In 1890 Georgia State College was established as a four year college for the purpose of educating Blacks. The establishment of this college was a proud achievement for the Rev. E. K. Love, the Pastor of the First African Baptist Church, and Black citizens of Savannah who worked untiringly with the Reverend Love to obtain the land and materials needed to build this institution which has, since its inception, opened its doors to all.

As we meet to study and decide the future of the now-named Savannah State College, I ask that we become cognizant of the facts:

1. Savannah State College was established in 1890 as a four (4) year institution for Blacks, and it was the first such institution in the State of Georgia.

2. Savannah was established for Blacks, because Blacks were excluded from White institutions in the State of Georgia.

3. Even during the days of hard-core segregation, Savannah State College was innovative enough to have an open door policy and excluded no one regardless of race, creed, or color.

4. The HEW Guidelines specifically state that the Black college should not lose its identity or bear undue hardship as a consequence of merger.

5. The Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration of Savannah State College have to this date suffered many hardships, due to the perpetuation of segregation; therefore, it is incumbent upon us tonight to recognize and maintain the historical value that is reflected in this institution. This is in line with the criteria that is so stated in the HEW Guidelines.

On behalf of the student body of Savannah State College, and as a citizen of the City of Savannah, a resident of the State of Georgia, and as a
citizen of these United States of America, I plead with this committee, the
Board of Regents and the citizens of Savannah and the State of Georgia to
recognize that selfishness, injustice and lack of respect for one's fellow-
man, have afflicted this city, state, and the nation.

And now I implore you to:

1. Admit that these evils exist and are destructive in nature.
2. Pray for divine guidance in all of our future actions on this
   and other issues.
3. Decide that we WILL and MUST seek the strength to stand up and
   speak out for what is right and just.
4. Thank God for all of the mercy that has been granted us in the
   pursuit of our endeavors.

In this, our time, we no longer need to perpetuate the kinds of actions
that have befallen the public school systems throughout this nation; that is, the
absorption of Black institutions.

At this time, I would like to make it clear that we at Savannah State
College do not support segregation, but we feel that the integrity and the
basic principles of our founding fathers should be adhered to in keeping the
doors open at Savannah State College for all citizens to enter, to learn, and
to leave with a quality education to serve the citizenry of the world.

[Signature]