

## Editorials

Prospective candidates for SGA are dropping their names around campus in preparation for the March elections. Looking back to the "promises, promises" of last year, one can only wonder if FSU will ever get an SGA team that is really on the ball.

A good example of the slipshod, ill-prepared operation of the present SGA can be seen in the observance of Black History Month. Events and guest speakers on the campus were hastily planned and poorly publicized. Students either did not get the word or got it so late that they were in many cases unable to attend these functions.

Certain SGA spokesmen have blamed the Administration for planning things and failing to give proper notification. This excuse is just that—an excuse. One of SGA's primary functions is to act as liaison between the Administration and the student body. Why didn't they get the word to the students? Of course that would be hard to do when they (SGA) are guilty of the same thing.

Poor attendance at campus events is bad enough. Compounding this with a failure to even inform students is a strike against the SGA. This situation has caused the student body to be perceived negatively in the community.

While the SGA president and his assistants have been running around accusing the senate of being uncooperative, the Administration of being uncaring, and the students of being apathetic, perhaps they should remember that it is their job to alleviate at least some of these problems.

If SGA officials would put half the effort into over-the-summer planning as they do in spring campaigning, they could probably function a lot better. There is no reason why Homecoming shows, Martin Luther King's birthday observation, and Black History Month activities cannot be at least tentatively planned during spring, summer, and very early fall as the cases may require.

In March, as the old SGA finishes its same old march down the same old path of previous SGAs, perhaps those coming into office will decide to pave the way to successful student administration.

## WILLIE SPEAKS



### Out Of Sight-Out Of Mind

By Willie Smith

It seems to be common nature for man to fight to protect those things that he feels are most precious to him. Whether they are tangible or intangible items, when a man feels that something he cherishes is about to be taken away, he will in most instances retaliate to protect it. But so many times that old saying, "out of sight-out of mind" seems to take effect. This happens to many different people in many different instances. We even see evidence of it here at Fayetteville State University. There seems to be a very nonchalant approach to problems that face us now and could ultimately take away some of the things that we cherish dearly. We may not recognize it, but many of the things that we concern ourselves with seem to say that we

really don't care a great deal, or we really don't realize what could happen.

One very obvious incident was the one concerning writing letters to congressmen and senators with respect to the budget cuts as proposed by the Reagan administration. There were those of us who were under the misconception that, "it won't hurt me, I'm a senior," or "I pay my way through school any way." What about those who are less fortunate than you. It is easy to see that on this campus these people represent the majority of the population and whatever hurts the majority will surely affect the rest.

The point that we seem to be missing is in the fact that it doesn't have to hurt you now in order to hurt you. And in many cases, the delayed affect could cause the hurt to be more severe when it actually does materialize. This is not the only case. There have been other times when we have needed to push for one thing and we found ourselves pushing for something else. And in some of these cases that something else was something that we actually could have done without anyway.

It would seem apparent that we need to really evaluate the various issues before we take action on them. It is also time that we gain a sense of responsibility for those who are to follow us and those who are less fortunate than that select few of us. Think of where we might be if someone before us had not felt a sense of responsibility for our generation.



## Voice No Exception

Some people think that half a loaf is better than none. Well, the people who have to provide the other half in addition to their whole loaf would disagree. *The Voice* is staffed by a few who keep producing only half.

*Voice* staff meetings are attended from fair to well. But assignments are often passed in late, incomplete and untyped. All members know that there is only one paid (work-study) person, yet they seem to feel that "someone" will get all of the information squared away, typed and laid out by deadline.

The mention of lay-out opens up a

whole new can of worms. Members seem to be unwilling to learn the process of laying out the newspaper. They also seem to be unwilling to forego any weekend plans for this once-a-month stage of producing a paper. Again, "someone" will get it done.

Hardly an issue of this paper is published without some mention of student apathy. *The Voice* suffers from this malady as much as any organization on campus. The *STUDENT* newspaper has been and still is looking for a few GOOD students who are interested in producing a quality newspaper each month.

### From The Grassroots

## "Capital Punishment: Legal Lynching"

By Manning Marable

One of the South's oldest and most popular methods for dealing with the "Negro Problem" was lynching. Over 3,500 black men and women were hung, burned at the stake, and sexually mutilated between 1882 and 1927. With the Great Depression, however, the racist brutalities largely left the streets and cotton plantations, moving into the very heart of America's penal system. Capital punishment, in actual practice, became the central and decisive means to threaten black people "legally."

The racial bias within the statistics on capital punishment speaks for itself. Although blacks comprised about nine percent of the U.S. population in the 1930s, almost 50 percent of all prisoners who were executed during the decade were Afro-Americans. 97.1 percent of all whites executed had been convicted for murder. Only 10 white men were executed for rape during the entire ten year period. 115 black men were sentenced to die for rape in the 1930s, 14.1 percent of all blacks executed. After 1940, the number of blacks convicted and eventually killed for capital crimes increased significantly relative to whites. Between 1940 and 1959 the percentage of blacks executed for rape compared to the total number of blacks killed steadily climbed, reaching nearly one fourth of the total. About 90 percent of all Americans executed for rape between 1930 and 1959 were black, and all but two of the sentences occurred in the South.

Georgia, one of the leading lynching states, has also executed the highest number of prisoners since 1930, 366 persons. The most important statistic to consider may be this: no white has ever been executed for the rape of a black in American history.

Advocates of capital punishment found themselves on the defensive in the 1960s. Research revealed that between 1928 and 1949, the average homicide rates in states that allowed the death penalty were 200 to 300 percent higher than in states that had no capital punishment. Homicide rates in the early 1960s, when executions averaged 24 each year, were only 70 percent of the 1930s rate, when executions averaged 150 per year. Some states that switched to the death penalty actually experienced increases in their homicide rates. Confronted with mounting evidence that the death penalty was inherently racist and an ineffective deterrent against crime, white social scientists, police administrations and politicians launched an ideological "counteroffensive." The nation's leading crime stopper, F.B.I. director J. Edgar Hoover, spoke out repeatedly in favor of capital punishment. University of Chicago economist Isaac Ehrlich published a widely praised study which claimed that "every execution deterred approximately eight murders. Politicians in both the Democratic and Republican parties informed a budget conscious

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