

## Editorials

# Ungrateful Graduates

The majority of this 1981 graduating class will follow in the footsteps of the majority of former FSU graduates. They will have taken all that FSU has to offer and they will put nothing back. They will become part of that shamefully large group of ungrateful graduates.

FSU's graduates are notoriously negligent when it comes to giving monetary support to their alma mater. The 1981 grads will not be any different. Because of their college education, they will put on their three-piece suits of the latest fashion and drive off to their offices and classrooms, never giving a second thought to the financial status of the school that enabled them to be in that very position.

In an effort to boost students' confidence and their involvement, they have often been told that without THEM, there would be no faculty, no administration, no school. They have been told that the employees of FSU are paid to serve THEM. They have been told that a free education is their RIGHT.

All of these things are true - to a certain extent. First, the student that is so necessary in order for there to be a school is not the unique individual. It is any student - a name, a body, a slot. If John Doe were not here, there would be another John Doe or Mr. or Ms. X to fill his slot. So the individual graduate has been very fortunate that he or she was the one who filled that slot and received that diploma.

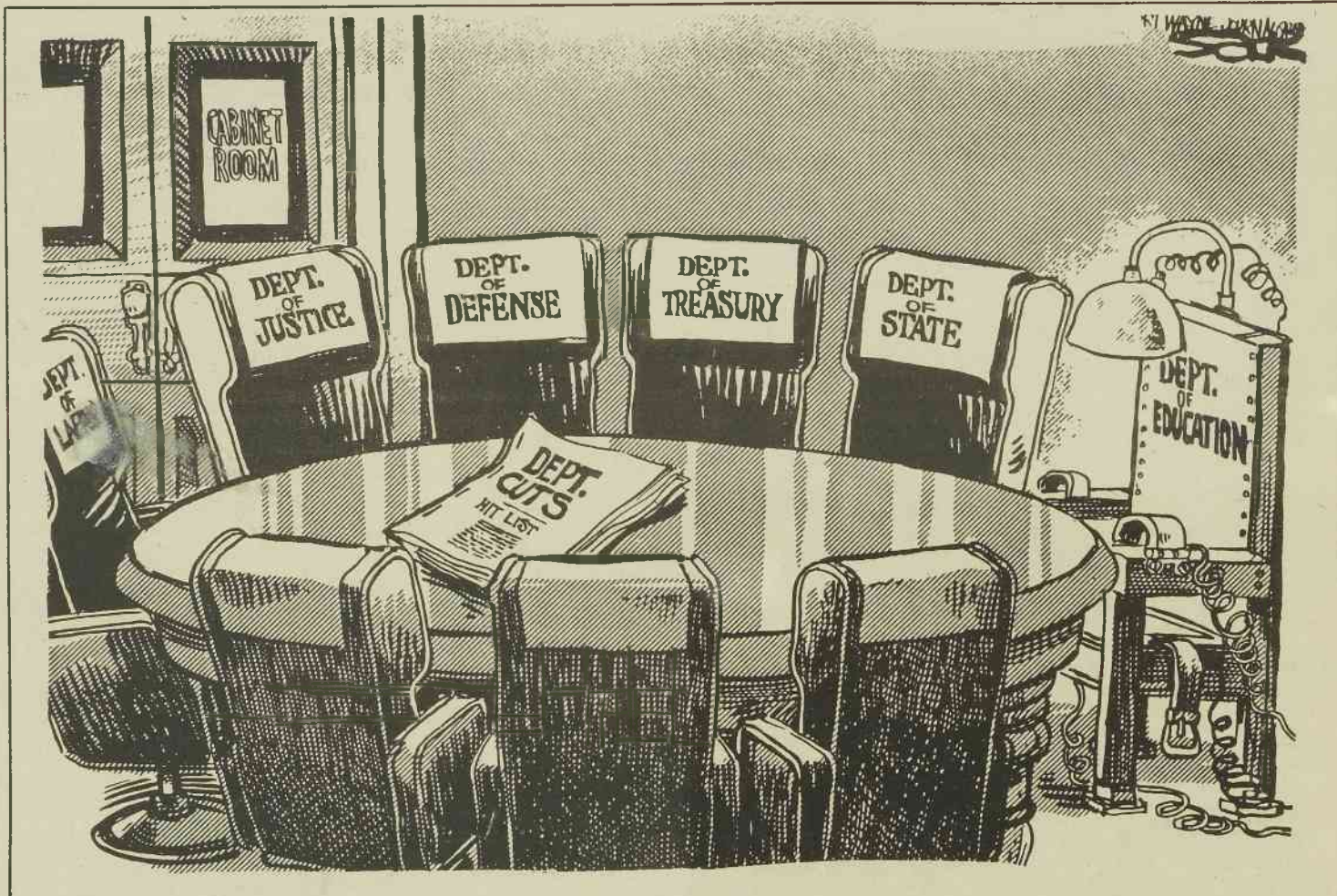
It is also true that the people who work here are paid to serve the students. But have the students ever stopped to consider the many things these individuals do for them that are in no way listed in their contracts or job descriptions?

The greatest conditional statement made to students is that they are entitled to a FREE education. Be serious! That old saying about "the best things in life are free" is a nice sentiment, but unfortunately, it has nothing to do with higher education.

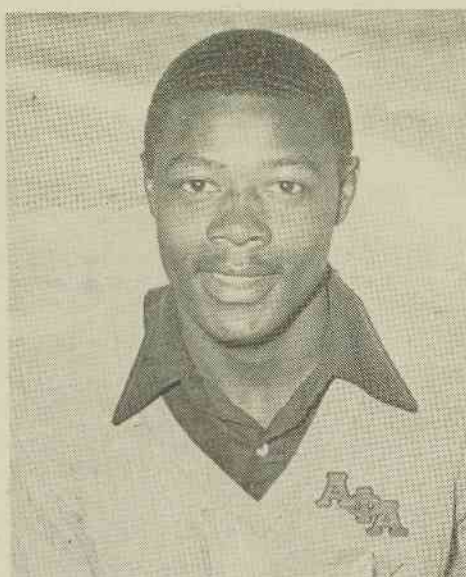
A college education costs money - lots of money - more money than the state or federal government provides. FSU is constantly in search of funding from the private sector. The money that paid for many of the books, equipment, facilities and services that were used to provide graduates with those diplomas came from sources other than state and federal funds. It came from people who cared about the quality of education. It came from people who wanted those diplomas to mean something - something more than four years spent at a substandard institution.

But did that money come from former FSU graduates? Very little of it. And will future monetary support come from the graduates of 1981? Probably very little of it. Unless they realize that, even though they (or the government) paid their tuition and fees, they still owe a great deal to FSU. A small yearly donation from every living, employed graduate would have a significant effect on the improvements that could be in this University.

Remember, after all debts are cleared with the Business Office, there is still a debt to the school. Will the graduating class of 1981 honor it? Or will they become another group of users - another group of ungrateful graduates?



## WILLIE SPEAKS



### FSU Bids Farewell Not only to graduating Seniors

By WILLIE SMITH

On May 10, 1981, an estimated 383 students will receive degrees from Fayetteville State University. However, these students will not be the only ones not returning in the fall of '81. There are several reasons why others won't be returning, two of which are more evident than all others. One is the budget cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration, and the other is the fact that some of us have deviated from the real purpose of the University.

The budget cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration, if enacted, will leave many students out of the college scene simply because of the lack of proper funding to continue their education. It seems as though the policy-makers in Washington, D.C. would be among the first to acknowledge the fact that education is the cornerstone of our society. The importance of education appears to have been overlooked by this administration. Increased ignorance will only increase problems. We need trained minds now more than ever before to help us remain the powerful

nation that we are and to continue to compete with other nations which are fastly coming of age in technological advancement. Without Federal funding, many young, gifted minds will be wasted. Believe me when I say, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Then there is the fact that the grade point averages of some students won't allow them to return in the fall. It seems as though some of us have the misconception that the university is a place for socialization only. These are the people who don't have time to study for socializing. Some of us find the university as place of easy profits, as they can forcefully enter into someone's car or dorm and remove items of value. These are the people who don't have time to study for stealing. Then there are those of us who are here with the get-high attitude. These people speak in three-word phrases, "got-a-joint," "let's-get-high," and "fire-up-one". These are the people who can't study for getting high. Is it that these people are mere products of their various environments? No! Anyone can change and if we don't realize that change is necessary for advancement, all is lost and so are those who aren't flexible enough to make the changes necessary to achieve this advancement. I believe that everyone can make it--everyone won't, but everyone could. I believe strongly that if the mind can conceive it, and the heart can believe, then the body can achieve it.

### From The Advisor .....

The academic year 1980-81 has been a good year for *The Voice*. We have accomplished a few of our goals. We have experienced some emotional highs and lows, but most importantly, we have learned to work as a team.

Because of your dedication and hard work, I take this opportunity to publicly offer you my sincerest thanks. Most of us started out this year with very little experience, but after applying ourselves and asking a lot of questions, our final product is a student publication that not only *The Voice* staff, but the entire university family can be proud of.

A few of you deserve special recognition. Jacquelyn Stewart, Editor, who came along late in the year

but put forth a valiant effort. Willie Smith, Associate Editor, who during his first month on the staff produced a piece that won him acclaim from the members of the 30th Regional Press Institute in Savannah, Georgia. He also became our first columnist this year. Beverly Edge, Layout Editor, who put in long hours, sometimes all night long, to ensure that the paper was laid out on time. Curtis Pritchard, Associate Editor, who carried us through a transition period. Everyone on the staff is aware of the role they played. I owe each of you a debt of gratitude.

Lillie Booth, former Editor; Valery Frazier, Associate Editor; Brenda Bethea, Editorial Writer; Kenneth Johnson, Staff Writer; all are graduating seniors. We are glad, and at the same time sad to see you leave. We wish you much success in all of your endeavors as you venture out from FSU. Have a good life. In the words of my favorite quote, "You Done Good!"

As we look forward to next year, we anticipate even greater things. Beginning in the Fall of 1981, *The Voice* will be published twice monthly, thereby allowing us to keep our readers abreast of the news in a more timely manner. We will also publish one issue per session during the upcoming Summer Session.

There will be a few organizational changes made during the new year. The staff will be participating in workshops, seminars, attending conferences, etc. Staff positions will become more competitive. We've reached a point where we are concerned with QUALITY and not QUANTITY.

If you are interested in becoming a member of *The Voice* staff, contact *The Voice* office in the Rudolph Jones Student Center on your return to school.

Letters printed in *The Voice* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Voice* staff or the Administration. *The Voice* welcomes reader mail. Letters should be 300 words or less and must be signed although signature may be withheld upon request. *The Voice* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and good taste.

**SPEAK UP BRONCOS!**