

# Editorials

## Helms, Remarks Run Deeper Than King Birthday Action

As some of you may or may not know, a bill is currently being debated in Congress on the issue of whether to make the birthdate of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a national Holiday.

This issue is far removed from the confines of academia at WSSU, but as future leaders of America, students need to be more aware of things happening on the state, local and national levels.

Presently, right-wing Republicans are trying to head off passage of the King legislation. Our own Congressman, Jesse Helms, who is supposedly representing the people of North Carolina is leading a filibuster to stop the legislation from being approved.

The same Jesse Helms who has such close ties to the neo-conservative Moral Majority which alleges to advocate the maintenance of Christian virtues. Yet, Helms has publicly stated that King was a proponent of Marxist philosophy and was actually a communist.

In doing so, Helms is causing the citizenry of the entire state of North Carolina to be cast in a very negative light. Helms represents the people of this state and as such should reflect this in his Congressional vote.

Not only that, Helms' action is attacking the credibility of one of the greatest men in the history of the United States. Certainly, if King had been white, a storm of protest would be directed toward Helms for making his statements.

It is not like we can not do anything about the matter. With an election year rapidly approaching, the people of North Carolina must send a message to Helms that his overtly racist and unintelligent ways will no longer be tolerated. To do this we must carefully cast our votes for candidates that truly represent our interests.

This goes far beyond the realm of Jesse Helms and the Congressional elections. Whether it be an alderman, mayor or presidential candidate we must look to people that we can be proud of.

Samuel Davis  
Editor-In-Chief



## Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

I want to commend you on the recent publication of the News Argus. I applaud and appreciate the position taken on compulsory class attendance. I look forward to

a continuation of the fine quality exhibited in the recent issue of the News Argus.

Sincerely,  
Douglas Govington  
Chancellor

## On Mandatory Attendance

As all students at WSSU know, the university has adopted a mandatory class attendance policy.

Some of us may view this policy as unjust, but actually it is "justice for all" attending the university. Had the policy been adopted earlier many students would not be in the "sticky academic situations" they may be in now. Adoption of the policy is truly in the best interest of all WSSU students. The policy is intended to cause an automatic decline on the academic probationary list.

For the most part, the policy will not affect students who are enrolled at the university to further their education. These students adopted their own personal attendance policy upon arrival at WSSU. Their personal policies probably run parallel with that of the university. These students usually do not miss classes unless they become ill, or some type of emergency presents itself. Conscientious students don't resent the policy, since it presents no threat or problems in their educational plans.

The majority of students who complain about the policy are probably the ones who caused it to be instituted in the first place. We all know of the countless WSSU students who attend classes only sporadically. And the majority of those student are probably on probation now.

As far as the students who consider themselves "paying customers," they are unintelligent customers. If they do not want to get their money's worth from the university something is wrong. Obviously they are not the ones paying their tuition. If they did, they would not have to be forced to attend class.

Some returning students have complained about not being given ample warning about the policy. The March '83 issue of the News Argus, featured a front page story on the proposed policy. The only student who voiced an opinion on the issue was Chris Wilson (former SGA president). Other than Chris, not one student went to the WSSU Board of Trustees with his/her grievances. So, we all knew about the proposed policy, but we simply ignored it.

As students, we must all realize that acquiring an education is a real challenge. Obtaining a sound education is a job that requires a great deal of time, effort, and most importantly, hard work. Just as all other jobs, we must be present in order to receive our reward. Though our reward for obtaining an education at WSSU has no immediate monetary value, in the long run, it is worth more than any pay check.

The task of getting an education requires long, hard hours, and the working conditions are sometimes unspeakable. But the reward is worth every slave-driven hour once it is acquired.

Realistically, we all know that the mandatory attendance policy is a blessing to the university. Now we are assured that we will receive a good education, in spite of ourselves.

We all have heard the saying "association brings along assimilation." The mandatory attendance policy closely associates us with our fields of study; thereby causing assimilation with our prospective professions. In other words, if we are in class every day, we will become more knowledgeable in our major courses. Hence, intellectual growth and self-confidence will be our just reward.

C. CRUMP

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