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# THE NEWS ARGUS

Winston-Salem State University

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April 2003

## 13-car break-in makes for poor April Fools' joke

By Keith Caesar and Nicole Ferguson  
ARGUS EDITORS

What is notoriously known as a day for practical jokes became no laughing matter for 13 Winston-Salem State University students who woke to find that their vehicles had been tampered with.

The break-ins occurred to vehicles parked in the Rams Commons parking lot, along Price Street and into the Wilson Hall parking lot.

"I'm thinking about just taking my car back home. It'll be safer there," said Kionna Kay, a sophomore nursing major from

Charlotte. "My roommate told me that some cars had been broken into. I didn't think to check my car until then."

She said when she went to her vehicle, she discovered that her window had been shattered as the culprits tried to steal the CD player from her car, but couldn't.

Kay noted that it was the second time her car has been broken into.

According to Kay, campus police told her that the offenders were caught on tape and chased by campus police, but got away when they wrecked their van and ran.

Lt. Marcus Sutton of campus police said the suspects stole a van and made their way to campus to commit car thefts, making the investigation a joint one with the Winston-Salem police department.

"We've got some leads with the city police on a possible suspect. There were quite a few guys that ran in all different directions after they wrecked over on Cleveland Avenue."

Sutton said the suspects probably headed to Cleveland Avenue because they knew people who stayed in the apartment complex over there.

"We're trying to get something [a lead] with the fingerprints to see if it's someone who's been in city jail."

Sutton said the reason some students weren't notified by campus police about their cars being broken into was because the cars were registered in their parents' names and most of the cars didn't have campus decals.

"We treat it [the case and break-ins] just like we're off campus. The students will have to deal with their insurance companies. Parking on campus is no different from parking on city streets," he said.



Argus photos by Keith Caesar

This is one of the cars that was broken into April 1. A CD player was taken and the driver's window was smashed.



### Welcome to WSSU



Argus photo by Nicole Ferguson

Black Men for Change invited students from Petree Elementary to campus to expose the youngsters to college life and try to make a difference in their lives.

## Gender gap widens as men decline

By Janell J. Lewis  
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

So who are the new faces behind the positions of president, vice president and CEO of major companies? Who holds close to 16 percent of all corporate-office rankings in Fortune 500 companies? Who is graduating from college at increasingly higher rates than ever?

Less than a decade ago, one's answer to any of these questions probably wouldn't be women, even more so, black women, but in the 21st century there's a new profile of black women entering the high-definition business era.

The issue concerning more black women than black men graduating from not only high school, but from college is a fact that has been true for some time now. Here, at Winston-Salem State University there is an average of 228 more female graduates than males a year, according to records from the past five years. We already know that the number of women on this campus greatly surpasses the number of men who attend. This is becoming a common trend not only at historically black institutions but white majority institutions, also, despite the heavy recruitment for men. WSSU had 687 freshmen students enter on a first-time, full-time status fall of 2002. Forty-nine out of those 687 did not return this semester, spring 2003. Nine of the 49 who didn't return were on academic probation, and 13 suspended. Overall, there was a 93 percent one-semester retention rate. According to Ms. Mussat-Whitlow of first-year college and academics, "That is a high, one-semester retention rate."

The exact number of freshmen on academic probation who remain at the university is unknown, but it is said that the numbers are fairly high. But

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## Rumor mill keeps troops entertained

By Nahal Toosi  
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

SOUTHERN IRAQ (KRT) - Jennifer Lopez was supposed to visit the Marines of the 6th Engineer Support Battalion on a USO tour weeks ago. She did not show.

Neither did Britney Spears, Shania Twain, nor Kid Rock.

Osama bin Laden has not been captured. Saddam Hussein did not accept exile in Russia. The war, apparently, would not end in March.

The truth can hurt. Rumors, though, provide lots of entertain-

ment, and in the heat-scorched, sand-blasted camps the battalion has established here and in Kuwait, rumors fly, bite, fester, evolve and have a life span of weeks. The insects can barely keep up. Even during wartime, when the Marines have less free time, the rumor mill buzzes.

It seems inevitable. Spread hundreds of people among a few austere camps in the desert, give them virtually no access to the news and no time frame for getting home, and wild tales will spring up like flies around a cup of water. Often, the

stories are born from a morsel of truth and evolve beyond recognition. Many times, a bored Marine purposely starts a rumor just to see how long it takes before it gets back to him.

"It's our source of entertainment because we have nothing," said Lance Cpl. Michelle Glass, 20, a member of Engineer Company C based out of Peoria, Ill.

The Marines call the source of the rumors the "lance corporal underground" — a sarcastic reference to

## Former secretary of labor to speak at graduation

COURTESY OF WSSU WEB SITE

Alexis M. Herman, America's 23rd Secretary of Labor, the first African-American and the fourth woman to head the U.S. Labor Department, will be the keynote speaker at Winston-Salem State University's Spring Commencement, Saturday, May 10, at 9:45 a.m. in Lawrence Joel

Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Under Herman's administration, unemployment was at a 30-year low, African-Americans and Hispanics were employed in record levels, and workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths declined to an all-time low. Former Secretary Herman has

been widely credited as an important leader in the effort to move people from welfare to work. As U.S. Secretary of Labor, Herman headed a \$39 billion annual budget and a work force of 17,000 people across the country. Under her leadership, the department received a clean audit on its fiscal year 97, 98 and 99 finan-

cial statements. Herman is a native of Mobile, Ala., and a graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans. At the age of 29, she joined President Carter's administration as the youngest director of the Women's Bureau in the history of the labor department. In the 1980s, she became a successful entrepreneur and labor

market expert. In 1993, President Clinton appointed her assistant to the president and director of the White House Public Liaison Office. In May 1997, Vice President Al Gore swore her in as U.S. Secretary of Labor. A recipient of several honorary degrees from major colleges and universities around the country,

Herman has also been honored by numerous charitable civic and public policy organizations. She received the Sara Lee Foundation's prestigious Frontrunner Award and the YWCA's Volunteer of the Year Award. She was named "One of the 10

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