M effort to escalate RBC to 4-year after remaining junior colleges were added, or in the process of being added, to the VCCS.
- VSU and RBC had significant disparities in racial make-up. VSU was 98% Black; RBC was 99% White.
- VSU and RBC offered similar programs.
- 12% of all Black students made up available college pool.
- 81% of all Black college students attended VSU and NSU.
- Served students from similar geographic region.



- **Dangerous precedent (did not consider a guideline for the future)**
- **Solution offered by the court blocked the progress and improvement of individual colleges and universities**
- **If proper, NSU and ODU also need to be enjoined**
- **NSU and ODU stand as example; escalation would not hinder VSU's ability to desegregate**
- **Decision would limit opportunities for worthy Black students to secure a college education**
- **Agreed with no merger and no SCHEV desegregation plan as that was within the purview of the legislature**
- **No evidence that RBC failed to admit or even recruit Black students since its inception**
- **Distinctions between the institutions were clear; VSU was more residential and RBC accommodated more commuter students.**

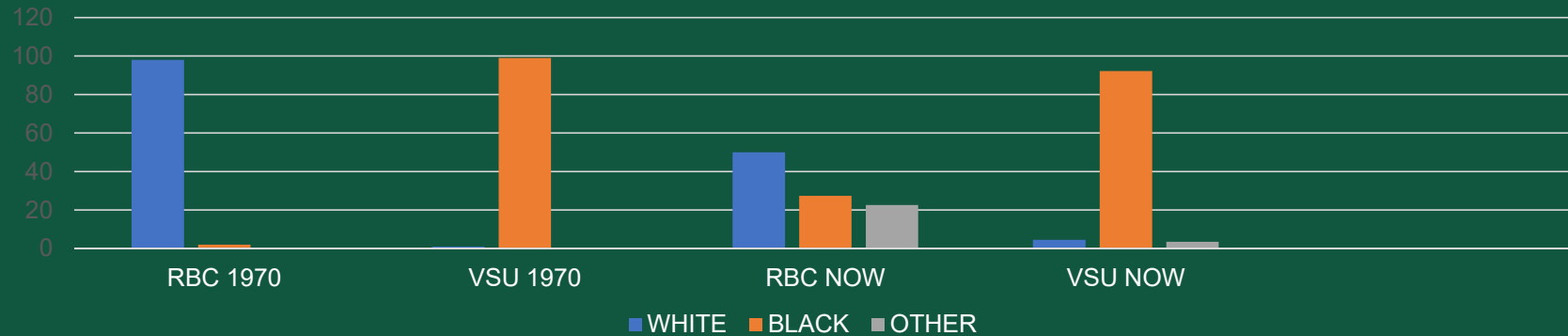
THE DISSENT

NORRIS V. SCHEV, et.al.
327 F. Supp.1368 (E.D.
1971)



THEN & NOW

% of RBC Students of Color



2016 - 44.7%, 2017 -44.3%, 2018-47.3%, 2019- 50.4 % and 2020 - 50.0 %



RBC / VSU: A WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP



- **Shared Services Agreements**
- **Collaborative Programs, e.g. ROTC**
- **Preferential Admission Agreements**
- **No duplication of degrees**
- **VSU Online Degree Programs (graduate level only)**
- **Success Model - NSU/ODU**





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QUESTIONS