

# Campus NEWS



Undergrad U. brings HBCU experience to WSSU with student-produced soap opera. See page 7.

## Williams' opinion is not for everyone

By Lisa Boone  
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

Saul Williams challenged students to think out of the box with his thought-provoking spoken word on Feb. 20 at 7 pm. in K. R. Williams Auditorium. "We need to start thinking for ourselves," he stated. Williams' ideas about life in general motivated the audience to think differently about circumstances of life.

The young, expressive, clearly creative individual encouraged students to start asking a question when something was misunderstood in the classroom and in life. Asking questions made him who he is. "I went to Morehouse College and started to ask questions and found that asking questions was okay." His points were interesting.

Although I did not fully agree with some of what he said, I was still very much inclined to listen to his point of view.

Williams gave an atypical view about hip-hop lyrics and music. He stated, "We listen to our music according to our philosophy." He elaborated by stating, "We nod our heads 'yes' to beats; but without consent are actually agreeing with the words regardless of what they are, not just feelin' the beat."

When asked about hip-hop lyrics dwelling on the harsh realities of the street he replied, "The problem with that is everything in the present is present, we call the present into existence. The danger is if we speak only of what happens we will perpetuate the nonsense, [the nonsense] will start to be

glorified, and there will be whites and blacks of suburbia that will copycat the nonsense... We are persons—'per' meaning beings and 'son' meaning of sound, in other words what we say matters and will eventually become matter." People should watch what they say it is definitely important and there is a lot of power in the tongue.

Williams articulated his views very well. He answered the questions that were on the minds of people, young and old, in the audience by his poetry and elaborated even more on his point of view once finished reciting his poems. His educated responses to statements made in the dialogue between the audience and himself illustrated that his views had substance and that he was not speaking out in ignorance.

Williams has spoken to all different kinds of audiences. He gave the reason for this and stated, "My purpose of connecting with all different audiences is to experience and express the unity of humanity. Everybody is included... There are no famous philosophers today. The desire to want to reach and connect before it is too late keeps me inspired. Every white school I go to is packed. I come here and I know that I still have work to do."

His concepts were not those of closed-minded individual, but can be the reason why that individual changes. Not all of what he said was something that I believed to be true, but at least he had given a point of view that made individuals think of more than what is apparent.

### Campus Calendar

What's happening on the campus of Winston-Salem State University for the month of March? Midterms sneak upon students quickly at the beginning of the month of March, students go on spring break, spring sports begin, and the month ends with a university day.

The calendar for March is as follows:  
Study hard; midterm exams are March 1-3, 2004.

Want a peaceful afternoon and intellectual conversation? Attend the afternoon tea on the 3rd of March in Diggs Gallery at four pm co-hosted by the WSSU Honors Program and the Diggs Sisters.

Spring sports are here: the women's softball team plays Bloomsburg at 11 am. Saturday, March 6, 2004 in Winston-Salem. The softball team also faces Bowie State University at 12 noon on March 8, 2004 in Winston-Salem.

Ready for a break from studying? Spring Break is finally here. The break begins on March 8, 2004 and ends on March 12, 2004. Remember to be safe while having fun!

Registration for classes for the fall term and summer sessions begins on March 17, 2004.

Who runs the basketball court, old school or new school? Find out on March 17th when Student Activities presents the Old School/New School Basketball Challenge at 7 p.m.

Interested in the world of business? Take the initiative to hear the Kenan Flager Business School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill speak March 19, 2004 at 10 am, RJR. The MBA Club will host the program.

The month of March concludes with an optional University Day on the 30th.

### WSSU's history brought to life

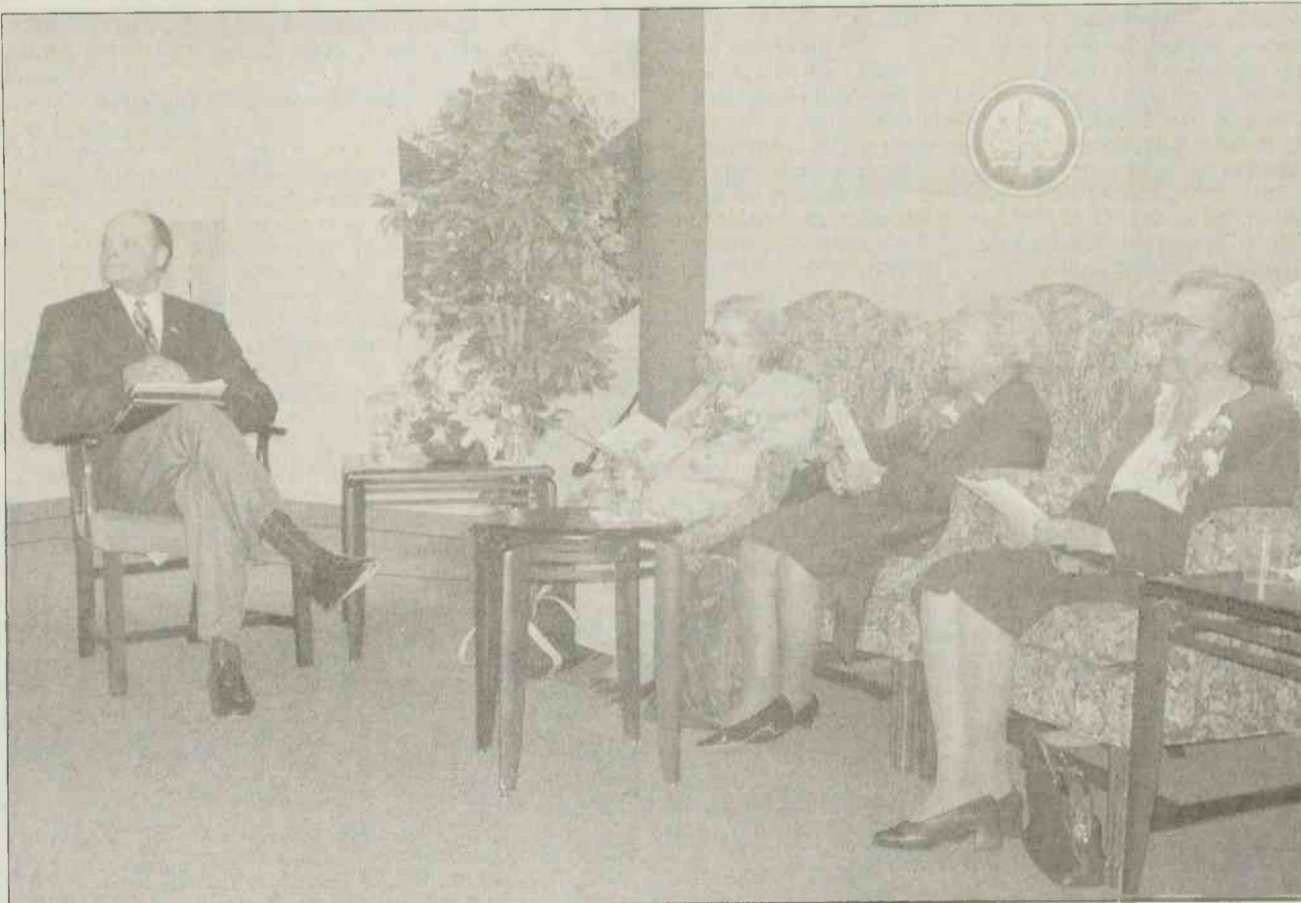


Photo by Nicole Ferguson

An "Afternoon Tea With the Diggs Sisters" was hosted in Diggs Gallery March 3. The sisters gave accounts of life at WSSU in the early 1930s. Chancellor Harold L. Martin (from left), talks with sisters Gloria Diggs Banks, Rachel Diggs Wilkinson and Jessie Diggs Kearney at the tea.

## Washington's trip causes him to rethink his plans

By Martin Copeland, III  
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

Aside from the value of an education, the most important aspect of the four (or five for this writer) years that we spend in college is experience. We experience both meaningful and worthless relationships with friends and "love interests" that socially mature us into adults. Then there is the experience of sacrifice when we're faced with an all too familiar dilemma: Do I wash clothes this week, or eat today? These sorts of experiences test our character and form the core of who we become as adults. One of the most profitable experiences of college is one that sadly, many Black students never have the opportunity to enjoy: travel. Imagine this: For 100 days, you cruise on board 23,000

ton passenger ship. Within those 100 days, you port in nine different countries and meet students from all over the United States and other parts of the world. This is an opportunity that as of yet, only a very few RAMS have experienced. Byron Washington, a junior Business major, is one of those students. Washington spent the fall semester of 2003, on board the SS Universe Explorer with Semester at Sea. Now Washington says, "Studying abroad is something I consider a must. This trip caused me to re-evaluate my dreams, and make them bigger, make them wider."

"The trip, which included ports in Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Tanzania, South Africa, Brazil, and Cuba, also allowed Byron to expand his vision

beyond anything that he'd thought possible.

Upon returning to the United States, Washington realizes the impact that African Americans can have on the rest of the world. "It showed me that in our lives, there are so many things that have broken us down and destroyed parts of the African American community, but we as African American students and especially as Christians, have to do as Nehemiah did, and purpose in our hearts that if nobody else wants to help [rebuild the torn down], if nobody else wants to reach out to those who have been broken... then we will." Just being able to know the effect that a willing mind can have on the world has changed the way Byron views everything.



Photo courtesy of Byron Washington

Byron Washington, a junior Business major, spent the fall semester of 2003, on the SS Universe Explorer with Semester at Sea.

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