

# Opinions and Editorials

## Oprah's new school stirs up controversy

Erin C. Perkins  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Oprah Winfrey recently built a \$40 million Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy located on a 50-acre site just outside the city of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The school is a manifestation of Oprah's dream to do something for those less fortunate. It is a response to former South African President Nelson Mandela's appeal for education — what he felt was a pressing need in his country. Oprah's solution provides young African females an opportunity for scholarly success in a productive and accelerating environment that once seemed unreachable.

Despite Oprah's admirable efforts, her humanitarian achievements have endured the snarling skepticism of some. Many Americans have questioned why Oprah's not spending the money in the United States. One female critic accused Oprah of not being responsible to America, the country in which she grew up and took advantage of its privileges.

Since when has paying homage to the native land of one's descendants been considered kicking sand in America's face? South Africa is an underprivileged country that is a nesting ground for improvement, unlike America, which despite many of our current problems with the Sept. 11 and Katrina aftermath, still can afford to provide an education to every single American child.

For so many critics to bash the good deeds and charitable efforts of one of America's most instrumental humanitarians is disturbing. It almost seems that these people failed to realize the whole importance of her accomplishment.

Oprah's money is Oprah's money. Unless she is taking our personal donations and spending them where we would rather she not, it is out of place to dictate what she should do with her own money.

Americans should be more concerned with how the government spends money, since most of its budget comes from our wallets.

The efforts to insult Oprah's charity would be better used toward fighting for lower gas prices, tax inflation and tuition increases.

My advice to such critics: Put your money where your mouth is, and if you do not have \$40 million like Oprah, then just put your hand over your mouth and be quiet until you do.



PERKINS



Nomvuyo Mzamane, a South African native, speaks to girls at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls that opened recently in South Africa. Mzamane resigned as assistant head of operations at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, to prepare to become the academy's permanent head.

Photo by MCT Wire Service

## WSSU students speak out about Martin Luther King Jr.

Tamika Green  
NEWS EDITOR

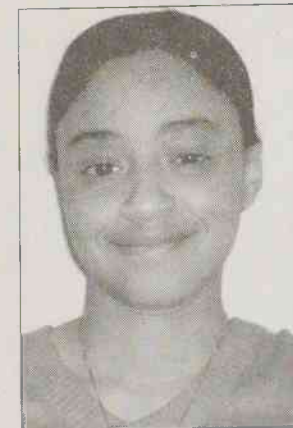
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a remarkable forerunner in the area of black rights.

He accomplished many achievements in his life, that although cut short, still prove to shape the black community. People today, of all races and backgrounds, admire and appreciate the sacrifices King made, and the precedent he set for future civil rights leaders. This past Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the upcoming Black History Month causes WSSU students to reflect on the life and achievements of Dr. King.

"I think Dr. King's image as an intelligent, decisive leader gave blacks motivation at a time when they needed it the most. In my opinion, I think that Dr. King was the leader of a new American revolution, similar to the revolution America's founding fathers led against the British. The ultimate sacrifice Dr. King made was his life, and that surpasses any other sacrifice he could have made." Terence Grant, senior English major, 22.



GRANT



MALLETT

"I think that we take the sacrifices he [Dr. King] made for us for granted. Blacks don't vote, we don't take advantage of all the opportunities that people fought so hard to give us, so people need to stop reading 'I Have a Dream,' and get their own dream. I think that he was the forerunner for many civil rights leaders." Ashleigh Taylor, senior mass communications major, 21.



TAYLOR

## Ask La'Chelle

La'Chelle Lewis  
COLUMNIST

**Q. The New Year is here, and many people have made resolutions. What do you think are the best New Year's Resolutions?**

A. I think New Year's Resolutions are personal goals people set for themselves. Resolutions for the New Year may be things that people want to improve on from previous years, or something that they desire to do. Some resolutions that I have heard are: make better grades, attend church more, exercise, save money, find a job, pay off debt, and stop drinking and/or smoking. In my opinion, the only "good" New Year's resolution is one that best fits you and your personal goals.

**Q. Spring graduation is approaching, and I don't know what I want to do yet. I cannot decide whether I want to go into the career world or pursue a master's degree. I heard the pros and cons of both areas. What's your input?**

A. I am battling with the same decisions, but I am leaning more toward graduate school for my own personal reasons. You have to decide what is best for you. Do you think you are prepared enough to enter corporate America? Most jobs want

to know how much experience you have in your field. How many internships, co-ops and volunteer work have you done to prepare you for a job? If you possess a fair amount of experience, you may find success in entry-level positions. If you desire higher education and want to teach, a master's degree is always a plus. For more advice, I strongly encourage you to speak with an academic adviser or visit Career Services.

**Q. My roommate and I started off last semester on a positive note, but ever since we have come back from break she has been distant from me. She hardly speaks, she is never in the room anymore, and when she does talk, it's always short answers. I do not know what the problem is, but I cannot stand being in a room with someone without communicating. What should I do?**

A. As I always say, communication is the key. You have talked about all things your roommate is and is not doing; but have you asked her why? You can never know what is going on in a person's mind, but you can always ask. Asking her what is going on with her will bring about clarity or closure to the whole situation. Maybe she is facing some challenges in her life such as school, work or family. These problems may have nothing to do with you; maybe she just needs time to open back up to you. If you were really friends in the beginning, then you will still remain friends.



LA'CHELLE

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