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Three students from Gulf Coast come to WSSU

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Blaring horns did not disturb the thoughts of Hurricane Katrina evacuee Arteeca Eccles as she watched an uninterrupted stream of brake lights creep along the backdrop of a dark New Orleans morning.

"We left for Texas at 3 a.m.," said Eccles, an Xavier University freshman now enrolled at WSSU. "It seemed like a regular hot New Orleans morning was on the way."

"I finally got in contact with my parents right before I left," she added, "but I didn't really know how I was going to get home, so I was thinking about a lot."

Eccles, a Charlotte native, is one of three students enrolled at WSSU from Gulf Coast universities affected by Hurricane Katrina, which has been described as the third most destructive, expensive and intense tropical cyclone to hit the U.S. The other two students are from Southern University.

roommate made me leave with her.

"We could have prevented the loss of so much if we had known what was coming," she said.

The hurricane made landfall near Empire, Louisiana, shortly after 7 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 29. After Hurricane Katrina tore through New Orleans, portions of the levee system there failed, flooding most of the city causing even more damage and death.

Dr. Donald Mac-Thompson, an associate professor of political science at WSSU, said he has both historical and family ties with New Orleans.

"I was devastated when I heard about the storm for many reasons," said Mac-Thompson, a native of Freetown, Sierra Leone, "not just because my cousins lived there, but . . . there is a place in New Orleans called Freetown and there is a historical connection that exists between the Creoles of New Orleans and the Creoles of Freetown, Sierra Leone."

Mac-Thompson, who describes himself as Creole, said "the federal government's response was atrocious and it is something that is very difficult for us to forget."

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Photo courtesy of KRT Wire Service

Roy Cooks, right, carries Cortez Stovall, 2, as they make their way through floodwaters to the Superdome in downtown New Orleans, La., on Aug. 31.

Higher gas prices force students to make sacrifices

By Robyn Floyd
KRT WIRE SERVICE

When Calvin Foster, a Winston-Salem State University senior, budgeted for school costs this year, he had no way of knowing that gas prices would take an unexpected leap.

The nationwide average for a gallon of gasoline is \$3.05, although prices are much higher in most major metropolitan areas. What this has meant for Foster, who commutes to campus from Greensboro, is that he's been forced to cut back on extras.

"I miss being able to eat out," he said. "I don't go out to eat as much as I used to." Foster said he selects premium gas to fill his Lexus, and a recent trip to the pump set him back



Photo by Garrett Garms

Sophomore Kevin Bryant refills his gas tank.

\$45.00. "I refill my tank every three days," said the business administration major.

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Dreadlocks a no-go for sports club

By Tiphane Deas
ARGUS MANAGING EDITOR

Ronald Stevens, a WSSU senior and president of the Sports Management Club, knows firsthand how important it is to make a good impression, especially when it comes to a prospective employer. He also understands that you should always be dressed to impress, because you never know if the person you meet today will be your boss tomorrow.

"We kind of really shoot ourselves in the foot when we don't know how to present ourselves," he said. "We already have one strike against us."

Stevens' attitude is one that Dennis Felder, associate professor of Human Performance and Sports Science, has tried to instill

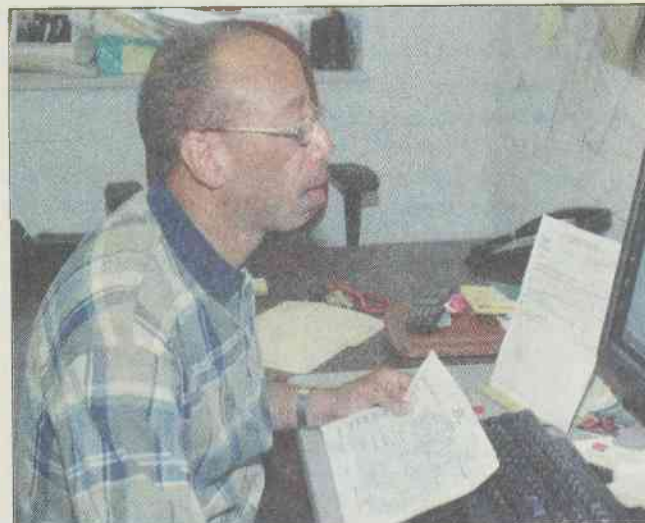


Photo by Garrett Garms

Dr. Felder, associate professor of Human Performance and Sports Science, gives his students specific guidelines for appearance to help them obtain jobs.

in all members of the Sports Management Club. However, not everyone agrees with Felder's idea of what defines appropriate dress and grooming.

Two freshmen found

themselves at odds with Felder and the club's rule when they refused to adhere to what's known as the "tenth rule" and cut their dreadlocks. According to Felder, this

rule covers everything from wearing a hat or durag indoors to particular hairstyles.

"I tell my students that you can't come into an educational building with a hat on your head or a durag because they might do the same thing going to a job interview, and I can't take that chance," said Felder, who has worked at WSSU since 1984.

In the end, the two freshmen have been allowed to remain in the academic program, but they are not members of the club.

What is and what's not appropriate dress in the workplace and in school is an ongoing controversy, not only at WSSU but also across the nation. Numerous businesses and

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Students like shuttle despite problems, delays

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Twelve WSSU students sit in vehicles parked at Bowman Gray Stadium on Martin Luther King Drive, waiting for the new 28-passenger RamExpress to arrive.

After several minutes, a shuttle arrives, but it's not the bright red and white RamExpress that made its debut on campus Aug. 15. Instead, a replacement shuttle arrives. This is because less than one month after the

shuttle was introduced to the campus, the RamExpress is already out of service, at least temporarily.

Aaron Singleton, director of news and media relations, said that the WSSU custom RamExpress shuttle vehicle was temporarily out of commission while it underwent repairs to its air conditioning system, according to the Winston-Salem Transportation Authority.

For the convenience of the WSSU students, faculty and staff, WSTA provided

another vehicle until the repairs were completed on the RamExpress."

The RamExpress shuttle service is free and operates from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. It makes eight stops around the campus in 30 minutes or less.

Sisters Denise and Devon Barnes are frequent passengers of the shuttle.

"I leave an hour earlier than usual when I ride the RamExpress because I never know when it's going to be

there," Devon Barnes said. But she added: "I will continue to ride it as long as it's offered."

Denise Barnes, a senior nursing major, said the convenience of the shuttle is ideal for nursing and computer science majors.

"The string you pull to signal a stop makes the shuttle seem authentic," Denise Barnes said. "I never rode any public transportation before, so this is new to me, but I really like riding the RamExpress. It is fun."