

# Opinions & EDITORIALS



## From the Editor

### It's so hard to say goodbye to WSSU

I can't believe the year has rounded out, and in just a matter of a week the

Class of 2004 will be marching to the sound of Pomp-and-Circumstance at the Lawrence Joel

Coliseum. Go us!

There are many things that I could write about in my last Letter From the Editor. I've had a wonderful three-years at Winston-Salem State

University and I'll never forget the nourishing, enriching and family environment I'm about the leave. I'll miss the days of getting ready for games with the cheerleaders and performing routines that undoubtedly make us the BEST cheerleaders in the CIAA.

I'll miss spending long nights in *The News Argus* office, desperately trying to make deadline and produce a good student newspaper. I'll miss hearing my sorors Skee-Wee to me on the way to class. And I'll miss meeting the love of my life -- breakfast in the cafe (I love you George M. Gordon III).

Seniors, no matter where you're headed, remember who nurtured you, molded you and prepared you for the world like a good parent does. So on that note, I'd like to thank God and some of the people who made my life at WSSU wonderful.

I thank Chancellor Martin for being a people-person, knowing my name and recognizing my parents when they came on campus. I thank my family, Mom, Dad, Junior and Coach Walker for supporting me. I thank Dr. Blount, Ms. Bonner and Dr. Saddler along with the entire mass communications department for allowing me to realize my talents. Thank you to Dr. Manigault, Ms. Wallington, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Doorasamy and all the professors that I don't have the printing space to address personally. Thank you to my real class, the class of 2005. Thank you Ashley for being a great roommate, thank you Daiquiri for being a great "boo-boo," and thank you George, once again, for being the greatest human love I've ever known.

Seniors, before you drive off into the sunset with your cap and gown on and the clock tower getting smaller in the distance. Don't forget to thank those who helped you thus far. Most importantly, don't forget that in your new role as an alum, it is your unspoken duty to encourage and inspire a future Ram, just has someone encouraged and inspired you. See you guys in 10 years at the reunion!



FERGUSON

## Letters to the editor

### Change movement has many questions

Dear Editor:

Another school year has come to an end. Seniors are feverish with anticipation about receiving their diplomas. They will finally leave the comfort and sanctity of college and enter the working world or as my uncle likes to say "the real world." What does the real world hold? For a few it will be the six-figure corporate job. For some it will be starting that family that they always wanted. Yet for many it will be the realization that they are not prepared for what life has to offer. Reality will set in for many on graduation day. Reality has peaked its head many times and many fronts, we maybe just didn't recognize it. Reality is not getting that job because "it is perceived that you did not come from a "quality" institution. Reality is realizing that many of the guys who started this college experience with you did not fare as well as you. Reality is being pulled over on the way to go celebrate and you know you were not speeding, your license plate is up to date and so is your sticker and you do anything but... well you know how it goes. Maybe reality is being turned down at the bank for the loan to get the building on your business and the papers were correct. Even after becoming a college graduate, I walk through J.C. Penny and reality is that I am still followed around. Every Thursday BMC (Black Men for Change) has Professional Day and I am asked every Thursday, "Why are you dressed like that?" Then I go to work and entertain the top three questions being am I coming from a funeral, a job interview or court. It is amazing how I could wear a pink Dipset t-shirt or a 58XL t-shirt and not raise a question but the minute I put on a tie the question is why am I dressed like that. No disrespect to those who do those things. (I love Cam'ron!) I know the question on everyone's mind. The organization has been here for about two years now and everyone wants to know, "WHAT ARE Y' ALL CHANGING?" What we are pressing to change is the perception of how black men and how blacks overall are viewed. BMC

*We are striving to change who we are individually and step beyond that to help the next generation. Please understand that the name of the organization is Black Men for CHANGE.*

is not an organization, it is a Movement. It is a process that starts and will not be completed until you die. We are saying that we are pressing for change among the way others think about black/men. We are not all drug dealers or thieves. We want to change blacks always having to search for jobs and create a situation where blacks are providing jobs. We are changing the way the community views Winston-Salem State University. We are changing the images set before American culture everywhere that all black men are only good for making babies and playing sports. It is also about personal change. We are striving to change who we are individually and step beyond that to help the next generation. Please understand that the name of the organization is Black Men for CHANGE. Present tense meaning we are always in a state of constant change. Where we see change necessary, we change. While it may not be evident at anyone particular moment that we are changing or causing a change, it is evident when looking at the picture as a whole and to every kid mentored and child tutored. One of the key components of Black Men for Change is creating an awareness among ourselves and others that a change needs to

happen in our society, in our interactions as males among each another, among the black women, and in our lives. Until this is recognized no change will ever come. Awareness must be brought to the AIDS epidemic sweeping across black campuses. Why is it every time I go into the library I see a disproportionate number of women taking an interest in their education? There are many issues that have to be addressed.

We know we did not start this Movement. We only want to contribute our part at this time. The spirit of Black Men for Change can be traced back through Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Carter G. Woodson. Through Frederick Douglass and Marcus Garvey, James Baldwin, and Toussaint Louverture. The spirit of this Movement changed the face of the world in Imhotep and Akhenaton. Presently this spirit is alive in people like Jawanza Kunjufu, Na'im Akbar, and Michael Eric Dyson. Closer to home this spirit can be seen in fathers spending time with their kids. It is seen in husbands going to work to provide for their family or guys going to class to take advantage of this opportunity called college. Many times women have taken on more responsibility then they should have had to. They have done a good job in their strategic positions and get in sync with these women, then we can rise to be the people of world renown like in the past. In no way is the motive sexist. It is just understood that each part must function properly for the unit to run efficiently. Black is the color that is created when all other colors are mixed. This is acknowledged to make it know that all are welcome to be part of the Movement. With all that said, next time someone asks me "what are y'all changing," I can tell them this reality. How about you?

From our Differences Comes Our Ideas, from our ideas comes change. Black Men for Change. Repaving the Foundation for future generations.

- Jeremiah Erby  
Vice President, BMC

## WSSU continues to reach new levels of accomplishments

As we move towards the close of another successful academic year, I am continually reminded of the tremendous growth we have experienced in many areas. We continue to grow academically, our enrollment continues to reach record levels, and we are expanding our faculty and staff size through the hiring of talented leaders in their respective professions. The growth we are experiencing in these areas represents our on-going need for growth in the physical infrastructure of our campus.

To better understand the infrastructure needs of our



campus, we must first understand our plan for growth. In 1997 and 1998, the North Carolina General Assembly mandated that the UNC Board of Governors commission a 10-year Capital Plan to determine the facilities needs, and the necessary capital for all of the 16 university schools. In 1999, the consulting group Eva Klein and Associates began their work to assess the needs of

Winston-Salem State University. This 10-Year Capital Plan, which became a part of the University's updated Master Plan, determined the most appropriate ways for WSSU to grow the physical campus over the subsequent decade following the study. The study assessed a number of important considerations. Some of those elements included current facilities, current enrollment levels, projected enrollment growth, the growth of academic programs, and growth consistent with overall strategic planning. The study recognized that the statistics of two large facilities

built in the 1990's offset the realization that the university's buildings were old and many were obsolete. Hence, the study recommended a "wholesale modernization program" for campus buildings as well as new buildings which would house academic programs in the sciences and technology.

With the 10-year Capital Plan in place, the updated Master Plan focused on growth along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, considered to be the MLK Jr. Corridor. Growth would primarily take place in strategic locations along this corridor on both sides, taking advantage of

the physical space available for growth and providing a central point of access to the university that takes into account natural traffic flow patterns. As well, the Master Plan incorporated the goal of fostering more of a "village-like community" that encourages more interaction between faculty, staff, students and visitors. Hence, there was a need to create space that provides the opportunity for more walking and overall community interaction in a comfortable, outdoor environment.

See CORNER, Page 4