

The Broncos' VOICE

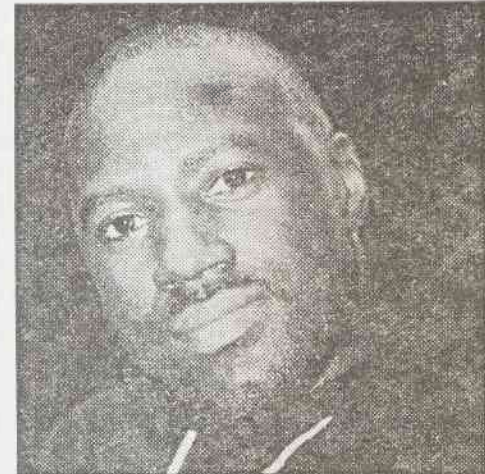
FSU ARCHIVES



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Black History Month



FSU Photo Staff

Roger Harris

28 Days and Counting...

It was a long, arduous struggle to get this nation finally and officially to acknowledge African-Americans' historical contributions to the development of world society. Indeed, there was a time when no historical mention of African-Americans' contributions to America was the norm, and only recently have "revisionists" begun to address this glaring cultural paradigm that has helped to distort and warp our national psyche. Yet our ancestors--undaunted, steadfast, and wise, saw through the fog, understanding the true nature of this dilemma. They realized that though they did not control their circumstance, self-empowerment lay in the control of their reaction to that circumstance. Whether that reaction was passive or aggressive, their wise choices gave us strength, sheltered our pain, and led us to the freedom we now enjoy.

Yet there are some who would argue that (as with Christmas) African-American History Month has become trivialized and that its focus on African-American culture and history is short-lived. They might ask "Why just 28 days?" In a society that continues its unrelenting assault on

A Reason for the Fire?

"Let's get to the heart of the matter. Is there a reason for the defensive response to the real or perceived threat to FSU's historical or cultural legacy? Damn skippy! Everybody seems to have forgotten that not a few years ago babies were being slashed from bellies unborn to instill fear; tongues cut from mouths to prevent native language communication; families separated at will; a people were considered and treated as property--raped, mauled, dismembered, and lynched... need I go on? Yes.

We must face the real fact that racism is very much alive and well in 'America'. The purposely distorted, misrepresented, and inaccurate relating of the contributions of a culture and people that both historically and bibli-

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