

Editorials

Key Costs Climb

Students of Saint Augustine's College, imagine if you will, you're on your way back to school after a very short, hot summer at home. You've ridden the bus, train, plane or car for many hours. You unload your luggage and go to the dorm director, only to be told that you cannot get your room key until you've paid a \$20 deposit.

What is this, you ask in astonishment. What happened to the \$5 deposit students have been paying in past years? What if a \$20 bill is all the cash you have until your parents can send you more?

No letter arrived in the mail over the summer to warn you, and no notice is posted to tell you about the change. Just this past summer, the key fee was \$5. How or why would it jump another \$15 in just a couple of weeks? A gradual raise would seem more logical.

Students, the lifeblood of the college, deserve to be notified ahead of time when fees are going to increase. They deserve an explanation when a financial hike is scheduled.

Duplicate keys cost \$2.10 at Sears. Why do they cost so much at St. Aug?

Someone's math seems out of kilter. by Adenike Matthews

It's a matter of emotions

The new academic year brings mixed emotions for students as they return to St. Aug. Overall, students are excited about bonding with old friends, meeting new friends, and participating in campus activities. Freshmen are adjusting to their newfound freedom, while seniors prepare for graduation.

On the other hand, students are sometimes disappointed when trying to readjust their study habits, having to function in a hot airless building, going through the slow registration process, dealing with the attitudes that they sometimes encounter, and tolerating the lack of communication between administration and themselves.

A concerted effort to improve communication between the administration and students could alleviate the common disappointments experienced. This can be done by informing students of issues that directly affect them by letter or memo, telephone calls or other communications medium.

In order to have a successful transition when students return to school, we recommend that a collective campus-wide meeting be held at the beginning of the semester to discuss issues that are directly related to the collective goal of St. Aug and the individual goal of the students. by Sheryl Meritt

The Pen to Benefit Communications Majors

In the past, Saint Aug's newspaper, 'The Pen', has been compiled by students who volunteered their time and services.

The fall semester of '96 has brought change. Newspaper Production, with Joan Madeksza as its instructor, gives communications majors an opportunity to write and gain experience in putting a newspaper together.

L. Michelle Fox, editor of 'The Pen,' and her staff, which includes ad representatives, newspaper production and feature writing students, and other student volunteers, write and edit stories. Vanetta Freeman and Malika Reynolds are staff photographers. by Lisa Johnson

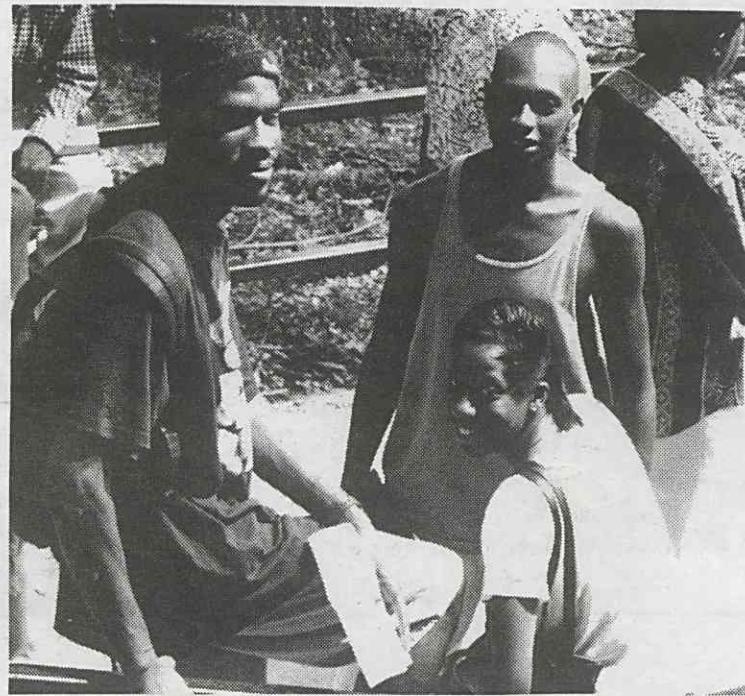


Photo by Debra Derr
CHILLIN' OUT- Students (from left to right) Jimmy Foster, Teddy Williams and Dion Dunston were caught hanging out near the Hunter building at the beginning of the fall semester.

Library starts to automate

By Michael Farmer

This fall students can minimize their search time and maximize their work time when the library completes its first steps of automation.

The plan to automate the library was approved by President Dr. Bernard Franklin, after being reviewed by Angela Sligh, vice president of Telecommunications; and Dr. Everett Days, director of library services.

Three phases in which this change will take place are:

Phase 1. During the spring and summer of 1996 the library began its first stages of Internet wiring, which include bringing in hardware and an accessible hard drive.

Phase 2. Once wiring is completed and the system is online, then the card catalog and other sources will be added and updated to the system.

Phase 3. The final stage of

automation, will include all catalogs, references, periodicals, and acquisitions. The system will be able to gain access into surrounding schools' databases, including NC State and UNC Chapel Hill.

The system will include 24 terminals. The majority will be located on the first floor, in the

Convocation honors First Ladies

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Augustine's College for 25 years. She also served on the Board of Directors of a number of civic and professional organizations; namesly, Links Incorporated, the Episcopal Church Women of Saint Augustine's College and Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Convocation remarks were given by Dr. Mark J. Chironna, a senior and founding pastor of Higher Call Cosmopolitan Church. "What good is there to

have history if there is no future?" said Chironna, urging students to strive for excellence and success through hard work.

Chironna described Dr. Franklin as being Godsent, adding that "God put you here to take us into the future, so pray and believe that the future is coming to pass."

Wade presented \$50,000 toward an earlier personal pledge of \$100,000. A scholarship has been named in his honor.

New boot camp gets freshmen class off to a thundering start

by Rica Wilson

Calling it a new era of excellence at St. Augustine's College, many have dedicated 1996-1997 to helping others help themselves.

This year the college established a Learning Communities Program under the coordination of Dan Apple, Carolyn Knowles and Ruby Hargrove. The program is designed to promote spiritual and educational values as well as social and financial welfare for the class of 2000.

The Learning Communities "boot camp" gave participants an opportunity to show their talents, creativity, and team spirit as they worked on several events the week before school started. Activities included a cookout, talent show, art exhibit (original works by the students), Saturday

Games (track, basketball, volleyball), and a community service project.

Students found out they were required to work out, too, with Uncle Sam and Jane Fonda tapes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Participant Tisha Kennedy says, "A little exercise won't hurt the body or mind," admitting she enjoyed her exercise routine at 6 a.m.

Student mentor Julian Pitt simply says, "The program was real good." Pitts served as a role model for the incoming freshmen students.

Twenty years from now what will anyone remember about the Learning Communities Program? Allen Gibbs will remember the three "R's", which are respect for self, others and property. Joi McFadden will recall how the

program helped her and her classmates prepare for the challenges of college, and Dr. Emmanuel Oritsejafor, a co-mentor, will remember that he believed the program might be the only difference you have as a student.

Carolyn Knowles has a bright vision for the continuation of the program. She says, "I see this program as helping to produce graduates who are competent, confident, and committed to being our leaders today and tomorrow."

An old African proverb says, "It takes an entire village to raise a child." A plaque from the Learning Communities Program, located on the first floor in Boyer, repeats a new African-American adage, "It takes a community to educate a student."

Dargan resigns as music chair

by Rica Wilson

Dr. William Dargan has resigned from his position as departmental chair of music and performing arts to pursue a publishing opportunity. A native of Pageland, S.C., Dargan has been at St. Augustine's nine years.

As Dargan pondered on his leadership throughout the years, he says, "I helped attract financial support from influential community persons."

Next year Dr. Dargan will continue writing a book on lining out hymns, after which he will resume teaching at St. Aug's in 1998.

He received his doctorate from Wesleyan University.