

## Read on

Number of men in college lags behind number of women

Attitude: A powerful thing

Americans losing faith in Bush

## OPINION

## Where have all the young men gone?

By Rochelle Riley  
KRT WIRE SERVICE

The irony was overwhelming. Newspaper reports heralding a drug that could extend the lives of women suffering from breast cancer competed for attention with reports expressing concern that the number of men attending college continues to decline below the number of women.

At a time when women are finally making some headway in a society that has treated them as instruments for male superiority; at a time when women are in positions to ensure that medical research more effectively extends to women's illnesses; at a time when a woman is the U.S. president's secretary of state and could

possibly mount a viable campaign for president in three years — there is an outcry that perhaps the nation has done too much for women, that we may have gone too far.

What struck me in the news reports was the obvious optimism about possibly saving women's lives and the panic in some analysts' comments about the plight of boys, a

panic that has been nearly nonexistent in discussions about women and minorities.

About 57.4 percent of college enrollees eligible for federal student aid two years ago were women; 42.6 percent were men. The gender imbalance has some college administrators, according to USA Today, wringing their hands as they figure out what to do.

*"We actually did a little affirmative action. If we had a tie [between a male and a female], we gave it to a boy."*

Jim McCorkell, founder of a college-preparatory program for low-income kids

Initially, this felt like so much overreaction, until I read the words of Jim McCorkell, founder of a college-preparatory program for low-income kids in St. Paul, Minn., who was concerned that only 30 percent of his clients were boys last year.

"We actually did a little affirmative action," he told *USA Today*. "If we had a tie [between a male and a female], we gave it to a boy."

Only in America. Or Iraq. Analysts are concerned about the future of boys, whose careers were made in blue-collar jobs. Those have dried up in the dust of technological advancements that require college experience for many jobs that once didn't have

such a learning curve.

McCorkell wondered why there isn't more of an outcry.

Perhaps, it is because there is nothing wrong.

Perhaps, instead of concentrating on the differences between boys and girls and whether more girls are going to college, we could concentrate more on children in elementary school. One college professor suggested that, if the gap persists, preferences should be given to men.

Such ill-advised action might help a few boys. But it also might harm the future career of the woman who discovers a cure for breast cancer. And that would set America back by quite a few decades.

## From the Editor:

## Homecoming, a special time at WSSU

By Lisa R. Boone  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"H-O-M-E-C-O-M-I-N-G!

It's homecoming y'all," a chant that could be heard throughout the halls of buildings all over campus during the week of homecoming.

Homecoming at WSSU is a time when alumni from all corners of the Earth — and that includes Iraq, where one alum who is a serving as an Army doctor — return "home" to celebrate, socialize and reminisce.

Historically black colleges and universities seem to celebrate homecoming in ways that range from the flamboyant to the spiritual. LaToya McConnell, a senior nursing major, perhaps put it best: "It is a time for all to just be who they are."

"Our tradition is real. Black people keep it real. We go out and do what we do best and that is enjoy each other's company. Homecoming was great this year. I loved it. Homecoming is a time for alumni and students to enjoy each other and reflect on how far we've come.



Boone

## Your attitude is not dependent on how someone else behaves

By Evelyn Robinson  
ARGUS CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

It's late on campus, and you're sitting in your car, waiting for a friend to meet you. Traffic is at a standstill, the nearby parking lot is empty, and you've put on the hazard lights of your car, while waiting.

Suddenly, a campus police car pulls up behind you, with flashing lights. An officer approaches you, taps on the window and says,

angrily, "you need to move your car. There are enough parking spaces, so get in one. You are blocking traffic." The officer rolls his eyes, gets into the vehicle, flashes his lights, honks his horn and waits until you move your vehicle.

OK, it's wrong to double-park, even if it was just for a moment and for convenience. But consider another scenario: The officer approaches the car and states, calmly, "Good evening, I need for you to move your vehicle because your

vehicle seems to be blocking traffic. Can you please do so in a timely manner?" Is this too hard to do?

Attitude is everything, and one's true character is revealed by his or her attitude. Some students play a part in upsetting officers on campus. Other times, it's officers provoking students with their bad attitudes. There's blame enough for both sides.

Students as well as officers should practice The Golden Rule, which is treat people the way that

you want to be treated. If The Golden Rule becomes a part of everyday attitudes, then a lot of tensions on campus would dissipate. Students should not break rules and, if they do, accept the consequences. Officers should realize that some students don't know the rules or need a reminder of the rules.

Whatever the situation, just remember that attitude is everything, and it's often the window to one's soul.

## Ebony magazine founder, John H. Johnson, was a visionary who would not give up on his dream

By Tamika Green  
ARGUS CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

The first issue of *Ebony* magazine was published this month 60 years ago. With \$500 borrowed on his mother's furniture to finance the first publication, John H. Johnson launched what would become the catalyst for a communications empire — magazines, book publishing and cosmetics.

*Ebony* has been the largest black-owned magazine every year since its creation in 1945. Each year, the publication continues to provide the black community with an exceptional reflection of African-American culture.

Johnson was born to Leroy Johnson and Gertrude Jenkins Johnson in Arkansas City, Ark. on Jan. 19, 1918. Even during his youth, he was faced with the task of overcoming life's adversities — poverty and, at age 8, the death of his father in a

sawmill accident.

Despite being advised against attempting to enter the publishing business by civil rights leader Roy Wilkins, Johnson decided to pursue his vision. In 1942, just after the end of World War II, he founded Johnson Publishing Co. It was a time of segregation and prejudice. Dr. Mae Rodney, director of the O'Kelly Library, recalled *Ebony's* value in the days before full rights of citizenship were extended to African Americans.

"It was just nice to know that you could see your image," Rodney said. "It was really looked forward to, and it was an unusual experience to see your own image, the image of people who looked just like you."

Rodney believes that *Ebony* has played a very important historical role in African-American publishing and culture. She said she appreciates the struggles that

Johnson endured and has also been very impressed with how the Johnson family has changed the image of the magazine to reflect the times, keeping it of interest to the present generation.

Johnson died August 8 at the age of 87 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago after an extended illness. During his long life, he earned many awards and titles, including Publisher of the Year by the Magazine Publishers Association, Most Outstanding Black Publisher in History by the National Newspaper Publishers Association and The Greatest Minority Entrepreneur in U.S. History by Baylor University.

He also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton, who said Johnson gave "African-Americans a voice and a



Photo courtesy of KRT Wire Service

John Johnson borrowed \$500 against his mother's furniture to finance the first issue of the largest black-owned magazine in the country, *Ebony*.

face, in his words, 'a new sense.'" Howard University named its communications school the John H. Johnson School of Communications. Johnson's legacy is beyond

measure. His life tells the story of a real American dream, and provides others with the inspiration to rise above hardships and reach for success.

## Bush is losing, not gaining faith

By Jane Eisner  
KRT WIRE SERVICE

One year ago the headlines read. "Emboldened by a solid election victory, President Bush heads into his second term with an ambitious agenda to change America and the world."

Bush promised to use his "political capital" to get stuff done in a national capital that was all but draped in the official colors of his party.

He was going to set Iraq on the road to democracy, defeat global terrorism, and send a wave of freedom across the Middle East. At home, he planned to extend his tax cuts to future generations, revamp the legal system and the tax code, and bring about dramatic changes in Social Security.

Well, how did he do, folks? Do you feel safer than a year ago? Is our government working more efficiently and ethically?

OK, I'm not being fair. The president is going through a bit of a rough patch, what with the U.S. death toll in Iraq climbing to

new, heartbreaking numbers, the withdrawal of a Supreme Court nominee his enemies didn't much like and his friends hated, and the indictment of the top aide and alter ego to the most powerful vice president in American history.

Like a growing number of Americans I have lost faith in this administration's ability to prosecute the war in Iraq, a war that it is now clear they were hell-bent on pursuing no matter the evidence or the risks.

After the Katrina debacle, I have little faith that the first administration run by a Harvard Business School grad knows how to manage in a crisis.

Yeah, I'm a worrier. They say there is progress in Iraq, even if it's hard to discern on the nightly news. The economy is growing at a decent clip, even if that's news to the poor.

But in case my worries are realized, I hope the hapless opposition in Washington spends some time crafting sensible, exciting alternatives to the current policies. Three years suddenly seems like an awfully long time.

