

## From the editor's desk



M. Jacquie Jones Editor-In-Chief

Those avid soap opera watchers could probably remember the scene from All My Children: Angie and her son, Carl, just finished discussing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and the March On Washington. Remington, the bad guy turned out to be good, then escorts Carl out of the doctor's waiting room. One hospital staff person overhearing the conversation, tells Angie how wonderful her son is and predicts that he will be great for the people of color. There is a polite return of thanks. One other staff member joins the well wisher, but not before leaving the room saying, "You know, maybe she is one of us after all."

It need not be said that Angie sat shocked and hurt because she was within earshot. It also need not be mentioned that Angie is Black and so are the other two members at the hospital. It may just be a soap opera, but some how one cannot escape the feeling of having been there before or having seen this kind of treatment, be it discrimination or ignorance.

Too often we hear Blacks debasing one another in the most degrading manner for no apparent reason. Most damaging is their way of recording so called "non-Black behavior" as "white." Our convocation speaker reminded us of how typical these "brothers

and sisters" can be. They are the ones who do not want you to excell and even though they tell you to move towards the front of the bus, they pull you back.

Some disturbing questions are: who determines what is black enough for a black person? Or better yet, what is best for a black person within a White world? What are "white ideas?" Is it the driving ambition that Angie had to not be like her criminal minded father? Is it her determination to raise her young son, Carl, in a manner befitting society? We owe it to ourselves to reflect our future, not from the standpoint of selfish thinking but from the realization that we are all in the same boat-even if some of us came on different ships.

February is Black History Month and we can make the most of the 28 days by remembering what some of our forefathers (and some of us) had to go through to get where we are today. But remembering requires little on the part of action. WE can do. WE can be. Only if we put our minds to "it," can we achieve most of what we dream. Speaker after dreamer after achiever can say, see, or do but it all comes down to one thing - doing for ourselves and for the betterment of our kind.

## "Knowledge and education are freedom," and "ignorance costs more"

These words of Dr. Therman Evans keep repeating themselves in my mind for it is difficult to pay attention to these words when a person is trying 'to fit in.'

It is so difficult to study when you know that most people are outside 'chilling,' when people are at the game, at movies, at Fevers and at A Hole in the Wall, while you are in your room studying for G.R.E., the N.T.E., or simply reading. It is difficult to avoid complacency when your classmates are satisfied when they pass a test with a 'C.' Sometimes it is so difficult to accept when you and your friends are termed as the 'nerds' because you prefer to stay in the dorm studying when there is a dance.

The point, as Evans stated, "Is that being cool is associated with how far one can tilt one's hat to the side of the head," and, if I might add, cool is walking with a hat on one's head and refusing to remove it even though the instructor states his dislike for this action. Cool is driving on the yard, with the windows rolled down, playing "It Takes Two" while classes are in session. "Coolness," Evans stated, "is exhibited by a person who is prepared." This is the person who studies, who passes his test and who does not settle for mediocrity. Coolness is associated



Julie Moody Associate Editor

with serious students who are strong enough to withstand the 'catty' remarks of people - who see their exterior and not their interior - who say, "Mary what are you doing here...I thought you would be studying...I did not know you could dance," and, the most famous of all, "girl, you study too much."

It is easy to understand, though, when these 'studious students' receive thousands of dollars in stipends, fellowships, and assistantships for graduate schools, and receive good job offers when they graduate, while the 'party animals' are forced to settle for what they can get.

Do not read me wrong. There is nothing wrong with enjoying oneself, with going to parties, movies, and games; however, as with everything else, when these things are done in excess they can be our downfall. There is a right time for everything. There is a time to work and a time to play. Learn how to distinguish between these times. It will prove helpful to you.

## READ THE PEN

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All materials must be typed and double spaced. Editorials, advertisements, opinion columns and other articles of such do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the college or the staff. Contributions are welcome.

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## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing you again about your pen pal program or corresponding program. I am in prison and I have no one to write to. If you are interested, send your address and become my pen pal. Please reply as soon as possible. So I close my little letter. May the Lord bless you and all the people in your college. Thank you.

Your loving inmate,  
Kenneth Passmore - 107399  
Union Correctional Institution  
P.O. Box 221  
Raiford, FL 32083

P.S. I am unhappy all the time because I have no one to write to.

## St. Augustine is waking up

By Yolanda E. Hall  
Senior Analyst

Here on campus we see more and more brothers and sisters wearing medallions, sweatshirts and other items expressing black pride. This is great and I hope that it continues.

Although this is a start we still have far to go.

We as a people must educate ourselves. We can accomplish this by reading more books. We must learn about more of our great leaders such as Biko, Malcolm X, Mandella and others who have made contributions to black students such as The Miseducation of the Negro, The Black Students Guide to Positive Education, and others. I have read these books and they have both inspired me and opened my eyes to things I did not know.

It is left up to us to educate ourselves so that we can properly educate our children. They hold the key. They are the future. Our children can put an end to the racial stereotypes and inferiority that we face in our

lives.

We should also start programs here at school that teach about us as a people. We need to learn about our leaders, our ancestors, and the struggle of the civil rights movement. The contributions that Africans have made, the foods we eat and apartheid in South Africa as well as here in the U.S., in essential to learn about too.

The music we listen to is also important. We all like club, go-go, rap, etc. There is nothing wrong with this but such artists such as Bob Marley, Ziggy Marley, Sting and others give us messages of hope, inspiration and dreams. They tell us of apartheid and what the future holds.

We the students of St. Aug's. have the power to start many changes. Through us more black colleges and universities can learn and become awakened. Let us not throw it away but instead put it to use-we can make the difference.