

Lishan W. Harrison

WHAT'S NEW?

"I started the column because of the open forum given by Dr. Hackley, held at the gazebo during the 1993 Fall Semester for commuting students. I felt that hard working people like you and me can really make a difference in improving our standards of education by letting people know what we like or dislike. And with that optimistic attitude, all faculty, administrators and students can meet on middle ground."

During the 1993-94 school year, Lishan W. Harrison has been addressing issues of the non-traditional students in her Non-Traditional Student column. The issues she has been focusing on are individual students, philosophies, and areas concerning everyday life; such as problems with our daycare system. Lishan W. Harrison, along with the Broncos' Voice staff are looking for a new attitude. The Broncos' Voice staff is having a contest in search of a new title to the column that best describes and characterizes non-traditional students.

To help you get a perspective of what kind of title we are looking for, a definition of a non-traditional student? They are "all students not living in University-owned housing." They could be of traditional age (18-21) or returning adults, live with their parents or in off-campus housing, and maintain a civilian or military lifestyle. They are all concerned with balancing their life on and off campus, families, jobs, and how to fit all these tasks into a twenty-four hour day.

What makes a "real" college student is in fact the motivating force that helps them pursue their academic goals. They may not be involved in campus activities or clubs, but they are involved in family relationships, community service, and job-related skills.

The purpose of this column is to get the students motivated enough to have a voice on their university campus. This column wants to be the "grapevine" of information. So, non-traditional students, this is your chance to give ideas and inputs as to how you can get involved in campus activities. If you have a gripe and know of a better solution to the problem, your comments are especially welcome. We need suggestions, recommendations, and points of views on issues on how this campus can be designed to fit your needs; the timing, location, and format of campus-related programs.

Lishan W. Harrison was born in Detroit, Michigan and transplanted to Santa Ana, California. She served a tour of duty with her husband, William, in Frankfurt, Germany. They currently reside in Fayetteville with their four-year-old son Bryce and two-year-old daughter Jocelyn.

NO PEP IN RALLY

How many people knew that there was a Pep Rally held on September 3, 1994 at 12 noon to kick off the 1994-95 football season? The estimated crowd that attended the Rally was about one hundred and fifty individuals. The one hundred and fifty individuals included the drum section of the marching band, the

cheerleaders, some of the football team, members of the AFROTC and a drill team called the Positive Force of thirty-five students, a handful of FSU alumni, a handful of Non-Traditional Students, on-campus students and administrators (Dr. Young and family). The planned events were free food and drinks, a DJ, volleyball, three-legged race, potato relay, water balloon toss, tug of war. In addition to these events CDs and mugs were planned as prizes. There was even incentives for the younger children if they wanted to participate in the fun. This was a real family affair.

Last school year a number of students complained, jumped up and down, and some even protested angrily about not having enough school spirit. This school year the AFROTC made an effort to promote school spirit and self-esteem and nobody and I mean nobody showed up. What's up with that? An excuse of bad weather will not be accepted because it didn't start raining until about an hour and a half after the pep rally started. The Labor Day weekend and the A & T and North Carolina Central football game will not be accepted as excuses either. What could be the excuse of the approximately four thousand student population at FSU? If you used the A & T and North Carolina Central football game as an excuse, Captain Wilder, organizer of the pep rally, had this to say, "Everybody will jump on a winning ship." We both agreed that in order for the FSU Broncos' to become number one we [the student body] have to give them our undivided attention and support.

What kind of message were we sending to the Positive Force drill team? The Positive Force drill team is comprised of students that range in ages six to sixteen. These students come from broken and underprivileged homes throughout Cumberland County. The

program is designed to keep these troubled youth from off the streets and into the schools throughout the county. According to Jaime Cruz-Morales, a member of AFROTC and the Broncos' Voice, "Their performance was outstanding, considering they only had two days practice." Were we [FSU] setting an example of pride, self-esteem, and team spirit in our university?

I am sure everyone around campus has sometime or another either complained or heard someone else complain about FSU. But yet everyday these same students seem to find their way to class. If this school is so bad, why do they feel the need to attend class? Each individual a specific reason of why they attend FSU. Some say tuition cost, the location of the school, the quality of instruction, friends, and the availability of a job are just to name a few. Welcome to the real world. In the real world you might have to go to a job you hate because you have to satisfy those essential needs, like putting food on your table and a roof over your head. One day you complain to the wrong person about how much you hate your job. This is their reply, "You either get a new job or learn to like your job. And one way to this is to make a list of things you like and do not like about your job. If the things you like outweigh the things you hate, my advice to you is to stick with the job."

How many students have actually gone out to visit other historically black colleges and universities in the area? Have you visited North Carolina Central or Johnson C. Smith? I challenge you go out and visit these other institutions. Then tell explain to other students, faculty, staff, and the community why you are crying with "two loaves of bread under your arms."