

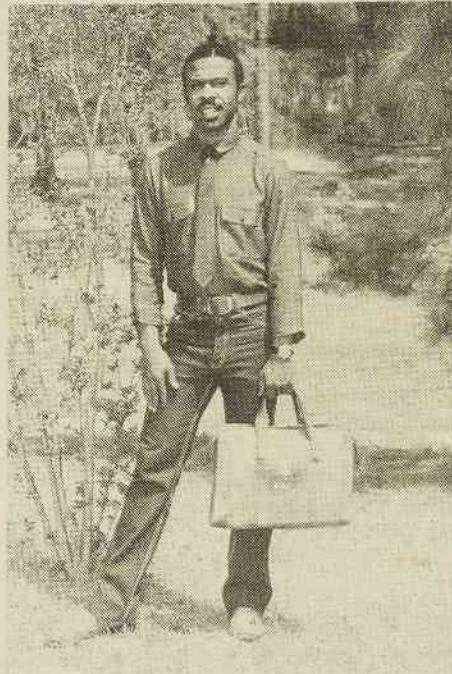


Lydia Day, Miss FSU

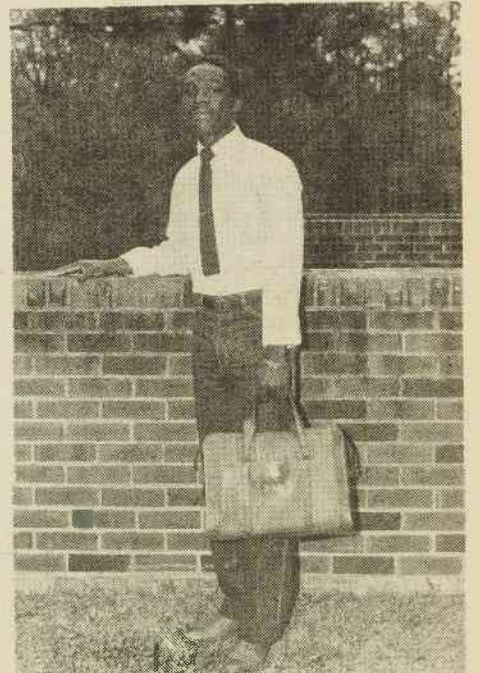


Herb McMillian, SGA Business Manager

NEW SGA INSTALLED



Jerry Beatty, SGA President



Tommy Bumpers, SGA Vice President

Leola Weeks,
Miss Student Center

President's Inaugural Address

The importance of student government as a part of the University is to be measured by the same basic criterion as any other university activity, that is, its meaning for education. Student Government as the sum total of out-of-class activities influences the atmosphere and setting of student life. It reflects the quality of faculty instruction. It is the action side of college education, and as such, the vital side. As the vital side compliments the academic side. Student Government is not to be viewed as child's play or as a side show. It is essence to the teaching mission of the university.

Closely associated with the concept of academic freedom is student freedom. At this University students should enjoy maximum opportunity to express themselves and to manage their affairs in the living, active, and realistic laboratory of campus life. This should be simply a recognition that each student is an individual who is seeking to develop his own character, integrity and capabilities and who is striving to find ways of using his powers in the service of humanity. There has developed, in this University, a suitable environment in which the weak can grow strong and the strong can grow great. One is free to fail as well as to succeed. A few students interpret the absence of strict regulation to be an invitation to a life of frivolity, but the majority of us respond wisely to the opportunity to

develop self-discipline. Student freedom, like all freedom, is subject to attack when there is an abuse. But too often its critics measure the effectiveness of student leadership under student freedom against a hypothetically perfect alternative. But measured over the years by realistic standards, the verdict should be clear that the quality of leadership by students at this University is high. Student freedom, like academic freedom, is an essential attribute of a great university. In these attributes we must continue to excel.

Philosophies of Student Government vary with each new administration. My view of Student Government would not coincide with those of my predecessors. Yet, admitting different personalities and different perspectives, there are discernable trends that etch themselves in the woodwork of time. I do not see my philosophy to be at wide discrepancy with the spirit of the past. In addition, my essential philosophy of student government is one of people - people working with one another, trying to better the cause of their fellowman through constructive service and meaningful action: to me that is what student government should be all about. Clearly the most meaningful aspect of my job will be working with the wonderfully committed and involved members of the entire university family.

In this day and age students question

the meaningfulness of any form of involvement. Consequently, I will attempt to present avenues of action that are both personally valuable and socially beneficial. In the ideal, student government represents the involvement of the student community in areas that will assure personal growth, positive action, service to fellow students, and benefit to the larger community of man.

Because we have been allowed as a result of the blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors to develop our minds, it is our duty to see that intellect to advance our people and not our own selfish interests. The Black man now stands at the crossroad of human destiny. He is at the place where he must either step forward or backward. As college students, we are the hope for the future. We must possess the intellect, the energy and the courage to stand up and advocate for Black America.

The wealth of promise found within the walls of Black College and Universities is not a secret confined to the community. Someone must have told our government that Martin Luther King, Stokely Carmichael and Thurgood Marshall are graduates of predominantly Black institutions. The word also leaked that there is a whole new breed of politically conscious Black students about to be cast upon the world who have all intentions to make positive changes for all

humanity.

The realization of this possibility has prompted an attack on Black Colleges and Universities, by way of desegregation plans, mergers, lack of funding, decline in basic grants to Black students and pressure applied on the administrations of Black schools to sell us out.

As students of a predominantly Black university we cannot allow this camouflaged attack of our schools to continue unchallenged. The need to outwardly express our sentiments and take action within this organization is there. We shall remember the last will and testament of Frederick Douglass which said: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never shall."

The belief that we as Black people cannot extract justice and equality for our people must be discarded.

For we are as powerful as our collective activities are to exert that power. As we embark upon endeavors to advocate for Black America, we'll always be mindful that there will be some within our own race who will seek to discourage and dissuade us from our task. I leave you with these words of Marcus Garvey that were spoken more than a half century ago: "The illiterate and shallow-minded Negro who can see no farther than his nose is now the greatest stumbling block in the way of the race."