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December 16th, 2011

Mr. Ken Jautz
Executive Vice President
CNN
One CNN Center
Atlanta, Georgia 30348

Dear Mr. Jautz:

As a proud alumni of Florida A&M University (FAMU), I am extremely disappointed with your station's sensationalized coverage of the events taking place at FAMU. FAMU is, beyond a doubt, one of our nation's finest Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and is undeserving of such biased reporting in the national media.

Although we are all very saddened by this tragic incident, I strongly believe that it needs to be put into perspective. There have been numerous incidents involving hazing in Florida schools prior to this occurrence, such as one that occurred at the University of Miami, one at the University of Central Florida, and another, at Florida State University, and many other incidents in colleges and universities across the country that have not received this kind of negative attention in the media.

To single out FAMU and make this school a scapegoat is entirely unfair. Dr. Ammons has had an illustrious career, which began with his studies at FAMU. And let us not forget that there was a time when top FAMU school administrators could not even be in the same room to consult with administrators from other Florida colleges and universities.

Indisputably, FAMU is a national treasure, which I feel fortunate to have in the state of Florida. FAMU is a university with eight fully funded endowed eminent scholars, including two in the School of Journalism and Graphic Communications, four in the School of Business and Industry, one in the College of Education, and one in its School of Pharmacy, which is one of the top Pharmacological programs in the nation, and graduates the largest number of African American pharmacists in the United States.

In fact, in September, 2006, Black Enterprise Magazine, named Florida A&M the number-one college for African Americans in the United States. FAMU is also a member school of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, was selected as the TIME Magazine-Princeton Review "College of the Year," and was cited in 1999 by Black Issues in Higher Education for awarding

more baccalaureate degrees to African-Americans than any institutions in the nation. Moreover, there are a number of FAMU graduates here in Congress, including myself, the Honorable Alcee Hastings, Congressman David Scott of Georgia, Congressman Al Green of Texas, former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and Congressman Kendrick Meek, as well as many other notable figures, including the great African American tennis star, Althea Gibson, Pam Oliver of ESPN, And Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., nationally acclaimed cancer surgeon and first African-American president of the American Cancer Society.

Again, this is a tragic situation. I am praying for the family of Robert Champion and the rest of the FAMU family. Yet this is part of a much larger problem. Certainly, issues relating to hazing and bullying are not limited to FAMU or to black colleges but to schools nationwide and need to be addressed. Yet focusing excessively on one incident at just one school is not the answer or the proper path towards correcting this problem.

Moreover, although Roland Martin's coverage of the incident was very fair, much of the rest of your coverage was not. In fact, suggestions made by one of CNN's experts, Professor Ricky Jones (who appeared on two consecutive nights) to "do away with bands and fraternities/sororities," is not a solution to this problem. Certainly, one incident of police brutality should not lead to the entire force being disbanded! Similarly, sororities and fraternities and other organizations provide outstanding learning and social experiences for all students. In fact, FAMU's marching band was the only band from the United States who was invited to participate in France's 200 year anniversary celebration.

I would very much appreciate a response to this request at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress