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THE NEWS ARGUS

www.thenewsargus.com

Winston-Salem State University's Student Newspaper

December-January, 2005

Christmas list exposed; what they want and where to get it

By Lori Lawson
ARGUS REPORTER

With Christmas only days away, everyone is thinking about choosing that perfect gift. A random survey of WSSU students found that many echo the same Top 5 items on their wish list. Here are those Top 5 items and suggestions on where to find them. Happy Holidays!

5. Bath \ Body Products

Victoria's Secret is the place to go this Christmas: It sells skincare products and fragrances for both sexes, as well as holiday gift sets.

4. CD's, Video Games and DVD's

Everyone loves the gifts that keep on giving: CDs, Video Games and DVDs. Best Buy has the widest selection of music, movies and more. And, Best Buy promises to match all prices.

3. Electronics

This year's most wanted electronics include: iPod Nano, Motorola RAZR v3, X Box 360 and digital cameras. The most competitive prices on these products are at Wal-Mart and Circuit City.

2. Clothing and Shoes

From the cutest stilettos to the flyest footwork, all college students want to upgrade their wardrobes this Christmas. This year the ladies are asking for cowboy boots, blazers and handbags, and the guys want faux-fur trimmed coats, shoes and a new fitted hat. Of course, you can find all of these things at a variety of stores at Hanes Mall. However, if you don't want to hurt your wallet, head for TJ Maxx in Sherwood Manor Shopping Center on Robinhood Road, Ross Dress For Less on Hanes Mall Boulevard or Marshall's on Silas Creek Parkway to find all the name brand styles at a reasonable price.

1. Cash Money and Gift Cards

Money, Money, Money! Who doesn't want cash. At least 75% of all students who were randomly surveyed said they wanted either money or gift cards as their No. 1 Christmas wish-list item. Suffice to say, cash and gift cards let you pick and choose exactly what you want. Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy and Foot Action are the stores with the most sought after gift cards.

December graduation ceremony will be held at LJVM Coliseum

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The fifth WSSU December graduation ceremony, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m., will be the first held in the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Each year the number of students participating in fall graduation ceremonies has increased. In 2004, a boost in the number of students graduating in the fall led university officials to schedule the ceremony at St. Peter's World Outreach Center, a local church that seats 3,000 people, instead of the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium that holds approximately 1,800 people. This year, the increase led to graduation exercises being scheduled at the LJVM Coliseum.

Along with season change comes opportunity to change your look

By Lori Lawson
ARGUS REPORTER

The leaves have changed from green to bright oranges, yellows and reds, and it's getting cold outside — all signs that the season is changing, and it's time for a wardrobe change.

Fashion today is not as much about trends as it is about personal style. Step into the season with a mix and match look that works for you. Here are just a few items that can take your fall wardrobe from boring to blazing:

A Great Necklace: Plain outfits are just that, plain. However, a striking or attention-grabbing necklace can supply that focus point. Try a chunky, long neck-

lace in earth tones such as amber, dark green, and brown. You can also try one of the season's newest looks: a variety of layered lengths.



Photo by Razaria Best
A good necklace adds flair to outfit.

A Significant Belt: Every lady can stand to have an everyday black or brown leather belt in the back of her closet, for moments when fashion isn't that big of a deal. But when you want to spice up an outfit, try a belt with significance. Here is what's hot

now; big leather belts, metallic belts and chain-link belts.

Round/Pointed-Toe Alternatives: Pointed-toe heeled pumps have been in style for seasons; but now flats and round-toe shoes are back in style, and they look hotter than ever. Throwing in a pair of fashionable, round or pointed-toe flats to a simple outfit automatically makes you look trendy and stylish.



Photo by Razaria Best
Flats offer style and comfort.

A Fitted Blazer: Blazers can work miracles for a woman's wardrobes.

This season jackets are easy to wear, figure-conscious and stylish — all at the same time. Adding a blazer can top off any outfit, from jeans and a basic tee to a blouse and dress trousers. Fitted blazers ups your style significantly. Adding a beautiful scarf keeps you stylish and warm.



Photo by Garrett Garms
Coats and scarfs can be fashionable.

In a city split and sinking before storm, racial issues boil

By Lee Hancock
KRT WIRE SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS

The tensions of race have always defined the best and worst of this city, from its rich cuisine and bon-temps culture to its entrenched poverty, epidemic violence and economic decline.

With the city beginning its fourth month of struggle after Hurricane Katrina, many residents say their future hinges on bridging race and class divisions that many say had gotten deeper, uglier and angrier in the months before the storm.

"We're very fractured, and we have been for a long time, throughout our history," said Lawrence Powell, a professor of Southern history at Tulane University.

"The city prior to Katrina in terms of race, class and poverty was a manmade disaster. It's one of the poorest big cities in the country," said Powell, who is white. "The economic foundations were rotting away. The main growth industry was tourism, but that's a Third World wage structure. And the school system was in the toilet."

The racial divide affects almost every rebuilding question: which neighborhoods will be rebuilt and when; how public housing will be reconstructed; how to protect the city from future disasters; and who will call the shots — the white-dominated business community, black politicians or outsiders.

Mayor Ray Nagin has said that the city's population — 451,000 and 68 percent black before the storm — hovers around 100,000 and could initially stabilize at half its pre-storm size. The second-term black mayor, a former business executive, acknowledges that many of the returnees are white. But he also has frequently stressed that he and other leaders don't want their city to end up a pale shadow of its former self.

Even so, he has been questioned closely about his close ties to white business elites, some of whom have openly stated their desire to remake the city's demographics and politics.

Other leaders in New Orleans, both black and white, say the city's storied funk, eccentricities and charm were being overwhelmed by economic and social decay even before the storm, so it can't afford to return to the way that it was.

Before Katrina slammed ashore on Aug. 29, the New Orleans economy was so heavily staked on jobs in hotels, restaurants, bars and other purveyors to visitors that some dubbed it a tourism ghetto.

And many black leaders faulted the white-dominated business community. While political leadership shifted from white to black in the 1970s, economic power remained largely in white hands.

New Orleans' poverty rate was almost twice the national rate, with more than a third of



Photo by Courtesy of KRT Wire Service
A memorial to those who died from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana was erected in the 9th ward.

blacks and half of all black children in poverty. The income disparity between the haves and have-nots was among the widest of any American city.

The city's schools, largely abandoned by the black middle class for private schools after a white exodus in the 1970s, were widely condemned as the nation's worst and most corrupt. Students had to bring their own toilet paper to school, and textbooks were in such short supply the children couldn't take them home.

Michael Cowan, a white Loyola University psychologist who chairs the city's human relations commission and director of Loyola's Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy, said school board meetings had become so polarized that anyone, particularly whites, who tried to offer opposing views was heckled and accused of racism. Other whites said they had similar experiences.

It was largely poor and working-class blacks who were left struggling to escape when Katrina hit and floodwaters swallowed 80 percent of the city. The city's historic districts — built on high ground near the Mississippi River — were relatively unscathed.

Some newer white areas were swamped, but the floodwaters ravaged almost all of the city's predominantly black neighborhoods.

Among the hardest hit were the working-class Lower Ninth Ward, a filled-in swampy area settled after World War II, and a newer area known as New Orleans East, home to black middle-class families.

As panic over unrest and looting spread, police in the predominantly white suburb of Gretna turned away evacuees at gunpoint as they tried to cross the Mississippi River Bridge linking New Orleans with Jefferson Parish.

Driving through many parts of predominantly black neighborhoods, choked with debris, is

still difficult, while the city's French Quarter, Central Business District and the predominantly white Garden District and Magazine Street corridors are well-lit and bustling with out-of-town contractors.

"What hurts me, on that side of the Industrial Canal, there are all those lights all the way on," said Anthony Jackson, a black resident of New Orleans East who returned from Texas recently to salvage what he could from his family's homes and try to find work. "On this side, it's pitch black. A lot of people feel mistreated."

There are other, more sinister conspiracy theories. Many black residents believe that the Ninth Ward and other black neighborhoods were deliberately flooded in order to save the tourist areas and white business district. In Katrina's aftermath, rumors circulated that the area would be bulldozed and returned to swampland or handed to rich, white developers.

"Too many things just seem to be too coincidental," said Mack Slan, who lost his home in New Orleans East and recently organized a 1,500 member group of mostly black evacuees temporarily living in Baton Rouge.

At a recent dinner with a friend in temporary exile in Baton Rouge and another living aboard one of two cruise ships along the New Orleans riverfront housing displaced residents, Dena Hurst, a 32-year-old electrical engineer, dismisses the conspiracy talk. But she chuckled over what has become a standard crack in the black community since the storm.

"There's a joke about the cruise ships," said Hurst, who works for a software company and lost her home in Gentilly. "People say you don't want to get on one because you're going to wake up rocking one morning, thinking you're still tied up at the dock, and you're going to look outside to see you're out at sea, halfway back to Africa."