

**Athens Daily News/Banner Herald**

**August 7-11, 2000**

**Fenice B. Boyd**

My participation as a faculty intern at the Athens Daily News/Banner Herald was a fascinating experience. I served as a news correspondent where I wrote two local news stories. They were published on the front page of the local news during the week of my internship. In addition, I was introduced to the various phases of composing a newspaper (e.g., news budget meeting; pagination; gallery). I learned many things about the news business that will enable me to reinforce my work with preservice teachers in the field of literacy and language arts. They include:

- The value placed on written and oral communication skills in the workplace
- How the process of writing is used in “real life” and authentic contexts
- The significance of collaboration in the workplace

QuickTime™ and a  
Photo - JPEG decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Picture 1: Working in the Pressroom

**Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL)  
Faculty Internship Project  
Athens Daily News/Banner Herald  
August 7-11, 2000**

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**August 7, 2000**

**9:40am** – I arrived at the Athens Daily News office and met with Roger. We started by Roger showing what he was doing step by step.

10:35am – Roger Nielsen is the metro editor for the Athens Daily News. He just finished showing me around the work area on the second floor of the building, and now I am writing my notes. As Roger walked me through the office, he introduced me to various people. I met Stephanie, Michaela, Leneva (administrative editor), Holly (photographer intern), Julie and Jeff (the publishe).

Let me see if I can remember some of the massive amount of information Roger shared about the newsroom, within a 15-20 minute time period. Today, I am sitting at Bill Stewart's desk next to Roger. This is the work area for journalists and editors. The work area is divided into cubicals with desks and computers; the newsroom is a bit of a maze. Roger explained the sequence of events for reporting the news like so: The news reporters compose stories on their computers and send them to the editors – one of which is Roger. He opens the story reads to check for missing information, facts, errors, etc. If the story is fine, then he types ready (rdy) in the file. If there are questions, say if information needs clarification, facts are incorrect, or if information is missing, the editor lets the news reporter know that s/he has questions. Those questions are either typed on the draft (my word) of the story, or the editor goes to the news reporter, ask her/him to pull the story up on her computer, and shows him the questions he has while standing in the reporters station (my word). Roger informed me that sometimes a story might go back and forth between the editor and news reporter several times before the story gets a "ready." When the story does get a ready to be printed in the paper, then it is transferred from the "Morris Computer System" to the Mac. The people who translate the stories for a Mac system are at the copy desks. David Bill and Dan Baker are two of the copy editors (I think this is their correct title) that I met who work in the copy desks area. The purpose of the copy desks is to make decisions about what stories will appear in what sections and what of the newspaper, to paginate the paper, and ?????? For instance, Dan placed the Sir Alec Guinness on the front page of today's (August 7, 2000) afternoon paper. Tomorrow, the same story will appear on a back page.

**11:25am** – I went to the area in the newspaper office called the "gallery." The gallery is where the paper is actually printed. The press room is encased in big huge windows where people can stand on a balcony and look inside while the paper is being printed. Roger explained that we could not go in while the press

was running because it is very noisy and rather dangerous. The workers were just setting up the printing press to begin printing the paper when Roger took me down to the ground floor. The press started slowly, and the workers picked papers up to check for coloring, errors, etc. The paper looked like a big “blob” of black, red, and green ink all mixed together. Eventually, clearer papers started “spitting out” from the press, and as the pictures, words, etc became clearer, the printing press started shooting papers out faster and faster. The papers moved on a conveyer belt of some sort, into another machine that bundled them, and workers on the opposite side of the press room, picked the papers up out of the machine that bundled the papers, and put them on carts to be loaded for distribution. If the afternoon paper was to include some insert of sorts, the papers were taken to another station for that purpose. Otherwise, they were loaded for distribution.

- O. C. I Asked Roger about the county distribution of the Athens paper. He explained that the afternoon paper is pretty much local in Athens only. The approximate circulation is 9,000. On the other hand, the morning, weekend, and holiday paper has a larger circulation which is approximately 13,000, and includes counties such as Oconee, North Jackson, Washington, Elbert, Hartwell, Oglethorpe, etc.

**11:30am – 11:50am** – I just returned from a news budget meeting with Roger. The purpose of a news budget meeting is to discuss what stories will be featured in the morning newspaper for the next day – to have a coordination between stories and pictures. Attending the meeting were Dan Baker, John Curry, and Dave. Another news budget meeting will be held at 3:30pm today to get a better sense of what will and will not be a definite go for the morning paper. The news budget meeting is a daily routine, and a time to see the direction for the paper. The editors and reporters always work on the news a day ahead.

Roger led the meeting and talked from a paper with briefing of stories to be featured; a follow-up report on a Pizza Hut robbery; a meeting in Oconee County regarding millages; school openings (both public and university); pictures to be taken of university students moving in the dorms and apartments; teachers setting up their classrooms to prepare for school openings; YMCA and water; local elections. Sometimes a sports reporter attends the meeting if there is news to be reported, but there was no discussion of a sports event during this 11:30am meeting.

Before the meeting started Roger explained that he has to send stories to the Georgia Associated Press in Atlanta. Local newspapers across the state send stories to the Georgia Associated Press so that the center will know what papers will feature. After the Georgia Associated Press gets a “tally” of news stories, then they send them back to the editors of the local newspapers.

**2:00pm - Analytical Memo:** After my brief exposure to the various procedures for getting the news printed for the public, I was thoroughly confused. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note the various types of work that people do in order to get the news out for dissemination daily. For instance, I was intrigued by what Roger and the other editors and journalists do. But I was in awe of the printing press, and the workers who run it, the people who take the newspapers off the conveyer belt to load the papers for delivery. I was interested to hear Roger say that the printing press was the area of the newspaper business where he did not know very much about, and that it was an exciting and fascinating part of the business. However, even though Roger said that he didn't know much about the printing press, he explained some of what the workers were doing to me. I stood with my mouth open as I watched the printing press first move slowly as the workers picked the paper up from the belt to check it for color, errors, etc. Everything seemed to be all mixed together – there was no separation between the pictures and the words. My mouth opened wider as I noticed the gradual clarity of the paper became apparent, the quality where it was picture perfect and readable. I wondered about the worker's training for the job of running the printing press (there were approximate 3-5 men), levels of expertise, and level(s) of education needed in order to work such a fascinating piece of machinery. I wondered about their health and safety as I watched men make adjustments to an area of ink for the quality of the newspaper's color. I wondered about their safety as I watched one man climb up to an area of the printing press to work the ink propeller (my word). I wondered about their health as I looked at their hands covered with ink and listened to Roger talk about the noise level and the dusty fibers floating around the room because of the paper.

As I watched the men working on the press, I wondered about the types of knowledge one would need in order to know how the color pictures should come out and what changes needed to be made to the machine in order for the pictures to come out correctly. My first thought was chemistry. I noticed that the men appeared to be reading the paper as they removed copies from the conveyer belt to check for errors. My first thought was that one would need a basic reading level. When I noticed the women taking the bundles of paper from the machine, my first thought was that they would have to have to know how to follow logistical procedures, and have a high tolerance for redundancy.

**6:40pm** – I noticed that there was one black man in the press room, the rest were white. On the side of the gallery where the workers were taking papers from the conveyer belt to load for delivery, there were two black women, and several black men.

In the newsroom, Leneva is an African American and her title is administrative assistant. Leneva is a relatively new employee. Eric Gonzalez's background appears to be of Latina/o descent. Other than Leneva and Eric, no other people of color work in the newsroom.

**August 8, 2000**

**11:45am** – I started my internship project today by conducting a telephone interview with Nicole Hancock. Nicole is the conference coordinator for the “Building Healthy Communities Through Healthy Youth” conference – the story I’ve been assigned to work on. I had 8 questions for Nicole, and she answered all but one. The 8<sup>th</sup> question was about the keynote speaker for the conference, Fred “V Man” Watson. Nicole said that she has a 7 page biographical sketch on Fred Watson. I asked her if she would FAX it to me, she said she would, and she did.

After talking with Nicole Hancock, I had an opportunity to meet with Leneva for approximately one hour. Leneva asked me to tell her about me, what I do, and how I came to an internship with the Athens Daily News. I explained my work and educational background, and how I see my work at UGA fitting with news reporting. Our conversation led into some interesting exchanges on personal experiences, work experiences, how I might be able to work as a news correspondent (temporary position) with the Athens Daily News, etc. In addition, we discussed issues of diversity. Leneva would like to see the Athens Daily News more reflective of people in the Athens community and surrounding areas. That is she would like to see more people of color, specifically African Americans and Hispanic people working at the newspaper office in positions such as journalists and editors. She implied that she will work toward that goal. I learned that administrative assistant is a newly created position for Leneva.

Leneva and I also talked about what the composition of the employees looks like at the Athens Daily News in the newsroom and advertising versus what the composition of the group looks like in the printing room and the area where the workers load the papers for delivery. I asked her to explain the educational levels needed to work as a news reporter as opposed to advertisement, and the printing room. Surprisingly, Leneva believed that one does not need a college degree to be a news reporter. A college education is preferable but not required. The minimum educational level required to work at the Athens Daily News is a high school diploma or GED. It is feasible to work as a news reporter without a college education for example, because people sometimes start working at entry level jobs and work their way up to other positions. Leneva was not sure if Jeff Wilson (the publisher) has a college degree.

- O. C. Leneva has had some interesting background experiences; she has been a reporter here at the Athens Daily News, and for a newspaper in Florida; she lived in Hawaii for three years and started her career with the newspaper business in Hawaii; she has been accepted into the Social Work masters program at UGA; she once worked at UGA in public relations at the Georgia Center; she has ties in the Athens community and the university; she is getting married for a second time soon.

Leneva gave me some encouragement, support and helpful suggestions for writing my news story. First, she suggested that I go to the conference on Thursday and talk with some of the youth who will participate in the conference. Also, Leneva suggested that I try to interview the keynote speaker Fred "V-Man" Watson. When I told her the Roger thought that perhaps I might get enough information from Nicole Hancock, she said that he was "protecting" me; Roger didn't want me to feel too overwhelmed, but she thought that I am capable of handling an interview with the keynote speaker of the "Building Healthy Communities Through Healthy Youth" conference. So with Leneva's suggestion, I am now charged to do two articles; one as a preview for the conference, the other as a feature story about the conference. Awesome!

My main job today was collecting information to write a news story about the youth conference. Here are the procedures:

- Called Nicole Hancock to ask several questions for clarification; asked Nicole to fax a biographical sketch of Fred "V-Man" Watson.
- Typed answers to my questions in a way to lift those answers for writing the story.
- Drafted a sketch of the story
- Roger read the draft and gave me very specific suggestions for revising
- I go back to the computer and begin again
- After the second round of revisions, Roger teaches me how to save the file and send it to his computer
- Roger and I work on revisions together by him explaining to me what he wanted changed
- I rewrite the story again and send it back to Roger
- Roger edits the draft and gives it a ready
- The story will be printed in tomorrow morning's paper and I'm VERY excited!!!!

I worked on the youth conference article all day today.

### **What have I learned so far (August 8, 2000)?**

3. diversity is a concern at the Athens Daily News
4. news budget meetings require listening skills, the ability to be assertive, to compromise, and influential
5. budget meetings occur twice a day 11:30 and 3:30
6. writing style for newspaper is a different sort of style
7. it takes a lot of collaboration to pull a small town newspaper together from collecting the data to removing the papers from a conveyer belt

**August 9, 2000**

**11:00am** – I met Gary Coleman who is the production manager. He was kind enough to talk with me and answer some of my questions about the newspaper business and office. I was interested to learn about the skills employees need to have in order to work in the press room. Things I learned from Gary Coleman:

- the production department covers areas from “toilet paper to paper distribution” and is the service and support department for the newspaper office (e.g., newsroom); composing room, imagining room, plate room, press room, mail room/distribution center, fleet, facilities & grounds, computer room.
- 100 employees make up the production department, 50 of whom are part time
- the press room is close to a 24 hour operation that runs from 7:30am – 3:00am, and has 12 shifts
- the Athens Daily News publishes the Red and Black and the Flagpole.

I asked Mr. Coleman about the educational level employees need to work in the press room. His answer was, “it varies.” Most people have a high school diploma; 3-4 people did not finish high school; 2 college graduates one of which is working on a second degree; 1 employee is not able to read or write but is a good worker who has been with the newspaper for approximately 30 years; the years of service that employees who work in the production department have given to the newspaper ranges from 30 to less than 1 year of service; 1 employee has less than 1 year of service.

Gary explained that it is very difficult to find and keep good skilled pressmen. When a newspaper does find good skilled workers, they must dig deep into their pockets. The hourly wage for pressmen ranges from \$18 to \$24 per hour. The salary for a pressroom manager ranges from \$45,000 - \$75,000 dollars per year.

I explained that I would like to know what I might tell my preservice teachers about preparing children in grades 4-8 as future employees.

8. O.C. I must admit that I feel uneasy asking people what I should tell my preservice teachers about what they should do to prepare 9-13 year olds for the “real world” of work. School should not be about preparing children to be future employees only. Some children might have dreams of “owning” a newspaper and have other work for them, as opposed to working for someone else who owns a news paper.

Nevertheless, Gary Coleman gave me some helpful information about what employers look for – not what teachers should do - in their employees, regardless of the type of job and educational level. He began to answer my question by explaining that he came through the school of “hard knocks” and has

worked for the Athens Daily News for 31 years and been involved in the newspaper business for 37 years. Loyalty in employees is hard to find.

2. Initiative and attitude – employers do not like it when their employees wait to be told every thing to do; everyone has a bad day and employers try to give the workers the benefit of a doubt and the right to have a “bad day.” But a bad day should not turn into constant and consistent bad days. Initiative and attitude are the substance that lead to other opportunities
3. Planning and anticipating – if an employee wants to advance, she or he needs to shows his employer that she knows how to do a specific job and do it well
4. Don't assume anything!

**11:50am** – I went to my second news budget meeting; present were Roger, David, Dan, John, Shane (sports reporter) and Jan (recently hired journalist).

9. O. C. – I am fascinated with the way that things smoothly come together at the budget meeting; there does not seem to be any level of anxiety; perhaps this is due to the fact that everyone does her/his job; this goes back to the level of collaboration and coordination, meeting timelines, etc. I wonder what a meeting would look like if there was some disagreement about what the headline story should be for instance? There is a level of consensus I see (at least in the meetings I've attend) that I wish we could have in our departmental faculty meetings. I cannot help but wonder about the differences between the news budget meetings here at the Athens Daily News, and our faculty meetings? We meet once a month for 2 hours, not to mention the massive amount of department emails that come across the listserv every single day. The reporters and editors here in the newsroom meet twice a day for approximately 15-20 minutes, and seem to get more accomplished in a 30-40 minute period a day, then we do all month! Perhaps one difference is that the Athens Daily News has to work together to produce one single product at two different point during the day M-F, and one single product on Sat & Sun. In our meetings, 13 people have their own agendas to pursue in three interrelated areas; teaching, research, and service.
10. I am also intrigued by the massive amount of information that Roger, David, Dan, and John already before they decide what goes into the paper, how, when, etc. Not only are they knowledgeable about the different events that occur within the Athens community and surrounding areas, but they know about the most recent events that occur nationally and internationally (e.g., the earthquake in Mexico with a 7.3 richter scale reading). Now I have first had knowledge of the fact that when the public receives the newspaper, the news is already “old news.”

**2:10pm** – Language/terminology I'm learning that appears to be specific to the newspaper business

- *mug* is a picture of a head (anyone not just people accused or convicted of crimes)
- *art* is also a picture that goes along with a story (I think0)
- *budget meeting* is a meeting where people talk about the stories to include in a paper and not about money
- *slug* is the name line of story on news budget information
- *jump page* is when stories continue on another page (e.g., story begins on page 1C and continues on page 4C)
- *blotter* – local news about the police department (e.g., crimes, sexual abuse, child abuse, theft, robbery, etc.)
- *bumping heads* – two big headlines side by side that might be confused for one story by the reader

## August 11, 2000

**12:10pm** – Thursday, August 10, 2000 was a 12-hour long day for me. I started at 9am and ended at 9pm. It was exciting and awesome to say the least. I learned a great deal from actually going out into the field to collect information for the story I was assigned, from shadowing two journalists, from observations, and from talking with people in general. Since the day was filled with constant activity during the 12-hours, I was not able to write my journal during the day, and too tired when I went home. This entry is to recapture August 10<sup>th</sup> and write what I can for August 11<sup>th</sup>.

I was able to go to the Classic Center to collect information about the “Building Healthy Communities Through Healthy Youth” conference. I met Nicole Hancock and Deric Gilliard whom I’d talked with over the phone about the conference. As suggested by Leneva, I tried to get a feel for the conference by noting who was there. While observing, I tried to get a feel for who I might ask about the conference, and why she or he was attending. For some reason, I took a seat at the very back of the conference room.

- **O. C.** – I did not feel nervous because I attend conferences all of the time. The difference this time was that I was attending a conference to collect data from the participants and those attending; I was not presenting. My outline of what I might look for was in the back of my mind while at the same time, I tried to use all of my senses to get a sense of the “color” of this conference. I was somewhat discouraged as I walked to the building; no people standing around outside of the Classic Center; no traffic; approximately four people in the corridor as I entered the building. I had mixed feelings as I entered the building; there were few people, enough to count even; the noise level was subdued even quiet; doubt of what I might learn crept up; relief from remembering that it was still early set in.

**12:35pm** – I had a mixed sense of competence for how I might collect information to write this story. On the one hand, I conduct research projects where I

interview people as well as make my own observations. So the basic procedures for this project did not feel different. On the other hand, I know that if I miss something, I can go back to my informants to collect different information, even if I need something several months later. For this project, I knew that when the conference was over, or once I left the Classic Center, I would not be able to contact the conference attendants again. However, I would have a way to contact the coordinators (e.g., Nicole Hancock) and the panelists.

Since I did not know what Roger might be looking for in the data I collected for covering this story, I attempted to write down everything I perceived as relevant; everything that a conference on violence prevention might offer a small community and a newspaper editor. The problem with this approach is that everything seemed relevant, from noting Tom Carrato's welcoming address, to Ann Rosewater's reading of Governor Barnes' greeting. Even though I didn't walk around initially to look at the exhibits and pick up fliers, I did tightly cling to the conference packet that was on the table. I especially zoomed in on the program agenda to see if what I'd written in the newspaper the day before was correct. I even checked with Deric Gilliard to see if my assessment about this conference being the first of its type ever to be held in Georgia. I learned that this conference was the second! I collected the packets of information that the panelists passed out to the audience; I collected fliers from YouthPride, Inc.; I wrote pages and pages of notes on one small yellow pad.

Fred "V-Man" Watson's talk was interesting and different. It was interactive where he asked the audience questions about ways that they had been impacted by violence (e.g., has anyone in the audience lost someone due to violence?; has anyone in the audience been a victim of violence?; has anyone in the audience's life been changed by violence?) His talk was filled with examples of the nature of crime, and that it is a major concern and consistently growing problem in America. Fred's presentation showed that he was knowledgeable about youth involvement in crime, and what direction adults who work in various programs that center on youth might do to help combat the situation. I had the opportunity to see how Fred incorporates his knowledge about music and the entertainment industry into his talks. After rendering his statistics, he donned himself in a white hat, a red bandana around his neck, and a red jacket, and took the audience back to the days of Rawhide. Again, he made this part of his talk interactive by asking the audience if they remembered various characters in the series, and the roles they played. The roles that the TV characters played in Rawhide became a metaphor for the roles the individuals within the community must play collectively in order to work with today's teens to help them to become mentally and physically healthy.

On the other hand, writing notes on Watson's talk was extremely difficult; trying to make sense of his metaphors to mean what he intended; wondering about how to convey Watson's message to an audience metaphorically; thinking about what I learned and how to share that knowledge with an audience in writing; the

clarity of Watson's talk; trying to balance his message with the idea from the song and the metaphors used in the talk, etc. In a way, one needed to be familiar with his previous work in order to see from where he was coming. On the other hand, depending upon one's purpose, perhaps what Watson offered was enough for people who were more or less like a *sponge* – soaking up information. My role was to be a “sponge” and synthesize information.

11. **O. C.** – I met with Roger after I returned from the conference to talk about my approach for writing the article. He was very helpful in two ways; first in giving me some direction for what I might include and how, and second by relieving some of my apprehension (e.g., stay away from the Rawhide metaphors). I was relieved when Roger said that I might want to stay away from the metaphors because he confirmed what was in the back of my mind. What kind of background information would I need to give my audience in order to help them make sense of the metaphors Watson used? Roger noted that I would need to keep backing up to “set the context” for the community to understand Watson's message. I completely agreed and was glad to hear him tell me what I already suspected. However, since I am not familiar with writing for a newspaper, I was not sure about just how much information I needed to reveal in an article that I collected on site information to write in the newspaper.

After sitting with Roger, I was excited about beginning the work on the newspaper article. I had some guidance, but what to include in the first draft was basically left to me based on what I told Roger about what I collected from the conference. He gave me approximately 75 minutes to give him the first draft which I completed at 4:30pm exactly. We worked on the draft together to refine, polish, etc.

5. **O. C.** – The writing process for journal article manuscripts and drafts for a newspaper story are similar; collect data; decide what to write – outline; draft; revise; draft; revise; edit; publish. The one big difference is that newspaper stories go a lot quicker. However, even though I spent 10 months writing the manuscript I recently submitted to JLR on July 5<sup>th</sup>, writing my first story for the newspaper within an 8-hour period on August 8<sup>th</sup> was very, very difficult. Why? Sharing what I wrote with someone I don't know very well was intimidating. I worried about clarity of writing, grammar, style, giving enough information for the editor and a small community audience, etc.

But with all of what it took to pull a story together in one day, it was ready to go at 6:00pm.

**4:15pm** – I participated in two additional important events on August 10<sup>th</sup>, shadowing two Athens Daily News journalists, Stephen Gurr and Eric Gonzalez. I went with Stephen to the police department to look at police reports and learned a little bit about how he collects information to write the “blotter.” Stephen looks

through police reports once a day to decide what should be reported in the paper. I learned that the police reports are public information, and as a citizen, I can see those reports anytime I want. Crimes such as aggravated assault, simple assault, and simple battery are issues that Stephen might write about. Reports of theft and/or robbery do not get in the “blotter” unless they are over \$1,000. Stephen selected four out of a stack of approximately 30 police reports to write about including, road rage, theft of an antique silver tea set worth \$2,000, possible child abuse, and beer delivery driver hit by car of thieves stealing beer.

Eric Gonzalez attended the finance committee and board meetings for the Athens-Clarke County Board of Education beginning at 6:15am

12. **O. C.** – If the board of education meetings are as boring as the one I attended with Eric on August 10<sup>th</sup>, I don’t see how it stands it! It took every muscle and fiber in my body and spirit not to leave after I said that I would stay for the entire meeting. Part of this was due to fatigue, but most of it had to do with the nature of the meeting. BORING is the only adjective I can think of that would accurately and adequately describe the meeting. But, I did treasure the opportunity to see who the board members were. It is sad to admit that I have never attended a ACC board of education meeting before. However, before the 1999-2000 academic year, I had not had a child to attend an ACC school. My impressions about the ACC board of education: I am disturbed that there are no women of color on the school board. I was interested to see who talked and what they said. I wondered if there would be anyone who didn’t talk, and if so why not. I wondered if the women who were on the board would sit passively. I wondered if there were actually any educators on the school board. I wondered if the African American men on the board would sit passively. I wondered about the political interests of the school board members, and why they pursued a seat on the ACC board of education. I wondered just how many board member truly had the education of children as their focus, and if so whose children. I was curious about the new superintendent and what role he played as a new member and person in the community. I am bothered in remembering that the present board members “ousted” Lucian Harris. I am bothered to learn just how much power is within such a small group that impacts so many students. Of course, none of this has to do with shadowing Eric, the Athens Daily News and probably isn’t news worthy!

There was a break in the flow of the meeting where the executive board moved to another room to discuss personnel matters in private. Eric asked me what did I think and we talked about what “story” emerged from the meeting; Cedar Shoals’ baseball field; whether or not middle school students should be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities in the fall one or two courses per quarter. This matter generated quite a bit of discussion and debate.

## **APPENDIX A**

**August 8, 2000**

### **Questions for Nicole Hancock (404) 523-1996, extension, 135**

- Introduce myself and explain that the Athens Daily News would like to include a preview of the conference to be held at the Classic Center in the newspaper, and I'm trying to collect additional information.
1. What is the "Programs That Work" all about?
    - Programs that Work is part of the panel presentation. Six people who work with various organizations in the Athens community were contacted to talk about those organizations and what they do. Each panelist will give a 10-15 minute informal presentation
  2. For whom are the programs designed?
    - The various programs are designed for Northeast Georgia residents and surrounding counties.
  3. Explain the "no cash" policy for registration?

- The “no cash” policy makes it easier for the conference organizers to keep up with checks; security reasons; no change necessary if attendees write checks.; please checks only; will take cash, but checks are preferable.
4. Do people need to make reservations in advance?
    - Any one who wants to attend the conference can pre-register and pre-registration is preferred. However, there is generally enough space for walk-ons.
  5. How does the participants’ list match with the schedule?
    - With the exception of Mary Ellen Gomes, and the keynote speaker Fred “V Man” Watson, all of the panelists will give a 10-15 minute presentation.
  6. Do the speakers on the panel for this conference speak simultaneously or at different points?
    - Each will speak 10-15 minutes. The order is dependent upon seating.
  7. How does the “Building Healthy Communities Through Healthy Youth” conference in Athens differ from the conference in Durham, North Carolina.
    - A “Teen Power” conference was held in Durham, North Carolina on May 24, 2000. The Athens conference is different in that it has been restructured. The “Teen Power” conference included two panels, separated by a lunch break, while this week’s conference in Athens includes on “hearty” panel. A youth entertainment section was been added to give young people the opportunity to talk with the audience, perform skits, or whatever their specialty might be. A third feature for the Athens conference is a keynote speaker, where as before the conference was opened with statistical data that looked at how teen are viewed in the United States, and what they look like statistically state by state.
  8. Can you tell me anything about Fred “V Man” Watson; his background, etc.?

**Questions for Fred “V Man” Watson**  
**(770) 598-2711 – Michelle’s cell phone;**  
**(404) 505-7918 – Fred “V Man” Watson**  
**(404) 562-7888 – Tom Caratto**

- Introduce myself and explain that the Athens Daily News would like to include a preview of the conference to be held at the Classic Center in the newspaper, and I’m trying to collect additional information.

- What does Victory Over Violence do? What is it?
- Are you the founder of “Victory Over Violence” organization?
- How was Victory Over Violence started?
- What is your role in the Victory Over Violence organization?
- In the announcement we received, it sounds like your address is specifically for adults who work with teenagers on various issues, or teens who might be in trouble. Is this correct?
- What message do you hope to leave with adults who work with teens?
- Do you talk with teenagers? If yes, what is your message to them, and how is your message for teenagers differ from your message for adults who work with teens?

