

# A message from President Robinson

Yuletide Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity during this Yuletide Season to express my warmest wishes to all members of the Saint Augustine's Family — Students, Faculty and Staff. It is hard to believe that this semester and year are about to end.

The Christmas Holiday Break can be an excellent opportunity for each of us to reflect seriously upon his/her past, present and future.

Paramount among our priorities should be a real commitment to a serious introspection.

We are entering a period in our life that promises to test each and every one of us in ways which few of us can imagine. If we are to achieve our goals, "academic excellence" must pervade every facet of our lives and the life of this institution.

There is no alternative to taking full advantage of every resource and opportunity to learn all that is at our avail.

We must study harder; we must spend even more time engaged in serious inquiry; and we must maintain a constant vigilance on those forces which threaten our survival, past achievements and future.

During this dire and trying time of economic strain, we must be prepared to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

Despite the problems of the present and future, I believe that we will prevail.

This is my message to you at Christmas and each and every moment of each and every day.

May Peace and Grace, which only God can give, go with you always until we meet again.

Sincerely,  
Prezell R. Robinson  
President

## Editorial: The power of deception

by Jerrie Wane Brown  
Assistant Editor-In-Chief

"Oh Lord, give me the strength to change what I can; the serenity to tolerate that which I cannot; and the wisdom to know the difference."

A Prayer

What precedes is a version, imprecise as it may be, of a very common prayer that has been handed down from generation to generation. It appears like graffiti in American kitchens across the 50 states and beyond, and like many prayers, it is alleged to provide some guidance for the keeping of one's sanity in understanding the powerlessness of individuals.

I cannot subscribe to it, however, for like so many slogans and adages, therein lies a hidden, subliminal message right out of the baggage of pop-psychology. There, explicitly, is permission (in the first place) for individuals to decide what is beyond their power to change, and (in

the second place) to dismiss the seemingly overpowering, overwhelming problems as beyond their control or power to influence.

Once this misperception is embraced, the most serious ailments people face become the express concerns through atrophy of governments and others not to be trusted in such matters. This is dangerous!

Danger lies in the guise of offering help or solace to the distraught when its double-faceted edge serves simultaneously to strengthen the legitimacy of claims by some to a superior ability in making the tougher decisions for all of us. *Deja vu, Adolff! Sieg heil!*

I see often many trends that seem beyond my personal influence that are harmful in my estimation, to those engaged, yet I find that my toleration of these ills is always contingent upon my priority system's assignment of another

goal ahead of the focused problem. Forever it seems that life's stream decides for me in this way.

For instance, if I had the time, resources, and money, I would rid the streets of the homeless by providing shelter for them. Or, if I had the time, resources, and money, I would teach all peoples of color to love themselves and to be as kind to each other as they are to white people. If I had the time, resources and money, I would stop starvation; hunger; teenage pregnancies; violence; miseducation; and so much more. Have I made my point?

Time, resources, and money seem to be what is needed all around. How can one acquire them? Prayer as a source is doubtful. Now the point that our often self-appointed leaders (the ones with the time, resources, and money) cannot have our interests at heart becomes crystallized. So where can they be leading us?

Given the circumstances, finding a way to assume personal control over

these issues is paramount. Clearly, something must circumvent the reality that enslaves us all into effectiveness.

Ever wonder why our government can so successfully rally Americans around a cause involving death and destruction, while it is impotent in matters revolving around the public good? Ever wonder how masses of peoples are so easily kept in constant antagonism against each other? We have all heard of "crabs in a bucket" and we are all "crabs in the bucket."

So, it is clear to me that masses of good-hearted peoples are not very smart in buying into this "American nightmare," or these same masses are not very good-hearted. All that is certain is that these masses are falling for the lure of Americana for a whole host of reasons that in isolation cannot justify treating others as we do.

The power of deception is unquestionable and is apparently one of those things "beyond our influence to change."

### The Pen St. Augustine's College December, 1986 The Pen Staff

- Editor-in-Chief.....Anthony Hinton
- Assistant Editor.....Jerrie Brown
- Managing Editor.....Alexander Dabney
- Circulations Manager.....James Martin
- Advertising Manager.....TerryAnn Gordon
- Copy Editor.....Deryck Satchwell
- News Editor.....M. Jacquie Jones
- Feature Editor.....Delphine Hannah
- Specialized Feature Writer.....Deborah Mencias
- Sports Editor.....Timothy Stroud, Billy Lanier
- Entertainment Editor.....Pamela Burns
- Typists.....Patricia Miles, Bridgette Rolle  
Cletha Darden
- Photographers.....Claudette Reckley, James Martin
- Advisors.....Miss Regina Ford  
Dr. Helen Othow
- Publisher.....Sample Publishing Co., Inc.  
Garner, NC

The Pen Newspaper is published once a month by the students of Saint Augustine's College. The Pen welcomes reader comments on campus, local, state, and national-international affairs, as well as comments regarding the newspaper itself. For style and clarity, we ask that you follow these guidelines for letters to the editor and columns: All letters/columns must include your name, address, telephone number, and where you can be reached for verification. All materials should be typed, signed, and double-spaced with no more than 200 words per article.

The Pen reserves the right to edit letters and columns. Editorials, advertisements, and other articles of such do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the college or staff. Send materials to Editor, The Pen, Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, NC 27611. You may place materials in the Editor's box located on the third floor of the Boyer Building.

## Importance of education

by Alfred Coker

The value of college to students now holds a different meaning. College is now a place where you go to meet new friends, and since you are away from home, do what you never would have done at home.

This can be seen in the flashy dresses and heavy make-up by females and the posh cars and expensive designer clothes worn by males. Parents can be held accountable to some degree, as they provide the money for these luxurious lifestyles.

Peer pressure has resulted in younger and more innocent students falling victim to premarital sex. The emphasis these days is on casual sex, which in ac-

tuality is pure lust and promiscuity. The result has been devastating. The number of children born out of wedlock to college students has risen dramatically over the last few years.

College women are supposed to be more educated and more exposed to the advantages of contraceptives, but the rise in pregnancies among college women, which has begun to rival that of high school students, casts a great doubt on the above premise.

Students go to classes with bleary eyes because they have spent the night out, rather than studying. Their main objective is to get a "C" out of their courses,

Continued on Page 8

## Letter to the editor

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Foreign and Domestic Teachers Organization needs teacher applicants in all fields from Kindergarten through College to fill over six hundred teaching vacancies both at home and abroad.

Since 1968, our organization has been finding vacancies and locating teachers both in foreign countries and in all fifty states. We possess hundreds of current openings and have all the information as to scholarships, grants, and fellowships.

The principle problem with first year teachers is **WHERE TO FIND THE JOBS!**

Since college newspapers are always anxious to find positions for their graduating teachers, your paper may be interested in your teachers finding

employment for the following year, and print out request for teachers.

Our information is free and comes at an opportune time when there are more teachers than teaching positions.

Should you wish additional information about our organization, you may write The National Teacher's Placement Agency, Universal Teachers, Box 5231, Portland, Oregon 97208.

We do not promise every graduate in the field of education a definite position, however, we do promise to provide them with a wide range of hundreds of current vacancy notices both at home and abroad.

Sincerely,  
John P. McAndrew, President  
Foreign & Domestic Teachers