



## STUDENT Features

**So Proud to be a Ram!**  
Don't forget, Homecoming festivities  
begin Sunday, Oct., 26.

# Our World Today

## CNN's O'Brien stresses diversity in newsrooms

By Nicole Ferguson  
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CNN's American morning Co-Anchor Soledad O'Brien spoke to the students, faculty, staff and visitors of UNC-Pembroke on Sept. 23. The message of the news-woman's speech was simple - diversity matters.

"Diversity is a topic that's important to me both personally and professionally," O'Brien said.

O'Brien, whose full name means "blessed virgin Mary of solitude," is the daughter of a black Cuban mother and an Australian father, whose parents hail from Ireland. She and her five brothers and sisters were raised in New York because their parents had to

leave the South due to racial conditions in the mid-1900s.

The Harvard University graduate stressed the importance of diversity, noting that the term did not necessarily denote black and white.

"When we talk about diversity, that means all colors, all races, all cultures, and all sexual preferences," said O'Brien.

O'Brien began her broadcasting career at WBZ-TV in Boston as a production assistant. She quickly rose in the ranks of broadcast television- becoming a reporter for KRON in San Francisco, hosting a show on the Discovery Channel, co-anchoring the "Weekend Today Show," and, finally, signing a contract with the Cable News Network, or CNN, to co-anchor American Morning.

"My job defines diversity," O'Brien said. "One day I'm interviewing the president, the next I'm eating sushi and covering a bobsled race."

O'Brien said that she's faced situations throughout her career in which news directors said she wasn't black enough to meet their needs, or they wanted her to change her name so as not to confuse the audience on her ethnicity. Then there were times when talent in competing markets contributed her success to affirmative action.

"You can go nuts on someone and try to make them read your resume, or you can do a good job," said O'Brien.

"To fight some battles is completely irrelevant to your success," she added. "It takes you off your path. The world



Photo by Nicole Ferguson  
"Argus" Editor-in-Chief Nicole Ferguson (right) met anchor Soledad O'Brien when they visited UNC-Pembroke last month.

is full of morons, who will remain morons no matter how much you fight."

## T.I. is scheduled for Homecoming

By Keith Caesar  
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

Review:  
T.I. — Trap Musik  
Atlantic Records

He's one of the artist set to hit the Stage for the annual Homecoming concert, and first of all I'll tell you that I'm no big rap aficionado.

But when I popped the "Trap Musik" into the player, I wasn't impressed. In fact T.I. impressed me as just another rapper with the anthem of the moment.

But then "24's" came on, a beat I heard and had been humming this summer. That was when I became impressed.

Upon listening to the album, I really like it.

The trap ultimately resembles the worlds we are apart of and the lives many fall victim to. The trap represents the hopes which lead many to pursue the rapping game, or the need to build on their cred. A way to get out of the "Hood"

With a mix of club records, T.I. offers a blend of struggle with relevance to the "Trap" and the life long struggles of the streets, and the drug game which sucks so many in.

Producers on the album include DJ Toomp, Sanchez, Carlos and Dadda as well as Jazze Pha which adds the the aesthetically pleasing "Let's get away."

"No More Talk," brings the reality of life to the forefront as today the world seems to be populated with imitators who only want the glitz and glamour, but then are lost in the generations.

A closer investigation revealed some introspections of the "traps" that many come from.

Overall, this is an album you can listen to which will get you thinking. Thinking about the places and situation we all come from.

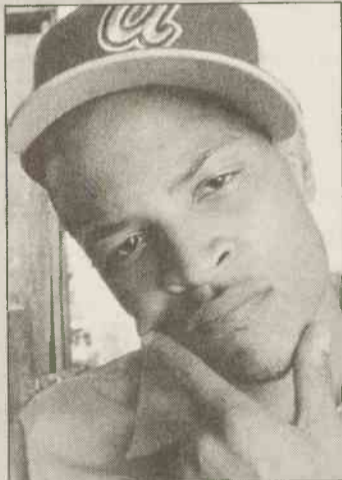


Photo by Kevin Knight/Atlantic Records  
Rapper T.I. releases new CD "Trap Musik."



Alan Brown is hopes to use his title of Mr. Ram to be of service to students at WSSU.

Argus photo by Janell J. Lewis

## Alan Brown crowned new Mr. Ram

By Janell J. Lewis  
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

First, his heart was thumping and his entire demeanor was solid and stiff.

Next, the words trickled through his ears relieving him with pure amazement. His body became loose and free ... almost weakened and limp.

The announcement of the 2003-2004 Mr. Ram had just been declared. Alan Brown is now wearing the crown and title of Mr. Ram of Winston-Salem State University and, although he was shocked, he couldn't be more excited. When they announced his name, he said the first thought that

*"I needed something for me, in my mind, where I could truly become that ram, [and] step out of that lamb status."*

—Alan Brown  
Mr. Ram 2003-2004

came to mind was, "I gotta' pee!" This was quickly followed by, "I can move now!" Brown stood in a statuesque position during the entire final act of the pageant. Finally, he came to the realization that he had

won and said, "What you say again? Oh, I made it ... hot dog!"

Brown is a 22-year-old political-science major with a minor in mass communications. WSSU may be his educational and now reigning home, but he is also a native of the city of Winston-Salem.

He said that he ran for one reason and one reason only. "I needed something for me, in my mind, where I could truly become that ram, [and] step out of that lamb status ... When it comes to sports, I'm not that great. Basketball? Uh-uh! Football? Don't even try it! Swimming? Somebody call 9-1-1!"

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