



*"Thought without expression is a dream deferred just as the muted voice is a silent scream. Information is power. Access to information is control. Muted trumpets will not blow."*

--Gyendor.

There is no doubt that the single most important, powerful, and valuable commodity to a society is not information, but access to information. Denial of information was the most powerful tactic used by slave owners in keeping African-americans oppressed. Coded messages wrapped in the "harmless" music of the spiritual were one of the many media used to circumvent our dilemma. It is truly a testament to the genius and ingenuity of African-americans that we risked life, lips, and limbs (as

they were often cut off) in teaching ourselves to read, to learn, and to be empowered.

In the last three years FSU has assumed the role of slave master, providing the essentials and minimal necessary for students to communicate yet denying them the resources available and necessary to empower. Case in point? The three most powerful student organizations at FSU are the Student Activity Council (SAC), Student Government Association (SGA), and The Broncos' Voice. SAC's budget this year was \$60,000; SGA--\$20,000; The Voice--\$5,040. The drama revealed is that The Voice's budget was \$6,500 last year (they cut The Voice's budget nearly \$1,500!). It was explained that because all cam-

## Muted Trumpets

by Roger Harris

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pus organizations requested budget increases, that cuts had to be made somewhere. My question is why would the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs (Drs. Ghee and Sexton) decide to slash the stu-

dents' throat by cutting our Voice?

When I arrived here in 1993 there wasn't really a newspaper on campus. When we started to publish The Voice again, the students didn't recognize or know what it was; students now regularly

ask our staff "when will the next edition be out?" While still in its infancy, The Voice has none-the-less grown and come to be expected by students, faculty, and community. More importantly, it's the fastest and most effective medium for students to communicate and get the "DL" on what's really going on around here. So again, I must question where FSU's priority lies with regard to ensuring that our voice is heard.

It costs approximately \$500 per issue to publish the Voice. It would cost \$1,000 a month to rent a two color press for the campus print shop to publish The Voice on campus. They would also be able to publish better and more professional documents for the campus as a whole. Printwise, FSU

would be ready for the next century. But peep this: the money currently paid to a publisher to print The Voice now would come back to FSU (in essence, using the copier would pay for its own rent). Even better: The Voice's production schedule would jump from once a month to easily twice a month; be published on a specific day at a specific time; and once a week in a couple of years. The more issues we publish, the more advertisers we'll be able to attract, and the more advertising revenue we'll be able to generate. In effect, The Voice will eventually become self-sufficient and thus "free." I asked that The Voice be published on campus two years ago. No response. You tell me why not.

see "Muted," pg. 14

## An Address to Students, Faculty, and Staff

from the Desk of Kelvin Thompson, SGA Senator at Large

A letter was posted around campus concerning the veto of the Miss FSU Pageant. This sign is insulting to myself, the senate, and President Wayne Hodges. The senate bill that passed on January 17th to "allocate the dollar amount of \$5000.00 for the Miss FSU Pageant" was passed by the senate body with a vote of 13 yea, 0 abstentions, and 0 nays. When we passed this bill, it was no longer a motion made by senator Tonjai Robertson,

but a senate bill. It belongs to all of us, including Mr. Hodges. In six little words, "together we stand; divided we fall!"

When the president of SGA makes a veto, any bill may be returned to the senate body. If the senate passes it successfully with a 2/3 vote, the veto is overturned. We attempted this at the January 31st meeting of the senate. However, there were several nays (contrary to the first

vote), and a few abstentions (also a new addition to earlier votes). We must follow certain procedures, however, in overturning a president's veto. Due to any number of abstentions,

***Together we stand; divided we fall!***

pending an investigation, the president might return the bill to the senate body.

So, whoever created the flyer, if you would like to

"thank" someone for the veto, you may thank the entire senate body, as well as, yourself. After all, they are your elected officials. Wayne Hodges is a man of integrity. Anyone who actively participates in student events knows that he has been there for the student. Countless times, he has said, "you [the student] have the power." I have also heard many people applaud Hodges' efforts. I am starting to think that when some of us say "you go, Wayne," what we mean is you go--all by yourself.

So, to keep you abreast of the current affairs at FSU, I would like to extend a personal invitation to the entire FSU community to come to the SGA meetings (a right you already possess). Meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. The usual location is the Multi-Purpose room of the RJSC. Don't just read about what is happening; come and be a part of what is happening.

## The Broncos' VOICE

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### DISCLAIMER

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#### Submission guidelines

Submissions of editorial material, news, and letters to the editor are welcomed, but should be limited to 350 words. Any such submissions should be typed and double-spaced, free from grammatical or typographic errors, and should include the name and telephone number of the writer. Announcements of upcoming campus events should follow the same format as editorial submissions and should include the name and telephone number of a contact person (for example, the president of a club).

#### Where to submit your articles

Typewritten articles may be submitted in person at the Voice office in the Women's Gym or mailed to the address on this page. If possible, include a 3.5" disk with your document. Electronic documents may be sent through email or by fax.

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