

## Speaker tells blacks to turn lives around

By Keith Caesar  
Argus News Editor

The ancient Egyptians inscribed the passage "Know thyself" above the doors in their homes. A lecturer that visited the campus in September is hoping that students and faculty at Winston-Salem State University will hear that cry and take the initiative to learn more about themselves.

Famed black psychologist Dr. Na'im Akbar was the guest speaker of the Joseph Patterson Lecture series in September. He spoke to students and faculty on the virtues of knowing ourselves. He is adamant that this is something that blacks can attain.

He was due to come to WSSU earlier in the month but had to reschedule because of the attacks of Sept. 11.

Akbar said that African-Americans should focus not on the negativity, but should instead begin learning about the things that will be more beneficial in the long run.

"Self-knowledge is the catalyst that reverses this whole process," he said.

He added that this can be attained by using the Dubois principle of a double consciousness.

"We cannot simply focus on our self-knowledge. We have to see ourselves as we are, but also through the eyes of other people," he said.

When asked whether this could truly be attained by blacks, he responded, "I wouldn't question if we were up to the task if I didn't know what we've been through."

However, Akbar said that this is something that will not come overnight and will take some time.

"It's a long-term process. Self-knowledge releases human potential productivity, creativity, all the energy and motivation we have," he said. "As long as we don't have it, we have no place to steer."

He that said black America can change its position in society.

"This will not come as a mass movement by blacks, but as the commitment of people who are true to the cause.

"It begins with a nucleus of committed people," said Akbar. "There was never a massive slave revolt, there were always a few people who constantly worked together."

As devastating and traumatic as slavery was, there were only a few people who were willing to revolt, such as Frederick Douglas and Sojourner Truth. Only a handful did it, as did a handful of whites.

How long it takes will be up to those who believe in what is being fought for.

"It will take a couple of generations, but we will get there," he said.

## Making a Connection



Photo by Jerry Watkins  
Jaheim gets up close and personal with fans in the front row at the homecoming concert at Joel Coliseum. Also performing at the concert were Miss E Wreck of Now City. Modeling troupe Mozik opened the concert which only had about 180 attending. Jadakiss, who was reported as being sought after to headline the show, was unable to come.

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