

Black History Month reaffirms struggle

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Special to the Sun

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson, in an effort to remedy the gross distortions of the role and place of African Americans in U. S. History, began a campaign to mark "Black History" (preferred African American History) with a special period of celebration. So February has been designated "Black History Month" (preferred African American History Month), a time to celebrate the achievements and to reaffirm the struggle for equality of African American peoples.

African American history is also U. S. History, and throughout the existence of these

United States as a nation every step of progress made by African Americans has represented a gain for the majority of people—especially working people.

This is because African Americans who are multi-class, suffer special oppression because

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of their nationality. In fighting for their democratic rights, expressed through their struggles for equality on the job, in schools, and in every section of U. S. society, African Americans have consistently contributed to the ris-

ing pro-peace and anti-monopoly sentiments in the nation. Thus when the civil rights movement blossomed, its fruits benefitted millions of men and women of various nationalities, most of them members of the caucasoid race. Affirmative action has had that effect with the hiring of

but the truth cannot be denied. During Reconstruction, for example, former slaves elected to Congress and state legislatures enacted some of the most democratic reforms this country had ever seen, among them public education. The unit of African American and European

United States role in the victory over Nazism in World War II and was responsible for winning the anti-poverty programs and the Civil Rights Act in the 1960's.

Today the alliance between African-Americans and the entire working class, along with small farmers, youth, women, senior citizens and other nationally and racially oppressed peoples, is the core of the movement against Reaganism and the giant corporations, for peace, equality, democracy and economic justice.

Studying African American history is important for everyone, because African American history is U. S. history. It is working class history.

Popovich's effectiveness evaluated

PRAKASH PATHMANATHAN
Sun Staff Writer

Dr. Helen Popovich, a lady of high intellect and iron constitution, as she reaches her fifth year as the President of Florida Atlantic University, enters yet another phase of her reign.

Her effectiveness should be evaluated to see how much FAU has benefitted from her reign in the past five years. Although the situation is far from a business contract, it will be criticized very severely when the Board of Regents in the state capitol accepts or rejects Popovich for re-instatement.

While it is easy to say that she dealt with certain matters in an inadequate manner, very little thought is given to whether anybody else could have handled these tough situations better.

Like most upper-level jobs, the position of a university president comes with great responsibilities. Continuous stress accumulates from every part of the administration and finally focuses intensely on the top dog. As usual, the focus is upon matters which went wrong.

Last year special committees appointed by the Board of Regents had probed into areas such as budgeting and had strongly suggested immediate remedial methods. Recently it was found that although the majority of the faults found in the administration were rectified, there were still a few major flaws. These might affect Popovich's standing with the Regents.

While many consider the effectiveness of the president by the improvements and faults existing in the university administrative level, very few people have given thought to the most important factors surrounding the issue. The students and the teaching staff of FAU have very controversial ideas about the typical Popovich method of handling matters concerning them directly. Surprisingly, many are not aware of the intensity of her upcoming review. The major cause is the lack of interaction between students and administrators, who do not even know each other. Some students blame this on the unenthusiastic officials approved and appointed by the President.

A bold graduate student said, "None of the students in my col-

lege have seen the Dean for past few years. His office door is always locked, with a message instructing all students to see the assistant dean. His secretary hates students." If the President is changed, the situation might become better. "The bad apples have to be taken out of the barrel." Another group of students complained about the lack of enthusiasm shown by many counselors. Also, some professors are accused of being interested only in their own researches and do not care about teaching or helping undergraduate students. The committees to help students after their graduation are imposing strict guidance lines in recommendations, therefore actually jeopardizing a prosperous future under the guise of high standards.

Although such slight mishaps exist, there is a fair chance of Popovich being re-instated. The notable improvements in the FAU administrative system and its future plans will surely impress the board of regents to justify the re-instatement. All in all, we might still be blessed with the same President next year, at least she thinks so.

ECONOMICS REPORT

Budget plan to affect FAU

STEVEN BILLER
Sun Staff Writer

Governor Bob Martinez recently revealed his budget plan for 1988-89. Taking effect on July 1, 1988, the Republican governor's plan will affect all of the students at Florida Atlantic University.

His budget plan is very extensive, so let's keep to the information that will affect us. Among his proposals, FAU will receive \$7.4 million to build a new social science building on our campus. Last year the plan was cut by legislators.

Martinez's proposals for FAU also include a \$1.6 million outlay for new equipment for the buildings on campus.

President Popovich was very pleased that her capital projects are not being ignored.

Unfortunately, the Republican governor's plan proposes an average of a 13 percent tuition increase at state universities.

President Helen Popovich isn't going to do anything about the proposal. Popovich is getting

what she wants—money for her projects. Students will have to pay more money in tuition costs to attend FAU.

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In the past week, Martinez's budget plan has been criticized in many ways. Human service activists reported to the Associated Press that the budget plan is not

allocating enough money for the poor, the disabled, the abused, and the children. Martinez's reply was simple! He said that you can't please everybody with a budget proposal. The proposed budget plan will cut \$10.27 million in the Education Department to help pay for a Ft. Lauderdale arts and sciences complex.

The \$20.27 million proposal doesn't suggest any major tax increases, but there are many important programs that are going to lose funding in 1988-89.

Martinez did allow for a \$10.27 million contingency fund for state-wide crises such as poor economic conditions.

Cuts are being made so that Martinez can pay for his initiatives. Martinez will allocate additional funds for wastewater management, solid waste management, new prison beds, and child/elderly abuse.

Some of the allocations are worthwhile and deserve the attention. But education is a top priority and is being poorly planned.

ROVING REPORTER Asks...

"Does FAU have a crime problem?"



Gambi Berson-Soph.-Business
"I think they do. Cars are being stolen and damaged on campus."



Glenda Turner-Jr.-Nursing
"Nothing has happened to me yet and I haven't heard of anything bad happening to anyone else. I'm here as late as 7 p.m. and it's still safe."



Rick Torres-Fr.-Political Science
"It's a small school and everybody is pretty friendly. There is always some element of crime anywhere, but here it's very small."



Thomas Prevratil-Jr.-Biology
"FAU doesn't have a crime problem that I know of, but PBJC north does. My car was stolen last semester from their lot."



Ed Rossi-Sr.-Marine Biology
"Obviously, there's no crime problem if campus police have nothing to do but give me parking tickets all day. I have several tickets even though I have a decal."



Lisa Bowe-Fr.-Nursing
"Not that I know of. I was at Vanderbilt University last semester and they have a crime problem."

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