

# COMMENTS

Dear Editor,

Throughout my two years in college, I have noticed that the majority of my freshmen classmates, black males in particular, are no longer attending school. Now that I am a junior in college, it has begun to capture my attention in more than one way. The first year of college as a freshmen starts out rough. This is especially true for those of us who do not have money for school. In other cases, many of the students who come to Fayetteville State University are from society's picture of a bad environment. These are the drug, crime, and violence-infested neighborhoods. In these neighborhoods, the schools are not well funded and their educational level does not meet the standard learning requirements to prepare average students (students who take standard courses and not college preparatory courses) for college. However, most of the students who attend their institution come from these environments.

Freshmen who come to this university usually do not have problems with money or getting basic requirements. They receive excellent treatment from faculty and staff and financial aid always seems to care. However, things seem to change after their freshmen year. It seems that faculty, staff, and financial aid lose their face. Everyone's excellent treatment and strong sense of caring diminishes. When time is taken out for students, the majority of the time it's not in a truly caring manner. Funding for school is not available anymore and words are said sarcastically and students do not seem to top priority. This fallacy created by the faculty causes high frustrations in a students' mind. For the students from the bad environments, this treatment does not help them. In their eyes, they see a better way in the streets. In turn, they run to that better way that they see. The reasons for these black males dropping out of college is not so much the school, but it is the discouraging manner in which they are treated by the faculty and staff.

-Isaac Moore

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter to you hoping that it will motivate other students like myself who are enrolled at FSU. These students may be experiencing some of the uncertainties I did when I came to the university. I would like for them to continue to press forward with their educational goals and stay focused on the thought of FSU being a major foundation in shaping their future success.

I am employed full time, a mother of two, and have been enrolled at FSU in the B. S. Office Administration degree program since 1989 and on December 13, 1994, I will graduate from the university. When I first came to FSU I was frightened and did not know what direction to pursue. Being a single parent raising two children, working full time and pursuing a college education, I faced many obstacles, challenges, and frustrations. I had to put a lot of things on hold and prioritize my life so that I could stay focused and excel.

Before I depart FSU, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Registrar's Office, School of Business and Economics (instructors and staff), Office of Academic Affairs, Chancellors Office, Student Support Services, Financial Aid Office, Business Office staff, and Library Staff for all of their assistance, countless hours of consultation, patience, understanding, and guidance. These various departments, instructors, and advisors were the key to the successful completion of my educational goals here at FSU. I will always remember the School of Business and Economics advisors, instructors, and staff because they were never too busy when I needed them. The obstacles, frustrations, insecurities, and challenges that I faced were handled together as a "team." Today, I have confidence in myself and I am able to overcome those obstacles and frustrations and most of all, I welcome the challenge. I am proud to leave the university and represent FSU.

Students must have confidence in their advisors and mentors. Once this is accomplished the fears are behind them and those mountains that seemed impossible to move will disappear. Many times I wanted to quit school because of the pressures, but thanks to so many of you, I was able to continue. I can now see the rewards and the growth because I listened and applied the advice that was given to me.

My advice to the students like myself who I am leaving behind is to turn all negative attitudes into positive ones. Take advantage of the various departments when there is a problem and most important, get to know your advisors and mentors. Set goals and don't be afraid to ask questions. Remember you are the product of FSU and can continue to help make a difference for the future of our university.

Again, I thank each of you for our part in making a dream come true for me.

Jacqueline Watford