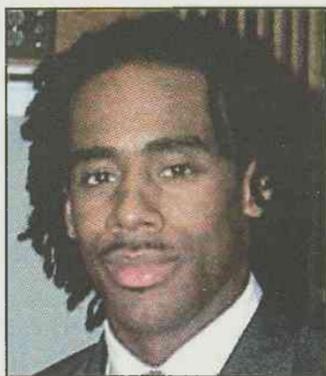


SGA Heeds Words Of Speaker

By LaKeshia N. Denson
Staff Writer

"We need to remove individuals who are standing in the way of the progress of the HBCU," Reverend Jeffery I. Johnson, National Director of the Youth, College and Young Adult Department of the NAACP. Have you ever heard words so powerful that they made you realize your soul was going through a long drought? Instead of water, was your soul in need of some spiritual truth and knowledge? The words that flew from the lips of Reverend Johnson were full of the spiritual and academic healing that his audience was thirsty for. Perhaps the most important group of people his words moved to the point that they wanted to make a change immediately was the Student Government Association of FSU.



"HBCU's allowed us [black people] to build institutions that would be for us, institutions that would allow us to build leadership and academic integrity. Now it seems as if HBCU's have shifted in focus. They are more concerned with who wins the game rather than the science competition. How can I get paid versus how can I lead my institution to the next level?," Reverend Johnson said. SGA leaders agreed; and so

do I. It's seems as if Rev. Johnson hit the nail perfectly on its head. There are too many important so-called leaders on our campus that do not represent those of us who put them in office. This opinion was shared by many students of FSU about their leaders within the SGA. Senators are suppose to keep their eyes and ears close to the bodies of the students to be accurately informed of our needs. Yes, they may have been lacking this quality at the beginning of the Fall semester, however now the senators, and the SGA executive leaders are scrambling to get their act together. Should I assume that the new rebirth of SGA is solely due to the knowledgeable liquid that Reverend Johnson poured out so abundantly on that special evening, or is credit due to the members of SGA who realized

that they were not living up to their responsibilities but had the decency to do something about it? I believe it was a combination of both. Reverend Johnson provided the light, while SGA intelligently opened their eyes and took a good look around them. It's about time that all students open their eyes. There are so many different assemblies of politics on this campus that it's ridiculous. There is always some unspoken rule, or some secret business being conducted. But in the end, who is affected by these unjust procedures? Finally! The leaders who were suppose to be for the students, and voted in by the students have decided to stand up and get into action. This is a wise decision, especially considering if we the students voted you in, we can vote you out.

SGA has begun a campaign to inform all students of the recent \$200 tuition increase, which is broken down to \$100 for the next two school years. The proposal of the tuition increase includes, money to be allocated for need-based financial aid/scholarships, faculty/staff raises, as well as the development of cultural enrichment education programs. The proposal appears legit, but SGA members want to ensure that the monies will be allocated to the appropriate funds and they have requested documentation of these allocations whenever they are activated. SGA is also trying to obtain different types of incentives for the students. Without these incentives promised to the students, SGA wants to table the tuition increase, or they would prefer that the proposal returns back to the drawing board. What type of incentives is SGA requesting? A university debit card, an ATM in the student center, and several other types of bonuses. However, this is an institution of learning and I hope that SGA has some academic incentives in mind, for example a better selection of periodicals and books in the library as well as the imperative need to keep

computers up and running. Perhaps, they should even consider looking into adding variety to the curriculum by doing research to see what types of courses the students really want and need that they are not currently receiving. But I do understand that SGA has just awoken and they need some time to adjust to the whole leadership concept, and SGA has taken steps to find out what students want by hosting several residence hall meetings to discuss the tuition increase proposal, and to hear the concerns of their people. I just don't want us to lose the main objective that every student has on this campus, and that is to obtain a quality education. I commend SGA for all of its hard work and dedication. It is encouraging to see that my leaders care. The real challenge that SGA faces is to get the students to care as well, and they are off to a pretty good start.

"What are you going to do with your hands are you going to sit on them like a punk?" Reverend Johnson's words are living at this very moment. His words, once spoken, flew into the atmosphere and landed within the hearts of the student leaders of FSU. SGA leaders are no longer "punking out." Their hands have been busy trying to build a new administration that wants to do justice to their people. These leaders are carrying around Reverend Johnson's words and are living by the words' integrity. Our SGA leaders have come into an encounter with Wisdom, and they fell deeply in love with her. Everyday, they cannot wait to behold her lovely face; they marvel at the fact of being in the same room with her so that by chance as she breathes, the air she exhales may contain just a fraction of the knowledge she possesses so in return, they will become just a bit more intelligent and stronger than before. Hopefully, this love affair is the real thing and not some infatuation that will have lost its passion as quickly as the love affair began.

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Students, faculty and staff may submit editorials and commentary to The Voice. Articles should not exceed 500 words and should be submitted on computer disk, IBM format. The Voice staff is located in Room 3 of the Lauretta Taylor Building. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m.

Publication of The Broncos' Voice is made possible by Student Activities Fees

The Broncos' Voice is printed by the Fayetteville Publishing Company

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