

She said, she said

Conservative and liberal friends share opinions on hot issues at Wake Forest

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Julianne Malveaux and Deborah Perry are such opposites that the two could not agree on which side of the room to sit on before their joint lecture at Wake Forest University.

So while their long lists of career achievements were read during their introductions, Malveaux sat to the crowd's right while Perry sat a few feet away from her on the left. Ironically, during an hour-and-a-half lecture that touched on many of today's hot button political issues, it was Perry who stayed staunchly to the right while Malveaux planted her feet firmly to the left.

The two women have made a career of agreeing to disagree. They have duked it out on national political shows and most



Perry

recently coauthored a book, "Unfinished Business: A Democrat and a Republican Take on the 10 Most Important Issues Women Face."

Saturday, the women keynoted the Babcock School of Management's second annual Diversity Day. The school uses Diversity Day to entertain and enlighten potential minority students in hopes of convincing them to enroll at Babcock.

Malveaux, a well-known economist who is a regular contributor to USA Today and Essence, and Perry, an administrator in the White House of the first President Bush and a freelance journalist, expanded on subjects they address in their book and took opposing stances on issues that have become heated since the release of the book. One of those issues is the Supreme Court's inevitable review of the University of Michigan's affirmative action policy.

Perry claims that she was able to achieve a great measure of success in several male-dominated arenas - including a stint working in foreign policy in the late 1980s - by using her mind and by not using her gender as a springboard.

"I never wanted special treatment because I am a woman," she told a crowd of more than 200.

Perry, who does not believe that there is a glass ceiling holding women back, has a problem with the affirmative action policy used by the University of Michigan's Office of Admissions. The policy is based on a point system. The policy awards 20 points automatically to students who belong to some minority groups. Perry says it is not fair that a minority student gets more points than a student with a perfect SAT score (the school gives 14 points to students who achieve that feat).

"What does that say about academic achievement?" she asked.

Malveaux told students that she has benefited from affirmative action. She said it helped her get into Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at a time when the school had no black women in its economics program. She frowned on the notion that affirmative action helps the unqualified. Malveaux insists that it only helps minorities get their feet in the door while hard work and excellence get them their degrees.

"All things are not equal for everyone. Let's just be real about that," Malveaux said.

Malveaux went on to lash out at whites who have used affirmative action as an excuse for their own failures. She called them "losers and whiners."

"These are people who could not make it," Malveaux said. "There are a whole lot of white folks who need to get over it."

Although television viewers may still see the two having a verbal wrestling match on CNN or MSNBC, Malveaux and Perry say they are proof that women with different political backgrounds and skin colors can become friends. On the cover of their book, the women appear with their backs to one another - Perry on the right, of course, and Malveaux on the left. Perry said she fought for their pictures to appear on the book's cover.

"I wanted people to walk into a bookstore and see an African-American and a white woman together and say, 'What are they doing together?'" Perry said.



Julianne Malveaux chats with a student at Wake Forest University before her lecture.

The women do share some common views. For instance, both think their political parties have not done enough to promote women, and Malveaux and Perry agree that women are too polite when it comes to addressing their political desires, often turning to their husbands to express their political opinions.

Malveaux urged women to register to vote and, more impor-

tant, to turn out on Election Day. She said if women don't take the initiative, they have only themselves to blame.

"I cannot stand an uninvolved angry person," she said.

They insist that their book is much more than the two of them trading barbs on issues such as education and race. The book is a resource guide, Malveaux said, that details ways women can get

involved and be heard.

Perry said women should be loudmouths if they have to in order to get their message out. She suggested that women begin to speak out as furiously about their issues as director Spike Lee has spoken out about issues important to African-Americans.

"We can become the Spike Lees of America," she said. "We can make a difference."

Philanthropist gives agencies tools to help kids

The Marshall Bass Children's Fund has existed since 1997 and has funded several programs

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Approximately 37 youth support and advocacy agencies from Forsyth County attended the Marshall Bass Children's Fund Strategic Planning seminar last week on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Vision, mission, credo and values were the focus of the training session facilitated by Karl Yena, an organizational management expert.

The Marshall Bass Children's Fund, established in 1997, aims to "help those who help children" by strengthening the management capability of organizations that serve children in Forsyth County.

"Strategic planning is an integral part of any organization and unless an organization operates on a plan, the probability of failure is much greater. If an organization has a plan and they follow that plan, then it significantly strengthens the probability of success," said Marshall Bass, who was present for the training seminar - one of two seminars to take place this year. He explained that seminars like this one are among sever-

al programs offered by the Children's Fund along with consulting services and year-round grant programs.

Yena was chosen to lead the seminar because of his prior experience in personnel and organizational management with RJ Reynolds



Bass

Nabisco Inc. Currently, Yena is president of Yena and Associates, which provides organizational management and strategic planning assistance to clients in North Carolina and throughout the Southeast.

Yena likens the concept of strategic planning to being on a diet, saying: "You have a process and if you follow it you'll be successful. If you don't (follow it), you won't (be successful). You have to, every so often, just step back and say, 'Is that really what I want to be?' and if it is then

See Bass on A4



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