

Success takes more than 'getting by'

A recent conference at Tennessee State University for the staff members of student newspapers at historically black colleges and universities proved to be an eye-opening experience for those who attended. There was a job fair at the conference, and many of the recruiters were not familiar with St. Aug's, nor were the students at many of the other HBCU's.

When sitting next to people who are about to, or who have already graduated from a college or university that is well-known, it wakes you up to the fact that simply a college degree is not going to cut it. And this is just amongst a small group of historically black colleges. What happens when you are surrounded by people from place UNC-Chapel Hill, N. C. State and Duke as well?

There are a number of students who attend St. Aug's and do just enough to get by. Some don't attempt to aim for anything over a B, or are just satisfied in a lot of cases with just passing. Moreover, many students miss class because they feel they have better things to do, or because they believe that what they are learning, is not relevant to "real life."

Students should realize that in life there is more than one obstacle standing in your way. St. Aug's is a small school, and even though there are some notable alumni, many people have never heard of it. How you think it feels when you go on an interview and the first questions are all about St. Aug's—as if you made the school up?

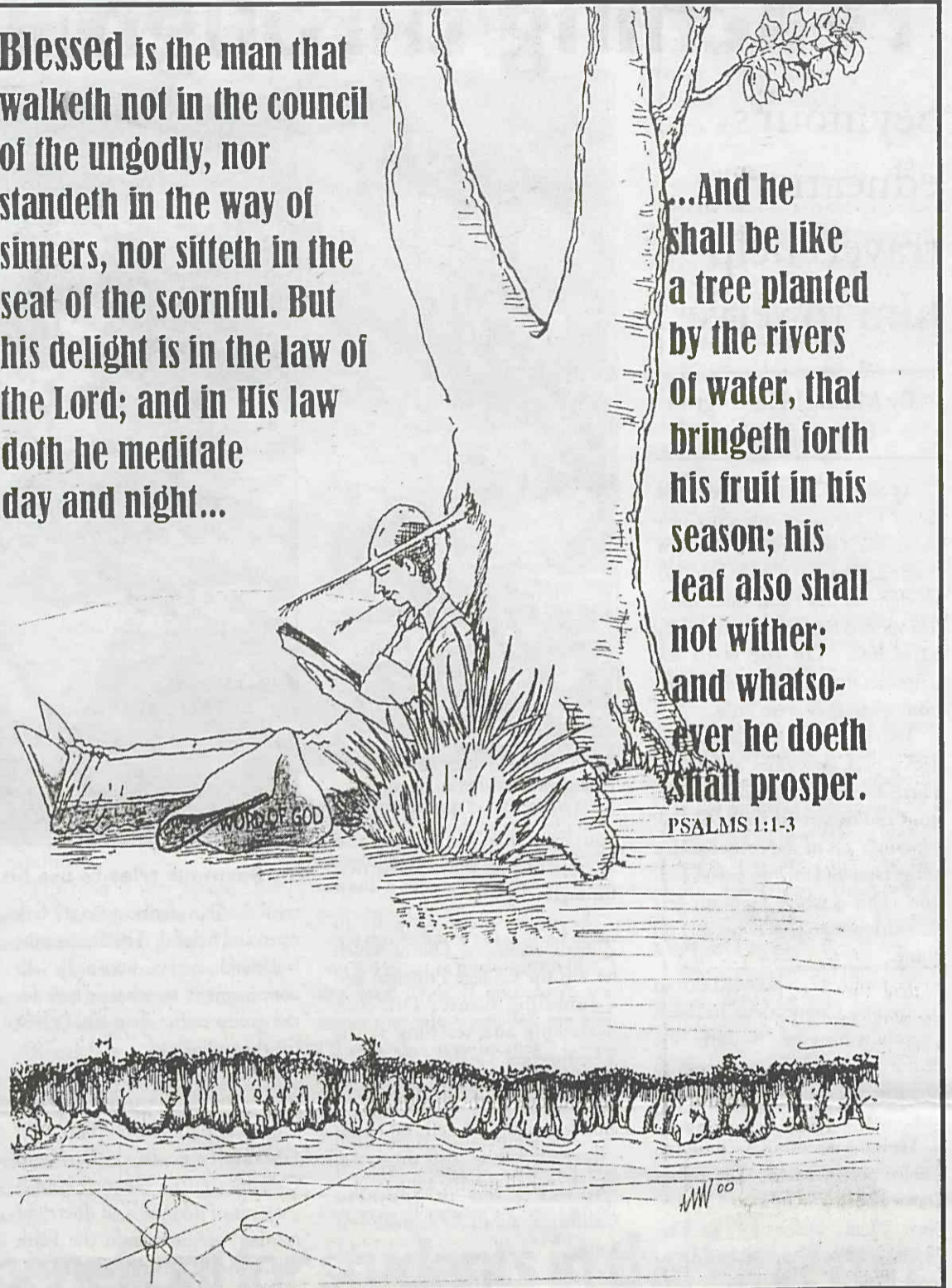
Do you think that a mere 2.0 GPA will make the cut? No. The problem, however, is not the size of the school—because there are many good things one can say about this college. The problem lies with students thinking that they can work wherever they want because they are a college graduate. This is a huge misconception. There are many people with college degrees working at some of the same places that students still in college work just to earn extra cash.

When you graduate, your goal should be to obtain a job in your major field of study if your not attending grad school. One way to do this is to start putting more effort into the things that you are currently doing.

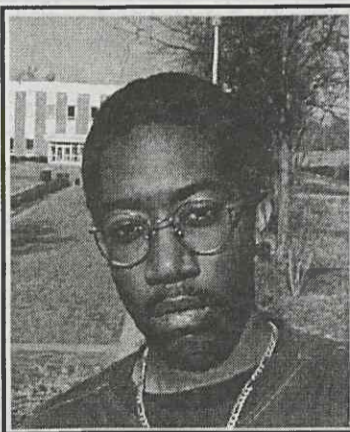
When you finish your education, your resume should be filled with a long list of achievements. When someone looks at it, they will believe that St. Aug's students can compete with anyone, anywhere.

This way, even if a recruiter has never heard of this school before, they will certainly look out for it in the future.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night...



It takes more than one man



By Billy Williams, Jr.
Managing Editor

I hold a couple of titles on this campus that I'm proud of. I'm Student Government President, managing editor of this paper you're reading. And while I work my butt off in both jobs, I feel as if I haven't done enough for you as SGA president.

On the other hand, some of my fellow students have not done enough for SGA either. This past semester, there have been numerous chances for students to voice their concerns and issues to me about real issues. But no voices were heard.

I don't mean obvious issues like homecoming, cafeteria food, dorm conditions and broken computers.

Those are issues students will have for eternity.

By real issues, I mean the ones like what the communications curriculum is facing. We have recently lost a professor who has resigned for more than what I think are good reasons. This professor was here for ten years, but was unable to get proper equipment for the video production and photography class.

There was no camera for our video production class that we could use to tape our projects, and the darkroom never had the equipment to produce the pictures we took for photography class. The school wouldn't even pay for film development, so students had to pay to get the pictures developed.

No thanks to our communications students—including myself—we never really gave the resigning professor the student backing he needed to make someone see that students cared just as much as he did about the equipment we needed.

What more are you waiting for, communication students? Another professor to resign? We are running out of professors, and we only had four to start with.

I am only talking of the problems within my major

because those are the ones that I am presented with every day. How can I, as student government president, know what's going on in your major, if you don't tell me?

There are more real issues out there, and I can't be expected to act on these issues alone. My office number is 516-4277, and my e-mail address is qtip239@hotmail.com, if you never see me. The SGA office is in the MLK Student Union, room 212.

I get lonely sitting in that office staring at the bare walls that the paint is peeling off of. It's almost just another empty room since very few people come in there and talk to me.

If you don't have the guts or the time to come to my office, send me e-mail and tell me your issues, or even how mad you are because I'm calling you a do-nothing.

And please, don't confuse SGA with an activity committee. Yes, we do have certain functions that are activity based, but that's not our sole purpose. There are enough people doing other people's job on this campus as it is. If your mission is more activities, I will happily direct you to Activities Director Rob Robertson.



St. Augustine's College
1315 Oakwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 516-4438

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Traci Ethridge

MANAGING EDITOR Billy Williams, Jr.
FEATURE EDITOR Harold Freeman

SPORTS EDITOR Jamie Harris
PHOTO EDITOR Brion Anim-Addo

COPY EDITOR Sakinah Nicholson
EDITORIAL CARTOONIST Ashian Wade

STAFF WRITERS
Diana Christie, Harold Freeman,
Zelma Hamilton, Marisa White

ADVISER Calvin L. Hall
Office Manager Kelli Howard

The Pen is the student newspaper of Saint Augustine's College and is published during the academic year. This newspaper is available without charge to all students on campus. Entire contents copyrighted. All rights reserved.

The Pen reserves the right to edit all submission for taste, style, clarity and brevity. It is published in conjunction with the Newspaper Production, and Publication Concepts classes.

Editorial Policy: Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of The Pen editorial board; signed editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. Opinion expressed in letters and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff or the college.

Letter Policy: The Pen welcomes letters, 250-300 words in length, to the editor from all readers. The Pen retains the right to edit letters for content and space or reject material submitted. Submissions should include the author's name, year in school and major. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.