

Opinions & EDITORIALS



'HURRY UP! KEEP MOVING! HUSTLE-HUSTLE! I've GOT A RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO GET TO! HURRY UP! HUSTLE HUSTLE!'

From the Editor

Mr. Ram, Alan Brown, doesn't fit stereotype

In our last issue we celebrated Winston-Salem State University's Homecoming. There were plenty of colorful pictures and stories that proved how much Ram Pride we all had. There was just one damper put on the celebration. That was the editorial piece in the *Winston-Salem Journal* written by former WSSU administrator, Nat Irvin.



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In his editorial, Irvin basically told WSSU students that we disgraced ourselves by promoting the image of Mr. Ram, Alan Brown. The image, as described by Irvin, promoted "pimp" antics and questioned the values that our students possessed by noting that Brown appeared to portray this negative, ghetto image decked out in fur and other "pimp" attire.

I was enraged, as many of you were. It wasn't because of Irvin's opinion, because everyone is entitled to one. But what Irvin claimed we immortalize as far as images are concerned, was not true. I hate to see or hear of our students being viewed in a matter that questions our intellect and ability to recognize trends in society meant to demean us as young African-Americans. Most of all I felt sorry for Brown. Anyone who is familiar with his gracious character knows that he is one of the most intellectual, articulate, well-mannered Mr. Ram's in WSSU's history; not to mention he's got a killer sense of style.

The buzz on campus has died down since the article has been published, but I hope we've learned an important lesson. If you didn't know before, now it should be evident that society as a whole views our generation as incompetent and unintelligent, unable to stand for something. We know otherwise, and the graduates of this great university prove otherwise. If you didn't like what was being said about our students, you should take a stand in some way. Groups such as Black Men for Change wrote intelligent letters in defiance of Irvin's views. We should all take that lead. Stand for something and pursue whatever action possible.

The *News Argus* hopes that everyone enjoys this issue and has success in final examinations. Have a great holiday. We look forward to your feedback next semester.

Letters to the editor

Students should answer the call

Dear Editor:

Was it really the picture of Alan Brown that was so disturbing to Mr. Nat Irvin, or was it just that our generation is out of touch with others?

Whether it has been realized or not, our generation has a culture of its own. A culture in which we speak, think, and socialize differently.

We are often ridiculed, and often classified under stereotypes that are highlighted in all types of media including TV, magazines, newspapers and radio.

This controversy comes as a way to show that our accomplishments in the eyes of some are small and limitless. Still students from across North Carolina and the surrounding states come to Winston-Salem State University to attain something that countless others in their communities might not be able to gain — an education.

Many have said that we have no movement, but we believe we do have a movement. Our movement is the same one of the 60's or 70's, a movement that is forced upon us by a society and that is the individual movement.

It seems that this generation can do no right. Needless to say we are mimicking the generation which has come before us. A generation that has created a problem and has yet to find a fitting end.

We believe that our generation will have positive movements, as well as negative. But we must realize with whom we are in a constant war. Is it ourselves or with the other generations before us that simply do not understand?

We do not disagree with Nat Irvin, or his remarks, however, the problem could have been dealt with in a more professional matter. As is the case with many people, he judged a book by one element of its cover. Mr. Irvin challenged students at WSSU to observe the stereotypes that the media has placed on us. This challenge should be taken seriously and with a fervor that will ultimately raise our consciousness and our awareness of the world we are living in.

We believe that we should not only discuss the many problems in our culture, but also discuss the solutions. In the years to come our generation will stand-up and fight for our beliefs. It is the birth of new organizations such as Black Men for Change that will foster the new ideas of black thought which we hope will extend into new political and governmental involvement. We must challenge ourselves and accept the challenges of others. For it is so easy for us to be seen as sideline students,



Argus Photo by Keith Caesar

Members of Black Men for Change say don't judge the book by its cover.

and armchair intellectuals.

There is a need that must be filled and we must fill it. It is time for us to accept our purpose in this world and set forth a plan of action that will insure that we are seen as more than just another societal problem.

Through the publication of the photo and comments by Mr. Irvin, it goes to show that our voices need to be made a little louder.

If we remain silent, if we do not say what is going through our minds, if we do not have a voice, then we are ultimately giving into the very principles which have sustained for so long.

As young people we have been placed in a box and it is the actions of the few which many believe is reflective of the whole. One question raised by Mr. Irvin is interesting. Are the students at WSSU really celebrating the "pimp" culture? Or are we unfairly being judge by someone who does not know us?

We are always picked at for everything that we are doing wrong how many pictures and articles are written from the standpoint of everything we are doing right?

We did not invent this culture, we simply exist in it.

Take offense to this article, like this article, but do something about it.

Remember this is the Golden Mile, Golden opportunities, Golden People and Golden Memories.

From our differences, come our ideas, from our ideas come change, Repaving the Foundations for Future Generations — BLACK MEN FOR CHANGE.

Sincerely,

The members of Black Men For Change

Explore opportunities through the Student Leadership Institute

It is once again a pleasure to share time with you during the Chancellor's Corner. I trust the year has continued in a successful manner as defined by achieving goals, surpassing milestones, and progressing as talented students. We must remain committed to working together on initiatives that will continue to provide you with the tools for the aforementioned success. The Winston-Salem State University Student Leadership Institute is one such tool for success.

The Student Leadership Institute started three years ago as a weekend leadership



development seminar conducted in the spring semester. Students were selected to participate in leadership development workshops that focused on leadership skills such as interpersonal skills, leadership type assessment, management training, and detailed problem solving. Students also gained from national lecturers who shared insight on topics that ranged from politics, business,

entrepreneurship, and educational topics. The student participants have clearly gained from this extra-curricular training initiative.

Yet, as our campus community has grown and transitioned, we must continue to reshape initiatives that prepare you for your collegiate and post-collegiate experiences. With this in mind, the leadership institute has been a focal point of increased development. We are transforming the leadership institute into a year-long institute that will have far reaching effects on the entire WSSU community. One responsibility of

the institute is the exposure of all students to quality lectures and leadership development in specific disciplines of the university. This may include lectures in the health sciences, career development, or mathematics. Another area of focus is for the training of a specific group of students that will be selected for the leadership institute starting in January. This group will go through a rigorous training program for leadership development. This will include a lecture series, a travel series, leadership training coursework, and a special leadership project in the

community. The WSSU Leadership Institute will serve as a key element to the development of future leaders.

Yet, developing leaders requires commitment from student participants as well as the institution. Hence, I encourage all of you to explore the Leadership Institute and it's many opportunities; opportunities that will enrich your lives and enhance your ability for service through leadership. I look forward to your continued growth as outstanding leaders.

Send all questions and comments to chancellorsoffice@wssu.edu.