

Opinions & EDITORIALS

From the Editor

Darryl Hunt's life is inspirational

I've known about the Darryl Hunt story for a long time, but it wasn't until I was enrolled in Dr. Larry Little's American Government class during my sophomore year that I understood it. Little, as so many already know, is a passionate teacher who reinforces knowledge through practicality. I knew my retention of the material taught in his class was a result of my attentiveness to his interactive discussions rather than some ungodly amount of time spent buried in a textbook.



FERGUSON

When Little began describing his involvement in Hunt's trial and the reality of the injustice surrounding the infamous case, I was mesmerized. I wanted to keep learning more. I wanted to be present at the hearings, and I wanted my name to appear on a petitions forcing some higher being to take heed to the obvious racial injustice causing Hunt to serve undo time in prison.

Once school let out, Hunt stayed on my mind. Over Christmas break, my mom called me downstairs to see the evening news, and there he was. Hunt was temporarily a free man. Someone had confessed to the murder of Deborah Sykes and DNA evidence, as it had for years, proved Hunt's innocence.

Hunt's words touched my heart at the recent Free at Last forum. When he began to relay the visions of young, black students going to class everyday as a form of motivation during his long days in prison, a tear came to my eye. So often we take for granted our freedom to eat what we want, leave campus whenever we feel like it and even walk to class when its time. After Jan. 22, I vowed to never take those things for granted.

Not only did Hunt inspire me to appreciate the simple, but enriching aspects of everyday life, but he and his wife April taught me to believe in and seek true love. April married Darryl on the day he found out there would be no reversal in the convictions he'd faced. That meant life in prison. But she still married him, and she never journeyed too far away.

After listening to Hunt and his wife, I felt as if I'd been taught a deeper meaning of love, and I couldn't wait to let the person I love know how I felt. So in addition to my vow to appreciate freedom more, I've also vowed to appreciate, understand and accept the gift of love more than I ever have. Happy Valentine's Day.

Jackson's surprise peep show leads to controversy

By Lisa Boone
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake's performance during the halftime show of Super Bowl XXXVIII came to a close with the exposure of Jackson's breast. Timberlake and Jackson stated that this was a surprise to them just as it was to the crowd of 72,000 at the Reliant Stadium in Houston and an approximate 100 million viewers worldwide. Timberlake issued a statement apologizing for the incident. He said, "I am sorry if anyone was offended by the wardrobe malfunction during the halftime performance at the Super Bowl. It was not intentional and is regrettable."

MTV, the producers of the Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show, also apologized for Janet Jackson's "unintentional" exposure of her breast. "The tearing of Janet Jackson's costume was unrehearsed, unplanned, completely unintentional and was inconsistent with assurances we had about the content of the performance. MTV regrets this incident occurred and we apologize to anyone who was offended by it," stated MTV.

Many other important individuals issued statements about the halftime show. The CBS network, which broadcast the game, also apologized. "CBS deeply regrets the incident that occurred during the Super Bowl halftime show," CBS said in a statement.

According to the official website of Super Bowl XXXVIII, the NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said, "We were extremely disappointed by the MTV-produced halftime show. It was totally inconsistent with assurances our office was given about the content of the show. The show was offensive, inappropriate and embarrassing to us and our fans. We will change our policy, our people and our processes for managing the halftime entertainment in the future in order to deal far more effectively with the quality of this aspect of the Super Bowl."



Justin Timberlake exposed Janet Jackson's right breast during the halftime show for Super Bowl XXXVIII. Photo courtesy of KRT

Jackson: Much ado about nothing

By Tammy Bankhead
ARGUS REPORTER

Super Bowl XXXVIII was a visually spectacular evening of sports and musical entertainment. The patriots won 32-29 on a fourth quarter field goal with only four seconds remaining to end the game. That wasn't the only moment that brought us to our feet. Halftime had a jaw dropping, wide-eyed, 'did you see that', surprise. Janet Jackson was exposed to the world. To be more precise, her right breast made an appearance of it's own. It happened during a performance with Justin Timberlake when he ripped off a piece of her wardrobe. A red-laced bra was supposed to be exposed but instead her breast made a super bowl debut.

Janet made her apologies and said

that it was a last minute stunt that had went terribly awry. Did you hear what she said America? IT WAS A MISTAKE! The NFL wants to blame CBS. CBS wants to blame MTV. MTV doesn't know whom to blame. How about we blame the media and the internet? What about placing blame on the photographers who sold and circulated the pictures through different news medias? Why not blame technology, with its introduction of TiVo. The incident happened so fast that you had to question yourself as to what did you see.

The FCC is making a big fuss over something that was a mistake or maybe even a bad decision. Everyone is a little red faced right now, but do we really need to investigate what we see in television

programming everyday. Parents want to protect their children and that is understandable. Children see and hear things that we try to protect them from. It's our roles as parents to guide and help them understand those things.

The executives at CBS and the NFL wanted something that would keep audiences in their seats. They laid with dogs and got bit. Lick your wounds of embarrassment and move on. Celebrate a wonderful season and a spectacular super bowl. As for the FCC, I'm pretty sure they will continue the good work but let's keep up the good work on something that's more worthwhile. Ms. Jackson, I'm sure there are many more escapades waiting to be revealed.

Consider internships and permanent employment with NASCAR

I would like to welcome you back to another semester at WSSU. It has been a busy year thus far as we have achieved continued success with record enrollment, infrastructure growth, and new pathways for student involvement. A key focus for us this year has been our efforts to aggressively expand partnerships with organizations defined to create internships and permanent job opportunities for our students. One such organization with which we have been developing a great partnership is the National Association for Stock



Car Auto Racing, often referred to as NASCAR.

In gaining a deeper understanding of the involvement of WSSU students in NASCAR and the future opportunities thereof, you must first understand the historical importance of NASCAR as it relates to this region. Started more than 50 years ago on the beaches of Daytona Beach, Florida,

NASCAR has been an integral part of the lives of many enthusiasts. This certainly includes the diehard race fans who attended races throughout the Southeast region in the early years of the sport. Some of the true focal points of racing were Charlotte and Winston-Salem. The first NASCAR race that would eventually lead to the Winston Cup Series was held in Charlotte in 1949. Charlotte would later become one of the NASCAR headquarters. Winston-Salem had such a large base of support for local

racing at Bowman Gray Stadium that it caught the attention of many corporations; corporations who saw the opportunity to combine a growing sport with integrated marketing efforts. One such company was R.J. Reynolds Corporation. In 1970, soon after the President signed a bill banning cigarette advertising on television or radio, the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company talked to NASCAR to determine sponsorship of a premier division of NASCAR racing. The organization agreed and in the 1971 season, the top divi-

sion of NASCAR would be known as the Winston Cup Series.

As we explore the history of the Winston Cup Racing Series and NASCAR, we must also understand the role that African-Americans have played and will continue to play in NASCAR. While NASCAR has the second highest viewing audience, second only to the NFL, African-Americans are disproportionately represented in the sport.

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