

Busy Street Concerns University Place Residents

By Akeshia Hudson
Staff Writer

On your mark, get set, go! You may be wondering what this is all about. Well, several of our FSU students have been in a race for quite some time now. The University Place Apartments, which is located directly across from the university, is full of FSU students. Even though the apartments are close to the school, there is still a slight problem.

Each day, our students must walk across a major highway in order to get to their classes. Some may say, "What is so hard about walking across a street?" It is not as easy as it sounds. This is not just any street. Murchison Road (known to some as "The Murk") is a very busy and sometimes dangerous highway. Whether on your way to go work, grub, or shop, this highway leads the way.

It is also located near two very important military bases,

Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. The picture here is clear; a lot of people travel on this road.

Imagine this... It is 12:20pm and you have a 12:30 class. Cars are coming from both directions at a high speed. Every time you take two steps forward, you have to take one step back. You are trying to go to class and the drivers are trying to get to lunch and back to work. Who do you think has the advantage?

Are they really going to be late for work so a student can get to class? It's rush hour so what can you expect? Now, we all know that education is important, but is it worth your life? Just think about that for a moment. Several University Place residents say the drivers are so inconsiderate and they almost act as if they do not care. These students have endured much pain and suffering, but as the old saying goes, "Trouble Don't Last Always".

The apartment residents needed to be rescued and that is

exactly what happened. In attempt to decrease the chaos, the city of Fayetteville placed caution lights and crosswalks on Murchison Road near the university. Initially, this was a great act of concern and generosity.

The question is, "How well do they work?" When asked how they feel about walking across the street now, the apartment residents have different opinions. While it does help a tad bit, many of them say that the crossing lights are ineffective. Some even go as far as to say that they are just no help at all.

Sophomore Columbus Pittman stated, "It really doesn't help because people still act like they don't want to stop."

Sometimes things just do not work out for us the way we would like them to. Taking into consideration all that has been said and done, it is safe to say that some things just never change.



Violence Victim Shares Her Story

I never really thought much about domestic violence. I did not have much time to. I was a full-time student with eighteen semester hours last spring, a mom to my (then) fourteen-month-old son and a wife. I thought I finally had stability in my life.

I will be the first to admit that my marriage was not perfect. We argued and we fought but we always made up and things went back to "normal". I would have never pictured myself living in the CARE Center Domestic Violence shelter in Cumberland County this summer. I always thought that domestic violence shelters were for those couples like Ike and Tina, O.J. and Nicole. I didn't fall into that category.

My husband never laid a hand on me. He just threw things, smashed CDs, and punched holes in the walls of our apartment. It was always my fault when he was mad at me. One time my husband became mad at me when he felt like I was ignoring him-I was actually sleeping-and he poured a glass of water on my head.

It seemed like every month the Sheriff's Office was at our apartment because of different domestic disturbances. And every time the deputies told me there was nothing they could do since my husband didn't hit me. Once, they asked my husband if he wanted to leave the apartment. He said no because he paid the rent and his name was on the lease of the apartment!

Where did that leave me? Where could I have gone? I was a full-time student with no job, no money and a baby. My nearest relative was my mom who was two hours away. I didn't even tell my family because I wanted to keep up the façade of a good marriage.

The change I've been wanting so badly in my life came April 7th when my husband came to the apartment (he moved out on April 1st) to see our son. A verbal exchanged ensued between my mother and my husband. I had no choice but to call the police, crying uncontrollably, again when he raised his hand towards me.

Monday morning I found myself in the courthouse getting a restraining order against my husband. The whole time I was thinking how ironic this scenario was because I was due to present, as a part of a group presentation, the subject of domestic violence in one of my professor's classes. Just two weeks ago I was interviewing a CARE counselor for this presentation about their DV shelter in Cumberland County.

Later that day, my permanent address had changed to the CARE Center DV shelter in Cumberland County. I didn't sleep well the first few nights. I spent the majority of my time watching my son sleep and second guessing my decision. Did I do the right thing? How was I going to get through this? Am I still a good mom even though my son lives in a shelter? Later I found out from my mom who stayed to pack my belongings that my husband turned off the utilities in the house, thinking I was still living there!

I will be the first to admit that I've made progress. I'm not as angry with my husband as I used to be. I had to fight to get child and spousal support.

During all of this, I must admit that I am so fortunate and blessed to have such good friends and professors who have been there for me. I jokingly told my CARE counselor that I was looking for

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Meet Your New SGA President

Greetings to all the students at Fayetteville State University,

I would like to start off by giving thanks to all who supported my campaign to become Student Government Association President at Fayetteville State University for the 2003-2004 academic school year. I am humbled and honored to have been entrusted by the student population to lead the great students of FSU into a promising new school year.

I promise to lead with dignity, humility, honor and respect for all individuals. It will be my duty and my responsibility to lead in a manner that is respectful of the history of our 136-year old institution of higher education. I promise to preserve the history of FSU, protect the students of FSU and defend the constitution of FSU. In the upcoming academic year, I will unveil my "Great University Campaign" to our students, faculty and surrounding community. I plan to give special recognition to the brave men and women who wear



our military uniforms and protect and defend our rights, privileges and freedoms as a great people, great society and great country. I plan for special recognition for our brave men and women who put on their uniforms as police officers, fire fighters and civil servants of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

I plan to advocate for more affordable tuition at FSU. I plan

for more community service projects throughout our great community of Fayetteville. I plan to work with our faculty and staff at FSU to minimize our problems and create common solutions for our students. My vision is a vision of a "Great University" and that "Great University" is Fayetteville State University, my home and my Alma Mater. I will, "stand by old white and blue!"

Events Celebrate Women's History Month

By Talia Higgs
Staff Writer

A panel discussion held recently featured guests Catherine W. LeBlanc and Dr. Ruth Dial Woods as part of the university's 6th Annual Women's History Month Celebration.

LeBlanc has been a member of the Clinton administration and was the executive director for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and

Universities. Her work helped to bring a 21% increase in federal funding for HBCUs.

"The black college community had been crying for years that they were not getting an equitable share," she said.

LeBlanc stated this is why her work means so much to her. Her role in implementing numerous policies while working with the administration was also discussed. She was instrumental in structuring plans to

communicate with numerous agencies in regards to funding.

LeBlanc also helped in hosting grant opportunity workshops as a chance for representatives of various HBCUs to learn how to find money and help themselves financially.

She also spoke on some of her more memorable moments working at the White House. She recalled the January 1994 Martin Luther King Jr. birthday

celebration in which Clinton and wife praised the "unsung heroes" of the civil rights movement.

LeBlanc also enjoyed riding with Clinton in the Air Force One to the 50th anniversary celebration of the United Negro College Fund.

LeBlanc journeyed to South Africa to visit various black colleges and universities.

"It was interesting to see the similarities between HBCUs here

and some African universities," he said. Following LeBlanc was Dr. Ruth Dial Woods, a self-proclaimed "American Indian, humanist, activist, and feminist." She is concerned with the inequities and disparities between women and men and white women and women of color, when it comes to education levels and career opportunities.

Dr. Woods is currently serving her second term on the UNC Board of Governors.