

NEWS NOTES

Central's Chancellor Speaks At WSSU

BY ANDREW MEANS
Staff Writer

"More African-Americans are going to non-historically black colleges than ever before and the trend is expected to continue" expressed the chancellor of North Carolina Central University.

During his riveting speech, Julius Chambers, who was speaking to an audience attending a WSSU lecture series, traced some of the legal battles during the Civil Rights Movement up until the early 1980s.

"We have overcome a lot of obstacles but still have a long way to go" he said.

Chambers, who is a very successful and popular civil rights attorney, was the former head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. In 1993, he stepped

down to become the Chancellor at North Carolina Central University. He also urged students to become involved with the desires of other minority groups to better help African-Americans understand certain situations that may be faced in the future such as racism, prejudice, and other bad feelings.

"We need to appreciate the contributions of other minority groups so they may help us also," he added.

Students, University officials, and distinguished guests crowded Anderson Center's Dillard Auditorium to hear his speech. Molly Corbett Broad, president of the University of North Carolina system, was one of the special guest.

After the speech, a question and answer session was conducted by WSSU Chancellor Alvin Schexnider.

Students raised the issue of improper funding within the UNC system. The main concern was that students at HBCU's were being disproportionately funded as compared to UNC-Chapel Hill.

Larry Womble, a representative in the NC Legislature, remarked that he felt that "race is definitely a factor in deciding who gets funding." He added that "the Legislature will take all the necessary steps in the next General Assembly session to ensure that more money can be appropriated at HBCUs in North Carolina especially at WSSU."

The Lecture Series was named after J. Alston Atkins, the son of Simon Green Atkins, who was the founder of Winston-Salem State University.

Sigmas, Zetas Help Samaritan Ministries

BY BYRON REVELS
Staff Writer

Rainy weather nor cold crisp winds kept members of a Winston-Salem State University fraternity and sorority from participating in an event to bring awareness about homelessness.

Members of the Delta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the Omega Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., slept outside in the cold and rain last month in a campaign to benefit the Samaritan Ministries. The event was coordinated by Omar Marks, a Sigma and Cicely Huff, a Zeta.

The participants set up cardboard structures to serve as shelter for the event. During the sleepout, they collected food, clothing and monetary donations from WSSU students. Over 300 pieces of clothing, 200 food items and approximately \$125 was collected during the sleepout.

Should Policemen Use Pepper Spray?

BY DANIELLE PROPHETE
Editor

As Winston-Salem State University mourns the death of one of their own, Wamie Lee Patton, 36, due to an pepper spray incident involving the Winston-Salem police, we watch while the rest of the country divides over the issue of whether police officers should use pepper spray while apprehending suspects.

Pepper spray is a defensive product containing Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) as its active ingredient, with a propellant such as nitrogen. Oleoresin Capsicum is derived from concentrated hot red pepper extract. The actual heat producing particles in OC are called capsaicinoids. The actual degree of heat by which substances are measured are Scoville Heat Units (SHU).

Pepper spray acts as an inflammatory agent rather than an irritant such as tear gas. The inflamed mucous membrane cells swell to prevent all but life support breathing giving a choking, coughing and a nauseated feeling to the attacker. The subject is physically blinded for the duration without any harmful after-effects.

Pepper spray works well because it is

a liquid and sticks to the surface it is sprayed on, while Mace hangs in a cloud and drifts, contaminating an area.

The fact still remains that there are indeed some harmful after-effects, which leave many concerned citizens and WSSU students questioning the training and use of pepper spray by police departments across the nation.

"Police officers have excellent training and more than likely they used the pepper spray correctly," said former Winston-Salem Police Officer Calvin Hendrickson. "Pepper spray just shouldn't be used by the 'PD', because you don't know what kind of drugs or chemicals your assailants have in their body which can react with the ingredients of the pepper spray."

"The use of Pepper spray is going to prove to be dangerous," said Baxter Griffin, of the Department of Mass Communications. "It definitely is a judgment call by the officers."

According to a Nov. 3 article in *The Winston-Salem Journal*, of 144 people sprayed in Winston-Salem over the last year, 115 were black. That's 80 percent.

Here is Winston-Salem, members of the Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, a

collection of religious and political leaders are concerned about the use of pepper spray by the police. They feel the police should refrain from using it.

Several WSSU students have also expressed their concern about the use of pepper spray. "Since so many problems are occurring from using pepper spray, they (policemen) should find something else to use to apprehend suspects," said Lashonda Alexander, a junior WSSU education major.

"I feel that police don't try hard enough to settle their disputes before having to use pepper spray," said Kemberly Pitter, sophomore sports management major. "The pepper spray is just too easy for them."

While the majority of the students at WSSU agreed that the police shouldn't use pepper spray, there are some students who are in total agreement of the police officers using pepper spray.

"I would rather them use pepper spray, than billy clubs or mace," said David Dawson, a WSSU sophomore, mass communications major. "If the suspects are resisting arrest, than the police officers have to protect themselves."

Have A Safe Holiday Break Rams!!

Attention Students!

During the Spring Semester, do you need Spanish 1311 - Beginning Spanish I or Spanish 2311 - Intermediate Spanish I?

If so, contact...

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