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The AC Phoenix

More Than a Newspaper. A Community Institution

NEWS YOU CAN USE

In Our 30th Year

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Associate Consultants

Serving the Triad

FREE

Reflections on AC Phoenix History

By Sam Davis



Sam Davis

Chance meeting results in long, enduring, relationship.

Who would have guessed that a chance meeting over 30 years ago, with someone I didn't know at the time, would lead me to a change of career plans and a long and productive professional life as a writer, editor and publisher. That's just what happened when I met Rodney Sumler.

When I first met Rodney he was busy carving out his niche as a professional consultant. It was a mutual acquaint-

ance who suggested that the two of us sit down and talk. At the time, I was a student at Winston-Salem State, who had just taken on the responsibility of holding down the Editor-in-Chief position of the News Argus, WSSU's student newspaper. How I ended up with the position of Editor-in-Chief came in a sort of haphazard way.

After spending some four years at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and playing football, I found myself out of school and back in Winston-Salem without a degree. I decided to attend WSSU to complete my degree requirements. I also found myself in a quandary. I still wanted to pursue the legal profession, but I also had my eye on perhaps becoming a television sports reporter and anchor. At the time, WSSU had just begun its Mass Communications program. So I decided that I would continue my major in history and minor in mass communications. For awhile I pursued both career paths. I took the LSAT and toured a few Law Schools. I also interned at WXII Television Station and wrote copy for the station's news broadcasts. What really turned me in the direction of journalism for a career came when I inquired about the mass communications program. I found out that I would have to take a couple of introductory journalism classes. As part of the class I had to write a couple of mock newspaper stories. Having been around

sports all my life, I chose to write a few sports stories. After reviewing them, my professor said my writings showed promise. She then showed them to the advisor of the News Argus and the articles were printed in the newspaper. I continued writing articles for the News Argus throughout the semester and all of my articles were printed.

At the end of the semester, the editor decided she could no longer continue to meet the requirements of the position and it was offered to me. I hesitated at first, but once I found out that the Winston-Salem Journal sponsored a scholarship that was awarded each semester to the editor, I quickly accepted.

When I assumed the position of editor-in-chief of the News Argus I began with ambitious plans. I wanted to produce a pre-season CIAA Edition. I discussed it with my advisor and she gave permission for us to produce it. Approximately two months prior to the deadline, I was introduced to Sumler.

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Fall Into a Vanpool Share the Ride – Clean the Air – Rake in the Savings

Fall is just around the corner...the season of renewal and relaxation. Time to forget about the high cost of maintaining a vehicle and the stressful drive to work. Out with old habits that drain your wallet and on to a new and easy way to clean the air. Fall into a vanpool!

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Writers From Our Past



Paula McCoy

Estranged and Feeling Unloved?

By Paula McCoy

We're half way through the year and we will soon be celebrating another Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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Malcom Pharr

I Have Never Been A Journalist

By Malcom Pharr

I have never been a journalist; I have always been a writer. I never wrote to

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Dr. Ernie Wade

Principals as Leaders in Our Schools

By Dr. Ernie Wade

After the acquittal of George Zimmerman, our thoughts turn to the start of a new school year. This means different things to different people. For parents with children already in school, it means a certain amount of peace and quiet at home.

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