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THE ATLANTA VOICE

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NAACP Youth and College Division is 'Fired Up and Ready to Go'

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The sound of hip-hop blaring from satellite speakers is not a new phenomenon on the Atlanta University Campus. Needless to say, there are some differences in this event's rap selection — evoking two conflicting moods, one of whimsy and the other purpose and significance.

No one can discount the significance of this year's election. Change has reemerged on the national political scene and no other organization is familiar with its climate than the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, known across the world as the NAACP.

On a cool, crisp, Saturday night, the Youth and College Division of the NAACP managed to do what many skeptics and naysayers have deemed as impossible in the past, mobilize the young voter base and heighten their excitement to vote. Held outside the Manley Student Center at Spelman College, the closing rally of the "Vote Hard" bus tour was nothing less than a sheer success.

With an upbeat theme and a diverse crowd whose ages ranged from 4 to 74, the message of the night was clear, get out and vote. Lifetime NAACP member Helen Butler has voted in every election



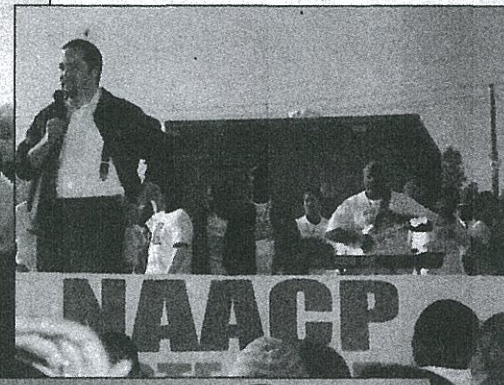
since she registered and is a mainstay at NAACP events. Even so, she felt young adults choosing to orchestrate an event like the bus tour shows that they are as informed and excited about the election as every one else. When asked about her feelings regarding that night, Butler exclaimed, "Tonight has been a night full of high energy. It is good to see a lot of young people doing unselfish acts to make a positive change."

Closely modeled after the freedom ride bus tours of the 1950s, the "Vote Hard" bus tour covered three

traditionally Republican stronghold areas: South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Making many stops while in each state, the tour managed to reach over 20,000 citizens in its attempt to increase voter education information, keep anticipation at a maximum, and enlighten everyone on the significance of this year's election.

The NAACP's National Field Director Reverend Charles White delivered a rousing speech to an enthusiastic crowd, the majority of

who were young, first time voters. "It's your generation. It's your



the mood and atmosphere shifted to resemble a party more than a voter information drive.

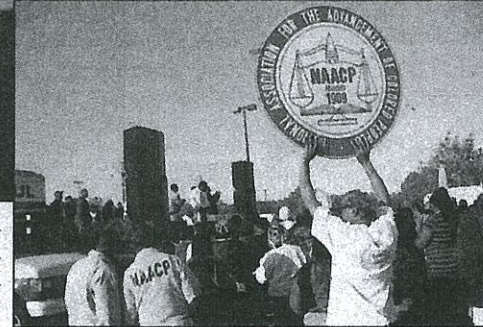
Complete with a disc jockey and turntables emblazoned with NAACP insignias, many of the latest hip hop songs were played with a noticeable difference — the words were replaced with enthusiastic voting slogans like:

"N.A.A.C.P., you've got to fight if you want to be free. You've got to give it your all, just to show what you got."

As the rally concluded, the eventgoers formed a prayer circle and gathered hands in between the student center and bookstore as a blues rendition of "Change Is Gonna Come," by Sam Cooke, played in the background.

The feeling that "change" is attainable by the pure and unfiltered will of the people has never been stronger than it is now. As young people head to polls nationwide to 'vote hard,' the NAACP can be proud of their undeniable legacy.

time. Vote hard!!!!" White proclaimed to the crowd, to much applause. Chants of "Fired up and ready to go" followed the speech, as



Hosea Williams Papers Exhibition

On view for the first time, *Unbossed and Unbought: the Opening of the Hosea L. Williams Papers*,

the Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless. The slogan "Unbossed and Unbought" was used by Wil-