

Writers are doing something right

Blowing your own horn may not be an ideal practice, but sometimes it's the only way to get attention.

This paper may seem small, but it has led to some large accomplishments for BANNER reporters past and present.

- Six of our 13 reporters last year received internships in the communications field this summer. Perseverance, solid character and luck played a strong part in their finding these jobs as did the stories they wrote for this paper. The other seven reporters had previous commitments or did not apply for internships.

- Dee Evans, our new editor, was one of three finalists across America in an internship contest sponsored by the National Association of Black Journalists.

- Yolanda T. DuRant, last year's editor and now a graduate fellow in English at Wake Forest University, recently landed a part-time job as an obituary writer for *The Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel*.

In short, size and success are not synonymous.

In terms of the quality of writing, we encourage you to compare our product with any other college paper published in North Carolina.

We believe that our copy has a vitality which you won't often encounter in other colleges' publications.

Bear in mind that, in contrast to newspaper staffs at many colleges and universities, our people are not paid. Many have already taken the required journalism courses and are working on behalf of their careers.

We feel this issue contains some of the best work we've ever published. We particularly call your attention to Dee Evans' interview with President Miller, Alaina Cloud's harrowing story about the victim of a mugging and Tricia Hairston's sensitive portrait of a teenage mother.

These writers deserve your attention because their work is good.

(Michael Gaspeny)

"black" and "white"

Readers have often been curious about why we don't capitalize "black" when the word is used as an adjective or noun to denote race.

Is our refusal to do so a grammatical error or, even worse, an unconscious result of racism? In both cases, the answer is "no."

This paper, like most others in the United States, is edited according to *The Associated Press Stylebook*, a kind of bible for journalists.

Rule 3.13, under the heading of capitalization, states: "Capitalize the proper names of nationalities, races, tribes, etc.: Arab, Caucasian, Eskimo. However, lowercase black, white, mulatto."

Sobran misunderstands blacks

a column
by Vicky Dunn

Call it reporter's instinct, or simply a nose for foul news, but even though it was summer, I couldn't resist digging up a little gem for the young ladies of Bennett College and for the world.

Unfortunately, only the former will read this essay, but it is just as well, as I have confidence in you all to spread the word.

I just wondered, and seriously doubted, if many people knew or understood what Baltimore journalist Joseph Sobran meant when he said in a recent column that "You can hardly even call American blacks a race. The word 'race' used to mean something more than just generic makeup . . ."

Readers? Hello, readers? Recover from the shock and let's go on to the really dis-

gusting parts. Sobran made this and numerous other illegitimate accusations against us. He indicated that the simultaneous rise in black crime and black illegitimacy was more the fault of whites than blacks. I know that recaptured your attention, but wait!

Sobran means that white paternalism is more a threat to these blacks than is white racism. In other words, a continuous pat on the back advances one downward as quickly as a swift kick. This is possible. Still, Sobran has his facts a little confused. He noticed the "instant hostility of young blacks, so different from the good humor of older blacks," and questioned its cause. It is not, as his headline implies, that blacks are losing ground, but that too little ground is reaching too few people. Also, the ground

that so many blacks have depended on as being unshakable for so many years has begun to recede.

Education, the cornerstone of American prosperity, is more widely available to minorities than a decade or so ago, but well-meaning (ha!) patrons have expected less and less, and therefore have received less and less. This is evident even at our own institution.

These patrons tried to "do something" about the wretched condition of the inner cities in the '60s. Sobran truthfully says "(these) humanitarian crusades . . . (and) reforms have backfired." We can agree on that point. However, Sobran and his crusaders did not realize that one does not wage war with a condescending attitude. I believe Kipling referred to it as "the white

man's burden." But the white man's present burden is to open his eyes to his sameness to blacks, even the inner city muggers, and approach them with equality.

Along with his denial that the black race should be deemed so, Sobran carries his burden even further. He says, "they live in dependency on constant infusions of money from the white community, but they have no real hope of owning their own homes, and many of them can't even imagine such a prospect. They live in dingy little apartments in dangerous neighborhoods where whites have given up on trying to maintain public order." Here we go with this superiority again! Finally, he says that "what can't be physically secured is up for grabs." This is absurd, and regardless of my naiveté about big-city

crime, I refuse to believe that my people take everything that happens not to be bolted down.

I've heard all of these accusations many times before, but they still anger me. What angers me most in anyone, however, is ignorance. Sobran stuck his foot most deeply into his mouth when he denied the black race's "social continuity, history, tradition, and the expectation that continuity would indeed continue."

Instead, he calls American blacks "a social residue," which translated and revised, means, "You are scum, people!" Has he no knowledge of our past? Or better yet, our present and future?

Has he no knowledge of Africa? Of gold? Of diamonds? Of Timbuktu? Of King? Of Jackson? Of you and me?

Letters to the editor:

Message from Taylor; sober truth from NAACP

To the Editor:

There will always be problems involved with being Student Government Association President. It will take time and a lot of effort to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

I put all problems into my cabinet's hands and leave it to them to carry the ball from there. It is foolish to make decisions oneself on matters that affect people. I always talk things over with my cabinet, but I make it clear to them that I'm the one who has to have the final say.

Once I have decided on a course of action, I do my best to sell my ideas to my cabinet. I was voted on by my peers to lead. If I let a lot of other people make the decisions I should be making, then

I'm not worth my salt.

I believe in getting things done. I cannot waste time calling meetings. Someone has to call the shots around here and I know that it should be me. This represents my point of view about "good leadership."

Look around you. Someone you know is bound to be complaining about something. Stop and honestly ask yourself if you have overlooked the truth. As stated in its constitution, the purpose of the SGA is to act in all areas of student welfare and to be a liaison between the student body and the administration; to act as the political and social representatives of the general student body; and to promote the element of change and new ideas inherent to any

government.

Nowhere in it does it state that a student in the SGA has the authority to approve anything which can only be approved by the administration.

A lot of positive things and negative things are going to be said about the SGA throughout the course of this year. In the event, if there are any questions please feel free to ask and not assume.

Karen R. Taylor

To the Editor:

Among the needs and wants of the black society, did you know that black people spend, according to rank:

Rank	Item	1979 Purchases
1	Wine, Champagne	\$360 Million
2	Potato Chips	271 Million
3	Malt Liquor	165 Million
4	Rice	132 Million
5	Paper Towels	100 Million
6	Flour	92 Million
7	Salt and Seasoning	82 Million
8	Chewing Gum	79 Million
9	Canned Milk	72 Million
10	Salad Dressing	62 Million
11	Hair Conditioners	62 Million
12	Corn Meal	60 Million
13	Bleach	37 Million
14	Lard	33 Million
15	Cleaners	32 Million
16	Pickles	31 Million
17	Instant Potatoes	24 Million
18	Vinegar	20 Million
19	Dried Beans, Peas	18 Million
20	Barbecue Sauce	15 Million

This information comes from the 1982 *Black Resource Guide*.

The Bennett College
Chapter of the NAACP

Fritz, Ferraro cause confusion

a column
by Pam Gary

who think that they know everything."

If you are a chic-dressing blonde congresswoman, with a fashionable haircut, dubious tax returns and a husband with a shady past, then maybe you too can become a vice presidential runningmate.

The best-kept secret on the political scene this year appears to be the Mondale-Ferraro campaign strategy. Nothing has ruffled as many feathers in Washington since Watergate. Shockwaves have been felt as far as Atlanta.

Mayor Andrew Young, a key supporter of the Democratic Party (at the cost of some of his hard-won popularity) has made his frustration a matter of public record. The incident enraging Young occurred when Mondale's campaign staff hastily constructed a political side-trip to a small town in Georgia and then abruptly cancelled it when it was discovered that there would not be enough well-known Democrats available to attend.

Young tried repeatedly to reach Mondale but all he encountered was red tape. A few days later, while addressing a group of young black journalists, Young referred to Mondale's staff as a bunch of "smart-assed white boys

who think that they know everything."

Young later apologized for his choice of words but not their sentiment.

Indeed it seems as though Young's outburst typifies many Democrats' feelings about Mondale's inaccessibility as a presidential candidate as well as Ferraro's unsuitability as a candidate.

Grumbling has emerged from the Democratic Party machine concerning Walter's radical behavior—hiring Bert Lance, choosing a woman runningmate, and making his uneasy alliance with the press.

Mondale and Ferraro have a lot in common with Jesse Jackson's attempt to seek the presidency. They will have secured their places in history as Jackson did.

Mondale needs to drastically change his image from the unsure, floundering, weak-willed projection that he has presented thus far and establish a more notable rapport with the press.

Until he does, his campaign for the presidency will continue to be an exercise in futility. So far all the Mondale-Ferraro ticket has accomplished is securing a place in history for Ferraro as the first woman ever to run for the vice presidency.

The Bennett Banner

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Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor belong to the author, not to the staff of the Banner.

Send letters to the editor to Box 2. All mail must be signed by hand.