

Opinions & EDITORIALS

SELF

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Cryptopsy and Absu, namely. Then I listen to punk rock (NoFx, Bad Religion, Against All Authority, Green Day), Motown (pretty much all of it because I grew up on it), jazz, rap (Mos Def, Cypress Hill, Rage Against the Machine, The Roots, Jay-Z, Slipknot) and the like. I enjoy reading everything from Nietzsche and LaVey to Vatsyayana. I love gothic svelte imagery and urban imagery.

What I'm getting at is that one needs a broad spectrum of knowledge and culture in their lives. The BET (Blacks Everywhere Television) train of thought cannot progress the African-American race that far. Everywhere you go on this campus, you'll see a TV with "106 & Park" on, bloodletting the masses into a mental coma. I think that the campus of Winston-Salem should realize that the school is paying for 70-plus channels and there is a great bandwidth of entertainment on television.

We as black people should learn to embrace other cultures so that we can understand how the world works. If not embracing them, at least be knowledgeable of them so that there is no confusion or bias. For those who have claimed to have broken from the mental chains of racial stereotype, you are halfway in your journey of self-fulfillment.



The News Argus will continue to study the negativity that is placed on WSSU and the many misconceptions that plague us. We will also examine school spirit: Where has it gone, and how can it be reclaimed?

Image can't be everything to students

By Keith Caesar
Argus News Editor

You've probably heard the saying "image is everything." And that seems to be true more so in this day and age.

However, images sometimes form a barrier, which leads toward intra-racism and other problems amongst persons of the same race. We find things to grab at, effectively destroying any sort of cohesiveness we may have.

Right now, the very image of blacks is being sculpted by the world, and the control of it is being lost.

The ideal image of black seems centered around persons who are light skinned, with long wavy hair, a good build and, in some strange cases, persons having green or blue eyes. These are the images of blacks that are becoming the poster children for the entire black race. We all

know that you can't limit black to one specific type, however, the image today is a far cry from the images of the '50s, '60s and '70s.

Then there is this gangsta image that is perpetuated by the media. The only flaw is that the gangsta of the past did as they spoke. And today's "gangstas" are simply imitating bedtime stories.

Ultimately, the image of young successful blacks is that they are rich and full of enough ice to freeze the Sahara.

This forces me to ask, what are the consequences of being someone you're not?

In fashion, image is everything. Egged on by fashion designers and an industry, which in the case of the African-American, has taken a trend created by the black youth and translated that into financial empowerment and gain which falls directly into their pockets.

In education, image is everything. People tend to look at the schools that students attend and judge the intellect of students by what they don't have.

This in itself creates a class system, if you are from a smaller college or university, there is the assumption that your education is less valued.

It doesn't take a genius to realize that some of the greatest minds did not attend Ivy league schools.

For a moment, let's look at our surroundings. Our campus is located near a major interstate which surrounds us. Add a major traffic vein that is smacked right in the center of the university, and that makes for a lot of noisy nights.

Now compare our surroundings with that of the other institutions of higher education in Winston-Salem. It's interesting to see that one area can be so posh, while the other has traffic running through it.

I'm positive that every student can attest to the daily response of fire truck and police car sirens whaling through the air.

I am sure the founding fathers of the community had some sense of what they were doing when they initiated new ideas for zoning the city and surrounding areas.

Image is everything.

If students put forth the same amount of zeal into their education as they do into their outward appearances, into this image of an educated person, then wouldn't this create and define what we are becoming as adults and professionals?

Shouldn't the greater pursuit as neophytes be in creating and becoming characters of stature and poise? People are remembered for who they were and not for what they were talked about as doing.

Or are we simply living up to the image?

Campus Voices

Where has WSSU's school spirit gone?

"We need a little more spirit than what we have. There are also not enough activities throughout the semester to promote school spirit."



Kean Weathers
freshman

"The spirit has deteriorated into a ghost. Everyone comes to the campus and leaves. We have a 'driveby' environment. School spirit, however, at WSSU is like mining for diamonds in South Africa. It's there, but somebody got to dig it out."



Lorenzo Meachum
professor of Speech Composition

"School spirit here at WSSU is horrible. We do not go to events held on campus. This past homecoming was the second I've attended, and it was very different from my first year. The number of students was not even as large as the homecoming game."



Sheryl Coppel
sophomore

"School spirit is not good. The student body depends on the freshman to provide spirit, and we just got here. As a freshman, we depend on the upperclassmen to promote school spirit, which will encourage us."



Montrisha Bethea
freshman