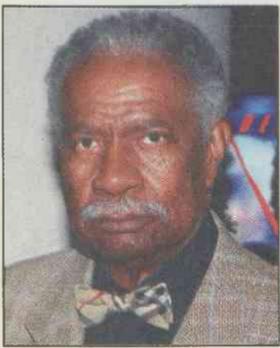


# The News Argus

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February 2005



## Ossie Davis dies at 87

Ossie Davis, the distinguished and elegant baritone actor, director, producer and human rights activists, died Feb. 4 at the age of 87. Davis, the husband and partner of actress Ruby Dee, was found dead in his hotel room in Miami Beach, Fla. He was shooting the film "Retirement" there. His film and stage career totaled 65 years.

## Miss WSSU needs your vote

Kelechi C. Anyawu, Miss WSSU 2004-2005, is running for Miss CIAA. All candidates will be judged by online voting by the public, academic excellence, and personal essay. Visit [www.ciaa2005.com](http://www.ciaa2005.com) to cast your vote. Voting ends March 3.



## NASDAQ leader at WSSU

Don Johnson, managing director of the Corporate Client Group at NASDAQ, spoke to students for the WSSU Executive Leadership Lecture on Feb. 7.

WSSU's School of Business and Economics sponsors the Executive Leadership Lecture Series. The lecture series gives students the opportunity to interact with senior-level business leaders from well-known organizations.

## Shirley Chisholm dies at 80

Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress and later the first black person to seek a major political party's nomination for U.S. president in 1972, died Jan. 3. Chisholm, a staunch activist for minority rights, was 80.

# Science: The final female frontier

When given same chances as men, women succeed in health and technology, professor says

By **Takia N. Miller**  
ARGUS REPORTER

In the 15 years that she has taught physical chemistry at Winston-Salem State University, Siham I. Rahhal has lectured to mostly women students. In fact, there have been instances when the class was 100 percent female.

This reality at WSSU stands in stark contrast to a statement made recently by

Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers, who publicly questioned whether "innate differences" between the sexes make women less inclined to succeed in mathematics, physics, engineering and other science-related fields.

Rahhal is an associate professor in the Department of Physical Sciences. All chemistry majors take two semesters of physical chemistry with her, and she also

teaches general chemistry to students majoring in life sciences, nursing, medical technology and other allied health fields.

Rahhal said she feels certain that, if given the same opportunities, women will do as well as men in the fields of science and math.

In the physical chemistry class that she currently teaches, there are six women students and one male. All are senior chem-

istry majors, with two of the six women pursuing double majors in biology and chemistry.

And, when Rahhal asked students in the class for their opinion about perceived differences between men and women, all agreed that gender has nothing to do with whether one excels. Instead, the consensus of the class was that it depends on the individual. Summers made his

remarks, which sparked so much controversy that his words made it onto the front pages of the national press, during a conference on women and minorities in science and engineering workforce. Some of the women attending the conference walked out.

This is not the first time

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Page 2

## Coach Ken Carter says hard work is the key

By **Kiandra Jefferson**  
ARGUS REPORTER

Do you know whose face appears on the \$50 bill? This is a question that Ken Carter, the high school basketball coach that actor Samuel L. Jackson portrays in the movie *Coach Carter*, asked a gathering of university students, parents and others here in Winston-Salem last month.

Of the 200 or so people in the audience, only one person knew the answer and, as a reward, Carter handed him the bill. "How are you going to make money," Carter asked, surveying the audience, "when you don't know who's on the money?" Carter is the small town coach who made national headlines when he locked out his varsity basketball team because the players failed to keep up their grades. And, his own son was a member of the team.

During his motivational talk at Wake Forest University, Carter

demonstrated through words and actions - at one point he dropped to the floor and began doing pushups - that hard work, self-motivation, discipline, a quality education and a life well-planned are necessary ingredients for success.

Born in McComb, Miss., Carter was the youngest in a family of seven girls and one boy. He began his career as a high school basketball coach at Richmond High School in Richmond, Calif. in 1997 and continued there until 2002. He is presently the Rumble Head Coach of Slam Ball in California, and founder of the Coach Ken Carter Foundation, which promotes and provides education, training and mentoring programs for minority youths. Among other things, the foundation last year hosted 11 students from Australia and they learned firsthand what it takes to be an American High

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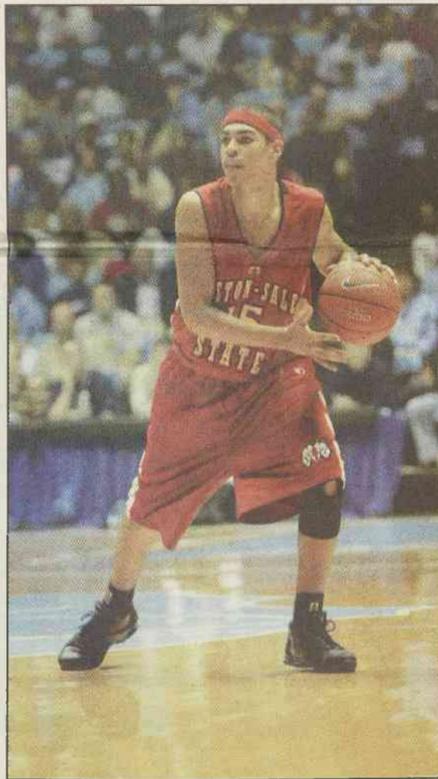


Photo courtesy of WSSU Athletics

**Darnell Gregory says he agrees with Ken Carter's philosophy on the role of sports in schools.**

## Valentine's about love, not money

By **Michaela Siegrist and Erin Perkins**  
ARGUS REPORTERS

As Feb. 14 draws near, hearts start beating, but not for the reasons you might think. It's not because of love or passion. Hearts are pounding out of sheer panic, which leads to a question worth some self-introspection: How do you stop your V-day from turning into a D-day?

The origins of Valentine's Day are obscure. Valentine's Day began as a pagan Roman festival. Then a pope decided to turn it into a Christian feast day. Who exactly St. Valentine was remains a mystery. History tells us that there were at least three saints by that name and all three, strangely enough, were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Suffice to say, none of the early Christian saints by that name probably ever imagined the spending frenzy that goes along with this holiday, which allegedly celebrates love.

Last year, consumers spent nearly \$13 billion on gifts for Valentine's Day in the U.S., with the average consumer spending \$99.24. Sixty-four percent of men bought flowers for their loved one, compared to 16 percent of women.

Moreover, a survey by the National Retail Federation found that young adults show the most enthusiasm for Valentine's Day, with the average 18 to 24-year-old spending almost \$155. Greeting cards, candy and flowers are the most popular gifts.

"Valentine's is not about money," freshman Semond Coleman said, "It's about love. Don't get caught up in the commercialized nonsense of V-day. It's not what you spend on that person, it's the quality of time you share with them."

Deontae Holland agrees. The pure moments of V-day are what count, he said. "I told someone I loved her for the first time on Valentine's Day, and it was actually true!"

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## How should we fix Social Security?

By **Robyn Floyd**  
ARGUS REPORTER

President Bush maintains that the Social Security system will be "flat bust, bankrupt" in 40 years "unless the United States Congress has got the willingness to act now."

Social Security began during the Great Depression. It has grown from a relatively modest way of helping older people and the unemployed to the largest single item in the federal budget, accounting for about \$500 billion annually.

The aging of the baby boom generation is blamed for putting the system in crisis. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that the system needs an overhaul. However, they can't agree on how to fix it.

Bush wants to change the system by allowing younger workers to invest some of their Social Security payroll taxes into private investment accounts, such as stocks and bonds.

One of Bush's arguments has been that African Americans, in particular, are shortchanged by the system because

blacks have relatively shorter life spans than other groups, which means they pay more into payroll taxes than they eventually will receive in benefits.

Opponents say that is not entirely true, arguing that Social Security also serves families of workers who become disabled or die, and both survivor benefits and disability benefits go disproportionately to African Americans. So although African Americans make up 12 percent of the population, for example, 23 percent of the children who receive survivor benefits are African American.

Today's students are tomorrow's workers, and a major change in the Social Security system will have a profound effect on students here at WSSU. So News Argus reporter Robyn Floyd randomly stopped WSSU students to get their view on the subject. Here's what a few had to say:



HARDEE

"The plan is not a

good one. Personally, I feel the government should pay us because of our hardwork! The plan should be an incentive." Michael Hardee, a 19-year-old sophomore.



McCORKLE

"Yes, I feel this plan is good because we need money for the future. It is hard to save and you are taking a chance to better your future." Kenon McCorkle, 23, a senior marketing major.



MILLS

"Even though we are working our money pays for Social Security, it looks as though more money is being taken away from our checks, and there is no guarantee we will see the benefits of

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### WHAT'S YOUR BHIQ?

Take our quiz to see whether you know which black leaders did and said what.

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