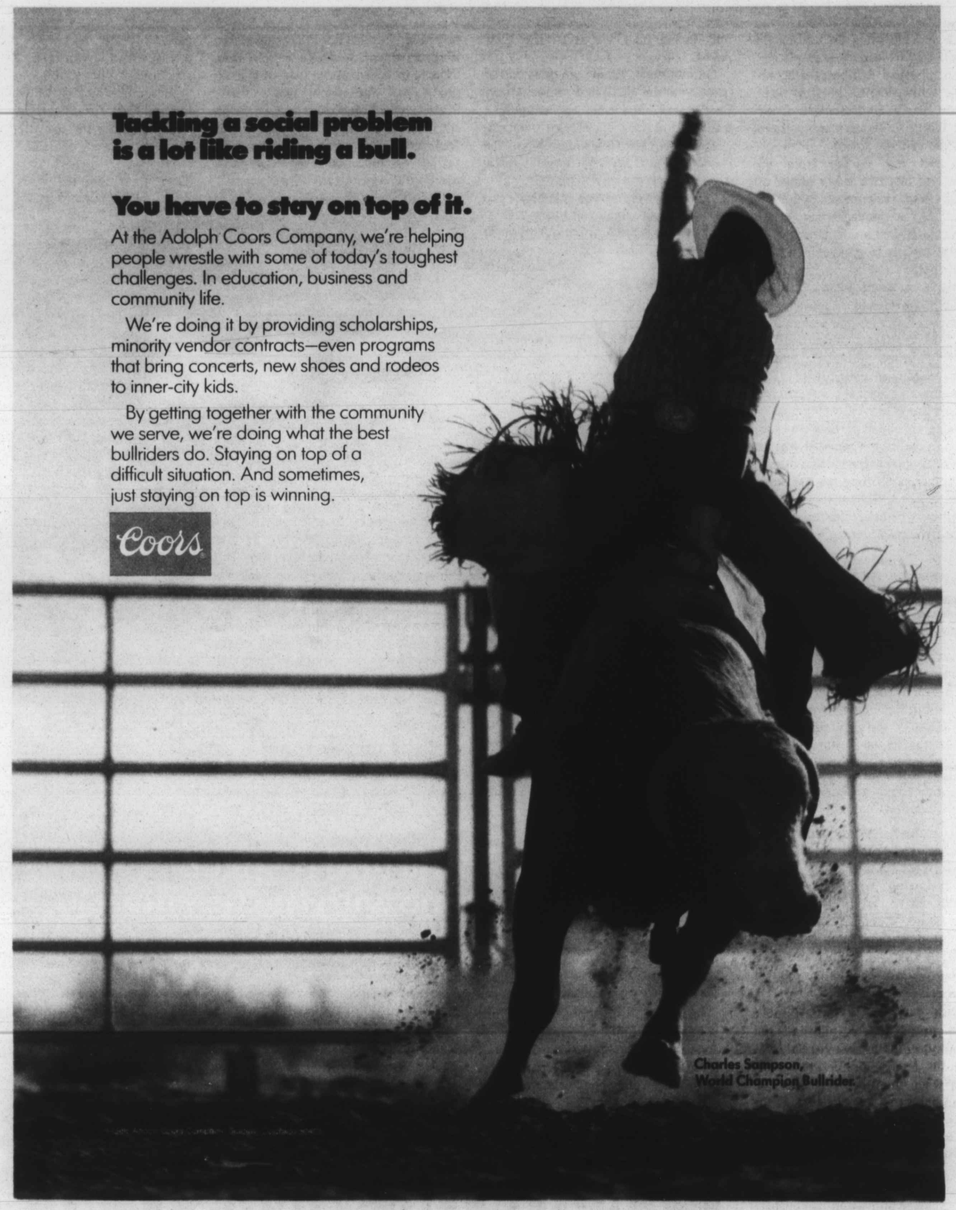

BLACK COLLEGE REPORT

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They had already beaten defending CIAA champion Hampton, earned the No. 18 ranking in the NCAA Division II poll and the No. 7 spot in the Sheridan poll.

• Coach **Joseph Taylor's** team was doing it with a defense that led the conference in all four statistical categories (total, rushing, passing and scoring) ....

• Like Father Like Son: Another reason for Union's early success has been the play of wide receiver **Quinton Cotton**, whose father **Clarence** played for the Panthers in the late 1950s.

Quinton, who once caught six touchdown passes in a game for Vanguard High School in Ocala, Fla., was the CIAA Offensive Lineman of the Week the last week of September ....

• CIAA Superpowers: If Virginia Union and Winston-Salem State maintain their divisional leads and meet in the Nov. 22 CIAA Championship Game, they will take eight divisional titles with them. The CIAA has been split into divisions since 1981 ....

• Smith's Big Day: Senior **Alvin Smith** ran for 192 yards on 22 carries to lift Elizabeth City State to the biggest CIAA upset of the season, a 20-14 decision over previously unbeaten Norfolk State Sept. 27. Smith's big day came out of the blue, for he had not been in the weekly listing of the conference's top 10 rushers ....

• The Von Allen Belt: **Von Allen** charged into the CIAA rushing lead with a big day against Cheyney University Sept. 13 and maintained the belt ever since with a total of 612 yards.

He led Virginia State to four straight wins after a 44-7 loss at Winston-Salem State to open the season. Allen has the inside track on the CIAA rushing title with Hampton's **Carl Painter** out for the season with a broken collarbone ....

• Vocal Performances: **Jimmy Birdsong** of Morehouse and **Tony Carroll** of Tuskegee were the SIAC top defensive and offensive players the last week of September. Birdsong made a lot of noise with 10 solos, three interceptions and a fumble recovery in a game against Fort Valley State, while Carroll was the SIAC passing leader with 769 yards and seven touchdowns ....

• Over The Hill: For two weeks in a row, fullback **Wayne Hill** pushed Grambling State over the top. After getting 112 yards and three touchdowns in a 32-24 win over North Carolina Central in New York Sept. 20, Hill scored the game-winner in a 30-24 decision over surprising Bethune-Cookman at Jacksonville, Fla. His 12-yard TD came with 1:03 left after the Wildcats took the lead on **Remi Watson's** 78-yard punt return with 7:07 left in the game.

Hill finished with three touchdowns in the B-CC game ....

• Close Call: The NCCU-Grambling game was the closest Whitney Young Memorial Classic since 1972, when the Tigers beat Morgan State 6-0 ....

Tip Of The Hat: Hats off to **Donna Long** and **Carl Nesfield** of the New York Urban League for a job well done with their promotion of the Young Memorial Classic ....

• A Broken Record: Congratulations to **Charlie Joiner**, the former Grambling State standout who recently became the National Football League's all-time leader in receiving yardage. Joiner, who already held the career catches record, surpassed **Don Maynard's** record of 11,834 yards. Maynard played for the New York Jets in 1960s and '70s.

Through five games this season, Joiner had 11,855 yards ....

• Getting Back: First-year South Carolina State Coach **Dennis Thomas**, who had been defensive coordinator at Alcorn State, got a big win when his team downed the Braves 20-10 Oct. 4. Thomas, a former all-America at Alcorn, had the Bulldogs off to a 3-2 and still in the thick of the MEAC race ....

• Winston-Salem State was off to a 3-2 start, but that didn't have Coach **Bill Hayes** down. The 11th-year Ram mentor had predicted a 3-3 start. His only losses came to Central State, ranked fifth in NCAA Division II, and North Carolina A&T, ranked 18th in Division I-AA.

"When you have a young group like we have, it's rewarding because you can see improvement every week," Hayes said before the Rams played at Howard University Oct. 11. "We've had a lot of injuries with our older guys and we've had to go out there and compete with a mixture of taped-up players and younger guys. And we're still winning."

The Rams, whose opponents had won 71 percent of their games, blocked three punts in the 22-21 win over North Carolina Central. Hayes believed it to be a school record and had set a seasonal goal of 10 blocks. WSSU had six through five games ....

• Norfolk State defeated Morgan State for the first time in history Oct. 4 by a 23-21 score. The Bears had won the first seven games of the series. Despite the Spartan win, the Bears are showing signs of ending their long hybernation (a 26-game losing streak). They had also played A&T closely the week before, before watching the Aggies roll in the second half to a 40-23 win.

Incidentally, that game featured a rare event: back-to-back kickoff returns for touchdowns. A&T's **Jairus Moore** went 73 yards one play before Morgan's **Marco Kornegay** went 90 yards the other way.

Moultrie New Howard AD

William P. Moultrie, Howard's long-time track coach, has been named the new athletic director at the university.

Moultrie succeeds **Leo Miles**, who retired in June.

Moultrie came to Howard in 1973 and has produced 49 all-Americas in 13 track seasons. His coaching accomplishments include being named national sprint and relay chairman for The Athletics Congress, sprint-relay coach for the 1986 Goodwill Games and the 200-meter coach for the 1984 Olympics. He also is a member of the International Federation of Coaches, which selects coaches for the Olympic Games.

Before becoming a member of the Bison athletic staff, he served as an assistant football coach at Stanford for five years and coached in two Rose Bowls.

Moultrie is an alumnus of Texas Southern.

New Division II Standards?

Winston-Salem State Athletic Director **C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines** agrees

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DEFENSE

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one-on-one," he says. "Sure, it puts a big strain on the corners, but that's our philosophy, and I'm always ready."

Because teams prefer to avoid Holmes when they throw, Willie Collier, who plays the opposite cornerback slot, is getting a lot of action. Yet, going against Collier is no walk in the park, either. The junior is getting his first full-time stint this year and has responded with three interceptions and 11 passes broken up in only three games.

Varner feels that Collier will draw his share of interest as the season progresses.

Meanwhile, both Lloyd and Holmes are adamant that their unit will be as good as last year's. As for the NFL, they prefer to place their energies on getting Fort Valley back to the playoffs first. After that, they'll focus their attention on the pros, saying they'll proceed with their senior seasons one game at a time.

No defense, no matter how skilled, can be as dominating as "Blue Death" without superlative efforts from the front line. This year, Cedric Cornish, a transfer from the University of Georgia, and Willie Scrivens are handling that end of Varner's defense.

Scrivens, a defensive end who was second in tackles and sacks last year, went down with an injury versus Morehouse but is expected to return later this season.

Cornish, a tackle, is showing that he'll improve on last season's showing, when he finished fourth in total tackles on the team. Cornish has a knack for moving quickly off the ball, creating more opportunities for sacks. In a word, he's a pest on pass rushes.

All in all, "Blue Death" is bent on maintaining its reputation as a rock-hard, unyielding bunch. As long as that happens, Fort Valley will always be in a position to win. After all, there isn't likely to be much scoring against the Wildcats, who yell, "Shutout!" every time they break from the huddle.

"Our plan is to make the plays on defense that will keep our offense on the field as much as possible," Varner says.

Yes, folks, "Blue Death" is alive and kicking. And that's bad news for everybody except Fort Valley State.

Craig T. Greenlee is an Atlanta-based free-lance writer and a frequent contributor to the Review.