

found the verdict to be Orwellian, stated "you cannot have law and order without justice."

Unfortunately, this is what Bush and many others actually expect from the populace. They expect people to behave themselves in the face of blatant injustice. Well, folks, it simply doesn't work that way.

As for the degree and level of violence, granted, it is horrific. I would have preferred demonstrations against the police - not the citizens (white, black, brown, yellow) of Los Angeles. However, the verdict created a hole through which anyone could go. It is an unfortunate fact that the criminally-minded and the 'angry-without-a-cause-but-in-need-of-a-cause' folks were the first to squeeze through this hole. And, of course, they got the most publicity and attention. Those protesters with concrete plans for action were simply ignored and eventually imprisoned in their homes to sit with their righteous indignation.

However, I am not of the opinion that this violence is a bad thing. First, more than anything else, this level and degree of violence gave Americans a good look at themselves. Contrary to popular opinion, it was not only blacks or poor people participating in wanton violence and looting. Aerial footage of the riots and looting was not able to block out the multicultural hordes of the angry. Second, I find it difficult to believe that Americans can be so horrified by this violence, but can cheer the bombing and destruction of the innocent citizens of Iraq. Exactly who out there is qualified to tell me the difference? I am convinced this is a simple manifestation of NIMBY - Not In My BackYard. It's perfectly OK to perpetrate violence against strange or foreign peoples. When it happens to Americans (who are under the illusion that they are better than others) we act horrified and want it to end.

Moreover, the media - in its quest for the perfect sensational story - stood by and permitted much of the violence to occur. Remember the white truck driver who was pulled from his truck and brutalized by citizens? Did you ever wonder why no one attempted to stop this madness? There were plenty of supposedly responsible people (like camera crews and reporters) who watched and recorded this incident. The story was more important than the man being brutalized. So, who's to blame? Everyone who stood around and did nothing to stop this - just like the officers who watched Rodney King receive a beating from their fellow officers. There's no difference.

Martin Luther King said that "a riot is the voice of the unheard." However, the violence that swept through many communities is a manifestation of an ill and dying society. The violence has little if anything to do with Rodney King and has a lot to do with our own callousness and hypocrisy.

# Campus News

Continued

## The Case of the Suspended Professor

by Barbara Beebe.

In July 1991, Dr. Kobina Oguah, a tenured associate professor of philosophy at FSU who had taught at the university for 10 years, was suspended from his faculty position. The reasons stated for this suspension, which were listed in a 9 July 91 letter from Chancellor Hackley (not available to staff at press time) have been contested by the tenured faculty members of the department of Humanities (see letter below) and FSU's Hearing and Reconsideration Committee. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has requested that Dr. Hackley "take action with respect to the findings of the hearing committee and that (he) do so consistent with the 'compelling reasons' standard." (see letter below) As of press time, this action has not been initiated.

In an April, 1992 interview, Chancellor Hackley said "the process was working for Dr. Oguah." Hackley claims the process stopped working when Dr. Oguah sent a letter to the Board of Directors of the UNC system. Stating that the letter contained "spelling errors" and visible corrections that were "embarrassing," Hackley believes Oguah's big mistake was attempting to air his grievances "outside of the process." Chancellor Hackley did not provide a copy of this "embarrassing" letter for reproduction.

However, beyond the reasons stated by Chancellor Hackley, Dr. Oguah believes there were three reasons that provided the impetus for his suspension. When asked why he felt he was suspended from his position at the university, Dr. Oguah stated, "These are only suspicions, but I really believe them. I have to emphasize suspicions because they gave me no official reason." The three suspicions Dr. Oguah stated were:

[1] His use of black philosophy in an otherwise traditional philosophy course. For the first ten weeks of the semester, Dr. Oguah said he taught "the traditional philosophy...Plato, Socrates and so forth." The last two weeks of the course were reserved for "Afro-American Political" philosophers. He required each student to write an essay, with the theme being the "search for freedom." However, Dr. Oguah stated, "I really believe the white students were talking to him (Hackley) about me." Dr. Oguah believes that some white students in the course were upset or threatened by the introduction of black philosophers in the course and reported this to the chancellor.

[2] Dr. Oguah said another reason he suspects he was suspended was "my reservations about the whole transformation of FSU to a white university." Dr. Oguah expressed these reservations to the Chancellor because "I felt I had a right to express this, even if he disagreed." He states, however, that Chancellor Hackley

has a propensity for claiming "It's my way or the highway." "He says that all the time," Dr. Oguah chuckled.

[3] Dr. Oguah believes his involvement in the 1990 Kwanzaa Festival (at which time he was blatantly misquoted by the Fayetteville Observer-Times) is the other reason for his suspension. The Fayetteville Observer-Times printed an article by Bonnie Wilson about the Kwanzaa festival with the headline "Speaker Says Cure for Racism is Urban Guerrilla Warfare." The speaker the article was referring to was Dr. Kobina Oguah. [As an attendant at the festival, I can account for Dr. Oguah's statements. I, Kurt McManus and many others came to Dr. Oguah's defense when this blatant misrepresentation occurred. - Editor]

We understand that you have not yet acted on the Committee's recommendation as is required under Section 603 Life Code The Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities provides that "[f]aculty status and related matters are primarily a faculty responsibility; this area includes . . . dismissal." The Statement continues: "The governing board and president should, on questions of faculty status, . . . concur with the faculty judgment except in rare instances and for compelling reasons which should be stated in detail."

--- excerpt from a February 14, 1992 letter to Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley from the American Association of University Professors.

# CAMPUS NEWS

Dr. Oguah believes these three suspicions are related: "You can see that there are elements that run through them - race."

Dr. Oguah is currently conducting research for a text on African speculative philosophy. Although he still receives his salary, Dr. Oguah would prefer to be reinstated to his original post. "I would prefer to be teaching, to be with the students."

July 1, 1991

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Chancellor Lloyd "Vic" Hackley  
 FROM: Faculty members  
 RE: Dismissal of Dr. Kobina Oguah

We have been told by our colleague, Dr. Kobina Oguah, that you have initiated dismissal procedures against him. We hereby urge you to reconsider and withdraw this action, for the following reasons:

1. Dr. Oguah is one of the most highly esteemed faculty members in the Department of Humanities. He is an excellent teacher who has fine rapport with most of his students.
2. Dr. Oguah is not known by any of the undersigned to be guilty of any behavior which would be grounds for dismissal of a tenured faculty member.
3. The faculty of his department was not consulted or advised about this action, nor has it been asked for corroborating material.
4. Dismissal procedures of tenured faculty members should be undertaken when the appropriate hearing bodies are available, not during the summer, when the regular faculty are not all present and committees are not at full strength.
5. We are concerned about the reputation of this University among potential faculty recruits if it is perceived as an institution at which tenure is meaningless.

If any tenured faculty member were to be dismissed, we would urge you to follow not only the due process provisions of the University Code, but also the dictates of humane and fair treatment.

*J. Malcolm Thompson*  
*Kristie A. Thompson*  
*Shirley M. Lewis*  
*Marcus C. Keith*  
*Elizabeth Waddley*  
*Roland E. Johnson*

*Patricia R. Fouquet*  
*Carl C. Archer*  
*Charles Hargrove*  
*Alexander Johnson*  
*F. Oguah*

Memorandum of support from Dr. Oguah's departmental colleagues