

Campus NEWS



What does the alumni of WSSU think about all the changes?

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Welcome Back

WSSU revives NAACP chapter

By Nicole Ferguson
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A student chapter of the NAACP has been reinstated on the campus of

Winston-Salem State University and one of its first tasks will be to rally students to support a moratorium on the death penalty in North Carolina.

"We are the third highest state in the nation in executions behind Oklahoma and

Texas," Rep. Earline W. Parmon told students during a meeting this month.

She added that there will be three executions of inmates in the state before the end of the year, including the scheduled execution of Forsyth County's Robbie J. Lyons on Dec. 5.

At present, there are 198 offenders on death row in North Carolina and, as of last April, there were 3,533 nationally. Of the 198 in North Carolina, 70 are white, 116 are

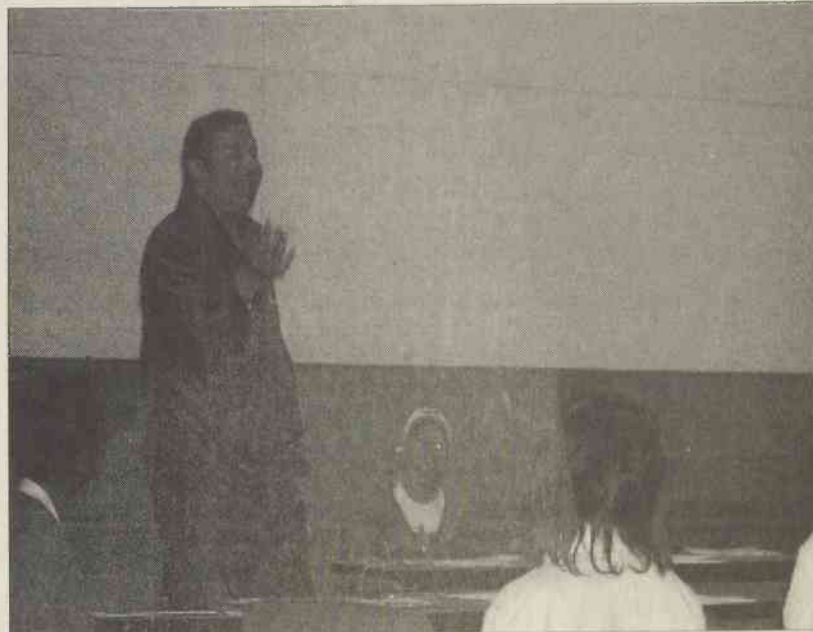
black, seven are Indian and five are listed as other.

Lyons is a 31-year-old African-American convicted of killing Stephen Stafford, the owner of Sam's Club Market in Winston-Salem, during an attempted robbery in September, 1993.

"We have gone on record in support of a moratorium on the death penalty until the issue can be looked at," Parmon said. "It passed through the NC Senate, but not the House, so we're requesting two years for the issue to be looked at."

The student chapter held its second meeting on Nov. 3 and featured Rep. Larry Womble in addition to Parmon.

Womble, an alumnus of WSSU and former Student Government Association, reflected on his days as a student in Winston-Salem during the early 1960s. He discussed the importance of organizations such as the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), SNICK and Congress of Racial Equality to the black college students of his time.



Argus Photos By Nicole Ferguson

State Representative Larry Womble talks with students at recent NAACP meeting Nov. 3.

"Those were student-led groups that changed this country," said Womble. "So don't tell me you can't do anything. We're calling on you once again to make that change."

Womble also spoke out against President George W. Bush's \$2000-a-plate dinner, which was held in Winston-Salem on Nov. 7. He said the high cost of the dinner was beyond the financial means of most middle and low-income people.

"I cannot sit back and let George Bush come in the city for an hour and nobody say anything," said Womble. "It's time for us, the average people to take a stand."

Womble said he worried that many students today lack the same "fire and passion" for

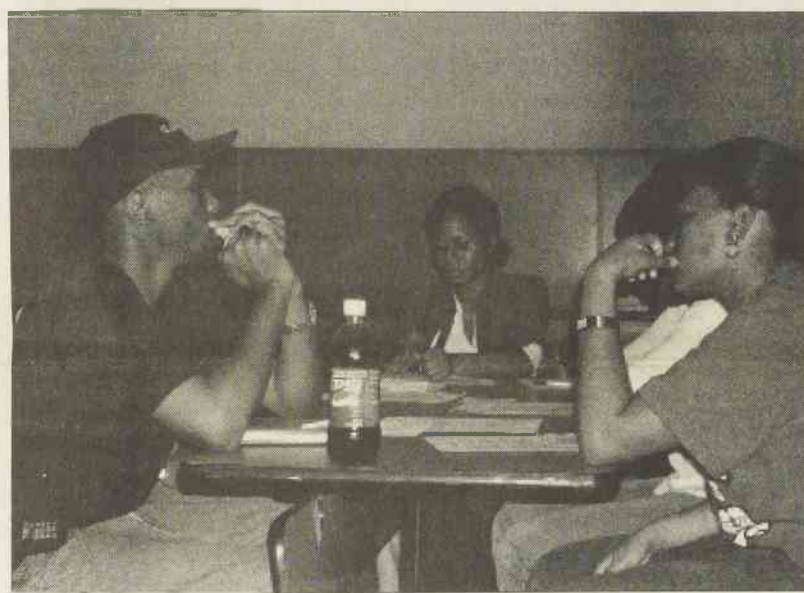
civil concerns that his generation possessed.

Antoine James is the interim vice-president of the NAACP chapter at WSSU. He said he is confident that members will rally behind relevant social and political issues, once they understand how these matters affect their lives.

"It's a lot of people involved right now who are passionate about what they want to see done around campus and around us in the community," said James.

Jessica Tillman, interim president, said she thinks the NAACP chapter is especially important to students who aren't aware of the issues they impact them.

"I think we'll get the chance to take a stand and really display some leadership skills,"



Delayed completion of plot area creates sour note for some Greeks

By Lakisa Leake
ARGUS REPORTER

For Riquita Quick, a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, this year's homecoming weekend was almost perfect, with the good weather, high-stepping parade and, of course, big win. As far as she is concerned, only one thing could have made it better and that is the Zeta Phi Beta plot.

The plots of Winston-Salem State University's Greek fraternities and sororities have always been a distinguishing feature of the campus. However, they have been temporarily removed as part of a development project involving the construction of a new clock tower and pedestrian walkway.

Dr. Melody Pierce the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, blamed rain for delaying completion of the development project. She added that each of the Greek organizations have submitted a drawing of their plot, and it will be constructed to scale. She further explained that money has been allocated to rebuild the plots, and that the university will handle the business and financial aspect of the project.

"We have made arrangements to

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have the sketches of the future plots, that the current members of the organizations have drawn, blown up, so that Alumni will see what is going on," Pierce said.

But that's little consolation for students who looked forward to seeing the plots replaced by homecoming.

"They told us prior to construction that the plots would be finished by homecoming" Quick said.

Senior Marreo Burch, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,

said, "I am upset because they tore up something that had historical value for so many people... Now we have no where to meet with old members of the organization."

LaToya Greene, a senior and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, agreed with Burch. "We really don't have anywhere to socialize with other Greek organizations. And new members don't have the luxury of sitting on the plots and representing their respective organizations." If the plots are not replaced, Greene said members of the Greek organizations "will all be devastated. It's the only place where all members of each organization can be together at one time on campus."

In addressing student's concerns, Dr. Pierce said, "This project has allowed us to give equal space to all nine of the historical Greek organizations."

"The plots have a significant role here at WSSU," she added. "It's the bond between the University and the graduated Greeks. For them to know that they have a special place here where they can come back and spend time with past and present members."

WSSU to offer B.A. degree in Social Work

By Janell J. Lewis
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

Starting next spring, the Department of Social Sciences will offer a bachelor's degree in social work.

Coordinator for the Social Work program, Sharon Warren Cook said "we wanted to make sure our students had the best opportunities after graduation. We're trying to give them the best."

Cook said she began designing the program after graduates complained that they struggled to find jobs with a sociology degree. At present, students may major in sociology with a concentration in social welfare.

Dr. Ike Okonta, chairman of the Department of Social Sciences, said the curriculum is "highly needed...and desirable."

The Bachelor of Social Work program will be part of the Department of Social Sciences.

"Social work is a very lucrative profession," Okonta said. He added that social workers assist families, individuals and groups. "They work with communities...to solve social problems."