

Editorials

Two thumbs up for Franklin!

by Anishka McKenzie

In December 1994, Dr. Bernard W. Franklin was elected to serve as Saint Augustine's ninth president, succeeding Dr. Prezel R. Robinson, who had diligently led the college for 28 years.

There was no denying that Franklin had his work already cut out for him. Robinson had left a strong legacy in the hearts of faculty, teachers and students of St. Aug, and everyone was curious to find out if Franklin would be able to fill the giant's place effectively.

I will never forget the atmosphere on campus the day our new president arrived because the tension, mixed with anticipation, was so thick that you could cut it with a knife.

The expressions on the faces of faculty, staff, and students told you exactly what they were thinking and feeling.

"I wonder if I'll have my job at the end of the day?"

"Maybe my department will finally get the financial assistance I've been asking for all these years."

"I wonder if life at the Aug will be better or worse with Franklin at the helm."

"Is he capable of doing the job effectively?"

These were thoughts that I knew were racing through the heads of faculty and staff members.

The looks on the students' faces, on the other hand, seemed to suggest, "What is he going to do for us?"

Six months later, Dr. Franklin has succeeded in winning the hearts of the St. Augustine's family. How did he do it? Franklin is approachable, down to earth, and friendly. When he interacts with the students, we don't just hear empty words filled with vain promises, but we see a heart that sincerely wants the absolute best for each student because he is concerned with our holistic development. Franklin takes the time to interact with the students; sometimes he goes to the cafeteria and eats lunch with us. He has eliminated the invisible barrier existing between himself and the students by coming to us.

The President has a vision in mind for the future of Saint Augustine's, and the positive changes that we have seen in the short time he has been with us show that, with Dr. Bernard Franklin as our leader, we will rise to the top.

The theater has critics who criticize movies. Publishers of books have critics that criticize their books. At St. Augustine's, we also have a critic who has taken it upon herself in this article to critically analyze and evaluate our new president's performance over the months that he has been with us. Franklin receives thumbs up! from this critic because he is definitely steering us in the right direction.

We congratulate you on a job well done, Dr. Franklin. Keep up the good work!

CONCERNS OF YOUNG ADULTS

YOUNG, SAVED, AND SINGLE

by: Kathy Chapman

If you are a single young person, you know that the flesh can become a problem. That doesn't mean that you are a "fast" person; it is just natural for the flesh to get weak.

No wonder the Bible says we should put no confidence in the flesh (*Phil. 3:3*). I am glad that young, single people do not have to be overtaken by lustful feelings. *Phil. 4:13* says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

If we submit ourselves to God, then those lustful problems would not be a big deal. *James 4:7* says, "Submit yourself therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." If we as young people would devote more of our time to God, we would not have to worry about a companion. There is nothing wrong with seeking companionship. It is normal for singles to seek a meaningful relationship.

Most of us young people want someone of the opposite sex to share our dreams and goals with. Little do we know it goes deeper than that. What we fail to realize is that when you are born again and you know the Lord as your personal Savior, you should not worry about a companion. That person will come when you least expect. God will send you a mate when He knows that you are ready and capable to receive your mate. Not everyone, even those who are born again, can handle a relationship.

When a person's relationship with the Lord is lacking before they are involved in a relationship, it is more than likely that their relationship with the Lord will decrease even more after they are involved with someone. And this is not to say that a relationship with the Lord will decrease even more after they are involved with someone. Nor is it to say that a relationship is wrong; however, I think that singles should focus on "falling in love" with Jesus before focusing on falling in love with someone else.

Nevertheless, you may have made mistakes throughout your walk with Christ while being young and single, but remember that the victory can always be regained.

Whatever you do, do not keep making the same mistakes. Never make excuses for your mistakes. Admitting is the first step to recovery. Always keep going forward; do not waste your time looking at your past mistakes (*Phil. 3:13*).

The Million Man March

by Maria Arvelo

On October 16th, 1995, the witnessing of over one-million men of color actualized a vision that seemed, to many, an impossible goal.

In this moment of "pure utopism at its finest", there were men with suits, jeans and T-shirts, hats to the back, gym shoes, Baptists, Catholics, Muslims, light-skinned men, men who had been imprisoned, drug addicts, men who were negligent in paying their child support, men in college, men who were forced by their parents to be there, men who were brought by their single mothers — all kinds of men.

But the point of the matter was that all of these men, in their many varieties, without regard to religion being a barrier in their agenda of objectives, proved to the world that it was time to acknowledge the deficiencies that beset us as a race and turn our adversities into the kind of spiritual motivation it will take to return our people back to their original greatness.

At that moment in history, a sea of manhood was manifested and the beneficiaries of this moment now have an obligation to leave this event and return to their communities, families and churches, enlightened and inspired to be vessels of hope, destroying monologue and developing dialogue.

Here are some students' comments on the march:

--Shaun Henderson (March Participant and member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.)

"I never experienced being in the midst of that many black men who appeared to have the same goals in mind as I did, and although I think it sparked tension between the races, it proved that there are a lot of black men who care about the plight of our race."

--John Sledge (March Participant)

"I got a lot out of the March because of the vibes. It was an atmosphere full of LOVE and I was personally inspired to help where I can, because I have a son and we have to be the initiators of our own progress."

CORRECTION: In the September/October issue of *The Pen*, we printed an article on the first female lieutenant at St. Augustine's College. Later, we discovered that Lt. Doris Batchelor was not St. Aug's first female lieutenant. The woman holding this honor is Mrs. Elsie High.



Mrs. Elsie High

Mrs. High was an employee at the College for over twenty years, and is still highly respected by her peers. In fact, it was one of her former co-workers that made us aware of the error. Although the current lieutenant, Lt. Batchelor, is doing a great job in her position, respect should be given where respect is due. *The Pen* wishes to offer our sincerest apologies to Mrs. Elsie High, St. Augustine's College female lieutenant.

THE PEN

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