

Opinions & EDITORIALS



From the Editor Welcome to the News Argus

Although the campus community has had well over a month to acclimate itself into an academic and social routine, I want to extend a warm welcome to you all from *The News Argus* and its staff.

I am very excited about this year for many reasons, but especially because I've been afforded the opportunity to step into an important leadership role as Editor-in-Chief of *The Argus*. I know the first issue has been anticipated by many, including the paper's staff.

Although we've had a delayed distribution of this first issue, I pledge to this campus a quality, timely newspaper, and a paper that does not hold back. When I say this, I mean that *The News Argus* may always be counted on to provide accurate, newsworthy stories that reflect issues of concern to this university, especially the students.

September's issue contains many articles that will inform, educate, and even surprise some, but it won't contain everything. Please feel free to inform *The News Argus* staff members, including me, of stories that you believe are newsworthy. If we can't get to a particular topic for a print edition, let's talk about getting it online at www.thenewsargus.com. We want to strive for excellence in coverage, but we need and appreciate everyone's input in doing so.

There's just one last thing I'd like to touch on before I close. It concerns the catalyst behind many stories that will appear in *the Argus*, including those such as housing and construction. Always be mindful that we are in the midst of change at this university. And change, whether it's welcomed or not, is necessary. Also remember, no matter how redundant or cliché it may sound, that you have a voice to speak with, a ballot to vote with and the intelligence to challenge. Never sit stagnant. Engage in healthy debates. Care about what's going on. And most importantly, speak and stand up when necessary, choosing your battles carefully.

You'll entice more thought and change than you ever imagined.

Enjoy what September's issue has to offer. We look forward to hearing from you. Until next month, this is Nicole Ferguson signing off for *The News Argus*.

"My byline is my lifeline"



FERGUSON

Have lessons been learned from War?

By Demond Cureton
ARGUS REPORTER

I remember reading about the ancient Greek tale of Pyrrhus, the great war general that became famous for his example to mankind about fighting battles that, even in victory, would be at too great a cost.

The skirmish in Iraq is a parallel to this story, as the US is faced with many losses that surfaced during and after the war.

Much of the war is beginning to give Americans a bad case of Vietnam déjà vu. America has many issues to face, and fighting a war in a time of economic depression causes valuable resources to be used.

Much of the money and resources that were spent on funding for the Iraqi war could have gone towards funding programs in America like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Education and the rising unemployment rate.

After the war, American soldiers wondered when they could come home, but due to the civil uprisings with Hamas and other Al-Qaida networks, they have to remain on duty and face terrible uncertainty.

According to the Iraq Coalition Death Count website, as of May 4th to the present (the day President Bush declared the end of major combat aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln), the death toll of US soldiers has reached 134.

The ones who supported Saddam's regime are likely to plot more terrorist attacks in retaliation to the US strike. It was foolish to believe that America could remove terrorism with just a couple of men; this only fuels more hatred and creates more uprisings.

The reputation of America is soured once again. There is still a major concern regarding the true reasons as to why America decided to attack Iraq when the real goal was in Afghanistan. As of today, there has been no solid evidence of chemical or biological weapons in Iraq.

The American government is still feeling the sting of the false information about Iraq obtaining plutonium from Nigeria, and now countries are trying to point the finger towards each other, namely at Japan and Australia.

Adding to this, there was little evidence that Saddam Hussein had any relevance to the World Trade Center bombings of 9/11, and the US's main target in Afghanistan (Osama Bin Ladin).

America tried their scorched earth bombing tactics to snake Osama out and it was unsuccessful. Like a ringmaster that wanted to please a crowd after a terrible boxing match, Mr. Executive Decision himself decided that the show was not over. Although Saddam refused to let inspectors in his country to check for weapons, he had his reasons, like the LAPD have for not rehiring Mark Furman. Even after they didn't find anything, Mr. Texas still wanted Saddam to pick a fight. Who needs an explanation when you have really cool weapons? The president got his pawns in order (soldiers), his bishops (Ashcroft and Blair), his knights (Powell and Rice) and his rooks (avarice and wrath) together and laid out his brilliant game of death and deception.

In short, I believe that this war was fought at too great a cost. It cost us money, human lives, the American government's reputation, and our future stability. Sure, I know that Iraq could have possessed these alleged weapons of mass destruction, but while we were picking fights with Iraq, North Korea and India were testing theirs!

I have reason to believe that there are hidden agendas in our government, and America is continuing the saga of marauding countries.

Iraqi Coalition Death Count: <http://lunaville.org/warcasualties/Summary.aspx>

Questions Surrounding the WMD Hunt:
<http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/06/17/sprj.ir.q.wmd/index.html>

Students should keep eye on debt

By Valonda Calloway
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

You may be expecting nuggets of wisdom on how to get a job from this column and that's what you're going to get. But this column isn't about internships or killer resume writing, it's about credit.

Did you see credit card companies on campus with free stuff when you came back in August? How 'bout credit card offers in the mail? Credit cards can be a blessing and a curse. You may have heard this before but it's worth hearing again because credit card troubles are holding back so many people and many of their problems started when they were where you are now.

Your credit will play a role in just about everything you do from here on out. When you apply for a job, or try to get a car, car insurance or a house, your

alumni spotlight

what are they doing now?

credit will be checked. If you ruin your credit in college, repairing it can take years. I know someone right now who is in his 30's and has lived in an apartment since graduating from 'SU. He ruined his credit while in college by paying bills late, not paying others at all and getting behind on child support. Now he wants to buy a house and is afraid to even try because his credit is so bad.

Another 'SU grad I know ruined his credit in college too but succeeded in buying a house. That was only after a lengthy and expensive process though. He had to pay off thousands of dollars

of debt at once, get letters of approval from debtors, and find a mortgage lender that would work with him. Because of his credit problems, he still didn't get a super low interest rate at a time when interest rates hit historic lows.

Here's how you can avoid the mistakes of those who came before you.

If you're living off campus in an apartment, pay your rent on time. If you have a credit card, use it responsibly, not for things like chicken and beer but to pay for a tow truck if you car breaks down on I-40 or to buy a nice suit for a job interview.

If you get a parking ticket on campus, pay it.

You won't believe this but I graduated in 1994 and got a bill for about \$75 from

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Student growth demands seizing experiences, a plan of action

It gives me great honor to share time with you once again with this year's first edition of the Chancellor's Corner. I would like to provide a warm welcome to all of you, the WSSU student body, and share my sincere best wishes on a successful school year. Your success depends not only on WSSU providing the many resources needed during the collegiate experience but also on your active steps towards embracing opportunities.

One opportunity of great importance is the First Year College and Academic Support Services. This program, a part of the Enrollment Management



Division, is an essential part of the freshmen experience at WSSU. An important function is that of student orientation, providing freshmen with placement tests, workshops, and guidance on registration for classes. The First Year College also provides a Center for Student Success, which is a resource center for tutorials and academic enhancement. This center provides audio

study aids, examples of older tests for specific classes, and the temporary use of course books. The First Year College also sponsors the Freshmen Seminar. This course provides familiarization with WSSU expectations and the history of the university. The First Year College is a vital part of your growth as knowledgeable and well-prepared Rams.

Part of being well-prepared Rams is embracing our motto, "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve." For you to be positioned for service, you must continue to build your level of experience in your respective fields of interest. The Office of

Career Services provides excellent opportunities in this effort. In addition to personal service, the Office of Career Services has continued to integrate the most recent jobs and internships with user-friendly website assistant. In addition to the department's commitment to external opportunities, there is also a focus on providing campus-based opportunities through the Community Services Program. This program, among many initiatives, provides students and campus staff with the opportunity to work together through student volunteerism. Students are able to gain additional work

experience, build relationships, and strengthen their understanding of the university.

In understanding the university, you must realize that you are in vital partnership with WSSU. The university is committed to providing you with the tools needed for success. Yet, part of the equation for your achievements depends on your desire for growth, your plan of action, and your active steps towards achieving milestones. Every moment must be embraced and nurtured, and you must continue expectations of excellence. I look forward to mutual success.