

FEATURES

Baker State University

It's 9 a.m. and the campus is pretty as a picture or at least that's how it looks to Sharriff Parks, as he approached Baker State University's campus in his shiny black jeep. He never thought he would be a student at a historically black college. Today, is the first day of school and his first class is at 11 a.m. (At his previous school the rules were a little different, you didn't have to attend the first day of class.)

As Sharriff pulls up to the student union, he noticed that the union at the college he transferred from was much larger than Baker State's. As he walked slowly into the union he began to smile as he looked at all of the beautiful African paintings and pictures of African-American achievers on the walls. It made him feel like he had stepped into a history book.

In all of the excitement, Sharriff bumped into a beautiful, cocoa-brown-skinned "sista." "Excuse me miss," said Sharriff. "That's okay! Are you new here?" she asked. "I am a transfer student from New York. My name is Sharriff Parks, and your name?" "My

name is Chenzy. It's African like your name," she said. Sharriff had no idea of the significance of his name or its background. Hopefully, Chenzy, his new friend will help him.....

The last thought on Kevin Smith, a North Carolinian, mind was coming to college. On the other hand, since he stays in trouble, going to jail would have been the first. Sitting in the passenger seat of his mother's 1988 Cadillac, he has a frown on his face.

Enrolling at Baker State University became a reality when Kevin managed to earn his General Education Diploma (GED) during the summer. Making this deal with his mother and Officer Johnson was not the real deal. Officer Johnson of Tingle County, a very close friend of Kevin, had known him since he was young and from his stays at detention centers. If he continued his education, Johnson would stay off of his case. Now Kevin must be good and keep himself out of trouble.

"You need to drop that so called attitude," his mother said. "Leave me alone ma," Kevin replied. As he turned his head around to look out of the

window, his mother smacked his head so hard that he hit his head on the dashboard. "Ouch!" he hollered. "Why did you smack me so hard? Why did you smack me period? I ain't do nothing. Kevin's mother gave him a look from hell, "Don't you ever get smart with me again. Next time I will knock you out of the car. Now get out and find the Registrar's Office. And take that hat off and pull up those raggedly jeans..."

"So this is Baker State University," Biron Falta thought as he stood in front of the Registrar's Office. "I should have known." He bent down to pick up his brown leather bag. When he stood up he saw a group of girls walking his way. "Well," he thought to himself, "maybe Baker State isn't so bad after all."

As he straightened his clothes, he thought he looked pretty good especially in his new sneakers his mom bought him to play ball in. She would kill him if she knew he had them on. He stopped thinking about his mother and put a smile on his face as the girls got closer. The girls walked by with out even looking his way. "Maybe Baker State isn't going to be the place for me he thought."

Biron began walking towards a building where he saw a group of guys wearing sweatsuits standing in front of.

"Excuse me," he said to one of them. "Could you tell me where I need to go? I have a basketball scholarship." The guy turned around, his eyes were blood red, half open and watery. "Yeah man, you are in the right place. I'm Ray." The guy extended his hand to shake Biron's hand. "I'm Biron, but people back home call me 'D'." Ray and Biron shook hands. "Where is back home?" "Miami," Biron answered. Ray's eyes opened wide and a smile sneaked across his face. He smiled and said, "Miami! Yeah me and you gonna be real cool. Real cool."

Biron returned the smile. Only he didn't exactly understand what Ray meant. All he knew was that he was here to play ball and that is what he intended to do...

"STATE U," is a mini drama written by Jhonnell Ridout and Preslyn Young. Pick up the summer issue of *The News Argus* and find out what happens to these guys.

Lewis-Thornton Speaks At WSSU

BY JERMAINE BRODIE
Guest Writer

When one thinks of a person with full-blown AIDS (Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome), one often thinks of a person extremely weak, thin and confined to bed.

But young, attractive, educated, assertive, and ambitious describes a woman who discovered in 1986, during a routine blood drive at a Washington, D.C., Red Cross Center, she was HIV Positive

Rae Lewis-Thornton, of Chicago, uses her oratory skills, personal experience, and honesty to educate people about the disease and to comfort people suffering with the death sentence.

On April 2, the Winston-Salem State University chapter of the National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education brought Rae Lewis-Thornton to the campus. She was very straight to the point about how she

contracted AIDS.

"A magna cum laude university honors graduate of Northeastern Illinois University and a political science M.A. at the University of Illinois will not save your ass from AIDS. Look what happened to me," she said.

Lewis-Thornton told the audience that she got AIDS at the age 23 from one of her many sexual partners. After she received the news, she told her mother that she had AIDS, and her mother said "See, I told you that you weren't going to be s--- in life."

A member of the audience asked, "How did you deal with rejection from you mother?" Lewis-Thornton replied, "With unconditional love for the Lord I found salvation."

Being in Christ, she said that God sent her Kenny Thornton. Kenny and Rae started dating and got married.

Lewis-Thornton, held up the microphone and asked the audience for

questions they might have. One question asked was, "how does she deal with the fact of knowing she will die soon?"

Lewis-Thornton stopped and looked the girl in the eyes and proudly said, "With love of God and support of my husband, Kenny, I survive, I am living."

Ver Sell, 46 of Winston-Salem said found the talk, "Very informative, straight to the point. During the time when I was growing up the main problem was drugs. The problem young people face today, AIDS, is far a greater problem. That's why I made sure I brought my son, Johnathan, 16, to hear it first hand. It is important for people to understand that AIDS does not discriminate. It attacks all."

Looking for Plants,
Crafts, Baskets,
Baked Goods or
Produce...

The Downtown
City Market
at 6th and Cherry
Streets

is now open
every
Tuesday and
Thursday from
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
until October.