

Opinions & Editorials

From the Editor: *With a little common sense, you can look good all over*

Race should not be an issue in reality shows

Erin Perkins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CBS' popular reality show, "Survivor", recently announced that the cast of the 13th season, set in the Cook Islands, will divide teams by race. It's true. The producers have separated the 20 participants into four tribes, and have decided to name them the White Tribe, the African-American Tribe, the Asian-American Tribe and the Hispanic Tribe.



Perkins

If at this point you are scowling, stunned, perplexed and even insulted, you are by far not alone. Perhaps this sudden twisted and offensive theme should not come as a surprise, given the show's longevity; it has tried relentlessly to avoid becoming dry. Producer Mark Burnett and his team have previously divided teams according to gender and age — older men, older women, younger men, and younger women.

Put simply, this season's theme is a crass idea, tasteless and inconsiderate to the past hurts of racial oppression. I am aware that "Survivor" is simply a game; however, I am conscious that racial division is a sensitive issue for many, and with good reason.

Before you can blink an eye or bat a lash, the racially divided tribes on "Survivor" could easily progress into racially divided contestants on game shows and before society realizes, it will be back to racially segregated bathrooms and public places. This is not a concept blown out of proportion, because there are still professions and areas of life in which many minorities have failed to see success.

It seems that when a few minorities, such as Oprah, Tiger Woods, Connie Chung and Condoleezza Rice, have matched the success of the wealthy upper class majority, it suddenly becomes okay to take for granted that wounds are healed, and liberties are then exercised to push racial boundaries.

It is a shame that TV executives have to resort to such an offensive and insensitive theme just to increase declining ratings and add flavor to "Survivor's" increasing staleness.

It would not be a surprise if the efforts to raise ratings failed immensely because racially divided teams would only strengthen stereotypes.

This silly attempt to make "news" and raise ratings only makes it easier to unfairly label ethnicities and races. Five individuals from the White Tribe, African-American Tribe, Asian Tribe and Hispanic Tribe cannot accurately reflect the characteristics and qualities of the entire race. That is where the problem lies.

Contrary to the cliché, ignorance is not always a blessing, but knowledge always is, because knowledge is power.

And obviously, "Survivor" producers are not exercising that power. If they were, it would be evident that this racially-charged controversy does not just raise eyebrows, but intense concerns, past hurts, and "unfair stereotypes," as well.

Tamika Green
COPY EDITOR

Shoes have the power to complete any outfit. They add the finishing touch to the final product. Everyone has seen someone with the hottest outfit, but when you look to their feet, you are left wondering, "What were they thinking?"

Here are some tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of "wrong shoes syndrome."

First and foremost, get the size for you, not the size you think is for you. Nothing looks worse than shoes that do not fit. This goes for both extremes: too small and too large. If your toes are hanging over the front of your shoes and scraping the sidewalk with each step, you should have gotten a larger size. And you wonder why you have pebbles in between your toes at the end of the day.

The same goes for shoes with heels hanging off the

back. That is so unattractive. Next time get a bigger size to accommodate the actual, not the perceived, size of your foot.

Ladies, if you are wearing pumps, there should not be a huge gap between your heel and the back of the shoe. Close that gap by purchasing a smaller size next time. Leave the flip-flopping solely to your flip-flops, not your stiletto pumps.

Bedroom shoes are for, you guessed it: the bedroom. If you are going for comfort over style, it takes all of two seconds to throw on some flip-flops or tennis shoes and still look good. This goes for males and females alike. Here is a hint: If your feet

look like stuffed animals are attacking them, change shoes. Leave the fuzzy bunnies in the room where they belong.

Beauty supply store flip-flops are out. There is no reason a gigantic

fabric flower should be in between your toes.

Why not opt for some comfy plain flip-flops sans the floral arrangements?

Some shoes should just be left in the past. Avoid shoe

one-hit wonders such as "Ma-no-nos," Melissas, and sneaker pumps. When in doubt, a classic pump or pair of cute sneakers or flats will complement your outfit much better.

Prom shoes are for the prom, and other formal

occasions. Do not wear them around campus. You are not Cinderella. A regular shoe will do just fine.

If your shoes look brown, but they were white when you bought them, it's time for a new pair. Busted shoes decrease the overall effect of a fly ensemble. Last, but not least, color is crucial. If you have on shoes that do not match any of the other items you are wearing (i.e. top, accessories, etc.) you may want to reconsider wearing those shoes with that particular outfit. For example, if you have on red shoes, and there is no trace of red in anything you are wearing, put them to the side for a red day.

So, what have we learned? Before making your shoe choice for the day, remember the aforementioned tips. Pay attention to color, size, appearance and style. Your feet will thank you, and so will everyone else.

Busted shoes decrease the overall effect of a fly ensemble.

Couple may have trouble with trust and basic communication

Ask La'Chelle
La'Chelle Lewis
COLUMNIST

Q: I think my girl friend is cheating on me because I got her Facebook password and I saw messages that showed up with her giving her phone numbers to random guys who asked for it; what should I do?



La'Chelle

A. Communication is the

key to this situation. If this problem is bothering you so much, you should confront your girlfriend by asking her, not accusing her, about her relationship with other males, especially those on Facebook.com. Maybe she can justify about why she gave her numbers to those particular males. On the other hand, she may be very upset that you violated her privacy and got her password to look at these messages. You both have to communicate in some way about how much you trust one another; because if you

trust one another Facebook.com should not become an issue.

Q: I really have a problem with my foreign roommate, who has strong beliefs in not wearing deodorant and believes that the natural smell of the human body should be accepted. What should I do?

A. Your foreign roommate has simply brought about change in your life. College is about diversity and exposure to new and exciting things. The lack of deodorant is somewhat a problem to you; but maybe

you may have certain things that are a problem to them. You were raised in a society where you were taught to wear deodorant and they were raised opposite; who is to say which way is right? Instead of focusing on the negative, maybe you should try to find common interest in the both of you. Maybe you can teach and learn things from each other. Although body smells are not always the most pleasant to deal with, you should try to accept and respect your roommate's culture.

The fun and pageantry of Homecoming has special meaning to WSSU students

Sharrod Patterson
PHOTO EDITOR

The HBCU Homecoming is an event rich in tradition and culture. Homecoming is often considered a rite of passage for HBCU students. For some, the days leading up to the Homecoming game is what brought them to an HBCU. A typical HBCU homecoming starts on Sunday and ends on Sunday, seven days of fun and pageantry. Students at WSSU tell what they enjoy the most about Homecoming.

LaMuriel McMurray, senior, Business
"My favorite part is watching the band, and since I am a cheerleader I love to cheer."



McMurray



Logan

Antonia Logan, junior, Business Marketing
"The events and all the people who I haven't seen in awhile because everyone comes to

Homecoming."
Sasha Long, sophomore, Business Administration
"Seeing all the people from other schools and looking cute at the game in my new outfit"

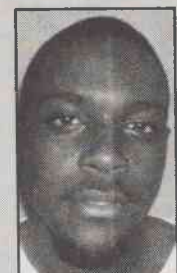


Long

Keith Parker, freshman, Computer Science
"Playing in the game in front of a lot of people, going to the concert, and the women, but especially playing then winning."




Parker



Kizzie

Omar Kizzie, freshman, Biology
"Me being a football player, I love the game, but being a student I love the week coming up and all the parties."

The News Argus



putting the pieces together so that you get the whole picture

Correction

In the September 18, 2006, issue of The News Argus, Mary Y. Smith was incorrectly identified as the Director of Housing. Her correct title is Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life.