

OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Broncos,
Here at FSU, we have so much of which to be proud but, foremost we should be proud of who we are and where we live. We are college students, many living on campus. There is a certain decorum that should be maintained on a college campus. This decorum cannot be maintained unless all students initiate certain decorum-enhancing habits.
We, as FSU Broncos, can contribute by no longer tossing beer and soda cans on our grounds. We can

also assist by showing the same consideration to our dormitory common areas and adjoining yards. Fellow Broncos should remind each other not to litter. There are plenty of garbage cans located around the campus designed to facilitate trash disposal. We should make more use of these instead of the grass.
Trash is ugly. All students attending FSU are urged to assist in maintaining the attractive decor of our campus in its initial form. Let us capture the problem of litter prior to its final stage — UGLINESS.

Campus uproar over King's birthday fades

BOULDER, CO (CPS) -- Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality hasn't come true, his daughter Yolanda King told 350 people at the University of Colorado a week before schools around the country prepared to celebrate Martin Luther King Day.

She blamed the "widening gulf between the haves and have-nots" in the United States.

But campus resistance to mark her father's birthday as a federal holiday seems to be disappearing. When President Reagan authorized King's birthday as a federal holiday in 1983, some campuses didn't want to add a holiday to their tight schedules, with the debate peaking in 1986, the first year King's birthday was celebrated as a holiday.

Most of the calendar issues surrounding the slain civil rights leader's birthday have been settled, although at North Carolina State, for example, administrators provoked reactions by replacing an

Easter Monday holiday with King's birthday.

Some students remain angry about the decision. James Jones, president of the N.C. State Interfraternity Council, said the school should celebrate both days. "King helped whites as well as blacks. Martin Luther King is important and his civil rights helped all minorities: women, handicapped, gays. His insight helped us all out."

"We should have both days," Jones continued. "I'm in favor of the holiday, but do not like giving up Easter Monday."

In general, however, the controversy about adding the holiday -- from bureaucrats complaining the holiday would be too costly and from opponents claiming King was not worthy of a national celebration -- appears to have faded from the national scene.

Indeed, recently indicated Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham's refusal to let state agencies observe King's birthday -- King would have

been 58 this year had he not been assassinated by a sniper named James Earl Ray in 1968 -- in part led to petitions that will force him to face a recall election later in 1988.

But if the holiday has gained acceptance, his daughter noted in her Boulder speech Jan. 10, King's vision still hasn't become the norm.

"We as human beings have not reached the Promised Land," said the younger King, an artist who heads the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Change in Atlanta. "The magnificent dream pursued by my father is still a dream."

Before he was murdered in 1968, King planned to shut down the federal government through massive civil disobedience actions until ending poverty became the governmental priority. "That was his last dream. And if you understand how threatening it was for some groups, you understand why the bullet came and where it came from," Yolanda King said.

Personal Hang-ups

By William Townsend

Complaints are widespread on the yard concerning the proficiency of our telephone and campus operators. People are wondering if the operators are really doing their job; or are they sipping tea, painting their fingernails, falling asleep after 12:00 a.m. -- in short are they really working? Other complaints are about not having lines connected in the dormitory rooms. Some students may be upset because the lines may be in use and they are not receiving their calls. Example: Al wouldn't beep in Tony's call from Kim. The same situations occur in the girls' dorms. Male dormitory students are also complaining, because of the vandalism that is going on. Phones are being ripped out of the wall, receiver ends are stolen, and wires cut -- simply because they don't receive calls.

After listening and forming my own opinion, I decided that this situation should be investigated. Ms. Annette Proctor, supervisor of the operators, was interviewed. She stated there were four full-time operators and one part-time and that the operators do work on 8-hr. shifts; thus, meaning the lines are open 24 hrs. She also said, "The only time we close is on holidays, and that is Christmas -- unless there are severe snowdays." It was assured that the workers are doing their job; the only reason a caller may have to wait so long is that the operator may have 2-3 calls and may be assisting someone at the same time. While I was interviewing Ms. Proctor, she also told me that operators do have lunch breaks and must also answer calls of nature which is understandable. Ms. Proctor demonstrated the regular time it takes to go to the rest room. While she was doing this, we dialed the operator's number. The phone rang about 21 times

and one minute had barely gone by; therefore, to a person who doesn't wish to wait, it would seem that the operators are not doing their job, but they are.

Fayetteville State University is a constituent of UNC System. Students at UNC-Charlotte pay the same amount as we do a semester which is approximately around \$1,457 - totaling \$3,000 plus a year. Yet they have personal room phones in their dormitories and are capable of calling on and off campus. They are responsible for paying their own phone bills. When I confronted Ms. Proctor about this, she told me it was mentioned a few years ago and Mr. John Parham, former VC for Business Affairs, stated Fayetteville State was not in the position to go into individual student telephone billing and be responsible for the collection of phone bills. Carolina Bell also said that they would not wire the dorms and be responsible for the student billing.

They did agree to installing phones at the student's personal expense. The telephone company will install a phone in a student's room, but the installation fee is \$66.80 for a single-line and the monthly rate would be around \$15.00-\$20.00.

It seems that the problem is no one wants to be responsible for collecting the bills.

After weighing the facts logically, you can understand that just because a phone rings 10 times, it doesn't mean anyone is working. And ripping out a phone because people aren't answering it isn't a good reason for vandalism. Let us understand that the phones are also used for important things and not just pleasure. Tragic emergencies may not come through, because you don't beep someone in or because the phone is ripped out. So, let us remember our phone courtesy and help each other out.

Black History Month: Did you know?

By Rumiko Hayes

Aside from all the "tokens" that we received for Valentine's Day, the month of February brings with it an important month-long event from which we can all benefit. This event is Black History Month. We are all familiar with famous people such as Martin Luther King, Fredrick Douglas, George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington. But how many of us have ever taken time out to think about the other people who have contributed as much to our society, but are not as well-known? Today we take for granted many of the things that seem as though they've been around forever. Below are just a few of the people whose ingenuity helped make many of the things we find common today, possible.

Andrew J. Beard was born as a slave on an Alabama plantation and lived there until he reached his 18th birthday. Although he could not read nor write, he possessed the intelligence and mechanical aptitude to patent a rotary steam engine which was cheaper to build and operate than conventional engines of that time.

Frederick M. Jones was responsible for inventing the system of

refrigerating food from the farm to the market.

Charles Drew developed a process of changing blood plasma for storage which proved to be one of the most valuable contributions to the Allied victory in World War II.

Vance Marchbanks was a Colonel in the Air Force and one of the first "space surgeons," who designed an oxygen-mask tester and mask-cleaning equipment; he also developed a method for measuring pilot fatigue.

George R. Carruthers was an

astrophysicist with the Naval Research Laboratory who was responsible for the development of a unique camera called the "far-ultraviolet camera/spectrograph" that made its trip to the moon aboard Apollo 16 in April of 1972.

Hopefully, this article has encouraged you to find more about the other achievers who help make up Black History Month. The knowledge you gain may not only help you someday but it may also help future generations as well.

Without a dorm

By Nichelle Moore

It is interesting to hear on-campus students tell us off-campus students how easy our life is at FSU. When we're hungry we can eat, if we want money from our parents we don't have to wait two weeks for an answer, and we don't have to worry about whether or not the cafeteria is going to slip us another round of pancakes for lunch again. Yet despite popular opinion, there are a few quirks about being an off-campus student.

A good example would be parking. Almost every time I go to the parking lot at Lyons Science Building, I hope that another commuting student is about to come out, head toward his/her car, and go to another class in another building. Lucky for me, the system works. But students who cannot use this method (or the few times my system doesn't work), usually end up parking in Faculty/Staff parking spaces or parking along the streets. Plus, it doesn't help the situation when Fayetteville State Security decides to give out tickets that one particular day you couldn't find a parking space. When all else fails, we park at the Taylor Social Science parking lot and take a sometimes long scenic walk through campus to our favorite building.

Parking is only one part of a seemingly campus-wide "forgetfulness" of the full-time, off-campus student. Some of the events not put on the university calendar are frequently missed by these students because their notices are only posted in the dormitories.

One misadventure for myself happened during a meeting, when I and a few other students were asked by our professor to acquire an item and bring it back - in ten minutes. Because of where my residence is located, I protested that more time was needed for students not living in residence halls. But instead of noting what I was saying, he insisted on ten minutes when another (on-campus I might add) student sitting behind me shouted it was plenty of time. My request was ignored. As it ended up, the professor waited forty-five minutes, which would be ample time for me to retrieve my item, had he been more aware of (or not as hearing-impaired toward) the commuting students.

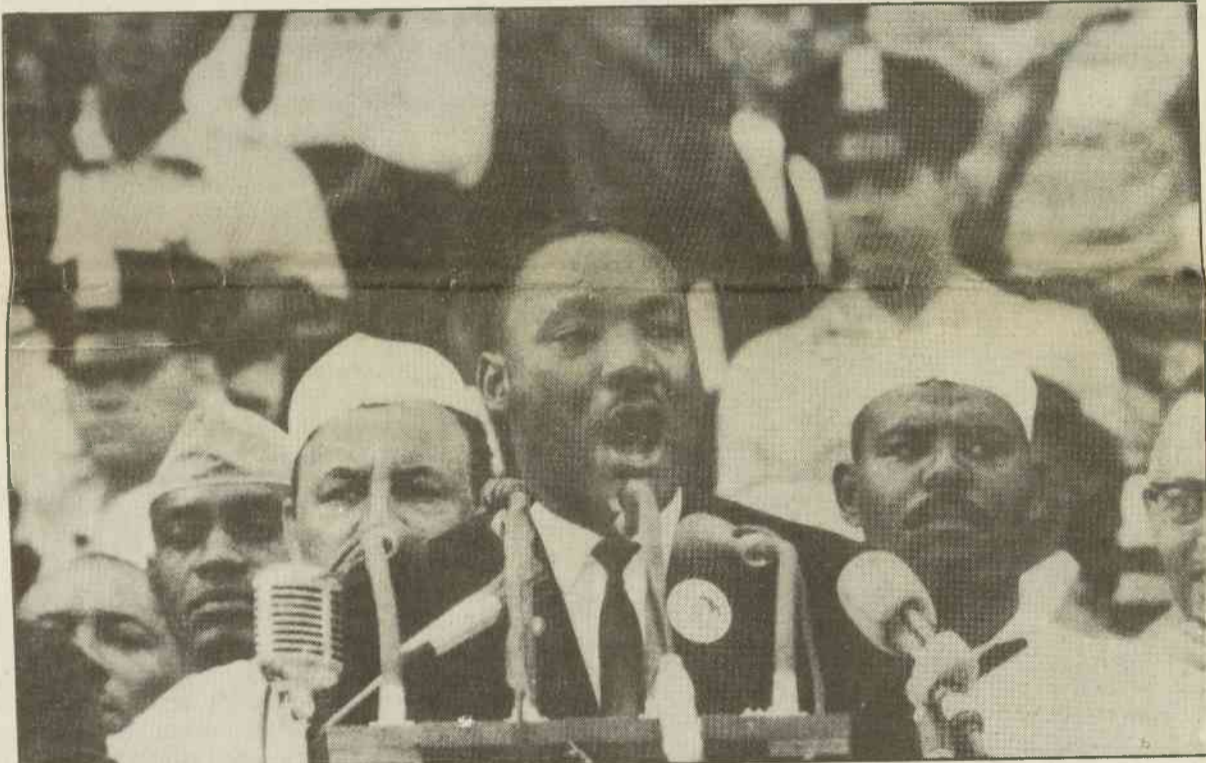
The most recent example of this seemingly passive attitude toward "off-campusness" was during the snow days. During the earlier part of January, FSU announced at 9:30 a.m. that classes were closed for the day. Commuting students in all likelihood were slightly irate, when after braving through snow and ice, found that their attendance for early morning classes was uncertain. Additionally, further strain was placed on the students when the administration opened classes, even though the roads surrounding the campus were still dangerous.

So, as you can see, we don't necessarily have the easier life. If I could offer one suggestion, it would be to create a voice in the school administration and Student Government Association representing solely off-campus students. Possibly this party could prevent situations like the ones above from happening again.

What's up with the dining hall?

By Charles McLendon

It's that time again that the students on campus voice their opinion about the dining hall. During last semester, a number of you asked the question, "Why Doesn't The Dining Hall Stay Open Late?" So, to find out the answer to that question, I asked Mr. Hall, the manager of the cafeteria, about times of the schedule. The schedule for the dining hall was already in place before he came to this university. If the hours were to be changed it would cost the students much more to eat, because that would increase staff labor hours. The menu for the meals that are served in the cafeteria are selected by the head of the company that supplies food to the cafeteria. The changes, that will be happening this year, are that they are working at all times to bring in new ideas for the students. Some students would like to have the new deli that was installed last semester and the new salad bar to provide a wider range to choose from. Another issue is the problem with the students that want to have food fights. It is not hurting the dining hall; it is only hurting the students, because costs will increase. Some students would complain about this; but they are bringing it on themselves. So the next time you think about a food fight, think about costs and the food that is being wasted. Some people in this world would love to have the food that you are eating. Besides, our school has the best food in the CIAA!



King delivering his landmark 1963 speech; finally, campus acceptance. (UPI Photo)

Why would you choose FSU?

By LaTonia A. Norville

I've been attending Fayetteville State University for six months and during that time I have met a lot of people, each with their own individual backgrounds. I've often wondered why these people from different parts of the state and country chose to attend FSU. I had a general idea about some students; others I knew nothing about. Some came here because they had relatives stationed at Fort Bragg or Pope Air Force Base. Others came because they have had family members who graduated from "Old FSU." There are many more reasons because they have friends already attending and more to come next year. In a random survey of students at FSU, the question was asked, "Why Fayetteville State?"

Jeffrey Caradine is a senior from Chicago, IL. Jeffrey said, "I chose FSU because I wanted to receive a quality education at a fine institution of higher learning and not to be treated like a Social Security Number, but as an aspiring young black male," he also adds, "I'm proud to be a Bronco!"

Vallerie Cooper is a freshman from Wilson, NC. Vallerie said, "I came to Fayetteville State because it was my last resort. But I like it!"

James Galberth is a sophomore from Raeford, NC. James said, "I came to FSU because I wanted to go to a black college and it [FSU] has a good ROTC program. I also wanted to be close to my family."

Tammy Monroe is a sophomore from Fayetteville, NC. When I asked Tammy why she chose Fayetteville State University, her answer was, "I came here because

it was close to home."

Jeff Barbour is a freshman from Monroe, NC. Jeff's answer was, "I felt like I could accomplish more here with my major, which is art. It's not far from home. I also heard a lot about this school."

Suzanne McCaulley is a senior from Kenansville, NC. Suzanne said, "I came to FSU to further my education and to prepare myself for the workforce. I also chose this institution, because of the opportunities that were offered to me that I might not have received at another university." Suzanne adds, "My four years here have been a great experience and also rewarding."

Odis Bellinger is a sophomore from Detroit, Michigan. Odis states, "I'm a transfer student here from UNCW. I wanted to see the basketball team improve. This is a small school and you get the feeling that you are somebody and not 'just another student.'"

Monica Swartz is a freshman from Summerville, SC. Monica's answer was, "I came here because it was not close to home. I applied to another college, but the tuition was higher. I had five friends who were suppose to come here but I was the only one who went through with it."

After finishing my survey, I realized that a lot of students don't know why they came here. I think everyone should sit down and ask themselves, "Why did I come to FSU?" When you have an answer, work hard to fulfill the goals you have set for yourself here. If you don't have an answer, try your best to find one and when you do, I guarantee you'll feel better about your decision to come here.

