

Inquiring minds want to know

For centuries various philosophers have weighed in on whether objective reality exists or whether individual perception creates reality. As I read through this issue of The Voice several stories seemed to echo the idea that how we perceive our world has a huge impact on our reality.

In her essay about student entrepreneurs, Assarine "Ashley" Morgan, said state of mind and mental fortitude can make all of the difference between success and failure. I have the pleasure to know Ms. Morgan and other students like her who work full-time, raise families and are attending school. It couldn't be more evident that their attitudes and work ethic play a major role in their ability to achieve great things in the face of adversity. I admire their perseverance.

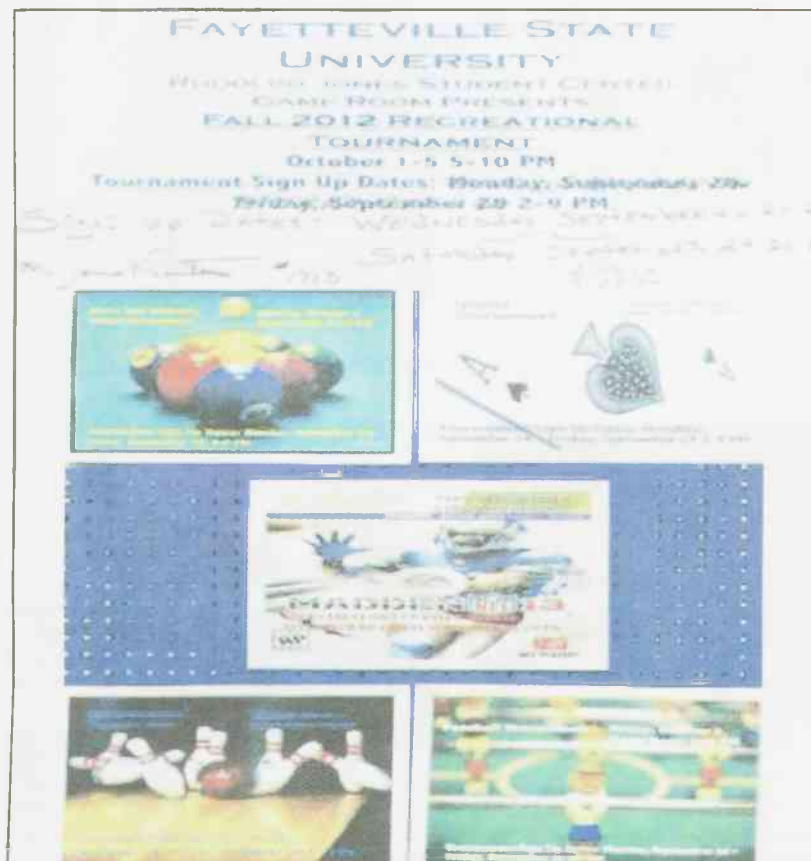
Francena Turner's story on the importance of voting and the Shimere Truss and Jalynn Jones story on co-founder of the Black Panthers Bobby Seale are yet more evidence that people have the ability to change their realities. Strong and determined people have demonstrated that every voice matters. Furthermore, we should not only have the right to be heard but we should hunger for our say in matters of the world. Without action, our environment remains static.

And, finally the opinion pieces by Francena Turner and Joshua Snipes on Lupe Fiasco's song further demonstrate the importance of wisely choosing our words. One simple word can have a great impact on how we shape our conscious understanding of the world we live in and the truths we live by.

Journalists are keenly aware of the power of their words and the ability to shape reality. We know that story selection, placement and even the presentation of the information within each individual story can shape the public's understanding of events. In my classes, I like to discuss Truth with an uppercase "T" and truth with a lowercase "t". The difference between the two is that we may never know the Big Truth or that objective reality, if we believe such a thing exists. That said, every person should make the effort to examine how they have come to determine the truths they live by.

Otherwise, for now I'll leave it to philosophers and epistemologists to determine how we know what we know.

~ Dr. Andrea Baker, Adviser to The Voice



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