

OPINION

Being color-blind should apply to all races

By Michaela Siegrist
ARGUS REPORTER

Winston Salem State University is more than 80 percent African American.

That is not surprising because, after all, it is a Historically Black College/University. But in the new millennium, diversity is changing and so is the face of our HBCU.

There are nearly five times the amount of whites at WSSU than seven years ago. The white student population is inevitably on the rise. Does this mean we

lose our school feeling? Does it mean we have to change? Does it mean it needs to stop? Absolutely not.

I am white. I have attended Winston-Salem State since 2002. I chose this school because of the fabulous education at a reasonable cost. The campus is beautiful, most everyone is helpful and I am now a part of the "family"

This didn't come over night. I had to tread in many precarious situations. It taught me a lot about myself, as well as teaching

some other students a couple of things.

An HBCU will always be an HBCU. The tradition and culture will constantly stand strong.

I believe the mix of a little diversity is a good thing. It teaches everyone to be a little more open-minded. The nearly 65 percent increase in the white student population during the past quarter century can be taken as a lesson of life.

The world is not as segregated as people like to think.

They don't separate

blacks and whites in their office cubicles so why are they going to through college?

It took me awhile to be accepted into WSSU "family." I have earned the title by some as the token white girl.

At times I feel I'm 100 percent welcomed, and it's seldom that I feel as if I'm in a bubble looking out.

In my Interpersonal Communications class my teacher uses movie clips to show examples of forms of communication. So far, out of the nearly 25 movies she

has shown, I have seen one of them. The class now jokes with me that I need to broaden my horizon. I think it also goes the other way around.

Instead of seeing so much color, let's just see and opportunity. An opportunity to share, learn and listen to people who are not like ourselves.

Instead of being so afraid of a shift of cultural population at our school let's embrace it.

We need to see it as a measure of success instead of a failure to preserve. I

love Winston-Salem State University. It has taught me more about myself than any other educational experience. A culturally diverse education is something everyone can learn from. I would recommend WSSU to anyone. White, Asian, Spanish, you name it.

The more we learn about ourselves and the more we learn about other cultures and ways of life, the better off the world as a whole will be.

Take down the color divide and embrace more of life.

Editorial:

Seniors remember controversy, losses from years at WSSU

By Bridget Taylor
ARGUS MANAGING EDITOR

The school year is coming to an end and things are winding down on campus. This year has been very full, exciting.

Early in the fall, former *New York Times* reporter Jayson Blair came to justify his actions and promote his book. His presence received a lot of media attention for Winston-Salem State.

These past few weeks have been sad. WSSU lost two of its major figures. The voice of WSNC 90.5 FM sports, Bill Franklin and legendary basketball coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines died.

There have been a lot of administrative changes. There is a new interim provost, Dr. Merdis McCarter. Dr. Sylvia Flack, dean of health sciences, is the new special assistant to the chancellor. And Dr. Arthur King, dean of business and economics, retired.

WSSU athletics has also had an interesting year. After a tough season, even the football program had to regroup. But the basketball team had a pretty good season this year. Coach Philip Stitt was named CCAA coach of the year.

The final big event of the school year is the commencement ceremony. Former Attorney General, Janet Reno, is scheduled to be the commencement speaker.

This being my senior year, I am sad to leave WSSU only because I feel as if I just arrived. That may be due in part because I am a transfer student. WSSU has been my home for two years. I am happy to be part of the greatest department, mass communications.

Congratulations to the class of 2005. It's been a great year.



TAYLOR

Time to Wait

College might not be the best time to be in a serious relationship — it's too much work

By Kiandra Jefferson
ARGUS REPORTER

Campus life is supposed to be full of excitement: Parties, social events, organizational meetings, class work, tests and relationships are all part of the experience.

The beginning of my sophomore year was great. I had everything from good grades to a good boyfriend — or so I thought.

When midterm grades were posted, I realized that my scores were a little bit disappointing. What's more, my boyfriend wasn't acting much like a boyfriend.

He stopped calling, wouldn't speak when he saw me and cheated on me, too. I felt so broken and hurt. Nevertheless, even during this difficult emotional time, I somehow managed to pull my grades up and keep on going. I didn't want to lose focus of my university goals because of a relationship gone wrong.

Some students believe that you can't

have both: good grades and a good relationship.

One or both will suffer, either you'll have a good relationship and bad grades or a bad relationship and good grades. But that's not necessarily the case.

Mysteena Saunders and Kevin King, two sophomores from New York, arrived at WSSU as a couple and they believe that their relationship is an advantage. They've been together four years.

But the couple cautions that it's not always easy keeping their bond strong. "Negative energy comes your way every day on campus," both agreed.

According to the Census, most Americans delay marriage until between the ages of 26 and 29. Kent Beatty, the program assistant of Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium, said most young adults marry in their late 20s because they haven't quite decided what they want to do in life. Kent has

been married to Angela Beatty for 12. They met at WSSU.

"Serious relationships should wait until you're settled," Beatty said.

As for my view, I agree.

Students should take the time to figure out what they want out of life. Too many students jump into relationships thinking that it's going to be fun and free, but somewhere in the middle of the relationship things change.

In the beginning, it's phone calls for days, cards, candy and all the other little sweet things that people do to win each other over. But often the romance dies as quickly as it begins.

I'm not advocating a no-dating policy. But certainly don't just settle for anyone or the first person that comes your way.

Remember, let nothing get in the way of your studies, the reason for which you are here. Relationships can either lift you up or bring you down. It all depends on you and your experience.

Body art is great — but it's a choice you'll live with

By Jerton Dixon
ARGUS REPORTER

Tattoos and body piercing are everywhere you look. They are not necessarily bad. In fact, some students consider them a symbol of their freedom of expression.

In the early '90s people with piercing and tattoos were considered less than

mainstream, some considered them freaks.

But now it's considered fashion — actors, athletes, soccer moms sport tattoos.

Walking around campus, you'll also see belly, tongue and eyebrow rings, along with the tattoos spread across practically every part of the body —

backs, arms necks and even down to the feet. The images speak of different things, personal names, birthdays, animals, mythical figures and even memorials to deceased loved one.

Whether you chose to get one, it might be wise to remember that a tattoo is meant to last a lifetime, so make sure you want it, now and forever.

Gaines' impact is far beyond numbers

By Steven Gaither
ARGUS REPORTER

When I learned of the passing of WSSU Coaching Legend Clarence "Big House" Gaines, I knew that the university and the community lost a great coach. But what I did not know was that I was only partially correct.

The number of wins Coach Gaines amassed at WSSU (828) does not begin to compare to the number of lives that Clarence Gaines touched during his 81 years on this planet.

I have heard so many heart-felt stories of the ways that Coach Gaines touched people's lives. Not just the young men that he coached during his 47 year stint as

basketball coach, but those who he taught at the university, who he met in the community, and generally everyone he came in contact with. Although he was nicknamed Big House at Morgan State for his size, the name also speaks of his impact.

What I gathered from all of those stories is that, above all, Coach Gaines was a teacher. He was a teacher of life and he will continue to live on through the lessons that he taught to those who were around him. I met several of Coach Gaines former players this week, and I was fortunate enough to chat with former WSSU star, Ted Blunt.

Blunt played for coach Gaines

from 1961-1965, was a three-time All-CIAA team member, two-time All-American, and a member of the 1964 NAIA Olympic Basketball Trials.

He has been a city councilman for 21 years, and president for the last five in Wilmington, Del. He is former chair and member of the Board of Trustees at WSSU. I asked Blunt, what was one thing that Coach Gaines taught you that sticks out in your mind? He then proceeded to give me three wise sayings:

1. If you ever want to be successful, hang out with smart people.

2. Just because you are right, doesn't mean that everyone will agree with you.

3. The people who walk on water are the ones who know where the rocks are.

I regret that I never got a chance to meet Coach Gaines, but I feel that through listening to the stories that people have about him and the lessons that he taught them, I can still learn something from him.

From a basketball standpoint, I don't think we'll ever see another coach stay 47 years in the same place. It just doesn't happen that way in this day and age.

As far as Coach Gaines the person, we need more people like him.

We need more people who are willing to invest in others, more people who are willing to give of themselves.

We need more people to ask "what can I do for you" instead of "what can you do for me?"

Coach Gaines we will miss you, and you will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of all of those who knew and loved you.