

Barak Obama Speaks In Greensboro

By Denecia Scott
Contributing Writer

The Greensboro Coliseum was a site of inspiration and hope as Barack Obama spoke on March 26th, 2008. It was as if a wave of clarity and assurance for the future of America enveloped the crowd, because of anxiety to see Barack Obama. Students from neighboring colleges throughout Greensboro were in attendance including the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Bennett College, Greensboro College, and North Carolina A&T State University. However, the crowd consisted of more than just students: The people ranged in all ages, size, colors, and genders. One supporter joked that, "There is more diversity in this room than on most college campuses."

"This is history in the making," proclaimed one guard as we entered. The Stage was set with three rows of fans sitting behind the podium and directly below the Campaign Slogan. Obama Slogan for "Change you can believe in" proudly hung between the American and North Carolinian Flags.

The event began promptly at 1 pm, as the designated time approached, Pastor Cardas Brown of New Life Baptist Church (Greensboro, NC), gave a heart felt invocation for the well being of all present, Senator Obama, and his campaign.

The silence of the masses was soon replaced with "amen's" as Pastor Brown ended his prayer. After the final amen, Sharon Wheeler came forward to lead the pledge of allegiance. Afterwards, the "Yes We Can" chant began to ripple through the building, as supporters anxiously waited for Obama to appear.

After that, Aaron McCain, the Field Organizer for Greensboro informed everyone how to get involved with the North Carolina Campaign. "Text 62262 with your name, number and email address, and we will help you stay involved." Her message had an obvious impact on the supporters, as the anxiety mounted even more than before. The rest-

lessness was apparent by the cheers, spurts of clapping, random screams, and chants of "Oh-ba-ma". This method of having supporters' text to the campaign headquarters has been instrumental in the Obama Campaigns success. Deborah Hawkins was cheered on stage as she came forward to introduce Senator Obama.

After endorsing his campaign for having "strong commitment to family values", and for being "the only Candidate with judgment and leadership to oppose the Iraq war", she welcomed Obama to the stage. Then came the moment we all had been waiting for, Obama walked across the stage waving at his supporters that had rallied for him and shaking hands with those on stage.

Barack began his speech by thanking all present for their attendance, as well as thanking Hawkins and the other speakers. Senator Obama reminded the people that the event was a town hall meeting and supporters would be allowed to ask him questions at the end. The momentum in the crowd was so vivacious, he had to repeatedly stop to allow for the cheering and applause that seemed inevitable after each proclamation he made. His Speech went into every aspect of his platform for candidacy, including his reason for starting his campaign 15 months earlier.

Obama claimed the reason he ran was to address the issue Dr. King called fierce urgency of man, "There is such thing as beginning too late, we can not afford to wait to fix schools, to bring back jobs and wages to America, to end the war in Iraq, and to receive healthcare." The crowd seems to respond the most to his reference to his plans for making College Affordable. Obama provided that, if elected, he would, "give 4,000 to each college student, every year." Not a loan for \$4,000 but an investment into the future, as he proclaimed. All that would be required would be community service on the part of the student. "We invest in young people, and they will invest in America." After touching on his future foreign policy he assured the crowd,

"I intend to fight for you as president of the United States of America."

As Obama began to take questions he addressed the issue of poverty in America, college tuition, immigration, religious views, elderly health care, and energy. The most controversial question asked came



from a student who attended a conservative religious school. Responding to a question from a supporter about Jesus Christ and his administration, Obama stated "I believe in a gospel of not just words, but deeds. You should treat everyone with dignity and respect that's inherent of them being children of God." He explained how his environmental platform was based on "being a good steward of the earth." Then he asserted that, "you don't have to have faith to have morals", using his own mother as an example of a moral person who did not believe in the same decrees as he did. But every one has the right to freedom of religion."

Obama concluded by asking all present to visit his website with any questions or donations. In closing he stated, "I am reminded every day of my life if not by events than by my wife, that I am not a perfect man, so I will not be a perfect president. But if you vote for me I will tell you what I think, what I stand for, I will be honest and listen to you."

Tell The Voice what you think! What do you think of Obama? All comments, concerns, and discussion can be posted on the blog at www.fsuvoice.com.

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FSU: It's Time For Some Big Changes

By Matthew Wynne
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Throughout my years at Fayetteville State University, I've been a part of the Student Government Association, Vision-Student Leadership, Bronco Men, and other organizations. One of the largest problems all of these organizations faces each semester is the lack of student involvement and attendance at student organization meeting and functions.

One of the major reasons for such poor involvement is simply the lack of communication at FSU. As a Resident Assistant at Hackley Honors Hall, many of my residents inform me that they would be more than glad to attend programs and become active in different organizations, but they do not hear about the events ahead of time.

For many years, there has been so much talk of trying to bridge the communication gap between the organizations and students, but little has been done to solve the problem. There is a famous quote that says "if you do the same thing and expect a different result, you are setting yourself up for failure." That is exactly what has been happening here at

FSU for far too long.

I feel that one of the ways this problem can be solved is for the Student Center installs an intercom system, which can be used to advertise organizational events and programs at FSU on a daily basis. This will ensure that the majority of the campus will be informed of the activities going on. Also, I believe another way that will help bridge the communication gap is for the Department of Residence Life to become more connected with the organizations on campus and promote programs to the Residence Halls, since that is where the bulk of the students are.

Also, being a member of "The Mighty Pi Chapter" of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., I believe that the PAN-Hellenic Council as a whole should collaborate more with the SGA, SAC, and other clubs and organizations with their activities to draw more students. In fact, when the PAN had the Football Game several weeks ago I was amazed at the hundreds of people at FSU who showed up to the event to just stand and watch the game even after it was moved from the Football Field to the Band Practice Field next to Bronco Hall.

Thus, it is evident to me that the students need to see us, the Greeks, collaborating more with other clubs and organizations. Not only do we need to collaborate and be more visible to the students, but us as Greeks need to become more unified and promote a more positive image on campus.

It saddens me to think of what Greek life has become at FSU. Visiting other college campuses where I see strong Greek involvement on campus and where there is true unity, the overall campus is full of life. Right now I feel that our campus life is on life support and we can bring it back if the Greeks can set aside our differences and live out the principles of organizations that are founders established.

To all the people of FSU, it is a time for a change. It's time that we make a step forward and not two steps back. Whether or not I am elected SGA President this year I will do everything in my power while I am here as undergraduate to restore our campus to its former glory. Those of you who are leaders, lead by example and those of you who are followers, follow someone who has a sense of direction. The time is now!