

Boycott still on, NAACP says

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"If the flag was offensive on the dome, it's offensive on the pole," said Nelson Rivers, a former S.C. NAACP chairman who serves as national field operations director. "What did we march for... just so they can fly the flag in our faces?"

About 1,700 people registered to attend the Freedom Fund dinner, which was moved from the State Fairgrounds to a private facility because of the boycott. Bond was flying to Baltimore after the event to honor the boycott and avoid a stay in South Carolina.

State Executive Director Dwight James declined to say how much the Freedom Fund dinner raised; however, tickets ranged from \$75 a plate to up to \$5,000 for a corporate-sponsored table.

Bond told the group that the first time he was invited to speak in Columbia as a young civil rights leader in the 1960s, members of the Legislature were opposed to allowing him to speak at the University of South Carolina.

"Back then I wondered, 'Was there something wrong with me or was it them?'" Bond said. "Now, I know it was them."

Bond advised NAACP members to shun complacency because polls show that most



white Americans believe discrimination is in the nation's past. It's too easy for people to believe

that the courts and the government will protect civil rights, he said.

"Jim Crow may be dead, but John Rocker is alive and well,"

Bond said.

Bond said flag supporters are trying to rewrite history and it's up to the NAACP to challenge them.

"When the defenders of the flag distort history, when they tell lies and say it's nothing about slavery, they help perpetuate the myth that racial prejudice has disappeared," he said. "They have rewritten the past. Now they want to rewrite the present."

"Where else on the face of the earth do the losers get to fly the flag as if they'd won the war?"

National attention helps down flag

By Leigh Strope

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA -- The NAACP threatened to boycott, protesters demonstrated and the Legislature tried to craft a compromise to remove the Confederate flag from South Carolina's Statehouse dome.

Though the landscape is all too familiar, the year was 1994. And the flag continued to fly, even weathering another attempt at removal three years later.

The scene has been repeated in

the last year. Only this time the flag is coming down July 1.

What changed? A crucial Republican presidential primary held in the midst of the debate.

"That brought a lot of focus and attention to it that perhaps otherwise wouldn't have been there," said House Speaker David Wilkins, a Greenville Republican who previously wanted to keep the flag flying.

"The longer we allowed this issue to linger, the longer we allowed outsiders, particularly the outside media, to define who

we were as South Carolinians and as a state."

The Legislature agreed last week to remove the flag and fly a square Confederate banner at monument in front of the Statehouse. The NAACP and some black lawmakers oppose the compromise because they say the flag would be too visible.

The Confederate banners hanging in the House and Senate chambers also will be removed.

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Campus censorship

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ing offensive about the picture," he said.

Hall says that although he has been confronted by officials before concerning previous editions of the paper, he was startled to find out their discontent resulted in confiscation of the papers.

"It shows a certain amount of shortsightedness when you have a president who in her installation speech talked about her vision and wanting the college to be equal of other colleges," he said. "One of the things that you have to, as a college institution, is uphold certain values and rights and privileges that go beyond just image."

"It's very disappointing and very surprising to see an administrator or vice-president, no less, walking across campus with student newspapers. I could just imagine what it must have looked like. That's something that an authoritarian, a dictator, would do. And it's very disturbing because that's the best issue the students have done."

Unfortunately, St. Aug. is not an exception of administrative's scrutiny over college newspaper.

Ed Boyce, editor of North Carolina Central University's paper, The Echo, wrote in a column last month that school staff and administrators complained about what was covered on campus.

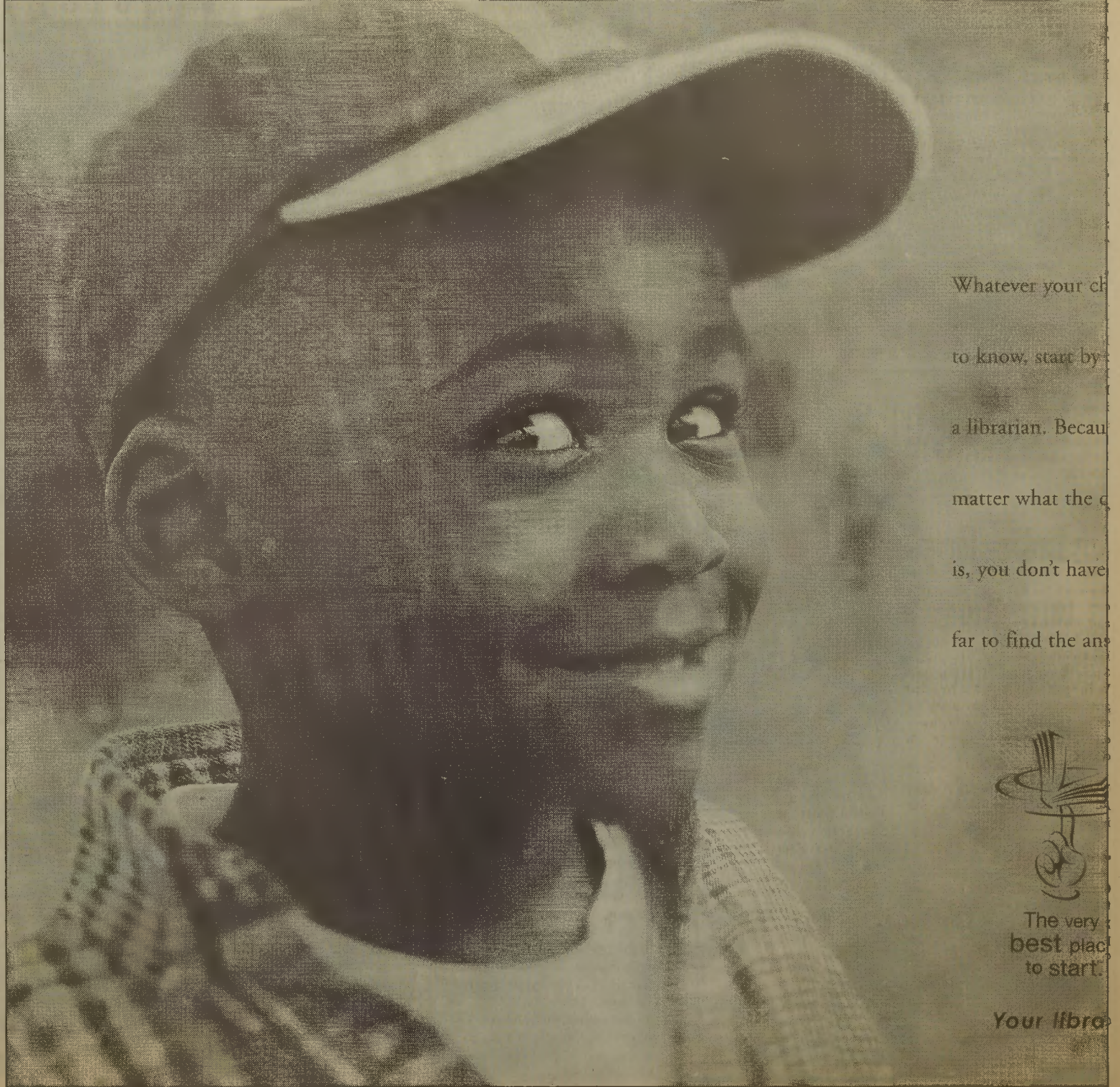
Censuring campus publications isn't new, but it's becoming more prevalent at black colleges.

Clark Atlanta University's paper, The Panther, was stripped of school funding for three years because it published a story about toxic materials being used in art classes. Since then the paper has been censored to report only the positive. A recent issue featured a proposed 5.9 percent tuition hike, in which one student hiked the increase and no one spoke against it. Other articles included a profile of a new dean of students as well as a speaker for Black History Month rounding out the cover while the staff refrained from covering students protesting last spring or a former administrator suing the school for firing her because she had inquiries about the financial mismanagement in the student-aid office.

"The tone has been set," assistant editor Dena McClurkin said in published reports. "We choose to censor ourselves to hold onto our money, so we're unable to write anything hard-hitting or investigative."

But St. Aug's scrutiny is not restraining Hall from published an accurate newspaper, despite its unpleasantness.

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