

NEWS

'Big House' Gaines was an inspiration to many

By Steven Gaither
ARGUS REPORTER

On April 18, 2005, former Winston-Salem State basketball coach Clarence E. Gaines, better known as "Big House," passed away at the age of 81. He guided the Rams for 47 seasons as a basketball coach, including the 1967 championship team, featuring NBA Hall of Famer Earl "The Pearl" Monroe. That team went 37-1 and became the first historically black college or university to win a basketball national championship

(Division 2). Gaines retired from coaching in 1993 and currently ranks fifth all-time in the number of victories as a college basketball coach, 828. He was inducted into the basketball Hall of Fame in 1982.

As great a coach as Gaines was, he was a better human being. More than two thousand, family, friends, and former players from across the country gathered on Friday, April 22 at the Coliseum Annex to honor a great human being, who also happened to be a pretty

good coach. Several high profile people, such as coaching legends John Thompson, John Cheney, Tubby Smith, present and former Wake coaches, Dave Odom and Skip Prosser, streetball legend Pee Wee Kirland, former Wake All-American and legendary broadcaster, Billy Packer, their respects for Coach Gaines. Also in attendance was North Carolina Congressmen Mel Watt, as well as numerous people from the community. Of course, there were numer-

ous former players, including Cleo Hill, Ted Blunt, Earl Monroe, and Stephen A. Smith on hand to honor the man who had such a powerful influence in their lives. Speakers included Monroe, Blunt, Thompson, Packer, as well as Clarence Gaines, Jr. Those who spoke at the nearly three-hour memorial service displayed many emotions, from laughing to crying, as they remembered the man who touched all their lives. They all spoke of his humility and loyalty. He was larger

than life, but at the same time he was down to earth.

Clarence Edward Gaines was born May 21, 1923, in Paducah, Kentucky. He graduated from Morgan State University in 1945 with a B.S. in chemistry. He arrived at WSSU as an assistant football coach that year and became head coach in 1946. In 1948 he was named CIAA football coach of the year, an honor he received six times as basketball coach. In 1949 he took over as basketball coach and athletic director. He led the

Rams to eight CIAA titles and, of course, that legendary 1967 national championship squad. He coached several All-Americans, including Cleo Hill, Ted Blunt and Earl Monroe, Monroe and Hill would go on to play in the NBA. After his retirement in 1993, he remained active in the community until the end. He recently finished his autobiography *They Call Me Big House*. His wife of nearly 55 years, Clara, and his two children, Lisa and Clarence Jr. survive him.

Blacks have highest rates HIV infection

By Kristin Smith
ARGUS REPORTER

A routine visit to a doctor's office forever changed the life of 43-year-old Eric. The construction worker, who is the father of three daughters ranging in age from 18 to 28, scheduled an appointment because he injured his back on a job.

But a series of tests found that Eric, who did not want to use his real name, was HIV positive. "The doctor just broke the news to me and walked out of the office," Eric said.

The diagnosis was made five years ago in 2000, and since then the now unemployed construction worker has battled two strokes, among other health issues. "Some days are better than others," he said. "When I feel bad it is tough." AIDS is short for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is the most advanced stage of HIV disease, which is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

The 2000 Census reports that African Americans make up 12.3 percent of the U.S. population. However, they account for 368,169 (40 percent) of the estimated 929,985 estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the epidemic began more than 20 years ago, according to the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

During 2000-2003, HIV/AIDS rates for African American females were 19 times the rates for white females and five times the rates for Hispanic females; they also exceeded the rates for males of all races/ethnicities other than African Americans. Rates for African American males were seven times those for white males and three times those for Hispanic males, according to the CDC.

What's even more disturbing, there has been an increase in the rate of HIV infection among black male college students in North Carolina. A state study released last year found 84 newly infected male college students in North Carolina and 73 of the 84 were African American.

To combat the surge in infections, Winston-Salem State University sponsors free and confidential HIV/Syphilis testing every other Tuesday in the Student Health Center, with the last screening scheduled for this month.

Eric said he did not know how he contracted HIV. However, according to the CDC, the leading cause of HIV infection among African American men was sexual contact with other men; the next leading causes were heterosexual contact and injection drug use.

The CDC further reports that the leading cause of HIV infection among African American women was heterosexual contact; the next leading cause was injection drug use.

Most black men who engage in sex with other men do not consider themselves homosexuals; in fact, many have girlfriends. Instead, the men have been described as being "on the down low," a slang term that basically means the men outwardly live the life of a straight man, but secretly engage in sex with men.

Eric twiddles his fingers while talking about his situation. "College students especially should be careful when coming in contact with other students," he cautioned. "Hormones are a big issue so it is important to protect themselves"

The most common ways that HIV is transmitted are by having sex (anal, vaginal or oral) with an HIV-infected person, or by sharing needles with a drug user who is infected with HIV or from an HIV-infected woman to her baby before or during birth or through breastfeeding after birth.

Some people develop symptoms of HIV shortly after being infected. On average, it takes more than 10 years.

Ways to avoid HIV include abstinence, monogamy, the use of condoms and staying drug free.

Bright Skies

Job outlook calling for lots of graduating college students

By Kathleen Lynn
KAT WIRE SERVICE

A few weeks after she graduates from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark in May, Jessica Olejar will join the corporate world as a \$53,000-a-year software developer at Citigroup. She's one of the many young job seekers who have found that, despite fears of outsourcing, the "help wanted" sign is out for tech workers.

"It's a big myth that these jobs are going away," said Jane Gaertner of NJIT's career development office. "There's still a strong demand for computer science jobs in the U.S."

As the Class of 2005 heads into the work force, nurses and accountants are also in demand.

In fact, most college seniors are finding a more welcoming workplace this year.

"This looks like the best job market for entry-level hires since 2000," said Richard White, director of career services at Rutgers University. "With a 4.4 percent unemployment rate, New Jersey is one of the better places in the country to be looking for work."

And the national picture is also promising. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that employers expect to increase hiring of new college grads by about 13 percent this year, and most expect to raise starting salaries over last year.

Graduating nurses have their

pick of job offers, as an aging population seeks more medical care. Teachers are also in demand. And accountants' prospects have been brightened by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which was passed in response to the accounting scandals at Enron and WorldCom, and requires more stringent financial reporting.

Several North Jersey colleges said most of their accounting grads have job offers in hand. One is Anna Sidorova, 23, who recently accepted a job offer from a Big Four accounting firm. "For me, it was easier than for many students, since I'm in the accounting program," said Sidorova, who'll get her master's in accounting this May from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Students who are still searching for work filled the William Paterson University gym recently for a career fair, handing their resumes to recruiters from social service agencies, state government and corporations.

Sara Abernethy, 23, was there with a friend, though she graduated from Dickinson College in 2003 with a business degree.

At that point, corporate jobs were scarce. So she spent two years with the Teach for America program, and is now seeking work as a management consultant. "There's a lot more opportunity now," Abernethy said.

The most popular recruiters at the career fair were from the tele-

vision and radio industries.

"It's a hard field to get into, but I hope I can break in," said Aaron Rikon, 24, a communications major who wants to work in television or radio production.

As it happens, career advisers say even liberal arts majors may find better opportunities this year.

"When you think about liberal arts majors, they really can go into a lot of different areas," said Cathy Love, director of FDU's career office. On average, though, they're going to get lower salaries than their classmates with pre-professional training, according to NACE.

The most successful job seekers, according to college career counselors, tackle the search with energy and creativity. They use their personal and professional networks, attend the career fairs and workshops on campus, and research companies on the Internet before talking to recruiters.

"Companies hire people who exude energy," said Wanda Mendez, director of career management for the MBA program at Rutgers Business School in Newark.

"They need to take every opportunity that's out there," Love said.

Many of the most successful job seekers had internships. In a recent survey by NACE, employers said that, on average, they offer full-time jobs to nearly 58 percent of their interns.

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