

# The Famuan

September 26, 1996

The Voice of Florida A&M University - Tallahassee, Fla.

Vol. 84 - No. 4

## Bikes: the new way to police FAMU

BY TACUMA ROEBACK  
Staff Writer

FAMU police officer Juan Harper is a trained weapon on two wheels.

Whether it's jumping curves or knocking suspects off their feet, Harper can do it all with his 20-speed mountain bike.

Even neighborhood kids won't race him — and he does all this on duty.

Harper is one of two officers to make up the first FAMU police bike patrol, the university's move toward community policing.

FAMU, FSU and other schools in the state university system are training campus police for bike patrol duty.

"It's a caring approach," said Sgt. Beverly Stevens, the training coordinator for the bike patrol. "It's all about safety."

Civil engineering student Oneka Roach agreed.

"Any little thing [the police] do, shows that they're concerned about the safety of the student," said Roach, a sophomore living on campus. "Bikes can go where cars can't."

Algin Walker, a lieutenant in the commander patrol division, said the bikes are

Please see BIKES/ 10

Officer Juan Harper shows off his new weapon.

The Famuan/  
NELYS  
BOSQUES  
-FLORES



The Famuan/ KALI MEEKS

### BETWEEN CLASSES



The Famuan/ LEON TUCKER

Students (left to right) Tara Lee, John Brown, Edward Taylor II, Candice Simpson, Najja Hayes, Paul Ervin and Mel Jefferson hang out on the steps of Young Hall.

## Mostly faculty on "Harlem Heyday" bill

BY DAWNIE L. WALTON  
Contributing Editor

Assistant professor Michael Dinwiddie, FAMU's playwright-in-residence, was anxious to start a new season of Essential Theatre productions. So anxious, in fact, that he improvised when he couldn't find students to play the roles in his latest work, "Harlem Heyday."

"It's early in the season and students are busy," said Dinwiddie, who wrote and directed "Harlem Heyday" especially for FAMU's Essential Theatre. "They're trying to get their classes straight and just don't have the time right now to devote."

But, as it's said often in the theater

business, "The show must go on." After brainstorming for ways to solve the problem, Dinwiddie called on theater faculty and staff members to play the roles.

Essential Theatre technical director Carey B. Robinson, who's used to wearing a tool belt and jeans while working on set construction and lighting, will play a dapper Langston Hughes in the play.

"I giggled and laughed at [Dinwiddie] when he asked me," Robinson said. "I thought I would be doing some technical things. But I think it'll be fun."

Costume designer Gregory Horton says he's a little antsy about his role as Countee Cullen.

"I'm very nervous," he said. "I haven't done stage work in a long time."

Only one student, Taurie Denise Gittings, is cast in the play, which is set in the late 1920s at a posh Harlem party. Gittings will play the lead role of A'Lelia Walker Robinson, the daughter of the first African-American millionaire, Madam



Courtesy of Essential Theatre  
Taurie Gittings, Carey Robinson and Valencia Matthews star in "Harlem Heyday."

Please see HEYDAY/ 9

## Democratic candidates rally FAMU

BY STEPHANIE ARNOLD  
Staff Writer

At the HBCU Day rally held Monday on The Set, Anita Davis, the County Commissioner for District 1, told FAMU students to "get your act together for the Oct. 1 elections."

Among other candidates, Davis — a 1990 FAMU graduate and candidate for U.S. House District 2 — urged students to take advantage of their right to participate in the political process.

"Talk is cheap," Davis said to students who were talking amongst themselves and choosing not to listen to the candidates. "You have to listen to the important things going on around you first, then talk," she said.

HBCU Day, sponsored by the FAMU College Democrats, was part of the Democratic National Committee's Historically Black College and University Vote '96 Project. A spokesman for FAMU College Democrats said the program was designed to educate, register and mobilize young people to help secure Democratic victories this fall.

Sean Pittman, candidate for County Commission District 2, was also there.

Please see HBCU/ 13

### ELECTION RESULTS

FRESHMAN CLASS PRESIDENT	Results still pending
SOPHOMORE CLASS PRESIDENT	
Corey L. Alston	
Athena Gordon	55
JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT	
Andrea Deonn Adams	
Ranon K. Maddox	51
SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT (RUNOFF)	
Christopher Lynch, II	
Millicent "Millie" Booker *	41
Quinton G. Washington	
Robert "Tippy" Whittingham *	46

For more results, see Pg. 12

# FAMU *SGA* PAGE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## Solutions to Parking Problems!

SGA President Eugene Waiters is holding a student-body press conference to discuss FAMU's problems with on-campus parking.

He, along with Vice-President Terrence Murray, other SGA and Student Senate leaders, and university administrators as well will explain to students and media exactly what is going on with parking, and what students can do about it.

**SGA PARKING PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**MONDAY**  
**SEPT. 30, 1996**  
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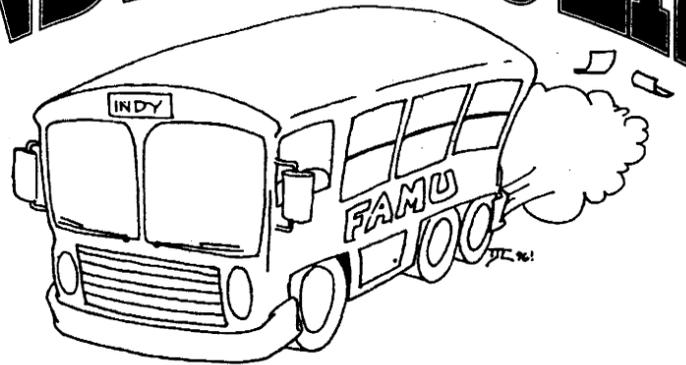
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- Y'all REALLY ain't ready!!

## MILLION MAN MARCH: One Year Later

FAMU welcomes Lecture Series speaker

JAWANZA KUNJUFU

**OCT. 16, 1996**

## Rattler Card makes getting a voucher for books easier

BY DORY KNIGHT  
Correspondent

The beginning of a new semester can bring many financial problems.

Because of this, University Controller Vinod Sharma decided to relieve a lot of financial stress by making it easier for students to get book vouchers.

Book vouchers, assigned by student accounts, are for students to buy books before their net checks arrive. In previous years, students were not able to obtain vouchers until well into the semester.

"Before everything was scheduled," Sharma said. "Students had to wait about four weeks to get vouchers, take a piece of paper to the bookstore, and vouchers were only good for two days."

Although Sharma said that the old process was reasonable, he said the aid of a Rattler Card makes the process even better.

With the Rattler Card, students can get book vouchers without all of the inconvenience.

The first step occurs in the Office of Student Accounts, where eligibility for a voucher is determined. Sharma said any student whose financial aid exceeds the amount they owe the university is eligible for a book voucher. Once eligibility is confirmed, student accounts uses a list of book prices to determine the amount of

money that will be put on the student's voucher. The selected amount is then transferred to the student's Rattler Card account and deducted from their financial aid. The process may sound lengthy and tedious, but it only takes about 10 minutes.

Sharma said that students do not know everything about book vouchers.

"A lot of students think that you can only buy books with them," he said. "You can buy supplies, and anything else in FAMU's bookstore." Sharma also said that students can save leftover voucher funds for the next semester.

Mahalia Allen, a 21-year-old junior theater education student from Apopka appreciates the new process but thinks it should be more publicized.

"I know about 20 people who were eligible for book vouchers but didn't know it," Allen said.

Assistant Controller Johnson Crutchfield said information about vouchers is posted all over campus.

"We send information to all university offices," Crutchfield said.

So far, about 300 students have vouchers this semester.

The deadline for applying for vouchers was Sept. 12, but student accounts is still able to help any eligible student who is in need. Interested students can determine their eligibility on a list that is posted outside of the student accounts office in Foote Hilyer.

## Grants awarded to ten black schools for neighborhood renewal programs

BY COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

Ten historically black colleges and universities will share \$2.5 million in federal grants to start neighborhood renewal programs in their communities.

The institutions were each awarded \$250,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and each school plans to develop a community center, officers said.

At Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, the grant will be used to rehabilitate old homes and provide after-school programs for children, said Laxley Rodney, an associate education professor.

Faculty will run the community development center, and students who

participate will receive either class credit or work study money.

"For instance, students who study business would be involved in the marketing and economic development of affordable homes," Laxley said.

"It will give students [a chance] to apply theory with experience," he said. "I think it's very important."

Other universities receiving grants include Alabama A&M University, Normal, Ala.; Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Ala.; Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Ark.; Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo.; Benedict College, Columbia, S.C. and St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Va.

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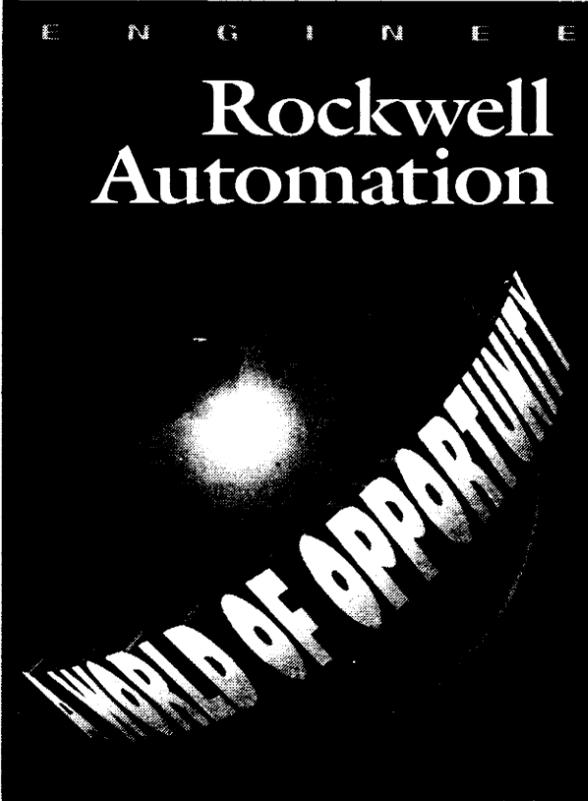


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**Correction**  
Staff Writer Bernice Harterson did not receive credit for providing the information included on the Tupac Shakur timeline last week. The Famuan regrets the error.

## SAMPLE BALLOT

LEON COUNTY SECOND PRIMARY ELECTION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1996

**DEMOCRATIC BALLOT**

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**  
2ND Congressional District  
(Vote for One)  
 ALLEN BOYD  
 ANITA L. DAVIS

District Race Below. Check Your Voter I.D. Card.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
7TH House District  
(Vote for One)  
 DAVID WARRINER  
 JAMEY WESTBROOK

District Race Below. Check Your Voter I.D. Card.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
District 1  
(Vote for One)  
 BILL PROCTOR  
 CURTIS RICHARDSON

District Race Below. Check Your Voter I.D. Card.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
District 2  
(Vote for One)  
 SEAN PITTMAN  
 JANE G. SAULS

District Race Below. Check Your Voter I.D. Card.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**  
District 2  
(Vote for One)  
 CONNIE EVANS  
 TOM YOUNG

District Race Below. Check Your Voter I.D. Card.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**  
District 3  
(Vote for One)  
 WYLIE J. DASSIE  
 MAGGIE B. LEWIS

**REPUBLICAN BALLOT**

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**  
2ND Congressional District  
(Vote for One)  
 CAROLE GRIFFIN  
 BILL SUTTON

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
(Vote for One)  
 BOB NUDELMAN  
 FRANK VORAN

**JUDICIAL OFFICERS**  
JUDICIAL RACES ARE ON ALL BALLOTS

**CIRCUIT JUDGE**  
2ND Judicial Circuit, Group 2  
(Vote for One)  
 MARVA A. DAVIS  
 KATHLEEN DEKKER  
 ED RUDE

**COUNTY JUDGE**  
Seat 2  
(Vote for One)  
 AUGUSTUS D. AIKENS, JR.  
 RICHARD "RICK" DAVISON  
 TIM HARLEY  
 JUDITH W. HAWKINS  
 CAROLYN THOMPSON LEBOEUF  
 DEAN MORPHONIOS  
 RANDY MURRELL  
 BELINDA G. NOAH  
 LUCKY T. OSHO

**COUNTY JUDGE**  
Seat 3  
(Vote for One)  
 VIRGINIA DAIRE  
 CLAIRE A. DUCHEMIN  
 CLINTON E. MCLEOD  
 DON MODESITT  
 BEN POITEVENT  
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## New SGA committee to link schools with campus leaders

BY DARREL JAMES  
Staff Writer

FAMU students now have a new way to make their voices known in SGA.

"The House of Representatives, an advisory committee of SGA, is being formed to be a direct link between students and SGA," said Rasheed Mustakeem, SGA chief of staff.

The organization should be up and running by mid-October.

The House will be made up of two student representatives from each of the 12 colleges and schools that make up FAMU. The secretary of academic affairs, who will be appointed within the next week, will head up the House.

"The House will serve as an advisory committee to the executive branch," said Eugene Waiters, SGA President. He said his administration has no plans to institute the House as an additional branch of SGA and that the House will not have any administrative powers. "It will only be a standard committee of SGA."

There is no voting involved in selecting members for the house. Interested students must write a one-page, typed, essay explaining why they want to be a part of the House.

Students must also complete an application.

Members of the executive branch will select the representatives. The representatives will serve one-year terms.

Waiters said the House is open to the general student population. He also said he's looking for dedicated students who will attend meetings and perform the duties assigned to them.

"There has been a pretty good response so far," said Waiters, "we've

received between 20 to 30 applications."

Kimberly Gamble said she's interested in being a part of the House of Representatives.

"I think it's great to have students representing their schools," said Gamble, a junior elementary education student from Polk county.

Mustakeem said the House will serve as a "two-way street" for communication between the schools and SGA.

Students appointed to the House, with the help of their peers, can communicate any problems concerning their respective schools to SGA. SGA will use members of the House as means of making sure schools receive all necessary information distributed by SGA.

Waiters said he wanted to form the House to bring SGA closer to the 12 schools of FAMU because a primary complaint from students in the pharmacy, engineering and the tech buildings is that they never know what's going on.

Although it was Waiter's idea to form the House, Mustakeem said he's taking the initiative to get the project started.

"This is my baby," said Mustakeem, "but I'll only serve as an adviser once it's started."

Mustakeem said he wants this project to be as big as any other student organization on campus. "It clearly has the potential," he said.

*Interested students can receive information about the House of Representatives by contacting Rasheed Mustakeem in Room 210 of the Student Union building or by calling 599-3624.*

The Famuan invites all students and faculty to its staff meetings, Thursdays at 5 p.m., to critique the paper. Tell us what you like or don't like. Your opinion counts.

## Procter & Gamble

**WHAT:** Skill Development Workshop

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 28, 1996

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Session #2 — noon \*

**WHERE:** Perry Paige Auditorium

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Location: Florida A&M University  
Jackson-Davis Hall



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## HISPANIC FESTIVAL



The dancing group My Name is Panama performed at the Sixth Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival held at Tom Brown Park Saturday.

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# Students fall deeper into debt

BY COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

More than likely, it will haunt them for years.

Yet graduate and professional students are choosing to go into greater debt — more often and at younger ages — than ever before.

The alarming trend is producing a "new class of indebted students," according to the report "Graduating Into Debt," released by The Education Resources Institute (TERI) and the Institute of Higher Education Policy.

The number of students who took out federal loans rose 62 percent in 1995, to more than 1 million, as compared with 620,000 in 1993, the report said. Those students, both graduate and professional, borrowed nearly \$7.7 billion, up 74 percent from 1993.

The average cumulative debt for dental students is \$68,000; for medical students, \$64,000 and for law students, \$40,000.

Such amounts of debt carry "serious long-term consequences" for students and their careers, the report said.

Among the consequences are higher student-loan default rates, reduced consumer spending and decreased interest in public service careers, which are traditionally lower-paying jobs.

The study is a "clear warning for the public and policy makers that we are graduating increasing numbers of students and professionals who are mortgaging their futures and destabilizing their careers," said Ted Freeman, TERI president.

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## Spring protest still spawning concerns, questions

BY ROBERT POWELL  
Staff Writer

Last spring's student protest led to unresolved issues and a court case pending against Larry Tait, former SGA president.

The protest erupted from allegations that presidential candidate Olatunji Oyewale and running mate Sarita K. Taylor allegedly defamed this year's administration, Eugene Waiters and Terrance Murray.

Hearings added student concerns to the problem. Students raised questions about housing, tuition, elections, library needs, misappropriation of SGA funds and FAMU's Ten Year Plan.

To address these problems, students held a "study-in" inside of Tucker Hall and Lee Hall and they took over the WAMF 90.5 radio station.

"We conducted ourselves in a peaceful manner," Oyewale said.

His running mate, Taylor said the elections opened her eyes about many



Tait

things handled improperly on FAMU's campus.

"Through protest participation, my personal issue became a part of a microcosm of other issues that were affecting students," she said. "We as students had a right to be inside Lee Hall."

Oyewale compared the protesting students to dissatisfied customers.

"If need be, as long as there's injustice, I will protest," he said. "Students should keep in mind [that] they are the consumer. As a consumer, when you pay for a product and it doesn't work, you have the right to take it back."

On April 9 and 10, 1996, FAMU police said Tait led more than three hundred students to sit-in on the third floor of Tucker Hall. He also was accused of pushing FAMU Police officer Willie Wayne Wright in the back to allow students to enter the building.

FAMU Investigator Malvin Jones and Officer Angela Kirkland were assigned to guard the east side of Lee Hall. Tait, among other students, was accused of pushing both officers in order to take over the first floor of Lee Hall.

Tait was arrested on a charge of probable cause after arriving at Tallahassee Airport on April 21. He was taken into custody and later put on a pre-trial release program in which his first

hearing was set for April 23.

A written plea of not guilty was submitted on Tait's behalf and a motion was made for his pre-trial release. He was then ordered to return home to Washington, D.C.

At press time, Tait could not be reached for comment.

"The case is a continuing investigation and no formal charges have been filed," said Assistant State Attorney Ronald Flury. FAMU Attorney Bishop Holfield declined to comment on the case.

"I was ashamed of the whole thing," said Larry Bell, a 19-year-old history student from New York. "I was surprised at how brothers and sisters who were police officers came in so quickly and started hassling everybody."

Because the protest is an ongoing case, FAMU police could not allow officers Jones, Kirkland and Wright to comment.

"The actions of FAMU police concerning the incident were legitimate and focused only on the criminality involved," said John Earst, assistant FAMU police chief.

Joy Naylor, a 20-year-old psychology/African studies student from Chicago, said that the focus should be shifted back to why the students protested.

"The protest was a vice that the students were using to gain the administrative attention in pertinent matters occurring on campus that negatively affected the students."

Taylor defends Tait's not guilty plea. "I can't speak for Larry. However, from what I saw, Larry didn't physically push and shove anyone," she said.

Taylor went on to say she saw other students who were pushed and harassed by police. All students screamed in unison, "no violence" until police backed off, she said.

"This incident is on FAMU police video tape, so they can't deny it," she said. "It is unfortunate that as students, who look up to our elders [administrators] as role models, they should set a precedent for how we as young people should carry ourselves and respect one another."

Assistant Vice President for University Relations Eddie Jackson said he sees no purpose in dwelling on the event.

"I feel that we have gotten past that situation and it's time to move on," he said.

But Oyewale and Taylor disagree. They both say that, as far as students are concerned, FAMU has not lived up to its motto of "excellence with caring."

## This space for sale

In The Famuan, an ad this size (two columns wide by four inches long) costs students and on-campus organizations \$52. For off-campus buyers, the price is \$68. So, if you want to reach more than 5,000 members of the FAMU community with your ad, contact the only newspaper that targets them.

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# Put down the remote and exercise

BY LYLAH SALAHUDDIN  
Correspondent

If pushing the Tucker Hall elevator button is your idea of exercise, you are not alone. Two-thirds of FAMU freshmen (1,120) polled in 1990 and 1993 said they did not participate in any significant exercise.

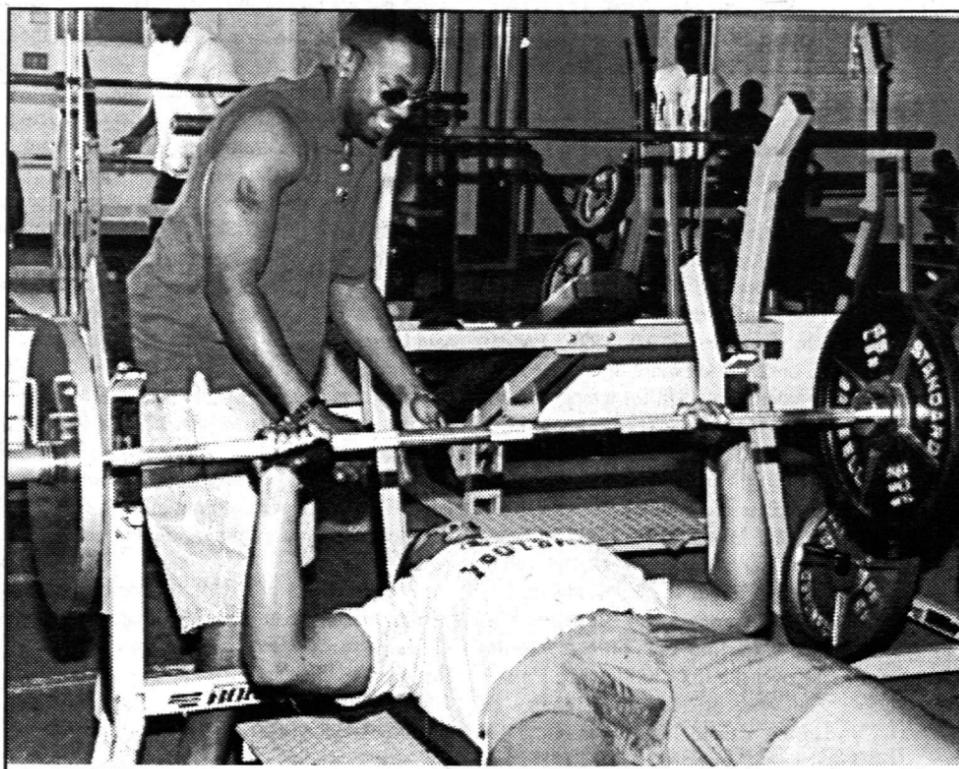
The longitudinal study was taken among freshmen health classes in 1990 and 1993 by Steven Chandler, associate professor of health and physical education.

"We found that students at FAMU aren't very healthy," said Chandler.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that persons should participate in sustained, vigorous exercise for at least 20 minutes three times a week. Exercise should be intense enough to put you within the range of your target heart rate. In other words, you need to break a sweat.

FAMU moves slower compared to the rest of the country. Forty percent of American adults exercise regularly. At FAMU, the figure drops to one-third for freshmen.

"I exercise because it gives me a lot of energy. It decreases stress and is really relaxing," said Ayanna Amerigo, a 24-year-old graduate student in psychology. "It just makes me feel good physically and mentally all-around."



The Famuan/ MAIYA OLDHAM

**Many students enjoy lifting weights at the Fitness Center.**

Black people have an even greater need to become physically active. Research has shown blacks suffer disproportionately from obesity, diabetes, stroke and hypertension. These are prob-

lems that can be alleviated by regular exercise and lifestyle changes like eating healthy foods, managing stress through meditation, breathing exercises, taking time out for yourself or even taking a

walk in the park instead of staring at the TV.

Many students say they do not exercise because they have no time. That is a common response from students, but Chandler and a report from the Surgeon General indicates that some increased activity is better than none at all. It can be as simple as taking the stairs instead of the elevator or as Chandler recommends, "doing housework vigorously."

Research suggests that the best exercise plan is one that is slow, consistent and well-paced toward achieving your fitness goals.

Students can also take advantage of the fitness center in the Student Union. The fitness center is equipped with weight-lifting machines, a stationary bicycle, a stair-stepping machine and a treadmill. The fitness center is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. Aerobics classes are also offered in the Rattler's Den, adjacent to the weight room.

Jennifer Jackson, a freshman physical therapy student from Orlando, does aerobics and walks for exercise.

"I do it to stay in shape, to be fit. It really makes you feel better. Your breathing even feels cleaner," said Jackson.

## Rewards are many for FAMU student volunteers

BY AMAURA HARRIS  
Staff Writer

Tamara Foreman wanted to contribute to her community, so in her senior year of high school, the Brooklyn, N.Y., native became an elementary school tutor.

Last spring, Foreman, a second-year pharmacy student, began tutoring with Young and Striving, a campus-based mentoring group.

As a tutor, Foreman said while she is working to help children learn better, she has learned things that have made her a better student and a better person.

"It's taught me a lot about myself. When you're giving of yourself like that, it builds so much character in yourself," she said.

Foreman is one in a growing number of students who are choosing to participate in volunteer service activities.

There are several options for students who have considered volunteering their time and abilities. New fliers are posted around campus every day urging students to take part in volunteer organizations and activities. There are also various reasons why volunteer service is becoming so common.

Wendell Berry, FAMU volunteer center director, volunteered with a rites-of-passage program in his hometown, Charleston, S.C., before coming to

FAMU. Berry, a junior electrical engineering student, said he became interested in his position after working for the Eugene Waiters and Terrence Murray campaign.

"After the campaign, I heard many students say 'FAMU isn't about anything and SGA isn't about anything,'" Berry said. "And I saw those same students not involved in anything."

Berry said his office has put up sign-up sheets in the dorms for those students interested in volunteering. After students sign up, they are contacted and asked to fill out an application expressing their areas of interest. Applicants are contacted when opportunities become available with organizations meeting the students' interests.

The sign-up sheets have attracted more than 150 interested students, with more students signing up every day. Berry said the interest from on-campus students has given him a tremendous workload. He said that once most of those students' needs are met, he plans to work on ways to attract students living off-campus.

To contact Berry, students can call 599-3624, extension 108, or come by his office located in the Student Union, behind the post office in Room 212.

Most volunteer service organizations on campus usually involve working with children, but there are other ways students can assist in organizations. Some organizations even specialize in helping students get practical work experience.

Young and Striving, for example, has an entrepreneurship program which members use to spark the idea of free enterprise among

young children.

Some city and county organizations encourage students to work in their programs so that the students may learn valuable business skills first hand.

Leon County Volunteer Services matches students interested in volunteering with businesses in their field of study. Students have the chance to gain hands-on experience through internships with these businesses. Often students can receive class credit for their internships. Director Jeri Bush said the program is a

"win-win situation" for all involved.

"It's a boost to the county to have the students come in," Bush said. "They do an excellent job. They're doing viable internships for us. They aren't just in an office filing."

Bush said most students in the program work 10 to 20 hours a week, depending on their school and work schedules. For information, call Bush at 921-3015.

Another way to get involved is to take advantage of special events that do not happen regularly. These events include things like the recent summer Olympics in Atlanta. Since this is an election year, there are opportunities for students to gain several skills that may be essential to their professions.

Averrell Thompson, a sophomore political science student, has been volunteering about 12 hours a week with local campaigns writing press releases and working on fundraising activities. He said students who have not considered volunteering would benefit from volunteering in something related to their majors.

"You should just try to do something that is beneficial to the person you're doing it for and the person doing it," Thompson said.

Thompson said his experience has provided good networking opportunities, as well as a bonus for his resume.

**"It's a boost to the county to have the students come in. . . They're doing viable internships for us. They aren't just in an office filing."**

— Jeri Bush, director  
Leon County Volunteer Services

## Student actress trades fortune, fame for textbooks and teachers

BY JACKIE CUNNINGHAM  
Contributing Editor

What does it take to be in a movie with Tim Allen of "Home Improvement" or to kick it on the set of "New York Undercover?" A lifetime of experience and years of training? Perhaps for some, but for Angela Ramos all it took was good timing and plenty of ambition.

Ramos, 18, is a sophomore broadcast journalism student with a theater minor from Brooklyn, N.Y. Growing up, Ramos was exposed to all the glitter and glamour of film making, Broadway and modeling. She saw it in the streets and on the movie screens. Her dream to be in the middle of all the fanfare began in high school.

Her personality demanded that she be famous. She said she often makes a big deal out of nothing and overreacts to situations. Ramos describes herself as dramatic, and her friends are quick to agree.

"I remember last year we would be sitting in the cafeteria and we would say, 'And the Oscar for the best overreacting scene in the cafeteria goes to Angela Ramos,'" joked Jamsille Norris, Ramos' friend.

Ramos said she always wanted to be the center of attention — her family vouches for her.

"If Angela drops her pencil, she feels the need to broadcast it. Everyone has to look and everyone has to know," said Amakeda Sekou, a FAMU journalism student and Ramos' cousin. "But we're very proud of her. She deserves to get what she wants."

Once she decided in high school that she wanted to be famous, Ramos began making plans to take hold of her dream and give it life. She realized that she may not make it in movies and decided to major in broadcast journalism 'for security.' She thought that with broadcast and theater as her options, she was bound to be on TV one way or another.

Ramos decided that the road to stardom began at FAMU. Her grandfather wanted Ramos' mother to attend an historically black university, but she did not. Ramos feels good that she can live out her grandfather's dream.

When asked why she remains at FAMU with a blooming career in New York, Ramos replied, "I'm here to get a degree. My education is important to me. Who is to say how long I'll be doing this [acting]? I need something to fall back on."

Her career in New York began only this summer. Ramos said she had never been on stage or in film before June. But she refused to let her inexperience stop her. Ramos now has pictures in her portfolio, an agent and the rest is history.

Over the past four months, Ramos has had a prolific run. She portrayed a tourist in the Disney film, "Jungle, Jungle" starring Tim Allen, due for release in November; an extra in a concert scene with Howard Stern in his film "Private Parts"; a subway rider in the

HBO series "Subway Stories"; a lawyer in the season premiere of "New York Undercover," and a friend of the main character in the Japanese film "The President's Christmas Tree."



When asked how she was chosen for spots in such big productions, Ramos replied, "It's just that I had the look they wanted. Someone else may have done 20 films and three commercials, but they won't get picked because they don't fit the part."

She said she auditioned this semester for FAMU's Essential Theatre production of "The Screened-In Porch," but was told she did not "fit the part."

Ramos said she enjoyed her summer, that she spent going to parties, socializing with famous people and finding work. On the set of "New York Undercover," Ramos found a new friend in Malik Yoba, one of the show's stars.

"He's silly and I'm silly. We spent time talking. I had fun fooling around on the set and networking," she said.

She is quick to note that despite the image portrayed, the film industry is not all fun and games. Often times she has to get up before dawn to be on the set. She recalled filming nonstop from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. on the set of "Subway Stories," and admitted falling asleep on the set.

"The car comes to pick you up at 4 in the morning. You're on your feet all day," she said.

Now that Ramos has been on the set and knows what goes on behind the scenes, she critically analyzes production when she is at the movies. She knows how much preparation goes into scenes that contain a number of extras and special effects.

"Even with a little scene, we might have to do it 15 times," she said.

Ramos knows all her hard work as an extra will pay off in the long run.

"It only takes one director to see you on the set and star you in his next movie," she said.

She said her reward will come when she sees herself on screen in a principle role.

She recognizes that it will not be easy. Ramos said acting is a very competitive field and people are sometimes very critical and discouraging to those trying to make it. However, she does not let that get to her.

"I am determined. I know this is what I want to do," she said. "I'm ready to go wherever and do whatever I need to."

Even though she realizes that there may be more opportunity in Hollywood, Calif., Ramos would like to remain in New York. She said it does not matter where she is — Tallahassee, New York or Hollywood — her goal is always the same, to fulfill her dream of being a star.

Ramos aspires to be like Vanessa

*"I am determined. I know this is what I want to do. I'm ready to go wherever and do whatever I need to."*

—Angela Ramos  
Actress, sophomore journalism student

Williams. She recalled a story about Vanessa Williams signing high school yearbooks with, "See you on Broadway." Ramos said that Williams, in spite of never graduating from Syracuse University and having her Miss America crown stripped, persevered and now owns her own recording studio and is on Broadway in "The Kiss of the Spiderwoman." Ramos said it is that kind of drive and blind determination in the face of adversity that she feels within herself.

In the short time she has been acting, Ramos has realized that there are not a lot of roles for black actors. She attributes this to the fact that there are not many black writers to write roles for black actors, and black actors can find it hard to relate to the work of white writers.

"Demi Moore gets a role every week and Angela Bassett is out of work for a year. I don't see it improving until we get more black writers," she said.

Ramos' age serves as an encouraging factor. She said at many of her auditions, the actors were older, "in their 30s and 40s."

"Many of the parts are for young people and there's more opportunity for young people," she said.

She wishes she had gotten into acting as a child because she could have grown into the industry, taking advantage of all the parts for babies and children.

Ramos said she is anxious to go home for Christmas break. She plans to do another role for "New York Undercover," and her agent is working on getting her a role in "The Devil's Advocate" starring Robert DeNiro. Ramos said she is miserable now in Tallahassee, away from all the glamour of film making, but she is determined to get her degree. In fact, she passed on an opportunity to audition for "Cosby," the sitcom starring Bill Cosby on CBS, to come back to school this fall.

Ramos credits her ability to keep her mind on her career in Tallahassee to the support she gets from friends.

"We've been excited for her from the beginning. I tell her [that] when she makes it, 'Just remember us,'" Norris said.

Ramos is not worried about getting back into the swing of things in New York. She is confident that her ambition will carry her through and attributes her success to that ambition.

"I've known what I want and I will get it," Ramos said. "If you can see it, it can be done. I want to be the next Angela Bassett."



Dancer Bojangles is one of many people honored in "Harlem Heyday."

## Students will be part of the action in play

HARLEM/ From 1

C.J. Walker.

Dinwiddie said Robinson often hosted lavish parties that attracted many celebrities and literary figures, including Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston.

"I've been interested in the Harlem Renaissance period for a long time," said Dinwiddie.

In his small office, books about Harlem are piled on his desk and stacked on the shelves. He grabs one of them occasionally, flipping through the pages and pointing out photos of Bojangles in a top hat and tap shoes, of a smiling Hurston, of Robinson dressed in a gown and beads. He studied these books before writing the play, and visited New York's Schomburg Center for Black Research for more sources.

The hour-long play tries to capture the energy of blacks during the period, said Dinwiddie.

"There's going to be singing and dancing, and the audience will get involved by singing along," he said.

The performance, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m., will be in the lobby area of Tucker Hall because the set for the Essential Theatre's next production, "The Screened-In Porch," is being built in Charles Winter Wood Theatre. Dinwiddie said he sees this as an advantage, not an inconvenience.

"It will be more intimate, and we're staging it so that the audience is in the middle of this party. They'll feel like they're right there."

Students will love the fact that faculty members are performing, said Dinwiddie.

"It's a chance to practice what we preach," he said.

Dinwiddie smiles when remembering what it was like to direct his colleagues. "It was just like directing students. They wait to learn their lines and they have excuses," he said, laughing. "But in the end their professionalism shone through. And just like students, they learned."

The performance of "Harlem Heyday" is Sunday at 6 p.m. in the lobby of Tucker Hall (outside Charles Winter Wood Theatre). FAMU students: \$2. General students: \$5. Senior citizens: \$7. General admission: \$10.

## FAMU grad fulfills promise of generosity

*Allen's trip to Ghana left many experiences to share with others*

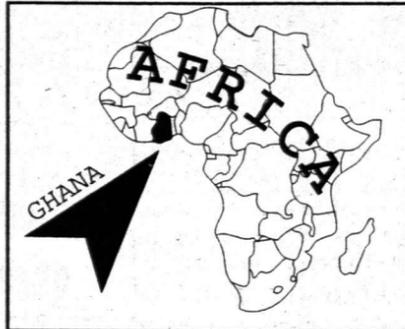
**BY MERISSA GREEN**  
Contributing Editor

A promise made to a group of Ghanaian children brought Portia Allen, a 1994 FAMU graduate, back to the United States.

Allen was willed \$30,000 by her grandmother which she used to teach middle and secondary school in Ghana. Allen returned to Tallahassee to get books and educational supplies for the first district library in the village of Abonsuaso, an Ashanti village in Ghana.

Continuing Positive Futures, a community service organization Allen innovated, partially funded the library.

"By God's grace, I will return, because I told you I would bring the



The Famuan/ MILAN GAVRILOVIC

books here," Allen said to Ghanaian children before leaving.

After an article was published in *The Famuan* in the spring of this year, donations began to pour in. Major contributors were The Coleman Library, the Fort Myers Kiwanis Club and SGA.

Margaret Jones, associate director of libraries, said Coleman donated unprocessed books to Allen.

"Often times, people donate books to the library," Jones said. "The books we couldn't

process we gave to Portia. We gave away some duplicates to her as well."

Allen's expenses from her first trip to Africa left her with a balance of \$350.

This created another stumbling block for Allen. Although she received the books and supplies to deliver to

Africa, she lacked funding for a return trip.

The Rev. James Bing, pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Myers, heard of Allen's dilemma. He invited her to discuss her efforts in Africa at a Sunday service. The church collected \$3,000 to send Allen back to Africa.

"I had faith enough in God that I was going to go back," said Allen. "It was God that gave me the money."

Allen hopes to set up an internship program for FAMU students to teach in West Africa.

"The city educational complex is lacking teachers," Allen said. "What we need now is to write a proposal to people who want to sponsor the program." Upon her second arrival from Africa, Allen plans to travel throughout the U.S. to share her experiences.

"My focus is more so on children," Allen said. "A lot of times, children haven't met someone from Africa. I want people to know that positivity is still in the world."



The Famuan/ MERISSA GREEN  
FAMU graduate Portia Allen helped get supplies for a library in Ghana.

### BIKE/ From 1

used to patrol the parking lots and other parts of campus, especially the dorms.

Freshman Ja Wahna Tunstall said the bike patrolmen are visible.

"They're out there," said Tunstall. "I've walked around campus by myself at night and I don't feel unsafe."

Still, although FAMU has just two officers assigned to bike patrol, the department hopes to have four by the end of the semester.

The FAMU police department has spent almost \$3600 on bicycles and lightweight uniforms specially made for outdoor patrol.

For Harper, training for that uniform was the hard part. "It's strenuous," said Harper, who jogged at least 13 miles a day during the four-day training session.

Harper had to learn techniques like how to handle potholes, proper marksmanship while riding, and the "power-slide" — a maneuver in which the officers

use their bikes to take a suspect's feet out from under him or her.

After training is over, officers then have to take a certification test.

The officers spend their shifts patrolling various "zones" on campus.

Harper shares his patrol with just one officer, but he likes his bike work better than he liked patrolling on foot.

"My response time is quicker," said Harper, one of the first officers to volunteer for training. "I like the whole idea of bike patrol, it's pretty laid-back."

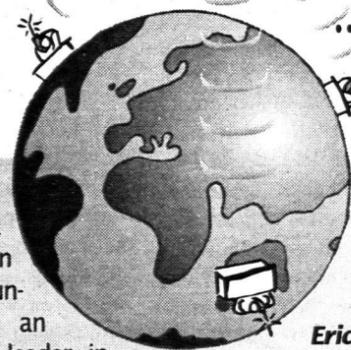
Laid-back until it starts raining, that is.

During the rain the officers are taken off bike duty and are assigned to various buildings around campus.

Harper even has his own personal assistants — kids who ride with him on "zone checks."

"They don't race me, because they think I have a specially designed bike."

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## CAMPUS MINISTRY

FAMU Campus Ministry would like to invite everyone to come out and worship with us. Campus Ministry offers interdenominational worship services Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

Bible Study is held Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Embassy Room and Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Campus Ministry Office, located in Suite 100 of the Student Union Plaza. Wednesday Bible Study is followed by mid-week prayer, and Fridays at 2 p.m. Worship Service is Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom. This Sunday, Miss FAMU and her court will be our special guests.

## HOMECOMING

Auditions for Homecoming talent show will be held today in Lee Hall Auditorium

from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Call Steve Hall at 599-3785 for information.

## HONORS PROGRAM

The University Honors Program invites all seniors with a 3.5 GPA or better to apply for the Rhodes Foundation Fellowship. Application deadline is Oct. 17. For more information, call 599-3540.

## NAACP

If you are a member of or have ties to a church that was recently burned, the FAMU Chapter of the NAACP wants to know about it for its Oct. 6 prayer breakfast. Call D. Beal at 574-1597 or e-mail dbeal@cis.famu.edu.

## GRADUATE FEEDER

The Feeder Program will hold a Graduate Opportunities Seminar Oct. 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Thirty representatives will recruit students Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Call Linda N. Hudson at 599-3315 or 3505 for information.

## HEALTH

FAMU American Diabetes Association American Home Patient and Delta Chapter of Diabetes Association Educators will educate African-Americans today about the danger of diabetes from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Famu Cooperative Extension Program Teleconference Center.

To place a campus note, bring your information to The Famuan office, Room 309 Tucker Hall.

The deadline is Wednesday 4 p.m. for publication in the following week's issue.

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# VOTE 96

## CLINTON/GORE

IT'S TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO.

## SGA Election Results

### FRESHMAN SENATORS

Adrienne S. Alexander*	245
Cynathia C. Harris*	219
Stefan K. James**	186
Marty A. Lamar*	192
Dedra A. Mitchell*	222
Amery L. Moultry*	202

Ivy Kannielle Sharpe*	330
Winston Whyte**	172

### FRESHMAN ATTENDANT

Ciara Hardy**	161
Joi T. Williams**	90

### GRADUATE SENATOR

Bryan Franciscus Smith	9
Gillian Shinae Nolden	7
James Marion James, Jr. **	5
Habib I. Warmack **	4

Shermanitta M. Benson*	7
Tamara Garrett*	6

\* denotes winners, \*\*denotes runoffs

### GRADUATE ATTENDANT

## Parking lottery announcements upset faculty

BY STEPHANIE ARNOLD  
Staff Writer

Many of the winners of the gated parking lottery were not at all excited when they found out about their victory. Not only were their names and numbers included on the list, but their social security numbers were as well.

"When I saw the list, I immediately snatched it down," said Richard Moore, coordinator and faculty administrator. "Obviously, people don't realize the damage that posting someone's social security number around campus can do."

"The lottery was derived to alleviate some of the parking problems on campus," said Shakonda Peters, a graduate assistant in the FAMU administration office. However, another problem has surfaced — angry faculty.

"We realize that this is a delicate situation and we are doing everything we can to rectify the problem," said Peters.

Faculty members submitted their names and were given a 'lottery' number. If their number was chosen, they were given access to all three gated parking lots after clearing up any outstanding parking tickets or violations that they may have had.

Peters said that the names and social security numbers were posted after the drawing on Tuesday and faculty saw the list Wednesday morning.

"We know that we made a mistake [about the confidential information]," Peters said. "We apologize."



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University

## Save The People You Call Up To 44%.

## Students ambivalent, nonchalant about voting

### Local government not a top priority for FAMU students

BY JAMES COLE  
Staff Writer

FAMU graduate student Chuck Watson reads two newspapers a day, watches CNN and CNBC regularly, and says he has strong political views.

But he's never voted in Tallahassee elections. "I have no interest in local government," said Watson, a Mobile, Ala., native.

Watson isn't alone. Area college students believe their peers aren't voting in local elections because they don't feel connected to the city or they feel strong hometown loyalty.

Sean Pittman, a District 2 candidate for the Leon County Commission, attributes non-voting to students' not associating themselves with Tallahassee. "When the universities provide students with a holistic surrounding, the university itself becomes their primary community and

everything else in Tallahassee is an afterthought," said Pittman, a former FSU student government president.

Tallahassee has two voting precincts on college campuses. One is in Sally Hall, a Florida State University dormitory — the other in FAMU's Grand Ballroom.

Of 668 voters registered at the FAMU precinct, 196 (11.8 percent) voted in the local primary earlier this month. Out of 634 registered voters at the FSU precinct, only nine (1.4%) voted.

Jawan Ayer, now a Wake Forest University medical student, remembers not getting involved with local politics while attending FAMU.

"I did not feel it was my community, so I didn't think I should be involved with selecting a person for office," said Ayer, a Tampa native.

In North Carolina, Ayer says she does not plan to get involved with local elections. "I will vote nationally because that is my community," she said.

Like Ayer, 20-year-old Miss FAMU Anna Scott plans to go to medical school. However, unlike Ayer, Scott decided to vote in local elections this year.

"This is my first time voting in Tallahassee," Scott said. "In the past I didn't care. I knew I would be leaving

Tallahassee within a short time."

Pittman also associates students' lack of involvement with their not wanting to cut ties with home.

"Students cling to their homes for as long as they can and consider Tallahassee to be a satellite home," Pittman said. "For them to become involved with local issues would be like turning their back on their home," he said.

Pittman says that he did not take part in local elections until after his graduation. "I became aware of local issues as SGA president. However, voting was something I didn't do until after graduation," Pittman said.

Candidates like Pittman would like to have more student support in Oct. 1 party runoffs.

But Thomas James, Leon County's elections systems manager, doesn't predict a major increase in student voting until the November presidential election. Why students "don't come out in local elections is puzzling," James said. "However in November, both schools jump to about 50 percent in voting participation," during a presidential election year, James said.

## Youth vote can sway election '96

BY COLLEEN DEBAISE  
College Press Service

This year's presidential election isn't getting young people very excited about the Democratic Party, the GOP or even voting itself.

Twenty-five years after 18-year-olds won the right to vote, they and other young people are less likely to cast ballots than any other age group, political scientists say. Eighteen-to-24-year-olds are also less likely to register with political parties.

As a result, the youth vote is still up for grabs in this year's presidential race, said Gwen Lipsky, MTV's senior vice president of researching and planning.

"As we've seen throughout this election year, young people are still very actively weighing their votes," Lipsky said.

Jean Pinne, 21, a Chicago resident and recent graduate of the University of Kansas, says she'll "probably" vote in November's elections.

"I haven't made my decision yet," she said of her presidential choice. "I don't have cable yet. I haven't seen any of the debates."

A recent MTV poll of people aged 17 to 29 found that 70 percent of them were turned off by this year's presidential race. Some of the respondents' criticisms:

- About one-fourth said mudslinging by the candidates was a turn-off.
- Eleven percent said the candidates weren't addressing the issues.
- Four percent said boredom is making them tune out.

Mark Nevins, a spokesman for the College Democrats, said that the political process is too slow to keep the attention of many young people.

"It's the point-and-click generation," Nevins said. "Our generation expects change quickly."

Pinne's friend, Susie Gorden, doesn't plan to vote.

"It's too much of a hassle," said Gorden, a 21-year-old KU senior. "Right now, it just doesn't spark my interest."

In 1992, about 25 percent of eligible 18-to-24-year-olds voted.

Joe Galli, national chairman of the College Republicans, said he believes that young people don't vote because they're new to the process.

But, unlike Galli, most students don't identify themselves strongly with one of the major parties. Statistics from a variety of sources indicate that about 60 percent of registered 18-to-24-year-olds are independents, 20 percent are Democrats and 20 percent are Republicans.

That doesn't surprise Nevins. "Young people reject labels wherever they go," he said.



The Farnan/ KALI MEEKS

Monica Howell sang in the FAMU Choir during Monday's HBCU Day. The event was sponsored by the Democratic party.

## Democrats rally FAMU students to vote

HBCU/ From 1

"A voteless people is a hopeless people," said Pittman. "Students don't realize the power that they have by voting."

Other candidates present at the rally were Curtis Richardson and Bill Proctor, the democratic candidates for County Commission District 1. Also present was

Richard Davison who is the candidate for Leon County Judge Seat 2 and Connie Evans, a Democrat running for School Board District 2.

Anna Scott, Miss FAMU 1996-97 also joined in the battle against student voter apathy. "Voting is not only a right," Scott said, "It's a privilege."

President Humphries and SGA

President Eugene Waiters greeted the candidates and stressed how important it is to vote. Vivian Hobbs, FAMU's associate director of student activities, also made a brief appearance.

Entertainment for the day was provided by the Venom Dancers and selections were performed by the FAMU Concert Choir.

## The Famuan Editorial Board

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## Government agencies should be held accountable

**NOW HIRING**

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The U.S. Gov. needs you  
for drug distribution  
in the L.A. area!

The Famuan/ JAMES COLE

A little over a month ago, the *San Jose Mercury News* published a series of articles that have since stirred up the black community.

The newspaper reported that crack cocaine was introduced to Los Angeles gangs in 1980 by a CIA operative. The story reported that the goal of the introduction was to raise money to support Contras, rebel groups in Nicaragua supported by the U.S. during the 80s.

Danilo Blandon, a former Nicaraguan government official, testified in federal court that he sold cocaine in black neighborhoods in Los Angeles to raise money for the guerrilla army.

To many of us, this isn't news. The government and its many agencies have long been suspected of using underhanded tactics when dealing with the black

community. With these reports out in the public, will government agencies finally be held accountable for crimes against blacks in this country?

Don't hold your breath.

In recent weeks, more than 1,500 blacks attended a meeting in Washington to discuss the allegations. The same day, Kweisu Mfume, president of the NAACP, called for a congressional investigation.

John Deutch, director of the CIA, has ordered the inspector general of the CIA to investigate.

But can we really expect a fair investigation when Deutch has already said that he doesn't believe the allegations to be true?

Attorney General Janet Reno said Sept. 13: "At the present time, there is no evidence that supports the allegations

made against the CIA."

But what about the findings of the Senate Subcommittee on Narcotics and International Terrorism in 1987 and 1988 that produced much documentation on the CIA drug connection? What about the Sept. 26, 1984 Miami police report that also supports the allegations?

Realistically, none of this may prove any wrong doing by the CIA. But that doesn't mean we should give up our quest for the truth.

Right now, we should all be writing to our representatives in Congress to demand Congressional hearings and stiff punishments for any guilty parties.

Crimes against the community won't stop until we stand up and use our collective voice to demand justice.

The Famuan's opinion pages express positions taken by the paper's editorial board. Columns and signed letters do not necessarily reflect the views of The Famuan or its staff. The Famuan welcomes submission of columns, letters and ideas from any member of the FAMU community. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and include the writer's name, signature and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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## Women: look deep inside yourselves for beauty



ANICA  
BUTLER

Every time I open my journal, I am greeted by a magazine cut-out of Linda Carter dressed as Wonder Woman. For many years, Wonder Woman was my idol. Not only was my superheroine beautiful, she was also 'as strong as any man.'

Looking at my Wonder Woman cut-out takes me back to my childhood days, when I wore Wonder Woman Underoos. Whenever I wore these superhero underwear, I felt invincible, powerful—just like Wonder Woman. I acted confident because I knew that I was intelligent and brave.

But as time wore on, I outgrew my Underoos and the Wonder Woman show was canceled. Later, I saw Linda Carter on a Maybelline commercial and realized that Wonder Woman wasn't real, only a character. I had to find a new role model to emulate, a new source of strength. At the time, I didn't realize that all the strength I would ever need was inside of me.

In a desperate frenzy, I scanned TV screens, magazines and the streets of my town for a new standard of the perfect

woman—my previous Wonder Woman self-confidence slowly turning to self-loathing. I was confused by the images I was being bombarded with.

Beautiful women were everywhere and of course, I wanted to be beautiful. Still young, my idea of beauty was my Barbie Doll—blue eyes, blond hair, a tiny waist and a large bust. Did that mean that I, with my kinky-curly brown hair, brown eyes and brown skin was ugly? The answer staring back at me from the TV and magazine covers was yes.

So, I did what every other geeky-looking adolescent girl did—I read *YM* and *Seventeen* magazines religiously and followed their advice like it was law. These magazines relayed messages that I needed to get a boyfriend in order to feel good about myself. I also needed to follow precise instructions about my clothes, my hair and my makeup. However, these magazines all failed to address the secret to real beauty—the inner self.

In a society that places so much emphasis on the way a woman looks it is easy for us to confuse our priorities. And in a society where supermodels define our image of beauty, it is easy for an average woman to be plagued with low self-esteem.

It is important for young women to have role models. There are plenty of beautiful, strong women that we can look

up to. On the front cover of my journal is Frida Kahlo, a woman who suffered tremendous pain and was unable to bear children as a result of a bus accident. Nonetheless, she stayed strong and managed to become an incredible artist. Another favorite hero of mine is Barbara Jordan, the first black female Congresswoman. Other favorites include Winnie Mandela, Angela Bassett, Rosa Parks, Hillary Clinton, Nikki Giovanni, Oprah Winfrey, Marion Wright-Edelman and Lorraine Hansberry.

But the danger occurs when we try to compare ourselves with another person. Since we are all individuals, those kinds of comparisons will always cause us to fall short. What I do now is examine strong women and dissect them. I find the qualities that I admire and emulate those qualities.

When we achieve inner beauty, it carries over to the outside in the way we walk, talk, carry ourselves and treat other people. But as we work toward our goal of inner beauty, many of us still aspire to physical beauty as well, which is OK—as long as we remember that the surface will eventually fade, but real beauty lasts forever.

Anica Butler, 20, is the Famuan Opinions Editor. She is from San Antonio, TX.

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Dr. Louise Reid Ritchie  
ADVISER

## Climbing the Hill instead of the Ivy

BY CAMILLE A. WILLIAMS  
Correspondent

Harvard or bust was the mentality, FAMU Rattler became the reality, and what happened in between is the story.

My tale is that of a student facing complicated decisions which demanded simple answers.

Things began in third grade, the year when the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" was posed and answered with 15 careers ranging from firefighter to track star.

Inevitably, laughter always followed the response. But some third graders were serious.

Their well-developed plans caused laughter to wane as formerly cruel mouths hung in awe. My response to the question involved attending Harvard University, then Harvard Law School, so that I could finally rid our modern world of crime.

During my junior and senior years of high school I breathed Harvard, slept Harvard, thought Harvard, ate Harvard frosted flakes, spoke to Harvard alumni, even adopted an airy Harvard accent. I went so far as to anticipate deep meaningful discussions about black social issues with Cornel West.

I was your average high-strung Harvard bound student living a life of SAT scores and deadlines, accompanied by ever present insomnia. I was a Harvard bound scholar paying Harvard's price for a dream — a dream I had nurtured until it was so close that I could feel its edges laced delicately with reality.

Things did not work out the way I anticipated. One night, noticing that I was sleepless with worry, my mother called me into her room to explain that Harvard, love it as I may, was not a financially realistic goal.

She also suggested I explore other avenues. Even though my mother's warnings were full of truth, they fell on deaf ears. I strengthened my resolve to attend the king of Ivy League universities despite the fact that I couldn't even afford a \$60 application fee.

I never sent my Harvard application.

Before I even mailed the application, Frederick Humphries, president of FAMU, spoke to me at a function that I hadn't planned to attend.

As President Humphries' imposing figure loomed above my meager five-foot-seven-inch frame, his voice dropped knowledge on my fragile dome, offering something akin to Valium for a sleep-deprived brain.

He presented both facts and opinions which were both incredibly persuasive. First, FAMU has the most National Achievement Scholars in the nation, which meant I would get to kick it with a plethora of intelligent black people.

Secondly, I would receive a Harvard education at a fraction of the cost while surrounded, nurtured, and embraced by my heritage, culture and motivated peers.

Finally President Humphries' voice proclaimed, "YOU ARE GOING TO FAMU!"

Perhaps it was a natural reaction to the voice of authority thing, but I responded, "Yes sir," without thinking or wincing from the pain traveling from my hand to my spine since I was still in the midst of a rather firm handshake.

Later, I received a scholarship and I fought back tears because I had told God if FAMU would give me the best they had I would give them the very best I had — new and improved.

So my Harvard application was never processed, though later in April they called, wrote and called again to ask if I had changed my mind. But by then, the only crimson I wanted to see was that drawn from a Rattler's strike.

*Camille Williams is a freshman from Tampa majoring in English*

### FAMU Views

*If someone told you the government was responsible for drug distribution in Los Angeles and other black neighborhoods, what would you think?*



Kevin Fuller, 18  
Freshman  
Business administration  
Orlando

"I wouldn't believe it until I could see proof. I would have a doubt that the government was responsible.



Nicole Williams, 19  
Sophomore  
Music education  
Fort Lauderdale

It might be true. The government does a lot of under-cover projects. It might not be the government as a whole, but someone in the government.



Chris Jordan, 19  
Sophomore  
Music education  
Fort Lauderdale

I would believe it because you are not going to find many blacks who would work an honest living, save up their money, [and] fly to another country to get drugs to bring back to America. Surely, they had to get the supplies from another source.



Nicole Purce, 19  
Sophomore  
Speech pathology  
West Palm Beach

I would believe them. They are responsible for a lot of things in the black community... because they have us living in poverty and we have no way of controlling our anger, so we turn on each other.



Mo Bowden, 18  
Freshman  
Sports management  
Durham, N.C.

I would think that we can't trust the government and that everyone in the government is a hustler. And by them doing that, they have to step on black people and put drugs, pollution and crime in the black neighborhoods.

## FAMU changed more than my address



PETER  
MCKAY

Home is not a place — it's an idea.

I learned that while sitting at the dinner table in my family's house, stone silent. My parents were yelling — at me.

They yelled at me in February of 1993 because, as a high school senior, I'd chosen to attend

FAMU over New York University. Two transplanted New Yorkers couldn't understand why their Brooklyn-born son would choose an 'inferior,' Southern, black college — "Nigger U," in my mother's words.

FAMU President Frederick Humphries wasn't there to make a grandiose on-the-spot scholarship offer — it came in the mail. There was no press conference with bright lights when I signed my letter of intent to accept it.

And there was no fanfare when I wrote my letter asking for an extension of FAMU's housing application deadline so that I could sign the form myself after my 18th birthday. My parents wouldn't while I was a minor.

Maybe because my days at FAMU are now numbered — I'm a senior — I've been thinking a lot about my experience as a recruit lately. As the new school year begins, I see headlines about "treasure hunting," the practice of high-school seniors applying to big-name schools, often at the behest of overzealous parents,

just to collect the acceptances.

And, of course, there's always FAMU's annual push to be the number-one recruiter of National Achievement Scholars. I wonder how many other bright black students who choose FAMU will be vigorously second-guessed by people who think they should go to marquis-name institutions.

Probably many. But mine was an extreme case.

My mother, a native New Yorker, and my father, an immigrant from Jamaica, always had a view of the colleges my younger sister and I should attend — Northeastern ones, and preferably members of the Ivy League. Neither of them graduated from college, but they equated words like Harvard, Yale and Dartmouth with success.

"You're going to NYU," my mother said at one point. "It's a parental decision."

"No, it's not," I said.

My parents told me that if I walked out the door to go to FAMU that I should never come back. They said they wouldn't take me to FAMU for the beginning of my freshman year. They said that I had to choose between a college and my family.

My mother said that I would never meet the people who would be the movers and shakers in the world if I went to a black college. (I have that quote on my wall framed with a picture of me shaking President Clinton's hand after one of the two White House press conferences I've covered.)

All these things were said in the heat of the moment. My parents certainly

don't believe them now, and I think that even at the time we all knew they didn't believe them.

To see us now, you might think that none of this ever happened. But I still don't think my parents understand what they did during that period.

If you tell your 17-year-old that you'll abandon him, he'll prepare for it. There's a mental step he'll take in planning for your abandonment that there will be no going back on.

Taking that step made me trust myself more and other people less, including my parents. It's made me almost impervious to other people's anger.

Coming to college has certainly made me more independent, which was one of the main things I wanted when I was 17. In a way, I'm more independent in little old Tallahassee than I would be in the Big Apple, where I'd probably be having dinner at Aunt Lucy's every Sunday.

I also don't think that my parents understood that, after a certain point, I couldn't have chosen NYU if I had even wanted to. I would have lost all self-respect.

But, for four years now, I've been very happy at FAMU.

It is home.

*Peter McKay, a 21-year-old senior journalism student from Orange Park, is the Famuan's politics editor.*

**STRAIGHT UP WITH OL' SKOOL**

## Intramural team should re-think its game plan



**CEDRIC HALL**

There is an unspoken campus belief — "If you haven't done it at FAMU, then you haven't done it."

Such is the case with our intramural football league. Before I can critique this league, I must first give you

some of my background. In 1991, I coached my military base team in Turkey to a 15-4 record. We averaged 30 points and only allowed the opposing team six, won the Turkish championships and placed third in the whole Mediterranean region. Now, I'm in my fourth season as a Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department (TPRD) flag coach and the offensive coordinator of a pee-wee tackle team.

Flag football is modeled after the real game, but has fewer players and no contact. FAMU's league is completely different. In fact, it's downright barbaric. At anytime, you may see a player getting tackled, a wholesale pass interference, or a heated argument over a referee's call. You may even learn a few curse words.

The tactics that teams pass off as functional are archaic. I tried to offer the players some innovative ideas based on my experience, but I was ignored. They would regret that decision upon playing in Gainesville.

The first chance for the FAMU intramural team to play outsiders came last season in the University of Florida's prestigious "Swamp Bowl." In the "Swamp Bowl" teams from across the state compete to represent Florida in a national tournament held in New Orleans. FAMU sent two teams: the Jaguars (preseason tournament champions) and TNT. The FAMU-style of play was speedy but the wheels of their machine still came off.

Because TNT was more successful than the Jaguars, it's less painful for me to describe their game. We drew a good seed and made it to the final eight. That's when we had to face the defending champions, Tau Epsilon Pi, from the UF. They jumped on us for a 35-0 half-time lead, inserted their second and third quarterbacks and continued to score. The final body count was 52-0.

The final score may sound like a total disaster, but we really didn't play that badly. A few minor adjustments would've made for a competitive game. There's no reason why the talented intramural athletes at this school can't have a better showing. You'd think that a whipping like we took would change some things. But, a few games afterward, we were back to our old habits. Now, this year's pre-kicks season tournament winner is embarking on the same fruitless journey.

## Rattlers stumble to third place

BY DEBRA D. WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

FAMU, the former No.1 team in the Sheridan black-college poll, entered Jackson, Miss., with hopes of coming out with a victory. Instead, second-ranked Jackson State, squashed those hopes, defeating them 16-9. Now FAMU ranks third.

The Rattler looked sloppy, turning the ball over nine times, including seven interceptions thrown by Oteman Sampson (a Division I-AA record). The rest were the result of fumbles.

Head coach Billy Joe said that Saturday's game wasn't one of Sampson's greatest, but he didn't play a horrendous game.

"A lot of those interceptions were really not his fault. He didn't have a good pass completion percentage, but he should have," Joe said. "A lot of receivers and backs dropped the football on him."

Sampson, who completed 12 passes for 135 yards, said there was a lot of miscommunication between players and that the loss shouldn't be put on any one individual's shoulders.

"I don't make excuses but I accept what happened and move on," Sampson said,

commenting on his game performance. "We had a bad game but we have to move on."

Tuesday's press conference began with laughs as Billy Joe compared last Saturday's "whuppin'" to the childhood beatings he got from his mother.

"She'd take those leafs off of that thin switch, then KAPOOW," he said, laughing. "She gave me a whuppin!"

So did Jackson State. The score wasn't reflective of Jackson State's win. The Rattlers were out gained 30 to 16 in first downs and 502 to 253 in total yards. FAMU's defense stood their ground according to Joe, keeping Jackson State from running up the score.

"Our players really wanted to win that game," Joe said. "This was the game that would have gotten them over the hump and would have done a lot for our consistency."

Senior wide receiver Robert Wilson said the team's spirit remains high, despite the loss.

"We feel we have to bounce back quickly or the same thing will happen this Saturday," said Wilson, who had six receptions for 67 yards, scoring one touchdown. "A lot of mistakes were made in all areas, but the team has shaken the dust off and is ready for Howard."

### Last Week's MEAC Results

North Carolina A&T	24	-----	20	Hampton Univ.
N.C. Central	21	-----	16	Delaware
Howard Univ.	31	-----	7	Virginia St.
Morgan State	34	-----	28	Liberty
Norfolk St.	41	-----	29	Bethune-Cookman
Jackson State	16	-----	9	Florida A&M

The Famuan/ Dian Holton

## No. 4 Howard looking for that first Bragg Stadium win this weekend

BY MICHAEL LEE  
Staff Writer

Before this season began, MEAC coaches had to select a team, other than their own, to win the conference.

FAMU head coach Billy Joe chose Howard University, ranked fourth in the Sheridan poll.

"Of course, I would've chosen FAMU," Joe said. "But since I had to choose another team, I picked them. I think they have an outstanding football team."

And Howard has done little early on to dispute that. Although they lost their first game against perennial Division I-AA powerhouse Marshall, the Bison have rebounded with two impressive victories against Hampton and Virginia State.

What the Rattlers have on their side is that Howard has never won a game at Bragg Memorial Stadium.

"They're coming in with some momentum," Joe said. "But they're coming into the snake pit."

What scares Joe is that it took a senior-laden, experienced team for the Rattlers to escape Washington, D.C., with a 29-18 win last year.

"We struggled to beat them," Joe said. "This year, they are returning 19 starters... that's almost the whole team."

Adding a little more chicken grease to the fire, the Bison return sophomore quarterback Ted White — the same Ted White who leads the nation's 12th ranked division I-AA offense (428.3 yards per game) and has averaged 225 passing yards this season.

"(White)'s a super quarterback out of Baton Rouge, La.," Joe said. "He has great size, puts a nice spiral on the ball. He's carrying that offensive load."

This is also the same White who had his freshman season ended last year with a kidney laceration, following a hit by then-

FAMU linebacker Earl Holmes (presently with the Pittsburgh Steelers).

Despite the challenge, Joe stressed the importance of this game after the Rattler's loss to Jackson State last week.

"We need to win this game," Joe said sternly. "If we want to consider ourselves a good football team, we have to beat a good football team."

### Who's carrying the Load

When it comes to FAMU running back Corey Brooks' status this weekend against Howard University, the writing may be on the wall.

In the Rattlers' 16-9 loss to Jackson State, the sophomore transfer from Florida State carried the ball 12 times for 55 yards and opening the door for a shake-up in the backfield.

"There is the possibility that a change is taking place," Joe said. "I was very pleased with (Corey's) performance over the past two weeks."

Ironically, as Joe spoke about his running game, Brooks' name was the ahead of the other running backs on the teams depth chart wall. Behind him was Terry Moore and red-shirt freshman Antoine Flowers, who has owned the starting job since the season began.

Joe has promised more practice time this week for Brooks and other backs who have seen little action.

"We haven't really proven that we have a great running game," Joe said. "We don't have one until I see it."

Brooks sounded excited about the possibility of receiving more playing time.

"It's hard getting up for a game if you don't know if you're going to play," he said. "Now I know what's expected of me. I really feel like I'm part of this team, like I'm a bona fide Rattler."

## STATISTICS

### SCORING SUMMARY

JSU	3	0	10	3	—	16
FAMU	0	0	0	9	—	9

### How they scored

First quarter	
JSU --	Harris, 30 yd field goal
Third quarter	
JSU --	Thomas, 9 yd pass from Pratt (Harris, kick)
JSU --	Harris, 27 yd field goal
Fourth quarter	
JSU -	Harris, 37 yd field goal
FAMU --	Michael Thornton safety
FAMU --	Wilson, 6 yd pass from Sampson (Edwards, kick)

### FAMU

RUSHING					
	No	Yds	TD	LG	Avg
Sampson	12	58	0	24	4.8
Brooks	12	55	0	15	4.6
Flowers	6	5	0	3	0.8

PASSING						
	Att	Cm	Int	Yds	TD	LG
Sampson	35	12	7	135	1	21

RECEIVING					
	No	Yds	TD	LG	
Wilson	6	67	1	21	
Brooks	3	23	0	10	
Rutledge	2	40	0	21	
Qiayam	1	5	0	5	

PUNTING			
	No	Avg	LG
Ford	4	40.0	52

PUNT RETURNS				
	No	Yds	TD	LG
Williams	2	21	0	12

TOTAL DEFENSE			
	Tackles	Sack	INTs
Maurice Johnson	11-11-22	0	1
Leonard Inge	5-18-23	0	0
Cedric Liddell	8-14-22	0	0
Brian Thomas	11-7-18	2	0
Brooks, Richard	5-11-16	0	1
Primus Burley	7-5-12	0	2
Mike Thornton	3-6-9	0	0
Ant. Bradwell	6-7-13	0	0

Nelys Bosquez-Flores / THE FAMUAN