

# Opinions & EDITORIALS



From the Editor

## Black men are behind the times

Brothers, why are we letting women take over?

Well, there does appear to be one reason. We're not stepping to the plate with bats swinging.

It seems that while we're on the basketball court playing games and dreaming of the NBA, sisters are finding alternatives. They're spending their time in libraries, bookstores and coffeehouses devising a life plan. And we are reduced to being cavemen who used to clobber women over the head and drag them back to the lair.



CAESAR

Today, these women are beginning to learn that they can earn as much money as their caveman counterparts. They can be successful without the help of a man. They are putting themselves into positions where they are becoming the boss.

Needless to say, there are some black men who are working toward financial, personal and spiritual goals. But the majority aren't.

The game has changed, so why aren't we stepping up?

Brothers, for real, we know how our daily conversations are toward women. We can almost describe them by their bodies more than we can remember their names. So while we're stuck on hedonistic tendencies, these women are getting paid. In the job market, it appears that women are taking over more and more of the positions once occupied by men. Not surprisingly, black women are stepping into the positions that they could have only dreamed of a few years ago.

This is because of one simple reason. While we spend our days watching Sports Center or drooling over the videos on BET, a lot of these women are out there hustling. And while we don't have a clue as to what we are going to do the next day, they already have their five-year plans developed.

Women are nice to look at, but how much of our time is spent on dreaming about things we possibly won't ever have? It's like that term "survival of the fittest," but what these women seem to be telling us is, "Step up or shut up."

Challenge these women, give them something worth fighting for, challenge the stereotypes. In order to change this trend, we must start focusing on the bigger issue.

The player, player days are getting old. The educated black man days are in. Be what you are about to become, because the only thing that can stop you from doing big things is your attitude.

## Downtown will come alive this summer with music, films, food

By Anthony L. Nelson  
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

I have always believed that the most attractive area to any city should be its downtown area and its after-hours atmosphere.

Cities around the world capitalize financially because they are able to lure their population into their cafes, sports bars, restaurants, art galleries and other attractions. I have lived in Winston-Salem since I was, oh, for life. When I was small, there were outings such as the Street Scene, which made me want to go downtown to enjoy the festivities and go to work with my mom. I even liked the little shop that served breakfast next to my mom's job on Liberty Street.

For some reason, walking the streets to see the hustle and bustle of the business people was of interest to me. As I grew older, the excitement for me began to deteriorate with the livelihood of the area. I went away to school for a couple of years, came back and the same scenario existed. But now there's a special movement that has created a probing and imaginative nature in me. I believe it will be something for all of us to be proud of, especially if you plan to stay in the area.

Supporters of Winston-Salem have been working tirelessly to ensure that our future scholars, businessmen and women, teachers, lawyers, doctors, athletes, and artists have pride in their hometown. These leaders are regenerating economic development and interest in the downtown area. There has already been work done in the Arts District, and now it's time for everyone to reap the benefits of the dedication of people such as Phil Hanes Jr., Glenda Keels, Lynette Matthews-Murphy, Stacie Brenner and several others who have invested their time and money.

Numerous activities have taken place to rekindle visitation to the area. The ArtsIgnite Festival was a 12-day event produced by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Arts Council that showcased a series of contemporary, classical and popular productions that drew patrons to the Stevens Center, Winston Square Park and other venues downtown. It featured local, national, and international actors and actresses. On Fridays,



Visitors browse at Realis Art Gallery during a Gallery Hop on Trade Street. ON THE COVER: This colorful mural is also on Trade Street.

there are also events such as the Downtown Arts District First Friday Gallery Hop on Trade and Sixth streets, which gives persons interested in the arts the opportunity to explore numerous shops and galleries while enjoying entertainment and refreshments.

The Music in the Streets series begins May 1 with features such as: Alive After 5 (held in Corpening Plaza), Summer on Trade, and Fourth Street Jazz and Blues (May 9). They provide live music and, of course, food in the parks.

The majority of these events are for the entire family at little or no cost. If you're interested in films, the River Run Film Festival (April 24-27) will screen feature-length and short films, as does Films on Fourth.

One of the latest and most exciting pieces to the downtown area's resurgence is Rock the Block. This is a more improved version of the Street Scene, but it has an assortment of activities for various ages. Rock the Block provides outdoor and indoor activities such as games for children, an area for extreme sports, a classic car show, music from the different decades, a cyber area for remote Internet use and vendors who sell everything from crafts to food. This is the perfect opportunity to catch all the new cafes and shops primed for sidewalk dining.

If you missed the event last fall,

which generated the largest gathering of people for one evening of music, art and pure fun in decades, you will again have the chance to go to this all-out block party. On May 2, downtown on Fourth Street, from 6 to 10 p.m., there will be another party in the streets that doesn't require dress slacks. The only requirement is that you enjoy yourself. The room for excuses concerning boredom and restlessness is being packed with happenings that extend themselves to you. Every so often, things do change. Many times we are not responsive to those changes, and we miss the action. Now, as a young and energetic dweller in Winston-Salem, you have the chance to claim that you were there when the music was on and people were dancing, eating and having a grand time in the streets. You have the chance to show that you are open-minded and supportive of the city's escalation from lifeless evenings and weekends to stimulating occasions that you'll relay to your neighbor, co-worker and kids. Most importantly, you have the chance to be a part of the city's largest block party no matter what zip code you reside in.

If you would like to volunteer to enlist in the Urban Army as a volunteer to promote events such as Rock the Block, please e-mail Katie Pepper at [katiep@wrcp.com](mailto:katiep@wrcp.com).

## Though strides have been made, affirmative action is still needed

It is a pleasure to spend time with you once again with this edition of the Chancellor's Corner. As discussed at the onset of the first edition, one of the goals of the column has been to discuss areas of concern for you, the students. Based on candid conversations and observations, a recurring area of interest, particularly in recent weeks, has been affirmative action. Given the current public focus on affirmative action, I thought it would be appropriate to take a closer look at this important policy.

The depth and breadth of affirmative action has been

### chancellor's corner

with Dr. Harold L. Martin



vehemently discussed since the early 1960s. Through Executive Order 10925, President Kennedy in 1961 issued the order requiring that government contractors must "take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin." Yet, many in the modern era would

argue that there is no longer a "compelling interest" for affirmative action. In the minds of the more conservative in our country, the 21st Century provides a "fair playing field." There is little question that advancements have been made for minorities. Yet, when women continue to earn 76 cents for every male dollar for the same job and African Americans continue to have twice the unemployment rate of White Americans, it is difficult to argue that equality has been reached.

Given the perspectives on affirmative action, how will

this initiative shape our future? Well, in preparing yourself for graduate programs and careers, you must recognize that the growing debate serves as a stronger polarization of differing perspectives. Given this realization, WSSU is fortunate to have informed students like you. We were proud that many of you chose to voice your support of affirmative action by participating in the rally in Washington, D.C., with thousands of affirmative action supporters. A special note of appreciation is given to Kristie Swink, our SGA President, who organized the trip.

I am also thankful that you as students realize the importance of performing at high levels of excellence, such that regardless of one's view of affirmative action, you are the clear choice for adding value to any organization. Your quality educational experiences here at WSSU will prepare and position you to fulfill the university's motto, "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve." In so doing, I am convinced this will be your greatest safeguard to those who oppose affirmative action.

Send all questions and comments to [chancellorsoffice@wssu.edu](mailto:chancellorsoffice@wssu.edu).