



Historical Race Relations Tallahassee

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Introduction

- This project was part of a proposal for a learning module on Tallahassee's race relations
- A year after Maxwell Courtney was the first African-American to attend FSU, and a year before the 1964 Civil Rights Act, peering into how residents and students interacted to support or object the civil rights movement. At the time of 1963, Cold War fears were still making their way through America and publications of the Florida Flambeau highlighted opinions on socialism, at times it was shown how Americans viewed it and it's effect on civil rights.
- Through the year, tensions slowly built after reflections on the Birmingham Church bombings, and multiple demonstrations against discrimination at still segregated local establishments.
- Information gathered from FSU's student newspaper, Florida Flambeau, was analyzed for articles that related to Tallahassee, FAMU, and FSU on topics of racial matters.
 - Findings were entered into Omeka.net.

Methods

- Diginole, FSU's Digital Repository that contains archives of the Florida Flambeau, Florida State's student-run newspaper
- Google Sheets entry for each article found engaging with the topic of racial relations
- Entries included the article's title, date, author, publisher, description, and screenshot of the article.
 - Each entry was reviewed by research mentor for significance and significant findings were then approved for entry into omeka database.
 - For omeka database entries, information from the spreadsheet was transferred along with correlating subjects and then made to be publicly published

Results

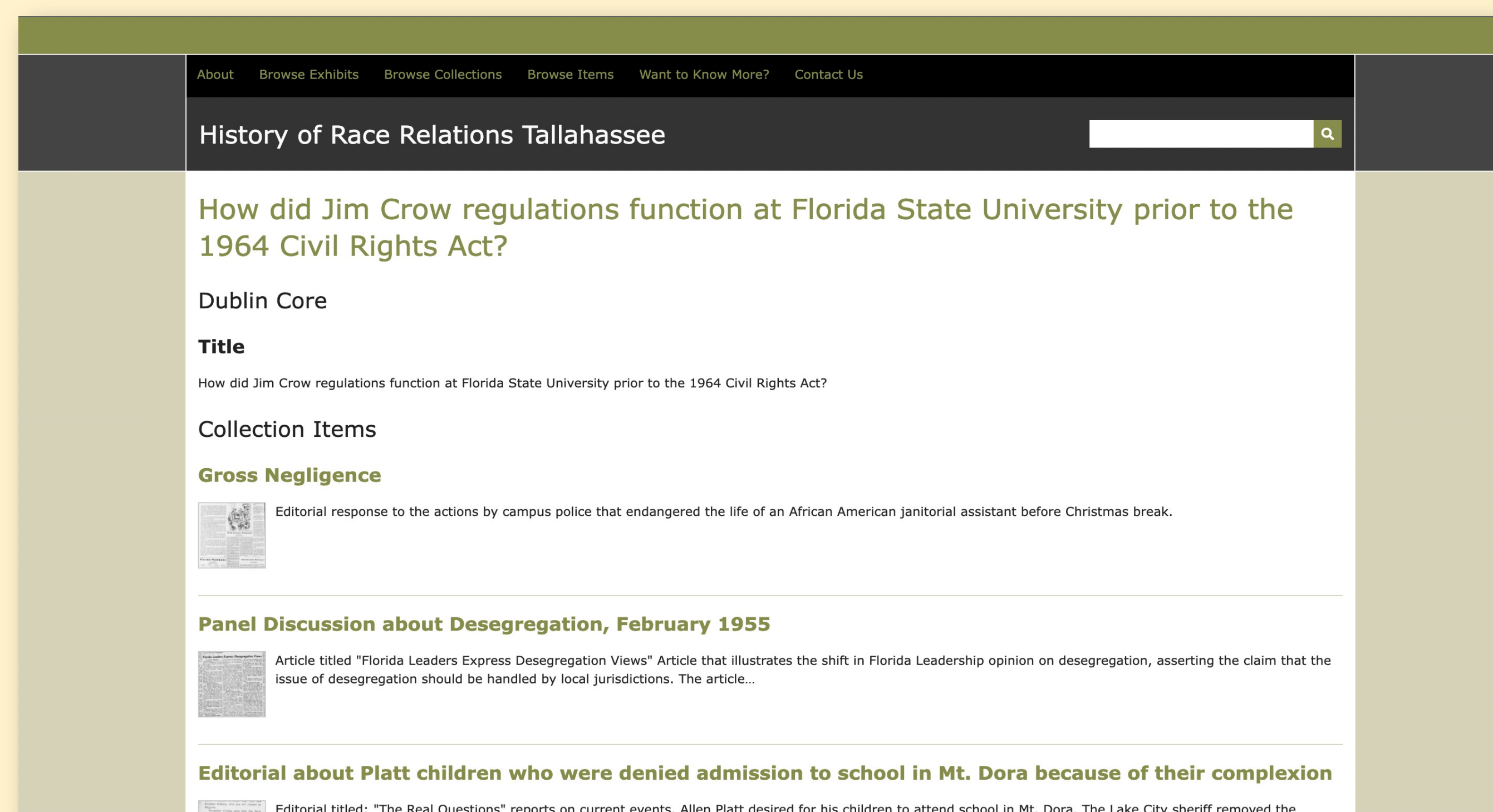


Figure 1: One of twelve current online collections

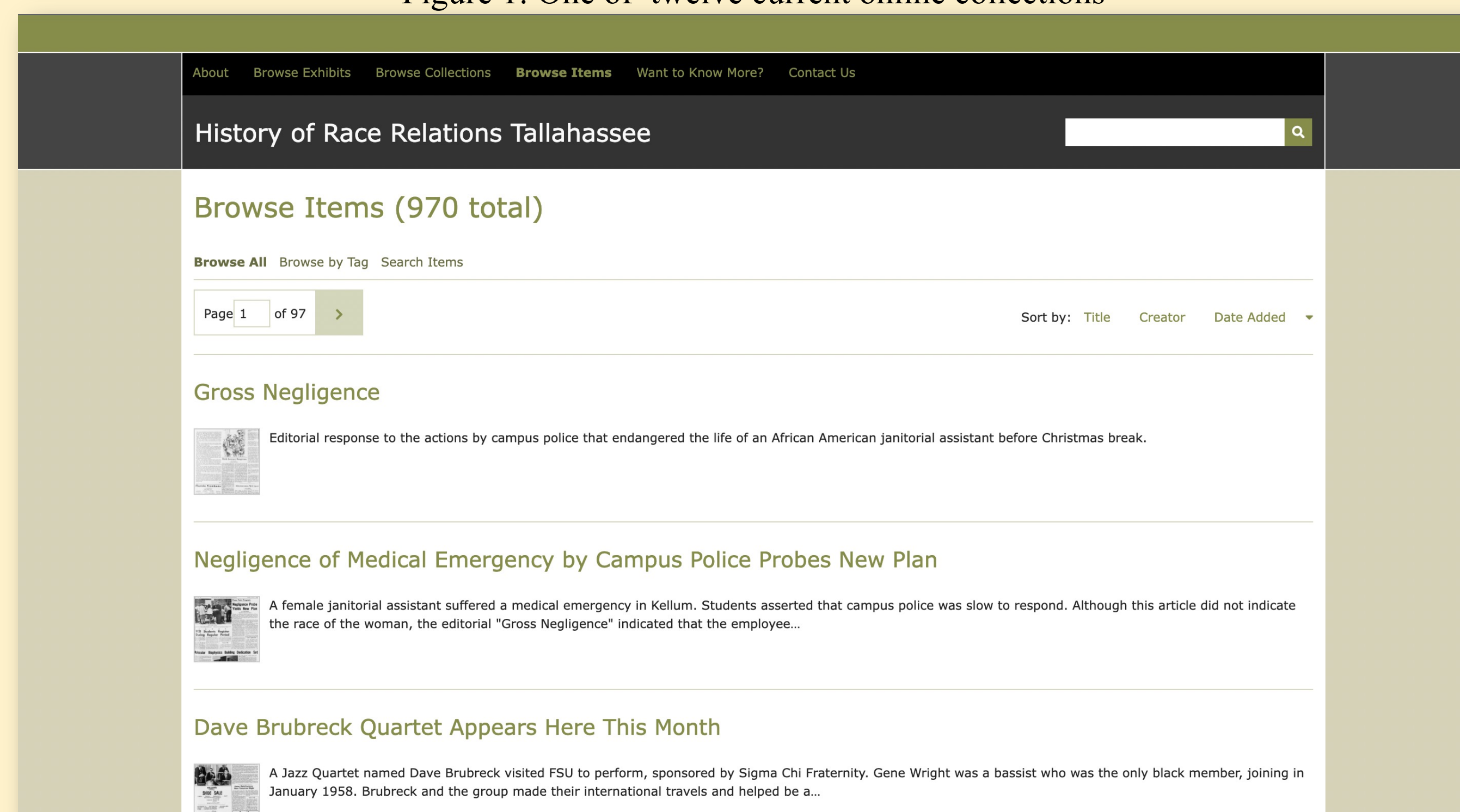


Figure 2: Webpage of current items collected and entered into Omeka's database



Figure 3: Front page of January 7, 1963's issue with relevant article 'Negligence Probe Yields New Plan' by Otis Wragg



Figure 4: Page 3 of January 7, 1963's issue with relevant article 'Dave Brubeck Quartet Appears Here This Month'

Discussion

- I found that at times, mostly towards the beginning of the year, discussions of communism were the main focus of the newspaper politics
- From the summer months, starting in June 1963, demonstrations and debate started to pick up about desegregation in the surrounding Tallahassee area, and the relation between FAMU and FSU
- There were intense debates in columns calling out editorial staff and petitions to shut down the newspaper, saying that their more frequent, liberal views in favor of the protests, did not fairly represent the whole FSU student body.
- Some limitations that arose were errors of scanning the original issues left some articles cut off, or authors of an article left with an incomplete last name to reference

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the black faculty of FSU for their open letter to the black student body in response to the summer of 2020's protests. I would also like to thank Professor Koslow, for the care that she has shown for this project, and the opportunity to work on it.

References

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