

## FSU Students Propose Reparations

### Reparations: A Modest Proposal

*The following proposal for reparations represents the work of members of the Multicultural Psychology class at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, North Carolina, in the fall of 2002.*

After the civil war the union government promised "40 acres and a mule" to freed slaves.

This was to be not only an acknowledgement of the suffering endured by slaves, but compensation for the great wealth that resulted from many years of unpaid labor. Cotton and tobacco constituted roughly 7 percent of all U.S. exports during slavery's peak. The government never kept its promise of reparations.

Recently, a grassroots movement for reparations has gained significant momentum. The 2001 World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, gave the issue prominent attention. Conference participants declared the Trans-Atlantic slave trade a "crime against humanity." The Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal defined

crimes against humanity as "Murder, extermination, enslavement deportation and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population... whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country here perpetrated."

We add our voice to the many in the United States who strive for justice and equality for all regardless of skin color, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigrant, status or age.

### LAWS AND POLICIES REGARDING DRUGS

**Current Laws and Policies:** Fifteen percent of the nations reported cocaine users are African Americans, but they comprise about forty percent of the people (40%) charged with powered cocaine violations and nearly ninety (90%) of those convicted on crack cocaine charges. Under federal and many state laws, crack and powder cocaine carry different penalties resulting in what has come to be known as the 100:1 ratio. According to SAMHSA, 11% of the nation's drug users are black, however they constitute 37% of those arrested for drug violations and 42% of those

in federal prisons for drug violations (1997). Under mandatory minimums established in 1997, the average sentence is 93% higher for those African Americans than for other groups. Today, one in four black men can expect to be incarcerated in his lifetime.

### Suggested

**Reparations:** We request that biased and unfair policies involving African American imprisonment for crack cocaine be stopped. We also request maximum funding for residential drug treatment programs and race neutrality in drug sentencing laws.

### ELDERS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

**Current Situation:** About 2.1 million (8%) of the black population in the U.S were over 65 as of 1980. Of that group, about 157,000 (7.5%) were age 85 or older. The elderly form the fastest growing segment of the Black population. Many elderly African Americans are marginalized. Nursing homes are inadequate, understaffed, use unnecessary chemicals and physical restraints to control elderly populations.

**Proposed Reparations:** We would like to implement a community-based concept that combines retirement living, assisted living and long-term care services to elderly African Americans. This program would be free of charge, due to the decades of slavery their ancestors endured and the continuation of discrimination, which has kept many African Americans in lifelong patterns of inequality in income, education and access to health care. We proposed that the social security program remain a federally funded program. It is a fund provided by workers and their bosses and represents pay for services rendered for which workers have not been paid their value.

### MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

**Current Situation:** The mis-education among African Americans concerning dental care is very high. Most African Americans do not know or understand the importance of seeing a dentist.

When they do seek dental care, they are usually adults with problems that could have been addressed when they were young. Most adults experience gum disease, tooth loss, and

rampant tooth decay. The barriers are socioeconomic and informational.

### **Proposed Reparation:**

Implement a program that is federally-funded to educate African Americans on the importance of early dental care and maintenance. All dental services should be financially accessible to all, regardless of income.

### EDUCATION

#### **Current Situation:**

Many African American children do not know their own history as well as history of other oppressed people in the United States with whom they share many commonalities. White, ruling class ideology is taught in elementary school, high school and college, whether taught by white or African American teachers and professors. The books children read do not represent them and their struggles and fail to note the major achievements of African Americans and other oppressed groups in many areas.

#### **Proposed Reparation:**

African American and other minoritized children need to learn their history in school. More African American teachers or teachers with an understanding of African and African American history and culture should be teaching African American children.

Further, black history should not be designated to one month but should be part of the yearlong educational curriculum.

## National Law School Day

Tuesday, February 18, 2003

Time: 3:00-5:00 P.M.

Location: Advisement & Career Services Center

## The Broncos' Voice Staff

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## Is The Draft In USA's Future?

### KRT Campus

As U.S. troops get deployed in greater numbers abroad and reservists are called to active duty every week, the Selective Service System is poised to do its job: Draft young American males into the military.

It has been 30 years since Uncle Sam last sent induction letters telling nervous recipients they're in the Army now, but officials say he can be as efficient as ever supplying needed manpower against Iraq, North Korea or whomever.

"We're a big system-in-waiting," said Army Lt. Col. Dianna L. Clevon, the service's Region I director for a 17-state area. "It's 'be prepared' as far as we're concerned."

A draft may be totally foreign to the latest, coming-of-age generation, plus many parents, but mandatory military service used to be a fact of life for healthy, young American men both in war and peacetime.

From 1940 almost continually through 1973, the Selective