

# Broncos' Voice



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TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN

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## Black History Month Kickoff At FSU

By Pet Gearhart

Tuesday, Feb 6th, the FSU Seabrook Auditorium was the setting for the kickoff of the Fayetteville State University's Black History Month performance. The audience was comprised of students, faculty, staff and some members of the public. Dr. Adam Simmons, Assistant Professor, opened the program by speaking of G. Woodson, "The Father of Black History." Dr. Woodson is considered by many as the driving force and genius behind Black History Month. The idea of black history week was initiated in 1926. During the Bicentennial Celebration of the USA, it turned into a month long celebration. It has stayed as a month ever since.

The FSU Concert Choir led by Dr. Pearson presented two selections. One, a spiritual, highlighted Decarius Spells, a tenor. This was followed by a gospel song featuring Eula Wright.

FSU student, Ms. Michelle Kelly, read the proclamation presented earlier that morning by Fayetteville Mayor, Harley Dawkins, declaring February Black History Month in Fayetteville.

Ms. Marcus S. Esquilin, Director of the FSU Dance Troupe, introduced a dance titled "Four Women". This dance was originally performed by the Jubilation Dance Company of New York. The dance was Ms. Esquilin's interpretation of that musical number.

Ms. Beverly Hicks, President of the Student Government Association, introduced the guest speaker Dr. Hackley, Chancellor of FSU. In his kick-off address, Chancellor

Hackley spoke of Carter G. Woodson and Martin Luther King. He said, "Carter G. Woodson and Martin Luther King were concerned about all of humanity. They knew, however, that this country would never access to the best this country has to offer. Martin Luther King had a vital interest in education and was himself an excellent student, not just in attaining knowledge and skills, but also in understanding the purposes of education. He told Black students to seek excellence in education as defined by standards that would equip us to compete equally in Mainstream America. His most famous speech is of course, "I Have A Dream." But the speech which is most relevant for students is "Be the Best." Dr. King knew that integration was inevitable, as early as the beginning of the sixties. So, he wanted us students to be ready to take their rightful places throughout this country based on merit, character and intelligence."

Dr. Hackley expressed the importance of Black history. He said, "Each year in February, we let the calendar tell us that we should glorify the contributions and sacrifices Blacks have made to the development of this country. Then in March, we and the country go back to business as usual. Why is this? We do not understand faith and determination are necessary for our people to make sustained progress. Faith and hard work, sustained over a lifetime, if necessary, is our reasonable service. I cannot come here, make a speech to you about past deeds of Black men and I have to have faith that if we work together, we can save

ourselves and save the children and save America."

Chancellor Hackley urged students to strive to be the best in whatever they do. He concluded with some personal verses: "I had a good education in those Black schools. I was never told that Black students were not supposed to score well on standardized tests.

I was told to set high goals for myself. I was told not to ask people to excuse me for poor performance because of my Blackness.

I was told not to complain because no one in my family had been to college.

I was told not to cry because I lived in the poorest section of town, or because my mother worked as a maid and my father as a janitor.

I was told that the big world out there only wanted to know if I could read, write and compute, and I could."

Finally, he said, "FSU should have a greater linkage between concern for the humanity of individual students and the competence they must have than any other institution serving them. Love is not enough; love and academic competence are not mutually exclusive. There must be both. If we here don't understand the poor student from Burgaw, Raeford, Clinton, Dunn and Fayetteville -- both in terms of what he needs to develop a strong self concept and what he needs to participate fully in the American society -- and understand him better than Harvard does, then we have lost our reason to exist."

Following Dr. Hackley's speech, Dr. Betty Lovelace, Director of



Picture By Denis McNair  
Mayor Dawkins reading the history proclamation. Standing from l to r: Dr. Clark, Ms. M. Kelly, Mayor Dawkins, Dr. Simmons, Dr. Schee and Dr. Lovelace.

Student Activities, announced other events and performances planned for

the month of February.

In closing Mr. Robert Collins,

Assistant Director of Telecommunications, gave the benediction.

## Proportion Of Blacks Living In The South Grows

The proportion of Blacks living in the South increased from 1980 to 1988, the first such rise in this century, according to a report on the Black population released today by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

Fifty-six percent of all Blacks resided in the South in 1988, compared with 52 percent in 1980. The proportion had declined since the beginning of the century when it was 90 percent. Census Bureau experts say the growing concentration is likely to continue well into the next century.

The Northeast is the only region in the 1980s to show a significant decline in its proportion of Blacks, dropping from 19 percent to 17 percent. The proportion for the Midwest (19 percent) and West (8 percent) did not change significantly.

The number of Blacks living in the South totaled 16.4 million in 1988, an increase of 2.8 million since 1980. However, for the rest of the nation, there was no significant change in the number for Blacks at 12.9 million in 1988.

Nationwide the Black population numbered 29.3 million in March 1988, an increase of 14 percent since 1980; the White population grew by 10 percent to 203.9 million. The Black proportion of the total population rose from 11.7 percent in 1980 to 12.2 percent in 1988, the report says.

Here are additional highlights from the report:

### REGIONAL

Four out of five Blacks in the South aged 25 to 34 had completed high school in 1988, a proportion not significantly different from those in the North and West; historically, Blacks in the North and West have had higher educational attainment levels. For Whites, however, the proportion in the North and West completing high school was higher than in the South.

The 1987 median income of Black families living in the South at \$17,300 was 10 percent lower than in the North and West where it was \$19,120. The median income of White families in the South at

\$30,730 was 8 percent lower than in the North and West at \$33,130.

The ratio of Black-to-White family median income in the North and West at 58 percent in 1987 was not significantly different from the South at 56 percent.

Black families in the South in 1987 had a higher poverty rate (31 percent) than those in the North and West (28 percent).

Black married-couple families in the South comprised 53 percent of all Black families in 1988 compared with 49 percent in the North and West. The proportion of Black female householder families with no husband present was 41 percent in the South and 45 percent in the North and West.

Seventy-five percent of Blacks in the North and West lived in central cities compared with 43 percent in the South.

### NATIONAL

The median earnings of Black women who worked year round and full time increased by 7.8 percent (\$14,840 to \$16,000) from 1979 to 1987. The earnings of comparable Black men at \$19,010 in 1987 were not significantly different from their earnings in 1979. As a result, the median earnings ratio of Black women to Black men increased from 0.74 in 1979 to 0.84 in 1987.

The unemployment rate for Blacks in 1988 was 11.7 percent compared with 4.7 percent for Whites. Unemployment among Black teenagers was 32.4 percent compared with 13.1 percent for White teenagers.

In 1987, 45 percent of all Black children under age 18 in families and 34 percent of all Black persons aged 65 and over were poor. The comparable proportions for Whites were 51 percent and 10 percent.

Black females outnumbered Black males by 1.9 million in 1988; there were 100 Black females for every 88 Black males. Among Whites, there were 100 females for every 96 males.

The median age of Blacks in March 1988 was 27.3 years, up from 24.8 years in 1980. The median was

25.8 years for Black males and 28.6 years for Black females.

The Census Bureau plans to continue publishing reports in the P-20 population characteristics series on the social and economic status of Blacks in America.

## Students Return To Virginia Beach

(CPS) -- Students and officials from predominantly black East Coast colleges met Jan. 18-19 to plan a peaceful return next September to Virginia Beach, Va., where the biggest annual gathering of black collegians in the country last fall broke into a violent clash with police.

In the wake of the clash, in which the National Guard was brought in to oust an estimated 100,000 students, 43 people were injured, 220 were arrested and millions of dollars of property was damaged, Virginia Beach officials asked students not to return for the annual "Greefest" next fall.

But some students, charging prejudice, promised to return, and prompted area colleges to call the mid-January meeting to make the return peaceful.

"Most of the students still intend to go back, whether they are wanted or not," said Victor Collins of the office of minority student affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. "We have to plan more widely how to deal with it."

Organized by nearby Norfolk State University, delegates to the "Labor Day National Leadership Summit" met at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel to propose holding a series of events to keep next fall's revelers busy.

The delegates resolved to hold a "religious ceremony" led, they hoped, by Jesse Jackson, to sponsor boat rides and open concerts, and, to keep police at bay, to invite Gov. Douglas Wilder to join them.

In the clash's aftermath, many stu-

dents claimed they had been unfairly targeted because they are black, and that local residents had canceled many of the weekend's traditional activities. As a result, the record-sized crowds had little to do, and were left to mill around the streets.

There was a "deliberate effort to not have anything for these students to do," maintained Collins.

The wholesale cancellation of events, special hotel rules forbidding students to visit each other and the looming presence of the National Guard gave students "the definite feeling that they were not wanted," Collins added.

The proposals made at the summit will be forwarded to the Virginia Beach Labor Day Review Committee, which plans to release a report and recommendations in February for future Labor Day events.

Virginia Beach police officer Jim Howard said the summit had given him "a new awareness and new perspective on what this event could turn out to be."

At the same time people met at Virginia Beach, Pennsylvania's Human Relations Commission released a report claiming Penn State University officials' "insensitivity" has led to a drop in the number of minority students enrolled at the school.

A rash of racial incidents at Penn State, including assaults on black students by whites and flyers containing racial epithets, prompted the Education Committee to begin an investigation into campus racism.

## FSU Involved In SAT Campaign

Fayetteville State University, as a constituent institution of the university of North Carolina, is pleased to announce their involvement with the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Campaign. This campaign will involve each campus working with high school students and their parents in a historic attempt to improve the SAT scores of students in our state.

Although the minimum admissions requirements may raise the level of knowledge for many students taking the SAT, students need more than knowledge to score well. They must be able to demonstrate their knowledge. The General Assembly, in its last session, took a step that will help on this front: it appropriated funds that will enable every student who has completed Algebra I to take the PSAT.

## Kadelpians Participate In Educational Forum

By Patricia Ramos  
In conjunction with the Cumberland County School System, Fayetteville State University presented its 4th annual Educational Forum on February 16th and 17th. The Educational Forum is a cooperative effort which includes support from F.S.U., the public schools, and the Fayetteville - Cumberland County community.

The Educational Forum has established a reputation for being an enjoyable and informative inquiry into current educational issues. This year's focus was "Reaching for Success: Strategies for Educating Students At Risk." A student considered "at risk" is one who is in danger of dropping out of school, under-achieving while in school, or leaving school without the necessary skills required to survive in today's technological world. "At risk" is a term that applies to many if not all students at some point during their primary and secondary school experience. The factors considered in determining which students are "at risk" cross all racial, intellectual and socio-economic barriers. No group is immune.

The SAT Campaign began in January 1990 and will run through July 1991. Each constituent institution has been assigned a specific region in the state and has named a coordinator. Fayetteville State University's coordinator is Mrs. Helen Owens, Director of Academic Services. FSU has been assigned the counties of Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore and Sampson.

Through a voluntary effort supported by faculty, staff and students, each campus will focus on improving test-taking skills of high school students, training teachers and counselors to conduct test-taking sessions, and informing parents about the art of test-taking. These free test-taking workshops will be given at the high school upon their request, or on the campuses by invitations sent to high schools, students or parents.

Keynote speaker for the Friday evening dinner and opening session was the honorable Daniel T. Blue, Jr., member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Representative Blue spoke of the legislature's role in our system of education in North Carolina. He explained some trends in policy-making, including a discussion of the controversial, revolutionary Senate Bill 2. This bill allows for greater flexibility and accountability of local schools in terms of their budgets.

Representative Blue made some shocking statements on North Carolina's standing in the nation in educational achievement in its public schools. We currently rank 50th in the nation in California Achievement Test scores. The policy changes which were discussed and suggested by Representative Blue are part of a legislative effort to improve North Carolina's standing and help provide a more successful educational system in the state.

Following the general session, several concurrent sessions were Continued on Page 2