

Student Government hosts annual College Day; Ruffin guest speaker

BY VENUS FERGUSON
Contributing Writer

"Harambe: Unifying North Carolina HBCU's" was the theme of the annual Black College Day hosted here by Winston-Salem State University's Student Government Association. Black College Day was planned and implemented by the North Carolina Black Student Government Association to motivate and strengthen the bond of unity between colleges and universities with predominately African-American students.

"Our major goal is to allow the students to have fun and also continue to educate them," said Craig Jones, president of Student Government Association at WSSU.

"It is also a chance for students to come together and learn more about upcoming events, to discuss political issues that effect historically black colleges and universities directly or indirectly," Jones added.

The colleges that participated were Shaw University, North Carolina A&T University, Winston-Salem State University, Barber-Scotia College, North Carolina Central University, Livingstone College, Fayetteville State University, Bennett College, Elizabeth City State University and Johnson C. Smith University.

"There is definitely a large amount of school spirit in the auditorium today," said Kenyatta Bigger, a senior management information systems major at Shaw University.

"I believe that this is a good thing to get everyone out to prove that there isn't always negative outcomes that surround our people," Bigger said.

"The planning of Black College Day takes a lot of

planning," said Mataurn Wright, president of North Carolina Black Students Government Association. It includes reserving the buildings, working with the stage crew for set-up, contacting speakers, inviting all institutions to attend and developing host committees to name a few of the duties."

Wright was the master of ceremonies for the event held in the K.R. Williams Auditorium.

Dr. Janice Kennedy-Sloan, vice-chancellor of student affairs welcomed everyone to the event with Al Roseboro, advisor to the SGA delivering the invocation.

After the introduction of the college queens and SGA presidents, Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, chancellor of Winston-Salem State University introduced the keynote speaker for the occasion.

Benjamin Ruffin, chairman of the North Carolina Board of Governors and a graduate of Livingstone College in Salisbury was the keynote speaker

Beginning his speech with a verse from the Negro National Anthem written by James Weldon Johnson, Ruffin informed students that in order to advance you must know where you've come from as a people to figure out where we must go.

"If we disrespect each other that's the easiest way for people to take our institutions from us," said Ruffin.

Ruffin spoke to students with words of encouragement by saying that your background doesn't matter, you can be whatever you want to be.

A talent show concluded the event with performances by students from Barber-Scotia College, Winston-Salem State University as well as WSSU's Mozik Modeling Troupe.

Students, faculty prepare for march

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In the 1992 primary elections, Winston-Salem State University students, faculty and staff marched to the poles. They were strong in numbers with a turnout of over 400 people.

For the primary elections on November 3, WSSU marched again. The march began at the Thompson Center and ended at the Simms Recreation Center where the poles were located.

The goal of the march was to make it clear to the media and the public to see that WSSU is full of civic minded students.

"In 1992 we saw that the primary elections were important. We also realized that young and poor people vote less. This generation is our future leadership," said Dr. Larry Little, political science professor. "We must go and vote because they are trying to change the boundaries of the 12th district and we must now encourage our students to take more civic responsibility."

Over 200 students registered to vote on campus, and were hopeful that this will encourage students to come and join in one of the most remarkable events in WSSU's history.

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