



The Voice

Speaking For Ourselves



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Dr. Charles "A" Lyons, Jr.

Chancellor Addresses House

Dr. Charles "A" Lyons, Jr., Chancellor, Fayetteville State University, testified before the United States House of Representatives, Post Secondary Education Subcommittee today on the impact of the Regan Administration's fiscal '84 budget proposals on Historically Black Public Colleges and Universities. The Administration has put forward significant and serious budget proposals recommending major revamping of current student financial aid programs.

Dr. Lyons' testimony reflected the interests of the 2,400 plus students at Fayetteville State University, as well as, students of the other 113 Historically Black Institutions which are members of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education. Fayetteville State University students, like many other students in a large number of colleges, rely heavily on financial aid to help pay their college expenses.

Dr. Lyons noted that FSU awarded a total of \$3,052,045 in financial aid from all sources during the 1981-82 academic year with the majority (\$2,725,081) being federal funds. Therefore, it is clear that continuing financial aid at least at the current levels is critical to our type institution and to our universe of students if educational opportunity is to remain a reality. At least 90% of these students receive help from a combination of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), the National Direct Student Loan (NDSL), the North Carolina Student Incentive Grant (NCSIG), the Pell Grant, and the College Work-Study Programs (CWSP). These students are from families whose average annual income is little more than \$7,000 and the average annual number of dependents is five (5).

Chancellor Lyons stressed the fact that many of these students are first generation college students. Their success in college and at becoming productive citizens after graduating are dependent upon the right mix of financial aid. Over the years, colleges and universities have spent a great deal of time researching for the particular type of student population they serve. Chancellor Lyons said, "Disturbing that mix may have severe negative effects on how well some students perform academically."

In view of this he said, "We believe there is not time between now and the time appropriations panels start marking up spending bills to give these proposals the fair and in-depth attention they deserve. Moreover, colleges and universities need more time to assess the probable impact these far reaching changes would have on the institutions and on their ability to

continue, unimpeded, the process of accessing and educating students. It is therefore, our considered judgement that the proposals put forward by the Administration should be considered reauthorization proposals rather than budget proposals and deferred for a fair and just examination and hearing in the reauthorization process."

In order to avoid the inevitable bottlenecks, which occur when major changes are made in programs and new regulations have to be written and approved before programs can be implemented, Chancellor Lyons strongly urged that spending on student aid programs for Fiscal '84 be based on current law rather than on the program changes requested by the administration.

Elections Underway

By Emanuel Vaughn

The SGA elections for the '83-'84 term is under way after careful preparation by Terry Williams, chairperson of the Election Board.

Ms. Williams' first problem was recruiting new election board members to replace those members running for office. Then, the student Senate, headed by SGA Vice President, Tommy Bumpass, had to approve each election board member before the board could function.

Although it is proper for the Student Senate to approve the Election Board before it can function (Student Handbook Article VI Section II) "This is the first time they've ever done this in the four years that I've been a member of the board" stated Ms. Williams.

Another point debated was that Election Board members are to serve one year terms (Student Handbook Article VI Section III). Ms. Williams says "it would be almost impossible for members of an election board to function in a proper manner when none of those members have the knowledge needed to have full authority over election proceedings."

Mr. Bumpass, and the remaining Student Senators agreed to look into this matter for future elections.

Decline In Cutbacks Expected

While little hiring strength is reported for the first quarter of 1983 by manufacturers, far fewer cutbacks are expected. In may be that the workforce is as slim as it will get. This stabilization can be viewed as a positive sign, particularly in the depressed Midwest which reports the greatest improvement in this sector. Northeastern manufacturers predict a continued downward trend and additional reductions.

Overall, 12% of manufacturers of durable goods plan to expand staff during January, February and March, slightly less than one year ago (15%) while 19% expect reductions, compared to a higher 22 % last year. A higher 65% plan no change in staff levels, compared to 59% with similar intentions last year.

Manufacturers of non-durable goods predict a slightly better job climate than those of durable good. As many employers plan to add workers (11%) during the first quarter of 1983 as expect reductions. Last year, 14% planned to expand staff. Currently, 11% expect cutbacks, down markedly from 16% last year, and a high 74% plan no change in employment levels. Southern manufacturers report the strongest hiring activity with three times more employers planning to add new workers than expecting reductions in this sector.

Student Activities Director Goes To Jail

By Rosemary Byrd

The American Cancer Society sponsored a "Jail-a-Thon" to help the Cumberland County unit meet their quota. The major portion of the money received will go to research, patient service and public education.

Dr. Elaine Newsome, the Second Vice President for the Cumberland County unit, said "recently there has been a great deal of cancer found in Black Americans while cancer has decreased in other groups." The American Cancer Society is trying to eliminate this problem through public education and other means.

The entire community was involved in this project on March 16-18. Various citizens were arrested by members of the County Sheriff Department and Dr. Irving Veazie, director of Student Activities was among the citizens arrested in the jail-a-thon for the American Cancer Society. They were fined a certain amount of money which had to be paid in pledges and contributions before they were released from jail.

Dr. Vaezie thanks all members of the university family that participated in this worthwhile community project on behalf of the university.

Religion -VS- School

By Isaih Reed

In colleges and universities all over the country, life as a student is similar in many ways. Students attend classes, go to the library, study, become involved in various activities, etc. At Fayetteville State University life is no different, but, for one particular student, life has been more than just average. For Andre' McCrae, who is President of the Collegiate Fellows and Fellowship of Christian Students, life is a little more complexed. In addition to being a student and holding these positions of leadership, he's also a minister.

Reverend Andre' McCrae, a senior from Raeford, N.C., is majoring in Psychology. Andre' spends many early mornings and late nights studying and was on the Dean's list the previous semester.

"Most of the time you forget about your school work because it does not matter to you," says Andre'. "You dedicate yourself to your Ministry."

When asked if having a job, being the leader of two organizations, and going to school presented any problems, he replied, "No, I really enjoy what I'm doing. I'm busy 24 hours a day."

Fighting Crime

Concerned that its students were growing complacent about crime prevention, Boston U. staged a "Don't Take Chances on Campus" week, featuring McGruff, the Crime Dog character known from national ads.

Evening seminars were the primary focus of the week, and BU also distributed crime prevention booklets to all 13,500 undergraduates. The booklets stressed the frequency of campus crime, and the simple ways in which students can avoid becoming victims. "This has been a very quiet campus over the past two years," explains Christopher Queen, assistant dean of students. "We found that complacency begins to set in when nothing dramatic happens - the students were beginning to get careless."

The seminars, held in the student union on four successive nights, offered practical information and hands-on training. On one evening, students learned self-defense techniques. Another night's program focused on protecting property, and dealing with the trauma of attacks that do occur. The third evening was a CPR training session in which 60 students earned CPR certification. The final night featured student actors in staged dramatizations of common situations in which students expose themselves to crime. "The last session tied in all of the things we'd talked about all week," says Queen. "The students took part in the discussion and got a chance to express their feelings." The campus police and dean of students office, co-sponsors of the program, got program trainers from the city police, the local police academy, and the Red Cross.

BU also turned to the Advertising Council, which developed McGruff the Crime Dog and the "Take a Bite Out of Crime" promotion. They not only provided printed materials for the school's use, but also sent a lifesize McGruff costume for use in passing out leaflets promoting the seminars. About 175 students participated in the program, says Queen. "We were pleased with the attendance, considering it was exam week."

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