



DISTANCE NOWHERE

by Roger A. Harris

I used to wonder/ about living and dying-/I think the difference lies/ Between tears and crying.

I used to wonder/About here and there-/I think the distance/Is nowhere.

Borderline by Langston Hughes

Let's cut to the quick. FSU students' constitutional and civil rights were violated on February 21, 1997, when Fayetteville City Police Department Storm Troopers ransacked Bryant Hall and the people that lived in it. Even worse, Chancellor McLeod elected to disregard students' cries of foul play and supported the overreactions, and the hastily-completed, contradictory, and inaccurate reports of both FSU and Fayetteville City police departments, only to have that support explode in his face when it was revealed that both reports contained lies: FSU police had jurisdiction over the area in question but no control over the situation at hand; Fayetteville City police used excessive force, and students were accosted and maced in their own homes. So what?

The reason Fayetteville City Police Chief Hansen

fessed up to the embarrassing, dangerous, and destructive lies is that his department is currently under investigation for Racism. It would have been (and some suggest this event has become) political suicide for him to try to cover up the lie included in official police reports. Is this new revelation a reflection of what really goes on in his department? The answer is problematic. Regardless, it has cast an even darker, longer, and more sinister shadow on how Fayetteville treats African-Americans, be they students or citizens.

Students did nothing (I

"Rise or fall, brothers and sisters, but don't just lie there taking it; don't be going by not knowing why, that how it is when you leave this campus will be how it was when you came, the damn same."

repeat, nothing) wrong. Many observers may be upset that a few students cussed out officers of the law, but when those same officers are chasing you down your own hallway, jacking your brothers and sisters up against walls, spraying mace under your bedroom door, and telling you to disperse from your own home for no just cause or reason, I think you might have a few choice words for them also. Four students were arrested for "Fail-

ure to Disperse," not for "illegal activity" or possession of any illegal substances. On top of that, the officers lied about what they did. You tell me what's wrong with this picture.

FSU students should literally run Fayetteville. Yet, when any event of import affects our campus or the community, you'll usually find most of us happily ambling about in an ambivalent cloud of benign and clueless smoke. **IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS. APATHY IS NOT COOL.** We need to research Chancellor McLeod, Kent State, Tianamen Square, and Burma and connect their mutual rela-

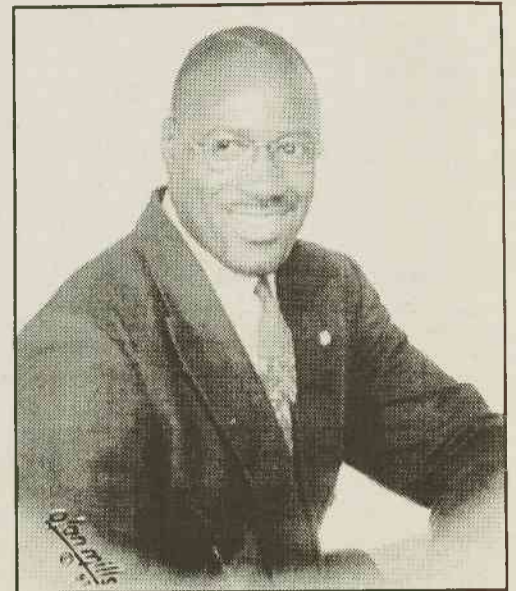
tionships to FSU's students being victims of civil rights violations. For in all of these cases, it was the students (baby, the students) that saw what was going on, saw that it wasn't right, and "got up for the down stroke."

Chancellor McLeod later stated that he wasn't happy with the way the situation was handled. Fair Enough. This admission comes from the heart of a man who has repeatedly advertised himself as a person

who, during the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's, advocated the same civil rights that were violated on that sad February night on his campus. **STUDENTS** of the 90's: Can you say the same—have you done as much; tell me how can we expect to unite our campus and take action when we can't even speak to each other in passing; is it one love or no love—Bronco Pride or Bronco sighs? Black History Month, or Black History betrayal? Dogs, guns, mace, police, dispersal, twenty-six squad cars for 100 students. Sound familiar?

Realize that the contradiction I'm revealing is not in knowing, but in doing nothing about that knowing. Realize that anything that becomes of this situation (and of FSU) will be directly related to what we, as students, either do or do not do about police confronting students who simply wished to assemble peaceably. Rise or fall, brothers and sisters, but don't just lie there taking it; don't be going by not knowing why, that how it is when you leave this campus will be how it was when you came, the damn same.

If we don't get involved in



Roger A. Harris
Editor-In-Chief

learning about and actively protecting our freedoms, we will never evolve as a persons, or as a culture or society. And in this instance, even though we may exhibit movement, when we clear the mace from our blurred and tired eyes, we'll clearly see that the distance we've traveled is nowhere.

It should be made clear that student leadership (especially SGA) truly represented student concerns with respect to this situation and are to be commended. This editorial is directed to the student body at large, for if we do not unite and aggressively support and protect our interests, it will be only a matter of time before more civil rights, First Amendment rights, Fourth Amendment rights, and freedoms are assaulted again. Ed

IN RESPONSE TO LAST ISSUES: FSU GREEKS: DEMI-GODS OF MEDIOCRITY GOING NOWHERE FAST

by Alrick Banks

I think that some questions must be asked of any organization that plans to be successful. "Where are we going..." If an organization is to establish goals for itself, they must ask this question. "...What are we doing?" must be asked to evaluate how close we're coming to achieving our goals.

What have we done lately? I get this question usually once or twice a week. My response is always "a lot but, room for more." The next thing I do is ask the inquirer, "What have you been looking for?" Most

people don't tend to look for "greeks" unless we are wearing our letters. But what about the clean-ups, unity programs, tutoring, or attendance at functions right here on this campus. Have you seen us? Maybe we were studying beside you. We're still students. Oh, I know, we didn't have our letters on. Excuse us our many sweatshirts, jackets, and hats were all dirty on those days.

We don't continue to ride the coattails of our founders. If that is your narrow minded view, our founders must have

ridden the coattails of such people like Peter, Muhammad, Moses, Mary, and Martha. We are challenged to deal with issues of our own era, along with problems of a time before, that have escalated and carried over into our era.

Yes, we do at times deny membership to some individuals who may seem OK on paper. You suggest judging them "internally." The next time you go to a job interview please tell the employer to hire you on your internal skills, as oppose to your external. You don't give

an interviewer a sheet with your internal skills, they are external. You bring to the table what you feel best qualifies you for entrance into the company. So since we settle for the "norm" in your words, let's do what normal people do. If you don't qualify, then you don't get into the company. They hire someone who qualifies, or in their words is "what they're looking for."

If accepted, you say "...begin a new birth..." Why? How come they can't build on the one that is already

present. We as black people, are so quick to "begin a new birth" as oppose to sticking with something. Where has perseverance gone? Where is your so called, "pillar of faith?"

The next time Ms. Claire-Jones, you feel we are demi-gods of mediocrity, please ask yourself, have you opened your eyes and ears to look and listen for signs of work and concern, or have you concerned yourself work with opening your mouth and closing your eyes and ears. Until next time...