

Features/Student Life

Speaking His Mind

Lecturer Gregory is always ready to inspire and motivate young people

By Alexandria Ferguson
Argus Reporter

An audience attentively listened to an enthusiasm-filled and charismatic speaker in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium Oct. 23.

The speaker for the occasion was Dick Gregory, an actor, activist and comedian.

The Winston-Salem State University Burke Singers rendered a selection that gracefully pierced the heart and soul of Dick Gregory himself. "He who believes in freedom cannot rest until it comes," were the lyrics of this song, and you could see the content on Gregory's face.

His presentation was filled with government-conspiracy

theories, unethical practices among black people and encouraging the audience to seek out knowledge.

"I am so grateful that I was able to hear this great man speak. He focused on the need for education and knowledge among black people," said Brandon Johnson, a senior mass communications major.

Gregory has a style like no other, and he was not afraid to reveal his style to a nonexpectant audience. He eloquently and confidently stood, looking the audience members in the face and spoke to their hearts, "Fear is the biggest confronting problem among our youth today."

In many observations of the audience members' body language, his tactless, side-splitting presentation kept them on pins and needles.

"The educational system never gave lax folks a Harvard or Yale," Gregory said. He gave overdue praise to all HBCU's around the country. He wanted the audience to realize that education is like a river; it will continue to flow.

"If you do not believe what I am saying, do a test you can't cheat on. Out of 100 black people, 98 of them are products of black colleges," he said.

There was a calmness in the audience when Gregory said, "Nobody in the history of this

country made the type of progress blacks have made." The audience accepted this statement, and knew that it was his style of impressing knowledge on them. When asking many people how they felt about Gregory's presentation, the message was clear across the board: Knowledge.

"The style of Gregory is one that we are not use to. The presentation was phenomenal. With his style so in your face, you can't take things out of context," said Marilyn Roseboro, a mass communications staff member.

From the cheers of the audience members and the smiles on their faces, his point had been taken.

BE SAFE: Don't drink and drive

The winter holiday season is an especially crucial time of the year to address the issue of impaired driving and its impact upon our community. With the proliferation of celebrations, the potential risk of impaired driving becomes even greater. Statistics show that one out of every five people will become a victim of drunk driving in their lifetime. Every 33 minutes there is a fatality, and every two minutes an injury due to an alcohol-related crash. Last year in Forsyth County there were 35 traffic fatalities with 10 of these alcohol related.

What can you do to help? First, set an example by not drinking and driving. Designate a sober driver before you go out. Or, volunteer to be a designated sober driver for your friends and family. Other options include spending the night where you are or using a taxi. Whatever you decide, don't get behind the wheel if you have been drinking and don't allow your friends to either.

Lisa Brady, RN, BSN, CEN
Trauma Nurse Coordinator
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Hard work pays off in drama students' show, 'Ebony Images'

By Kimberley Hunter
Argus Reporter

Winston-Salem State University students gathered in the Cleon F. Thompson, Jr. Student Services Center to support "Ebony Images," a two-night event that showcased the talents of drama students on campus.

"Ebony Images" is an annual event that allows drama students to leave the confinement of their classroom and showcase skills that have been taught to them throughout the semester.

Through each oral interpretation and song, the drama students showed their creative side. Choosing their own pieces to perform gave them a chance to be engulfed in their work and allowed the audience to reap the benefits of their hard

work.

Avis Gray, a drama instructor, was impressed with the student turnout and most impressed with her students' performance.

"Usually with a production like this one, a cast must devote two hours a day, five days a week, and my students only had time to work on their pieces in the allotted class time from noon to 12:50 p.m.," said Gray.

Under the supervision of Gray, students realized that putting on a production takes dedication and perseverance.

Drama students saw this dedication in the production of "One."

"It was hard to get together because we had to learn the lines then rehearse when to stop and

begin ... we had to have outside of class rehearsals," said Niché Vereen, a senior mass communications major.

"I always enjoy Mr. Meachum ... he was really funny," said Jay Maynard, a sophomore.

"This is the essence of a movement towards flourishing Black talent on the campus of Winston-Salem State University," said Frederick Locks, a sophomore.

Although students enjoyed every performance, others could relate to some interpretations better than others could.

"I really liked 'The Strong Black Woman Is Dead.' ... I liked the way she presented it and I could relate to the poem," said Tiya Henderson, a sophomore.

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the story," said Cunningham.

Dr. Adnee Bradford, a WSSU English professor, tells of wearing her wrap-around hat with an African motif to her father's funeral in the book. If her father had seen her in the hat, she was sure he would have said, "Sis, where'd you get that hat?" she said in

the book.

Ollie McDowell, an English instructor, remembers the jeers she received when she walked into an North Carolina A&T game wearing the strictly enforced dress code of Spellman College, her alma mater, of hats, glove, heels and stockings during her days at college.

Dr. Shirley Manigault, the honors program direc-

tor and an English professor, revealed in the book that she wasn't as fond of hats as a child as she is now. When she looks at herself wearing a hat in the mirror, she sees her mother.

"Put something on your head. Put something on your head," she said she remembers her mother telling her.

"(The book) must resonate with something

that's in a lot people. It's a part of cultural history," Manigault said.

Manigault said that being a part of the project was about more than taking a picture in a pretty hat. "I thought it was interesting to be with the women and listen to the stories of the women in the church hats," she said.

"It's like a cultural study," said Flynt-Wallington.