

Campus News

Civil-rights leaders discuss sit-in at Kress

Melde Rutledge
Reporter

It's been 40 years since Carl Wesley Matthews sat alone at the Kress lunch counter in downtown Winston-Salem.

Of course, Matthews, a black man, was refused service. His action started a civil-rights movement in the city that is remembered to this day.

In honor of Matthews and the students who followed him, Winston-Salem State University hosted a panel discussion at which he and the former students could relive those dramatic days to the audience.

Along with the former WSSU students (at that time it was the Winston-Salem Teachers

College), the former Wake Forest University students who demonstrated came to share their experiences.

"Every guests' story will help us understand our collected past," said Mutter Evans, the moderator and owner of WAAA radio station.

Everette L. Dudley was one of the former WSSU students who spoke that night.

"I dedicate this day to those students who left us," he said.

Jerry B. Wilson, who attended WFU, witnessed this movement from another viewpoint. "When we returned to our campuses, we didn't know what the responses were going to be," he said.

Wilson was one of the white students from

WFU who protested with Matthews. He explained that the students at WFU didn't understand why he and his other classmates were protesting for a cause that "didn't concern them." He said his parents even threatened to take him out of the school.

Matthews was last to speak. "If it had not been for the city movement, then there wouldn't have been a march in Washington," he said. When Matthews and his followers won the right to be served on May 23, 1960 - 107 days after his first visit to the Kress counter - he returned and ordered a soda. After he finished the drink, the server threw the glass away in a trash can. "I didn't order the potato salad because I knew they were going to be spitting all in it."

Read-in promotes literacy, African-American authors

Cortney L. Hill
Editor in Chief

Students and faculty of Winston-Salem State University participated in the African-American Literature Read-In Chain to promote literacy by reading works done by African-Americans.

Each year on the first Sunday in February at 4 p.m., people come together across the country to read works written by African-Americans.

The objective is to get 1 million people reading at the same time. On Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. students and faculty gathered in room 228 of Hall-Patterson and did just that.

Works by Langston Hughes and other famous authors were read at the read-in. Also, original pieces were read by the participants. One of the speakers who participated in the event was sophomore Shantell Fleury.

"I was proud to know that something like this existed and I was glad I had the chance to participate." Fleury said.

Calvin "Cooda" Randall, a sophomore, also participated by reading an original piece entitled *Confessions of a Black Man*.

Darlene Bell-Grady, a 1990 graduate, said that she enjoyed the read-in. "I definitely plan to participate in the read-in next February."

Bell-Grady read two original pieces that discussed the problems of slavery and the courage and unity among them.

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