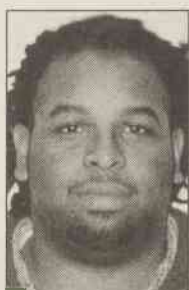


Opinions & EDITORIALS

From the Editor

It's time to make the choices that will define us

It dawns on me that this is the last editorial for this year and the last for me as editor of *The News Argus*. I never wanted to seem as if I had all the answers because I've learned over these past couple of years that planning can sometimes create more of a problem.



CAESAR

What I hope has been the case for the past two years is that students have listened and realized that there are other things out there.

We are competing, and will compete for the rest of our lives. So why not play the game with the mind-set that you have already one.

It is vital that we take responsibility for what we do in life and learn to contribute to the consciousness of the world.

As a person from another country, it is a wonder that many people come to America looking for an opportunity and for a better life. In this experience there are things that I have learned which have been positive and negative. Especially when it comes to the state of this race many of us are a part of.

It is disheartening to see students who don't care. However, on the flip side there is a breed of students who will no doubt make an indelible contribution to this world.

While students have come and gone, some will eventually settle for what ever life deals them, and others will go out and conquer the world.

Some of us share this common goal of finishing school. But then what?

A job, a house, a few kids.

If that works for you fine. But there is always work to be done in our communities, in our schools, and the only people who can do it seem to be for the moment chillin'.

This generation needs something to wake us up. Reality is no game, a 9 to 5 job is not a game.

At WSSU we are urged to "depart to serve." While it may serve as a good statement for some, we really should depart to not only serve but rebuild, ensure, educate and a host of other things I can name right now.

It's time to step it up. Take that leap that you fear because you are overly cautious.

For those who will make it, get your foot in the door, wiggle it around, but also make sure that the people you put your foot out for won't end up breaking it.

We all have dreams, how many of us are doing all we can to make those dreams come true?

We are our best allies.

Essentially, those who live on dreams and faith alone should realize that education and advancement is a constant process in which we must learn something new everyday.

It also hurts me to look out as some people and see that the door of opportunity is open for them, and they are only blowing it away.

If there is anything I have learned in my time is that we can build empires. We can have whatever we want, We don't have to answer to anyone.

So what will it be, build an empire, or work for someone else?

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

After reading the column in April 2003 addition of *The News Argus* by Keith Caesar titled "Black Men Are Behind the Times," I was inspired to write my first letter to an editor. I agree with Caesar. It is past time for black males to accept their role as leaders of their household and their community. It is unfortunate and unfair to the black woman and the children for the black man to be nonexistent but because women are tired of their predicament they have begun to do something about it. Women have begun to speak up for themselves, their children, and yes even their men.

Further, women have begun to be sole breadwinners, housewives, disciplinarians, mother and father. However, some of these roles are the responsibility of the man. In fact, the problem lies in the black man's unwillingness to accept his proper role in society. One of the initial steps to solving this problem is understanding its sources. The main sources of this problem are fear, poor parenting and a lack of personal preparation.

As a black man, fear has been my arduous adversary. Furthermore, this enemy in the person of fear disguises its true appearance with masks that can also be called artificial escapes from reality for its victims or virtual reality. To attempt to list some of these masks or escapes, some are staying at home with parents, marijuana, using and/or selling drugs, alcohol, sex, video games, sports, irrational dreams without a back up plan, and laziness just to name some of the more popular masks. Why not just remove the mask? To simply remove the mask is

not enough because one must be ready to face fear before this step is to be taken. How does one prepare to face fear? Practice!

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6. This statement is a warning to parents. Although, this advice is a blessing to good parents, it can also become a curse to poor parents. If a child is taught good habits then the good habits will generally manifest in the child's life. The down side of this statement is, if a child is taught bad habits the bad habits will most likely dominate the behavior of the child.

Yes! Parents play an intricate part in the prosperity of children. According to many theorists on child development, children learn their roles in society by modeling, and imitation. Parents or the persons that replace parents are the most influential models in a child's life. Girls learn to be women by imitating their mothers, and boys learn to be men by imitating their fathers. But there are very few fathers in the home to imitate, and even fewer good fathers. It is no wonder that there are so few good black men. Nevertheless, young black men cannot use this as an excuse. "Excuses are tools for the incompetent," and the black man is not incompetent.

There must be some accountability for one's own plight. Being that man has a capacity for complex thought, it seems that if one truly makes a conscientious effort to achieve a particular goal or task, then success can be realized. With understanding this, it is important that when setting goals, these goals be well thought out. After completing the previous

steps, then personal preparation comes into the equation. The black man must make a conscientious effort towards rationally derived goals, and then personally take responsibility for the achievement of these goals.

The sources have been identified; now what? Well, it is time to pick up the bat, step to the plate, and start "winging." Don't worry about striking out; Barry Bonds (pro baseball player) has three times as many outs as he has home runs. He is successful because he steps to the plate with confidence. Bonds believe that the next pitch he hits is a home run; he has no fear of what the pitcher may throw at him. Moreover, he has done a lot of preparing, in the form of practice in the bull pen, swinging at hundreds of different types of pitches. Bonds does not blame his coach for not teaching him how to swing the bat effectively, he knows that it is now up to him. Fellow black men, stop wasting your potential and your talents; if you have no help, help yourself. Lets prepare ourselves to successfully take our appropriate places in our homes and in society.

1 Timothy 5:8 says, "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he is worse than an infidel. Finally, stop claiming fear; "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," 2 Timothy 1:7 tell us. As black men, lets change the titles of articles written about us from, "Black men are behind the times," to "Black men, trailblazers of achievement in every field of human endeavors."

Regderick Howard, full-time WSSU staff member

College stepping stone for life, career

By Anthony L. Nelson
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

College for many is an experience that alters the perception of life. For some, college may simply be the process taken to get to the next level of their careers.

Although it should be both, young people entering the world of responsibility, academics, and partying often cross-different paths.

For me, it began as a path that was

somewhat undetermined, but very optimistic. However, as I said, one never knows what his or her destination after college life will be.

Upon entering school, I had the notion that college would be, play ball and study when I want to so that I can get by. As many people learn though, ball doesn't last always and that's when your intellect has to take over.

Possessing a gift can be beneficial yet

also detrimental if not used properly.

As Jigga says, the gift can become the curse or vice versa. If you don't truly perfect your gift and use it to its full potential, then it becomes a hindrance more than a benefit. I felt compelled to balance the two, the talent and the affliction. The true test in college comes

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It is important to continually recognize excellence

It gives me great joy to share time with you once again as we move towards the close of another exciting school year.

We have reached numerous milestones as we persevered beyond challenges, both foreseen and unseen.

You are truly exceptional students and that is clear in many, many ways. So, for this edition of the Chancellor's Corner, allow me to share my thoughts on the Student Awards Banquet and the symbolism represented with the event.

The purpose of the Student



Awards Banquet is to showcase and commend the various forms of human endeavors that are a part of student life at WSSU.

Particular note should be given to the vast number of students who received awards. There were over 60 students who received the award for "Who's Who Among Students," which is a national award that serves as

a true centerpiece for measuring excellence among students from various institutions. Our university is also proud to recognize over 100 students who received the Student Activities Office "Outstanding Leadership Award" which is based on leadership in extra-curricula activities.

Another leadership forum, the WSSU Leadership Institute, selected over 70 students who have demonstrated various forms of leadership in both academia and throughout the campus community. In addition to the

previously stated awards, you, the students, serve the greater community of Winston-Salem as evidenced by the "Community Service Award" to approximately 28 students. It is clear that you are truly making a difference in the classroom and throughout the many facets of WSSU life.

The Student Awards Banquet is certainly representative of the realization that the various facets of life at our great institution require a wide-range of orga-

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