

AC PHOENIX

Housing & Other Issues for 1996

Serving the Triad & Surrounding Areas

Volume 12 Issue No. 120

PRICELESS (Take One)

PROTEST AT WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

DEBATE OVER WHO WILL SPEAK AT 1996 COMMENCEMENT ANGERS STUDENTS

Members of the Winston-Salem State University Student Government Association, in addition to what has been referred to as "the majority" of the students in the 1996 graduating class, are making their mark on the campus of WSSU.

It is ironic that during the same hour information on Ron Brown's death was being aired on WSNC FM, the WSSU campus radio station, approximately 200 students were gathered outside of Blair Hall, the building which houses the chancellor's office, demanding that the administration bring Minister Louis Farrakhan to speak at commencement. "This is not about Minister Farrakhan," remarked Jennifer Snipes, a sophomore at WSSU "...this is about the importance of the student's voice on this campus. We are losing our university to the white establishment and no one seems to care."

We are losing our university to the white establishment, and no one seems to care.

attempted to invite Minister Farrakhan to address graduating seniors at commencement, with no success. This is the first time students have held any type of protest regarding the commencement speaker. Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider, who

The protest march began at the Student Union mall area where students chanted and showed their support of having Farrakhan speak at graduation. In the past, students have

took office in January of this year, met with the students to explain the reasoning behind not having Farrakhan speak at the commencement exercises. Schexnider insists that the final decision of who will speak at commencement rests with him and he has decided against having this controversial figure speak during commencement. Joe Briscoe says, however, that

graduation is the single most important event for college students, thus the students should be able to determine who delivers the commencement address.

Students expressed their discontent with the growing numbers of white students attending the university. Says one student "It doesn't bother me that white students attend our university. What does irri-



SGA President (Joe Briscoe) addresses concerned students regarding who makes the final decision about commencement speakers.

Photo CJ McCullough

tate me is the fact that I work very hard to maintain a 3.0 grade point average, yet there is no financial assistance available for me. White students come here because it is a FREE education for them".

Winston-Salem State University has an approximate white enrollment of 22%. WSSU is a public institution, therefore if the number of white students enrolled raises to 50% there is not much that can be done, unless of course, alumni get together and do something about it. Unlike universities such as Wake Forest and Duke, Winston-Salem State depends largely on donations given by industry, i.e., Sarah Lee Hosiery, Wachovia Bank, R.J. Reynolds, etc. The students are concerned that not only is there no money available for African American

students, but that the predominantly black student voice is being minimized, due to the fact that the administration fears that industry and other outside support will cease; if figures like Minister Farrakhan are allowed to address the students at such a culminating event as commencement.

Marcus Starks, a junior at WSSU, said that he participated in this protest because he believes in "freedom of choice and freedom of voice. If the students want Minister Farrakhan to speak at the graduation, why is that so wrong?"

cont'd to pg. 6

NAACP HOSTS BANQUET GALA

The Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP held its annual "Freedom Fund Gala" on Friday, April 12 at 7pm at the Benton Convention Center. Congressman Melvin Watt of the 12th District greeted participants.

The Winston Salem Branch of the NAACP has been active for the past 63 years. Bill Tatum, the local branch president has worked diligently throughout his tenure to guarantee that the NAACP remains just that - ACTIVE.

See article page 7

RON BROWN'S DEATH SHAKES THE WORLD



RON BROWN

See page 7

DID YOU FILE AN EXTENSION?

If you forgot to file an extension on your taxes, it is still not too late. Extensions are to avoid late payment penalties if you owe money to the IRS. If you forgot to file an extension, do so as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the more interest will accumulate on your IRS account.

See TAX TIPS on pg. 11

SHOULD YOU BUY OR RENT YOUR HOME?

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of buying a home, and to forget that home ownership may have its drawbacks. But there are more advantages than disadvantages to home ownership.

Look at the following advantages:

1. A home is usually a sound investment
2. Home ownership offers great tax advantages.
3. A first home often leads to a better second home.
4. You are better able to plan your housing costs.
5. You gain the satisfaction and security of ownership.

Now review some of the disadvantages and this will help you to decide whether or not you are ready to buy a house.

Many lending institutions are offering more affordable loans and loan incentive programs. A list of these programs can be obtained through the AC PHOENIX Newspaper.

Read ARE YOU PREPARED TO BUY? Pg. 4

"More than a newspaper, a community institution."