

Opinion

A Message From The Editor

Drug and alcohol dependency: What's happening in America?

By Bryon M. Tinnin

Recently I appeared in a District court for a speeding violation (just how fast I was going we won't discuss). But what I want to discuss is a very serious matter; the consequences you suffer from drug dependency. Drugs are becoming a major problem in the black community and something must be done to stop this habitual madness.

While in court, three cases came up that had me sitting there wondering, why? A 17-year-old black male was being cited for reckless driving, possession of an opened alcoholic beverage, possession of marijuana and possession of a concealed weapon. The North Carolina State Highway patrolman clock this young man at 97.7 miles per hour. He caught up with him about 5 miles later with the aid of a county police officer. The boy and the passenger had been drinking, but were not drunk. When the officers asked the two to step out of the car, they found a knife on the floor board and a bag of marijuana. The two were arrested. When they appeared before the judge, he sentenced the driver to loss of his license for three years, a \$200 fine, and one year of drug and alcohol rehabilitation classes. His friend received the same penalty except for the revoked license. They will also serve a quality amount of time doing community service.

They were lucky because they were juveniles and this was their first offense. The next time, they'll spend some time in jail.

Another case involved a 16-year-old black youth who was caught stealing a car. How he stole the car was not discussed. He had the car for two weeks before the police finally caught up with him. He lost his license for three years and was sent to a correctional facility.

The last case involved a middle-aged black man with a drinking problem. He had been caught driving under the influence. He had previously been arrested once before for the same violation. He is married and the father of two children. The penalty, well, by it being his second offense within the allotted seven-year period, the court was not very lenient in his case. He was

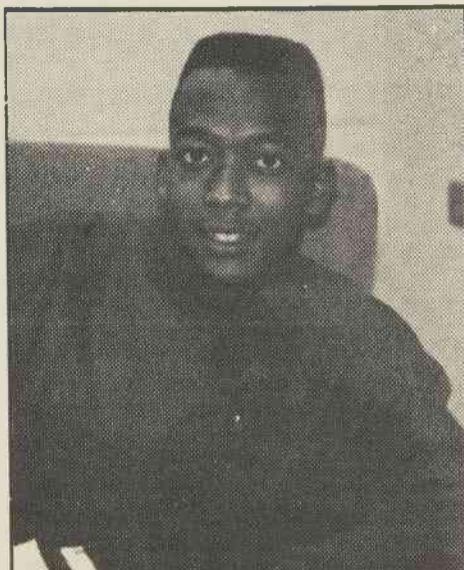


Photo by Tuttle

sentenced to revocation of license for a year, a \$500 fine, and 15-days confinement to a satellite jail. Satellite jails are where you stay after working during the week on your job and also on weekends.

These are just three of the cases I heard while sitting in court. In North Carolina. These kinds of things are going on across the nation. Instead of telling our youth that there is no hope, let's educate them on the consequences they could face due to alcohol and drug dependency.

What can we do to help? Schedule more awareness seminars that will help educate our youth. Let's keep our youth off the streets and in the classroom.

As for these adults, they're old enough to know better, but they also need help. There are several clinics and rehabilitation centers in most of America's cities. So, if you know of someone who needs help, reach out and give them a helping hand.

Wire sends greetings to News Argus

To The Newspaper Staff of The News Argus and WSSU Students:

On behalf of The Wire, and its staff, we send greetings. Enclosed are copies of the leaflet announcing the publication of our first issue in August 1989.

The Wire is attempting to succeed where all our forefathers ultimately failed. We intend to develop and sustain a national Black newspaper!

This is a special call to you and journalism students at over 30 Black colleges, to take the lead in this historic effort by joining our staff as correspondents, reporters, analyst, and researchers. Because The Wire seeks to be the new Black voice of the 90's, boldly putting forth news ideas, and advancing new solutions to our problems, our staff must be infused with young people.

If you write, edit, or research, or if you think you can but aren't sure, you need to join us! We

assist you in any way possible to smooth out the rough edges.

We don't need to tell you that these are difficult times for our people. Now, more than ever, Black people need a paper that tells the raw truth, and does so with a Black perspective. We are the only ones who can provide them with that. We should understand that the inexcusable situation that has left us with no national Black press in the past, was not due to a lack of leadership and vision, about the important role such a paper could play.

Let us not make that mistake. We urge everyone who is interested in uniting with us to take up this challenge. Assignments are available for those who wish to start now. Thanks again. We look forward to hearing from you!

Bernell Brooks
Editor, The Wire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have an opinion to express, write a letter to the editor, c/o The News Argus office, Room 313, Hall-Patterson Building, WSSU.

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If you have any questions or letters to the editor, write The News Argus staff, Room 313, Hall-Patterson Communications Building, WSSU campus.

An open letter to the WSSU administration

To the Chancellor, Director of Housing, Security and Food Service of Winston-Salem State University:

I am a sophomore currently attending Winston-Salem State University, where I live in the dorms and utilize the food service, the book store, and other vital aspects of college life.

I am writing this letter to express and bring into focus several problems that seem to go unnoticed or overlooked on this campus. I feel that verbally stating these problems in the school newspaper, *The News Argus*, will maybe get more done than one sole person complaining, unlike the masses who recognize the problems, but say nothing.

The first problem I would like to talk about is security. We have very minimum security in our dorms, especially Pogram and Moore halls. Between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekends, we have no one sitting in the office to regulate dangerous or unwanted visitors. An example of this problem is the middle-aged Caucasian man who was caught on the second floor of Pogram, and when confronted by an RA from another floor, he fled. The RA in question proceeded to call security and have him found, but what was his purpose for being in a female dorm at 10 in the morning when most of the girls are asleep or on their way to the showers? We need better security.

The second problem is our books. The price of books in the bookstore is outrageous. Many students cannot afford to pay for books that sometimes cost more than the hours they've signed up for! Rumors have circulated that students pay a 75-percent markup,

plus a markup by the bookstore; that means we pay more than twice as much for a book as when the bookstore first bought it! We cannot let this continue. Our wallets will forever be empty unless we speak up!

The third problem is a problem I think housing is responsible for: the showers. Many nights we have problems in Pogram and Moore with our showers not working properly. The showers never seem to have hot water when it is needed. Then for those few who do receive a warm shower, it is either in the form of a drizzle or you have to play a game of beat-everyone-else-to-the-shower-before-the-hot-water-is-gone. I think we should be able to have hot water when we take a shower since we do struggle to pay our \$1,500 per semester to attend this institution.

The fourth problem is parking. We need another parking lot. Students currently park wherever they can fit their cars, even if it means on the landscape. WSSU's administration needs to build another parking lot and fix the ruts in the old ones, so our tires will last longer and costly landscape will not be damaged.

The fifth and final problem is our cafeteria food. This problem has long been unsolved. We need a better variety of food with an appealing appetizer. We pay too much money to receive undesirable food.

In my opinion, these are major problems that need to be observed, discussed and acted on. If students don't speak out, who will? We are the ones who utilize the majority of these commodities. The question is, will we work together on this or continue to be overlooked? Thank you for your time in reading this.

A Very Awake Student

Campus Security: Effective or not?

By Georgellen Brown
STAFF WRITER

"If students see Security in a happy mood, they (students) say we are not doing our job," stated Director J. Lewis of the WSSU Security Department. Students have various complaints about Security and what they are doing on campus. This article will look at WSSU SECURITY: EFFECTIVE OR NOT? Here's what was said in the interview:

Q. What are the responsibilities of the WSSU Security?

A. To protect lives, property, protect against vandals, and other unusual conditions. Also, to investigate complaints, and if we can't handle the complaints, notify or refer the students to other authorities. Furthermore, to issue citations for violators of motor vehicle laws, and provide security for WSSU (medium-size campus). This security covers the 60 acres, 30 buildings about 75,000 square feet on this campus.

Q. Students complain about parking and seeing the limited parking spaces on campus, how do you go about giving out tickets, wheel locks or towing?

A. Designated areas on campus are in front of Blair, Pogram, and Moore (Bank Street). Cars with red decals should only park in this area. All others can be towed away. But, it all depends on how cars are parked to determine towing. Green and Brown decals can park in each other's designated area. In other words, green can park in brown, and vice-versa. If a car has no decal, that car is subject to a wheel lock. Director Lewis also added that at F.L. Atkins Nursing Building, 90 parking spaces there are not utilized. Anyone can park there and an average of seven cars a day take advantage of the spaces. The lot is near Hall-Patterson Communications Building, RJR Building, Fine Arts Building, Hill Hall, and of course the Nursing Building. It takes approximately seven minutes to walk to each of these buildings. It's just that students, faculty and staff don't want to walk. Additionally, students who have classes in Coltrane or the Gaines Center can park behind the tennis court where there are approximately 100 spaces and it also takes only seven minutes to walk to those buildings.

Q. Does security patrol the campus regularly at night?

A. Yes.

Q. How many officers work the night shift?

A. Two on campus and one at Anderson Center.

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Art major responds to fashion consciousness article

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to an article that I read in the February issue of the News Argus. It was pertaining to the African medallions that are being referred to as fashion statements. How could something that started out to be a sign of brotherhood and sisterhood and social struggle come to this?

It annoys me to hear the ignorant responses of those persons who have little if completely no knowledge at all of the symbolism or true significance of the medallion they are wearing.

We as a young black race should be aware of our history and of our heritage and the reasons for these cultural statements. When brothers don't understand the true meaning of the medallions it sometimes angers others. Remember, brothers and sisters, to others it is far more than just a fashion statement.

We need to have a positive outlook about ourselves and our heritage so that the pride we show in ourselves will reflect to the rest of the world. Most of the fashionably dressed individuals who wear the medallions are not even aware that they are manufactured in Korea.

Black Americans, you need to wake up and realize that if we as a young race don't know the essence of our identity, we will eventually be without one!

Eddie Anderson, a senior Art major at WSSU

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