

University's Mace Has No Place

I was appalled at the 2001 Fall Convocation to see the "Teacher of the Year", Dr. Peter L. Valenti carrying an object that is described as a war club and a symbol of authority. The Fall Convocation Program description of the University Mace read, "Originally, the mace was modeled after war clubs carried into battle by 12th century officers. Today it is used as a symbol of authority". This sends mixed messages regarding "authority". Presently the University Mace continues to be displayed and marched in academic processions. This is not an accurate representation of Fayetteville State University.

Furthermore, during the 12th century when the war club was used, the social economic, and political system that existed was termed Feudalism. It included three distinct classes of people comprised

of nobles, serfs and slaves. The word "slave" was used to identify the Slavs. Slavs and Moslems were used as slaves throughout Medieval Europe. I'm extremely perplexed on the inception of the University Mace because it symbolizes dominance and power to control someone.

On March 11, 2002, I had a conference with Chancellor McLeod and presented my views and ideas. He was unaware of the implications of what the University Mace represented. A promise was made that he would investigate and reply back to me. I understand that issues are not settled overnight. However, the Chancellor is departing within the next few months and I would be disappointed if the issue of the University Mace fell to the wayside.

After thirty years of military service, I retired as a Command Sergeant Major. I understand the

horrors of war and the mindset of bad people. People in power at times abuse their authority while causing suffering and pain to innocent people. I've participated in military operations with the Vietnamese, Cambodians, Panamanians, Iraqis, Croatians, Muslims, Serbs, and Kosovarians. From these operations, I learned that people in power would abuse their authority. I have visited the death camps in Germany, walked the battlefields of Normandy, and visited the gravesites of my fellow comrades in Europe. In war people die for either defending their views, or freeing other people from oppression.

After recently viewing the "Jim Crow Laws" on UNC Television, I have a better understanding of the mental and physical suffering that people endured in the South because of the color of their skin. It was then I gained a

deep sense of pride and belonging to Fayetteville State University. The seven visionaries of 1867, that founded Howard School was a prelude to Dr. Martin Luther King's peaceful approach to segregation and dehumanization. Along with the several names changes, to include three relocations before it became known as Fayetteville State University, significant people from the Black Community and previous Chancellors contributed to the growth and expansion of the University, while enhancing the institution's image. This mode of thinking attracted people of different cultures to attend this institution. In 1963, Fayetteville State hired teachers from China, India, and to include its first white teacher. The aforementioned was accomplished without the use of a war club, but rather with the mind, while exercising free will, courage, and creativity.

Therefore, I propose that the University Mace is retired and not marched in a procession comprising of intellectuals. In its place, adopt a prism with the University Seal, and borne by the Chief Marshal in the academic processions. Each side of the prism would represent the existence of Fayetteville State University for the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries. The base would represent the seven visionaries while the apex would represent the Chancellor that oversees all. The white light that refracts through the prism would represent all cultures. My idea of a prism originated in my astronomy class during the Spring Semester of 2002, in the Lyons Science Building at Fayetteville State University. This is a true representation of Fayetteville State University.

Respectfully,
John A. Sampson, Jr.

Bronco Freshman Feels Right at Home

By Akeshia Hudson
Staff Writer

We've come a long way from our first day of kindergarten. For years, we have always talked and dreamed about "college life." The dream has finally come true.

We are finally adults, away from mom and dad, and most of all getting a

higher education. Packing bags and loading boxes were only a taste of what was soon to come. On August 17, 2002, the real journey began.

For many of us, this was the first time really being away from home. With that in mind, I think it's pretty safe to say that it was a huge step. As I venture back to first arriving here at

FSU, "confusion" is the first word that comes to mind. Payments, long lines, and bad directions were only the beginning of our major transition.

Although some of our freshmen days here have been slightly turbulent, I must say that the Bronco family has extended a very warm welcome to the class of 2006. I can recall seeing

many new faces and looking up at the campus buildings and getting a warm feeling. It was like I had finally found my niche. "This is where I need to be," I told myself.

Instantly, FSU was my home away from home. I have always assumed that upper-classmen were going to look down on us freshmen, but this was not the case. "I'm no more than you, I'm no less than you. I'm a student here just like you," said my Orientation Leader, Lakiva Clark. That may not have been a lot to some, but I have realized that it is those little things in life that make a world of difference. A smile can sometimes make the difference between a cloudy day and a sunny day.

I've always been told that my college experience would be some of the best years of my life, and so far, this seems to hold true. Some days have been better

than others, but I have learned that this is simply the cycle of life. It has always been my personal opinion and I've learned through experience that life is, as the song goes, "what you make it."

There are those who sit around and await opportunity and we have all be guilty of this at one point. My problem is that some people are not just sitting; they're sleeping! Opportunities are right in front of us and we must not refuse to open our eyes and take charge.

Unlike high school, no one is going to point out what's in our best interests. The time has come for us to act on our own desires. It would be inhumane for us not to interact and learn from our fellow Broncos. However, we must always establish our own identities.

It was always cool in high school to do what

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