

## FEATURE STORIES



Alysia Wilson, staff writer

## Living On the Dock of the Bay

By Alysia Wilson

Many of you reading this article are familiar with the tune, "Sittin' on the dock of the bay watchin' the tide roll away..." However, are you familiar with the fact that many Americans not only sit on this same dock, but also live there and watch their dreams, hopes, and aspirations roll away with the tide.

It's sad to think that millions of people in this country live in alleys, under bridges, on sidewalks, in subway stations, and other places that we don't normally think of as home. This is depressing to some of us, and oblivious to many others; however it is a reality right here in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Why do so many of us choose to ignore these victims of poverty? Do we not know how to help, or do we simply not have not the

means by which to do so?

How many of you have noticed the elderly black man that goes through all of the trash cans on this campus each day to find cans and plastics for recycling? Can you imagine searching through trash bags filled with no clue as to its contents? Can you fathom the thought of going through these same bags to find food to feed yourself and your family? How would it feel to sleep on the ground in the winter after it has rained? After it has snowed? What would the heat from an old rusted trash can feel like, knowing that it is

your only means of warmth?

The truth is that too many Americans are familiar with all of these sensations and have accepted them as a way of life, whether the victims chose it or not; a single choice that to some extent determines how far we as a society are willing to go in helping people out. In recent years we have been overwhelmed by the cases of persons who pretend to be homeless or in need but really aren't. One such example

is the bag lady from New York that pushed around a shopping

cart that contained \$250,000. Can we as a society actually help someone that has this kind of money and still lives on street corners in cardboard boxes? Should we help them? An even more important question is why would someone do such a thing?

According to Dr. Moultrie, of the Psychology Department here at FSU, many times there is some kind of mental illness or disorder involved. In the situation with the lady from

New York, Dr. Moultrie states that she may have been suffering from some kind of obsessive-compulsive disorder linked to the money.

For psychologists, it is reasonable to look at the situation of homeless people in America from the standpoint of being more in need of mental help rather than monetary aid, but as American citizens, we view these people as burdens. Are they really as much of a nuisance as we believe them to

be, or are we angry with ourselves for having been wrong in the past in judging their situations?

We immediately think that a person is homeless if he digs through the trash or carries his belongings in a sachel or cart. There is a certain amount of anger that is aroused within us when we see a man or a woman going through our trash cans to make a living, or standing in front of the grocery store begging for our coins. Should we feel this way?

First and foremost, one must stop to consider the fact that not all people that are liv-

ing on the streets are pretend-ers who are out to rob you blind; instead, that they aren't there by choice, but rather for a variety of unfortunate circumstances and mishaps in life. If you come in contact with a person that is begging for your coins, stop to think of all of the possible reasons that they are there: job loss, having no family, mother nature's destruction, mental illnesses, and worst of all being born into it.

On the flip side, let's take a moment to think about the people that go through the dumpsters to gather aluminum and plastics for the purpose of recycling. They are actually doing a job, maybe not what we commonly think of as being a job, but they aren't begging. On the same note, they are helping in the conservation of our planet, Earth. These individuals have no bills to pay, no taxes, no yard work, so the money that they earn is theirs to keep. The elderly man that goes through the trash cans here on the FSU campus told me that he makes \$376 a week doing what he does. It's a dirty job, and to many of you, it's below you, but would you do it for \$376 a week—\$1504 a month, tax free?

## The Million Woman March

by Airaina Griffith

My name is Airaina Griffith, a junior here at Fayetteville State University. I was among the twenty-one women that rode the bus from here on campus. I am glad that I had the opportunity to attend because I got to see a lot. I met almost 200 people from all over the world. I got to hear and see what is going on across the nation. While walking through the chocolate-covered Benjamin Franklin Highway in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I got hear the famous words of Winnie Mandela, Jada Pinkett, Sister Souljah and much more followed by the melodic voices of Faith Evans and H-Town. It was an experience that I am glad I didn't miss.

## New Sculpture Graces the FSU Campus

by Scherrie Strayhorn

Many students have been looking at and wondering about the new sculpture in front of the Honors Residence Hall. The million dollar question was what is it and why is it there?

The sculpture is called *Unity*. *Unity* is a piece by Israeli native Hanna Jurban. This piece of art was commissioned after a statewide competition. The sculpture is composed of nine sections, two of which reach eleven feet in height. It is a symbolic representation of the concept that success in life's endeavors is accomplished through diversity and unity. *Unity* is designed as a chevron, or open wedge-shape, which is a symbolic gesture of welcome.

## Women's Gym Renamed In Honor of FSU Sports Legend

FSU Press Release-- Fayetteville State University's Women's Gymnasium was recently renamed the Lauraetta J. Taylor Gymnasium during this year's Homecoming festivities. Wilson native Lauraetta Taylor became a staff member of Fayetteville State University in 1944. She worked diligently while employed at FSU, serving as dormitory director, women's basketball coach, and a physical education instructor. Building school spirit and comradenie among faculty and students, Taylor was an inspiration to all who knew her.

For several years, Taylor worked as chairman of homecoming activities at the institution. She is most remembered as the women's basketball coach of Fayetteville State University.

Through her many years of leadership, the university established CIAA dominance in



Honoree Ms. Lauraetta J. Taylor

Photo courtesy of FSU Archives

program competition. In 1975 and 1976, the women's basketball teams were runner-ups in the CIAA Tournament. Taylor was recognized as Coach of the Year in 1975 and 1976. She

was officially inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame in 1982 for her outstanding leadership ability and contributions to women's basketball.