

Social Media and Public Relations

By Alicia Bayat
Editor-in-Chief

"If you are a university employee, student, or member of an affiliated group and are establishing a social network account containing the university brands, the Director of Public Relations must be included as an administrator on that account. Additionally, before those accounts go 'live', they must be approved by the Director of Public Relations," according to an email sent out by the office of the director of public relations.

It's understandable. There are certain behavior expectations of representatives of FSU. The disturbing issue is when those expectations are guarded and enforced by government representatives.

It's bordering on censorship. It's a fine line.

The question to ask is "How involved is too involved?" Actually no entity and/or individual should have the power to legally bind, monitor or "censor" student activities or opinions.

This simply reverberates with the echoes of repercussions for speaking out or against policies, procedures and actions.

What right does any entity have to be so embedded that anything that is spoken, written or expressed must be monitored or governed by a government agency much less that of a public relations section, whether it be a student organization, or any affiliated groups. This simply silences the voices that may possibly want to speak out.

Facebook and Twitter are and have been in the past few weeks conduits for change and in some countries revolution. What right does the state have to say they can and will "oversee" student, faculty or staff on social media sites? The loss is in the individuality of voices, expressions and opinions.

In the past few weeks' social media sites helped to drive and topple

a governing body. What would have happened if those government officials were allowed to "administer" those sites that individuals set up? Without the ability to utilize these social media outlets to organize and drive the public into action the events throughout Egypt would probably have turned out very differently.

Communication is the key to inspiration. Even in this country there is an expectation of decorum when representing any entity but when it involved mean too involved when freedom of speech is at stake.

The director of public relations should not have access to accounts set up by student organization and no student organization should need to "have permission" from public relations to use a social media site for freedom of expression.

The organization adviser is the official representative of the university. They look out for the best interest of the organization and the university. No student or organization should have to answer to public relations for approval on content. This binds the voices and opinions of individuals. It engenders fear of repercussion for speaking out.

That's not something anyone should stand for.

As of last week with the help of social media sites, the citizens of several countries throughout Africa and the Middle East were able to organize protests against government entities. Even with the onset of internet blackouts throughout Egypt, the drive to overcome fear of repercussions set in motions allowed individuals to find a way to come together and not allow themselves to be censored or their voices silenced.

In this country this is not the place or the time for censorship on social media sites. We're not children. We don't need a "parenting" or approval to express ourselves.

classes will allow students to get the undivided attention they need for such a strenuous course load. Students need to be aware that they can use financial aid for Intersession but they will need to obtain a minimum of 6 hours to be eligible for finances.

SUMMER continued from page 6

giving the opportunity.

Dr. Smith calls it 'an academic retreat.' Students will be able to focus on simply one subject intensively and not multiple subjects. Another advantage will be the classroom sizes. Classes are expected to have between 10-20 students. These small

Lost history or dark obsession?

By Alicia Bayat
Editor-in-Chief

Museums should be informative and somehow reflect the cultures or subject matter in a neutral

When I think of African-Americans I think of passion, strong personalities and creativity.

Last week Fayetteville State University students had the opportunity to visit the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro. At first glance it was just an old Woolworths building. It didn't appear to be anything special, but the basic idea of just being able to appreciate the cultural history of African-Americans and a time period of American society was intriguing. The museum itself as a bit of a disappointment.

I initially expected to walk into myriad of depictions of a rich rendition of African-American culture. Albeit the Civil Rights movement was a difficult time in African-American history it is also an intriguing time full of passion, idealism as well as violence and darkness.

The museum itself seemed to reflect the darkness more than the passion for success, equality and freedom. Walking into the entry way you feel the impersonal, homogeny of a manufactured environment. Given that many museums have that feel of uniformity they also somehow reflect the subject matter. Walking into this museum you wouldn't know or feel the subject matter it is designed to reflect and/or represent.

RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE MASH HOUSE

Unique and elegant, but not budget friendly

By Rasheena Scott
Voice Staff Writer

The Mash House Restaurant is different. It has a dining side and a cocktail and/or bar side. The restaurant is very high end, but with a comfortable vibe.

On the dining side there's photograph of black musician on the wall. There are about 35 tables and four chairs to each table. The forks and knife are wrapped in black cloth napkins to match the black tablecloth. White paper is placed over the tablecloth. The lights are low. There's soft rock music in the background.

Before we order our waitress provides a brief background. The Mash House has its own brewery. Behind a glass wall was a big brewer. Any beer you like or want to try, can be brewed right there. She also informed us that the food cooked is from scratch. The restaurant has its own oven grill. Behind the glass wall were cooks preparing food.

The average person in the restaurant was in their late twenties.

It didn't appear to be a college hang out. The prices are not budget friendly. It's a good restaurant to take a date. The prices are a bit high. I was really undecided on what I wanted everything sounded good but me being unfamiliar I decided to stick with pizza. The waitress told us everything was cooked fresh so I had to try it.

I ordered a four-meat pizza and pink lemonade. The bread wasn't all that good. It was cold and hard with some oil stuff on it. I eat a couple of pieces because I was hungry.

Our pizza was served nice and hot, with cheese flowing everywhere. I took one bite and fell in love. The sausages and ham on the pizza made it taste amazing. I ordered a dessert, called a Tia Maria. It was five layers of chocolate chip cookies soaked in Tia Maria coffee liqueur, layered with fresh whipped cream and frosted with espresso butter cream icing and lightly dusted with chocolate chips. The whole dessert experience was \$5.99. I was in heaven. I ate the cake like I was seven

again. It was so good. As you walk further into the museum you see black-and-white photos of baseball players and the usual subjects and well known historical figures that grade school children may come to know. But after that it's more of the same. The initial indoctrination is a video featuring Al Sharpton's take on spiritual aspects of African-American history. It sounds as if it could be an interesting start, but I couldn't really see why or how famous or infamous figures could help reflect the culture more than the voices and pictures of the everyday individual of the time period who could tell of their experiences both good and bad.

You're led down another darkly lit hallway featuring black and white photos right back to another screening room. It was akin to a house of horrors or a haunted house for Halloween. There was no feel for the drive, ingenuity and passion of civil rights leaders and better yet there was no feel for the average person who walked and felt the struggle of the before and after of a crossroads in history.

This wasn't a museum that seemed to celebrate a culture more like a funeral home that reflected only the darkness, the celebrity and the one-sided viewpoint of one perspective of historical time period.

I was disappointed. Because the history I know isn't about only the darkness in this time period but it is also of the bright and powerful spirits that propelled a movement forward and changed all of history. The museum didn't reflect that.

The Mash House offers a full variety of food choices like steaks, burgers, shrimps, salsa, and wings.

It was established in 2001 and is called Rocky Top Hospitality, based in Raleigh.

The cocktail/bar side had tables and booths. There were also two small couches and four small flat screens. Candles are placed at every table. The atmosphere was nice, and elegant but comfortable at the same time. Above our heads there was a blackboard hanging up with Mash House 6 signature beers list. It's not very loud. Everyone is engaged in conversation throughout the restaurant.

Medals and awards are strewn across restaurant. They were awarded Fayetteville Observer 2005 Reader Choice Award and won a silver medal at beer festival.

We walked out the door full. The meal was great. The place was wonderful.