

Speaking out

Silence changes little, voices change everything

I started to write about relationships. Valentines Day is quickly approaching, so I thought it was appropriate. But it wasn't what was on my mind.

For the past few weeks, I've been watching the progression of events in Africa and throughout the Middle East. My first thought when I heard people in Egypt were protesting was simply that they would protest and it would die down.

But as I watched events unfold it suddenly occurred to me what was really sparking all of this? What started this? Then I understood. It's something as Americans we don't notice and take completely for granted, the simple freedom of being able to speak our minds, speak out and just have choices, opinions and options.

The real problem is that most people don't use that option to speak out. It is almost as if they either don't care or just can't be bothered.

Well think about it, what happened to the passion? What happened to fighting for what

you believe in?

What happened to not being afraid to speak out? In the past few weeks I have heard about this fear that students, faculty and staff have to speak up and voice their opinions, even to criticize any situation on campus. Well why the fear? Why the anonymous voice. Why the silent ones?

Where were the critical voices when FSU failed to inform people on time about closings? Why didn't people get outwardly upset about having to drive all the way to FSU just to be told to turn around and go home? Basically that was too late to be making that decision. Yes circumstances change from time to time, but given that we are talking about people more thought should have gone into that. Schools had closed and decided the day before. In the most basic sense FSU dropped the ball.

Where were the critical "on the record" voices? I hear the quiet ones, the anonymous ones. There are only the silent ones, but where are the loud voices that will say "Why?"

ALICIA
BAYAT
FINDING
MY VOICE

ACADEMICCALENDAR

Feb. 26 Midterm exams

March 4 Midterm exams end

March 5 Midterm break begins (No classes-university open)

March 7 Interim grading period ends

March 11 Midterm break ends

March 25 Deadline for removing incomplete grades

March 25 Deadline for withdrawing from classes

April 22 Spring Holiday (University closed)

April 22 Deadline for withdrawing

from the university

April 25 Final exams for graduating seniors begin

April 30 Final exams for graduating seniors end

May 2 Final grades for graduating seniors due

May 6 Final exams end (for students not graduating)

May 7 Commencement (9:00 am)

May 9 Final grades due for students not graduating

WE NEED YOUR VOICE

The Voice is only as strong as yours. We are student run and have openings for staff writers, designers, photographers and multi-media specialists. No experience is necessary. Commitment to excellence, a professional outlook and teamwork is absolutely required. Come have fun, learn a lot and build your skills and portfolio. Stop by 241 Student Center or email Alicia Bayat, editor-in-chief, agarcia1@broncos.uncfsu.edu to fill out an application and get started.



Party yourself into shape

The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., sponsors a Night of Zumba Fitness at the Capel Arena on January 11.

Voice photo by Dea Spicer

CONTACT US:

NEWS, STORY TIPS: 910-672-2210, agarcia1@broncos.uncfsu.edu
Come by and see us: 241 Jones Student Center

Editor in Chief Alicia Bayat, agarcia1@broncos.uncfsu.edu

Features Editor Charnell Harris, charri129@broncos.uncfsu.edu

Sports Editor Quinton Graham, qgraham1@broncos.uncfsu.edu

Photo Editor Dea Spicer, dlspicer01@broncos.uncfsu.edu

Design Editor Stacey Robinson, srobins9@uncfsu.edu

Web Editor Jared Harris, jharri24@uncfsu.edu

Adviser Professor Kevin M. Dilley: kdilley@uncfsu.edu

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MEET THE STAFF

Staff Writers Nicolette Beatty, Kamiya Dancy, Candy Graves, Tiffiney Lee, Krystal McDaniel, Briana Murrell, Nike Pascal, Camellia Sansberry, Courtney Taylor, Brensha Williams, Lanelle Delanie, Tatiana Mosley, Shirley Townsend

Staff Photographers: Shakeiviea Gilchrist, Tony Nelson, Nathaniel Stevenson, Charles Taylor, Leland Walker, Jarred Harris