

Perspectives

EDITORIAL

The administration of St. Augustine's College has implemented several changes this summer to better meet the needs and wants of its students.

New security measures have been taken to ensure students' safety: a fence has been erected that encloses the entire campus to keep out intruders; the security officers have gone through special training that allows them to better protect the student body and faculty; lights have been placed in dark areas, so that one might see better; and low-hanging tree limbs have also been cut for this purpose. There has been an improvement in the service and food in the cafeteria. One can even go back for a second helping if one wants to. Also among these changes is a new roof on the Fine Arts Building.

These changes do show that the administration, in seeing the many problems, wants, and needs of students, is seeking ways of improving our campus, and students should acknowledge that.

There are, however, some urgent needs that have still not been met, and many students are having a difficult time seeing the good that has been done on the campus.

They complain that they are disheartened, frustrated, and angry. Many students are seriously questioning the "one big family" ideology that the college emphasizes.

Things such as unventilated, unclean, and insect infested rooms, a library that fails to meet the academic needs of students, the dilemma of finding oneself almost in mid-semester and not yet registered are causing this questioning. These things are haunting the students and have been for a long time. Many are saying, "same story, different semester."

In order for the college to live up to its vow to be a "family," these things need to be addressed and the required changes made.

Administration? SGA?

Improvements in these areas will make it possible for seniors to remember St. Aug with fondness, convince freshmen to remain here, and ensure a large student pool for recruiting in years to come.

Blame is not being placed solely on the administration. Students do see the harm that is being done to the campus by other students. They are vandalizing the campus, tearing pages out of the modest number of volumes that are in the library, disrespecting themselves, authorities, and their peers, and above all failing to negotiate in a responsible and mature way for the things that are needed most on the campus.

Apathy will not solve the problems.

EVERYONE HERE HAS A STAKE IN ST. AUG. ANY CHANGES FOR THE BETTER WILL BE GOOD FOR ALL. LET'S STRIVE FOR "BETTER STORY, DIFFERENT SEMESTER."

- The Pen -

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The Pen is a student publication of Saint Augustine's College and is published monthly throughout the academic year from September to May. Mailing address is The Pen, Saint Augustine's College, 1315 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610. Entire Contents Copyright 1993. All rights reserved.

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St. Aug should not be criticized over new admissions policy

By Natosha Kennedy

Anyone who has not heard about St. Aug's new admissions policy has to have been sleeping under a rock. Beginning this year, students have to have a police record check before entering St. Aug.

The policy helps the college know what kinds of students they are admitting. It should make returning students feel safer knowing that the St. Aug is taking these measures so that campus safety can be better than it has been in recent years.

St. Aug has been publicly criticized for the policy, most notably by the NAACP and the ACLU, who said, among other things, that the policy is degrading to students.

First of all, St. Aug did not say that prospective students with police records would not be admitted to the college. This measure is just being taken so that everyone can feel safer on campus. If the policy had been enforced last year, there might not have been so many violent incidents on campus.

Also, the policy is not as degrading to the students as it is

to St. Aug. It is degrading for St. Aug to have to endure such bad publicity when a simple police check could save them from being criticized in the news. It is also ironic that the NAACP, an organization that supports African-Americans in trying to rise above criticism, would even make this type of statement. The NAACP should be happy that a historically black college such as St. Aug. has taken these steps, so that they can give everyone a fair chance. It would be different if St. Aug were a public college or university with a policy such as this one, but the college is a private institution. Therefore, upon entering a private college, certain things have to be made "public". If prospective students do not like the policy, then they should apply to another college.

The police record check is not the only thing that St. Aug has done to increase campus safety.

A fence has been put around campus to keep out dangerous intruders.

Tree branches have been cut, and better lighting has also been added. Also, the security

staff have been all around campus, working to better protect the students and staff here at St. Aug.

The college is still being criticized. It was criticized last year for poor security, assaults and even a murder.

This year, it is being criticized for trying to improve on mistakes made in the past. As a student, I could not be happier to see some of the improvements made around St. Aug. this year. I am sure that the parents who send their children here for a quality, "safe" education feel the same way.

To the people who are criticizing St. Aug over its new policy, think back to the famous UNCF quote, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." The administrators at St. Aug are putting their minds to use. Maybe their critics should think about the overall situation and do the same.

African Proverbs

"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."

"The one-eyed man thanks God only when he sees a man who is totally blind."

Black Perspective: Men on the move

By Crystal Anderson

From the Past.....

"He sang of life serenely sweet ." "He" was the poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar.

The son of parents who had been slaves, Dunbar was born on June 27, 1872, in Dayton, Ohio. Educated in the public schools, he was the only Negro in his class.

Dunbar loved to read and write poetry. His love for writing poetry led him to publish his first volume of poems, *Oak and Ivy*. As a result, the poet received numerous invitations to give readings of his poems. Dunbar did not stop there. He later published *Major and Minors*, which gave him great recognition.

Dunbar wrote in both standard English and dialect. His poetry in dialect grew very popular and still holds a place

in American Literature. His poem "The Poet" describes how the world praised his dialectal style.

THE POET

He sang of life serenely sweet
With, now and then,
a deeper note.

From some high peak,
nigh yet remote.

He voiced the world's
absorbing beat.

He sang of love when earth
was young.

And love, itself, was in his
lays.

But ah, the world, it turned to
praise.

A jingle in a broken tongue.

"There will be poets"
"They will not betray you"

The Present....

Amiri Baraka was born Leroi Jones in Newark, New Jersey in 1934. He was educated in public schools there and later attended college at Newark Campus of Rutgers University. He completed the rest of his schooling at Howard University in Washington DC, where he received his B.A. in English.

Baraka began publishing poetry in little magazines in the late 1950s. He also wrote plays and music criticism. His widely acclaimed *Dutchman* received an award as Best American Play of the 1963-64 session.

Baraka founded several theater groups in New York and Newark. Among his many

SEE MEN ON THE MOVE,
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