

## NOTE OF THANKS

I am a Fayetteville State University graduate working in the Office of Financial Aid and a strong supporter of FSU athletics. I wish to commend Mr. William Woods, the Fayetteville State University Band Director, for the outstanding job he has done of organizing an FSU Pep Band.

This note is to thank the FSU Athletic Supporters listed below who contributed to the fund raising campaign we started December 8, 1994. This campaign to purchase shirts for the thirty (30) members of the FSU Pep Band, fondly known as "THE FSU BRONCO EXPRESS", was a complete success.

Because of your financial support, we ordered and paid for thirty (30) shirts December 22, 1994. The FSU Bronco Express members were proudly dressed in their new shirts Saturday, February 3, 1995 at the FSU versus Shaw basketball game.

My personal thanks to you because you played an important role in giving the members of the FSU Bronco Express the appearance of "Proud Broncos," thus making this vision for the FSU Bronco Express a reality.

Mr. & Mrs. Moses Best (Best Package Store)  
 Dr. Sherman Brooks  
 Mr. Benjamin Cathey  
 Mr. Charles C. Cottom  
 Mrs. Letita E. Duckett  
 Mrs. Carolyn Dunston  
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 Mrs. Dorotha Lipscomb  
 Ms. Rachelle McCallum  
 Mr. Roger McKoy  
 Mr. Parnell Miles  
 First Sgt. Allie Ousley  
 Mr. Roy Parker, Jr. (FSU Athletic Club)  
 Mr. Solomon Pigford  
 Ms. Cora A. Proctor  
 Mr. James Scurry  
 Mr. Robert D. Torry  
 Mrs. Deana P. Weston  
 Mrs. Gail B. Winter

FSU Bronco Express... you look great and you sound great. Keep up the great work.

Thank You,  
 Lois L. McKoy, Counselor  
 Office of Financial Aid

## Ailey

From Page 1

DeVas, the Company Manager, and several members of the ensemble.

Lance Snead (LS): So how's the tour so far?

Sylvia Waters (SW): It's been going very well. Very successfully, few injuries, wonderful audience...

LS: Whoa, few injuries?

SW: Very few injuries is what I said. It happens sometimes. It's a lot of stress and strain sometimes on the body. We've traveled lots and lots of miles. We travel basically by bus. But the audiences have been fabulous, have been wonderfully responsive. [The] dancers have preformed really beautifully. I'm really pleased with the way everything's going. Quite smoothly, I feel.

LS: Now, is this group [the Ensemble] here the core group, the cream of the crop, or is this one extension of the major organization, or is this some random people who can do the dance well?

SW: They're definitely not random people. They're all hand picked from the students of the scholarship program at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. This is really the official preforming unit of the American Dance Center. Our parent company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, has thirty dancers and that was founded by Alvin in 1958. This company was started in 1974.

LS: Whenever somebody mentions "Alvin Ailey Dance Ensemble", it's like God is about to come to town. I personally have not seen many [of your group's] performances, so I don't feel that "Whoa boy, they're coming" feeling.

we're at the theater rehearsing, taking class, preparing for that evening's performance.

LS: [to DeVas] Any thoughts on the day, any expectations?

DeVas: Basically the tour's been going very, very well. [It's] really amazing how much of a turnout it has been. This is not a typical [day] at all, about the response the Rep. Ensemble has been getting. It's really nice. It's very, very nice.

I asked Jason T. Reynolds, one of the Ensemble dancers, about living up to reputation of an Alvin Ailey performer. He had this to say: "Knowing that people expect a lot from you makes you work even harder and give a better performance. With a company with a name like this [the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble], you're always proving yourself. We always work very hard."

I asked Lynn Jackson about gifts the Ensemble has received in the past and along the tour. "It [receiving special gifts] doesn't happen to us that often. That's why when it does happen, it's very nice. It's not like every place we go they do that. That's why we appreciate it when it happens because it happens rarely."

Joseph McClintock had this comment. "Everyone's been very nice, and we were very well received. Everyone's been very kind, and the performance [by the F.S.U. Dance Troupe] was really nice...I wouldn't just say that."

*"They're all hand picked from the students of the scholarship program at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center."*

SW: I feel what Alvin has contributed to dance is first of all, it was very important to him that no one was excluded from the benefits and the enjoyments of dance. He really used dance as a language. He was a very theatrical person and a real genius choreographer who had a vision that when he danced about people, it was also for people. It wasn't for a special group of people. I guess you can say his work is very accessible. Also he really exposed a lot of choreographers. It wasn't a single choreographer company. It was really about...more than himself. So there's always a lot of variety in the Ailey company, a lot of dance styles and musical styles.

LS: What's a typical day for you, for the group?

SW: When we're on tour, if we're not traveling,