

THE NEWS ARGUS
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 DR. VALERIE S. SADDLER — ADVISOR

Voting Power

September's Career Day here at Winston-Salem State University brought many interesting speakers to our campus and classrooms in an effort to recruit bright young students. One such speaker visited my public relations class and made a lasting impression.

After working in upper administration for Shaw University, Phil Mason joined the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). His work experiences have brought him into contact with many different types of people and put him into many different political and cultural situations. From students at Shaw University to Chinese diplomats to African politicians, Mason has seen a lot. Not the least of which is the United States government in both covert and non-covert operations.

A fellow student asked Mason a particularly relevant question. "Mr. Mason, what do you say to recruit those black males such as myself who don't feel that the government has our best interests in mind?"

A good question, I thought to myself. Why would someone want to work for a system which doesn't seem to want the system to work for its members? Seems like a tough one, right Mr. Mason? Not at all.

"Son, you are the government. If you don't feel the government is working then you need to get involved and change it. At the very least, go out and vote!"

Mason couldn't be more right. All too often U.S. citizens worry and complain about how poorly the government operates, but don't make the effort to monitor its progress. If you don't like the way the current majority-Republican congress is treating the issue of minimum wages, or welfare or taxes, then at least you should attempt to vote them out of office. Or if you feel that Clinton's policies are too costly or too liberal, then once again you need to voice your choice.

By voting we do not ensure outcomes - we ensure that our interests are appointed representatives. And without that representation we have little if any chance to see that government operates with our best interests in mind.

Please vote!

Amy Phipps

**Friday, October 11, 1996
 is the last day
 to register to vote.**

The News Argus is the student newspaper at Winston-Salem State University. We welcome your views on any public issue. Faculty, administrators, staff, students and alumni are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions. Letters should be type written and no more than 200 words in length. The writer must clearly sign the letter giving their name, telephone number and depending on the content of the letter, proof of identity may be requested. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit material for grammar, taste and clarity. The News Argus office is located in 318 Hall Patterson, 750-2327.

ISSUES & ANSWERS

ARGUS MAILBAG

Tupac Shakur

Gangster rapper Tupac Shakur died on Friday, Sept. 13, in a Las Vegas hospital after sustaining several gunshot wounds to the chest. What can be said about this controversial performer?

Many people say that Shakur's death was simply a reflection of the negative lyrics in his songs. Others may look at Shakur as somewhat of a martyr. The rapper may have died for what he believed in. As one student put it, "He went out like a soldier."

However, did Shakur actually "go out" like a soldier or was this death just the senseless death of another black man? We may never know!

Indeed, some of Tupac's lyrics did advocate meaningless violence, but too much emphasis is placed on the rapper's negative image. Songs like "Picture Me Rollin'," "Gangsta Party" and "Thug Life" do contain lyrics with violent overtones. However, truth be told, the rapper did not exclusively advocate violence in his lyrics. Some of the artist's works were positive - very positive in fact. Songs such as "Keep Your Head Up," "Dear Mama" and "Brenda's Gotta a Baby" aimed to uplift black women in their struggles. The

media does not cover these good points. Instead of the media constantly trying to condemn a person for their wrong-doing and concentrating solely on the negative,

COLUMNIST

Stephany Cousins

it should take time to look at a person's entire character.

Society needs to take this lesson into consideration. Let us leave judgement to the "one" being that truly knew Tupac Shakur, his Lord and creator.

Health Services and Fees

"Because you're an adult," said Armetta Hauser, head nurse at A.H. Ray Health Center, when she was asked why shouldn't a student be excused from class when they are diagnosed with Conjunctivitis (pink eye).

She said, "You're suppose to know that you wash your hands everytime you touch your eyes. You should know not to shake peoples' hands and to carry a wash cloth around with you."

On Sept. 6, I woke up to find my eyes were severely irritated and red. I went to the health services where Dr. Harvey Allen agreed I had pink eye. It was such a severe case, he thought I had a virus. So he sent me to an ophthalmologist in Winston Salem, Dr. James D. Branch.

The doctor treated, released and sent me back to campus with a

prescription. He told me to take it the school's health center. When I got to the health center the nurse on duty said, "This ain't no drugstore baby. You gotta take that to Revco." So that's what I did (The prescription was almost \$40.00). I didn't have the money. So I called Dr. Branch's office to see if he had any medicine on stock. His nurse said she would call the health center to see if they could give me a different kind of medicine.

The health center only had one bottle of the medicine that I needed and the nurse said I couldn't have it. Why not, I wondered?

I'm a full time, boarding student here at WSSU. I'm in pain!

The necessary medicine was available; but I couldn't get it? Why I wondered? As boarding students, we pay a \$201 for Health Services fee. (\$68 for health services and \$35 for insurance per semester). Since we are paying for a service, does this

COLUMNIST

Danielle Prophete

not cover medicine prescribed by off-campus doctors?

According to Hauser, "the health center is not a pharmacy, because of specific regulations and fees the university would have to

See Health, page 3

STAFF WRITERS	FEATURE WRITERS	LAYOUT STAFF
MONICA ALEXANDER MARQUIS CARTER DOUGLAS CLARK STEPHANY COUSINS DANIELLE PROPHETE QUEN ROBINSON RECHELLE ROUSE SHARONDA WILCOX	MONICA ALEXANDER DOUGLAS CLARK AMOR GLEE ANDREW MEANS PRESLYN YOUNG	MONICA ALEXANDER DOUGLAS CLARK AMY PHIPPS PRESLYN YOUNG COPY EDITORS COPY EDITING CLASS