

Cheer

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still under a permanent suspension banning them from participating as members of the cheerleading squad for the rest of their stay at the university. The cheerleaders still under suspension are Yolanda Johnson, Linda Barden, Rhonda Staton, Lisa Whatley, Princesa Palmer, and Dora Rogers, the core of Cheer-Phi and a large part of the historical continuity for the team. The result of their suspensions was a freshman cheerleading squad who struggled to learn the ropes during the season.

The administration's case

When contacted, Dr. McLeod and Mr. Scurry offered no comment. Dr. Burns, FSU's current Athletic Director, was out of town. Ms. Adams stated that the suspensions have "...been appealed twice, through Dr. Benson and Dr. McLeod, and the matter is closed."

However, our investigation revealed that several factors influenced the administration's heavy-handed decision. Though a strong form of protest, by not cheering at a televised event at the CIAA tournament, Cheer-Phi seriously damaged their case. In a word, *their action was considered "unconscionable."* It was also determined that some of Cheer-Phi may have "cussed out" Ms. Adams (though Cheer-Phi members say they merely spoke to her "woman to woman"). Last, by not apologizing in any way for their conduct, it was determined that those affected by the suspensions refused to take ownership for their actions.

The Deliberation

A few factors must now be evaluated. Jerrell Joyner did not appeal his suspension yet was allowed back on the varsity squad. Due to their tenuous relationship with Ms. Adams, when the suspended members tried to help train the "new" Cheer-Phi's, they were told that their services (and years of experience and tradition) were not needed.

As team captain, Yolanda Johnson was supposed to be recognized and awarded All-CIAA Cheerleader honors. Not only were she and the other suspended members barred from attending FSU's 1995 Athletic Awards Banquet (a right earned through their year-long participation in Cheer-Phi), Ms. Johnson's award was given to Jerrell Joyner (who was still under suspension yet allowed to attend the banquet).

In light of these facts, does the punishment outweigh the crime? Has Dr. McLeod contradicted his "put the student first" anthem? Why was the specific reasoning for the suspensions vague, ambiguous and never fully explained to those affected by the suspensions? Although the entire varsity squad was suspended, why were certain members afforded "special" treatment?

Should the grievances of an entire cheerleading squad be discounted without an open conference between themselves, a moderator, and their accusers? Has the University ultimately suffered from the administration's heavy-handed verdict?

What is lost in the drama is that, as with University of Nebraska running back Lawrence Phillips, students have and will make mistakes. The driving reason and effort in relieving this dilemma should lie in trying to find common ground; of creating a circumstance that both allows one to make, acknowledge and grow from mistakes or errors in judgement. Here, at FSU, is where one can and should show compassion because the streets beyond these hollowed halls are indeed cold and mean. FSU is ultimately here for the student, and whether the cheerleaders that comprised Cheer-Phi are to remain suspended or be reinstated, let the common ground of reason, compassion, and forgiveness be their common denominator.

Muted

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In one of our earliest conversations, Chancellor McLeod expressed his desire to ensure that The Broncos' Voice has the resources it needs to be published. His position is significant in that what we need is staff pay and the printer necessary to publish The Voice on campus. I trust that he will follow through with his assurance. However, this is a note to those who might try to limit his efforts that FSU students will not settle for less than a paid staff and a printer to publish The Voice on campus. This is not a request but a demand; not a threat but a fact, for our thoughts will have expression, our Voice shall scream triumphant, we will be empowered, and we will not stand for or allow our trumpet to be muted.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

You Are Not Alone

(NU) - It's becoming routine to cover up the bruises, but you know others suspect their cause. You think there's no one you can turn to who would understand.

The National Crime Prevention Council has a message for you: You are not alone. The council says as many as four million women in the United States suffer some kind of violence at the hands of their husbands or boyfriends each year, yet few will tell anyone.

Part of the abuser's power comes from secrecy, and victims often are ashamed to talk about such intimate family problems. Domestic violence counselors recommend breaking the cycle of abuse by going to a friend or neighbor, calling a domestic violence hotline or talking to a counselor.

If you are hurt, call the police. Remember that assault, even by family members, is a crime. Police often have information about shelters and other agencies that help victims of domestic violence.

Leave, or have someone stay with you. If you believe that you and your children are in danger, leave immediately.

And get medical attention. Ask the hospital or doctor's staff to photograph your injuries and keep detailed records in case you decide to take legal action.

For more information, call the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence at 1-800-537-2238.

This information is provided as part of the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign, which is substantially funded by the U.S. Department of Justice.

ARE YOU ABUSED?

Check any that apply to you.

Does the person you love...

- "Track" all of your time?
- Constantly accuse you of being unfaithful?
- Discourage your relationships with family and friends?
- Prevent you from working or attending school?
- Constantly criticize you for little things?
- Anger easily when drinking or using other drugs?
- Control all finances and force you to account in detail what you spend?
- Humiliate you in front of others?
- Destroy personal property or sentimental items?
- Hit, punch, slap, kick or bite you or the children?
- Use or threaten to use a weapon against you?
- Threaten to hurt you or the children?
- Force you to have sex against your will?

If you checked any of these, it's time to get help.

News USA

Your Special Invitation

Sankofa

is coming to Fayetteville!

Something wonderful, something powerful is happening in Fayetteville. For the last 6 weeks African Americans in small groups have been gathering to privately pre-view and size up Sankofa. We ended up being riveted to our seats by its truth, its power, its beauty. The voices of "Nunu," "Shango" and "Shola" still speak to me.

After the showing we were eased into a sincere exchange of feelings and thoughts about our people, our condition, our needs, our power, our future. That discussion further illuminated the healing power this film holds for our community. Sankofa passed my test. I can't shake it. More than that, I don't want to shake it! I want all of Fayetteville to enjoy Sankofa on the big screen and the community-based discussions that will follow all over town.

I need your help to make this dream come true. You are invited to an expanded private video pre-viewing of Sankofa. **March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the New Monk-Smith building at the Seabrook Park Complex. 1520 Slater Ave. (off Langdon St.)** After viewing the movie, if you agree that Fayetteville needs to see Sankofa, I want you to become a member of the Sankofa Support Group.

Your joining at any level you choose will help us capitalize this project and spread the healing affects some of us have already experienced. Space is limited; so, please let me know if you will accept this invitation.

Sincerely,



SANKOFA, the popular film by independent filmmaker Halle Gerima, is a story of the transformation of Mona, a self-possessed African-American woman who is sent on a spiritual journey in time to experience captivity (slavery). We share the life she endures and her growing consciousness and transformation.

SANKOFA, an Akan word that means "one must return to the past in order to move forward," is done from an African/African American perspective. It connects black people with our African past and culture. It empowers Black people on the screen by showing our red hot passion for freedom, our resisting oppression, our African spirituality, our loving each other even as we were treated as brutes.

SANKOFA is winner of the Agip Grand Prize at the African Film Festival in Milan, Italy, and the Best Cinematography Award at the FESPACO Film Festival in Burkina Faso, Africa. SANKOFA has opened to standing room audiences in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City, London, and Accra, Ghana.

