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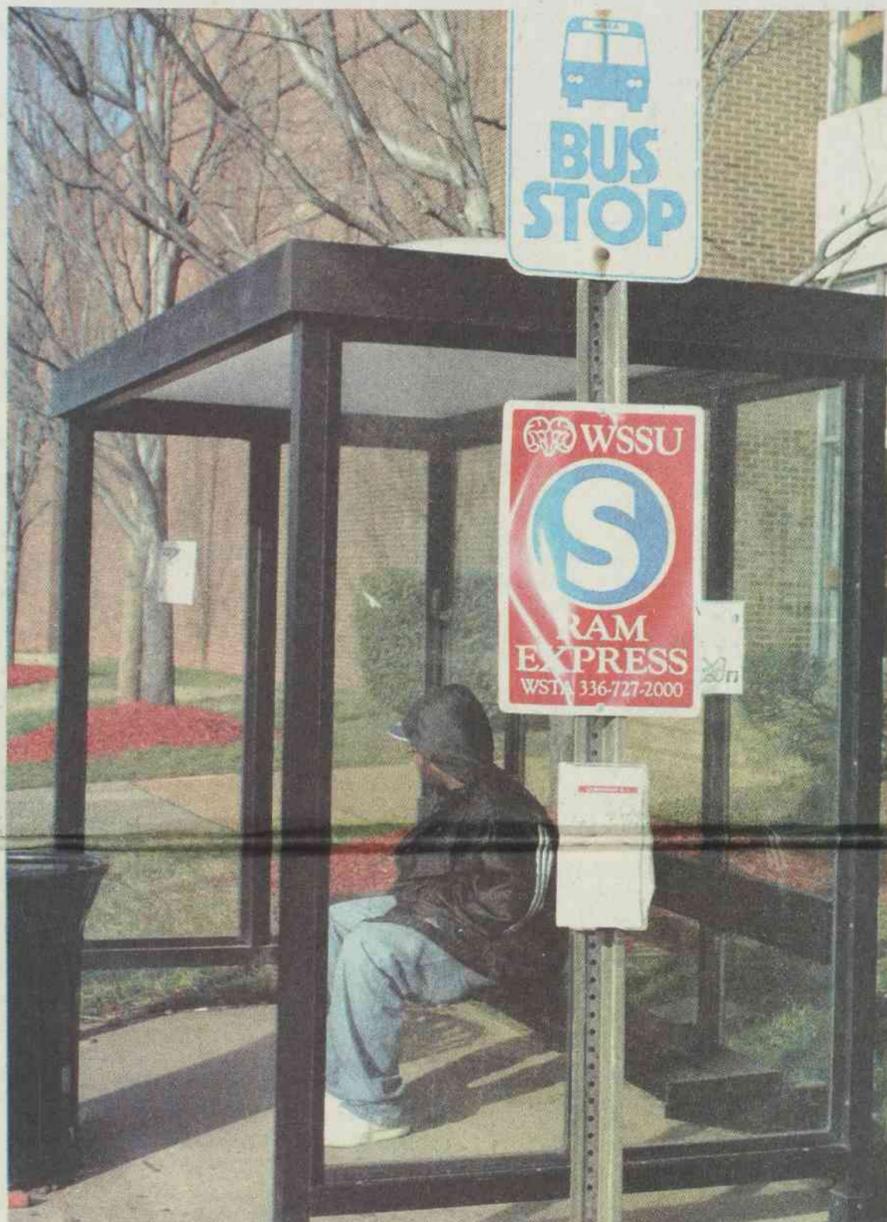


Photo by Garrett Garms

Waiting for a bus can mean big savings for students who take advantage of the partnership between Winston-Salem State University and the Transit Authority.

Agreement between Transit Authority and school helps students save money

By Lisa R. Boone
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students don't have to stretch their budgets to cover high gas prices or find rides because of a partnership between the Winston-Salem Transit Authority and the university.

The partnership allows students to purchase a \$70 bus pass to cover 70 days of rides, accord-

ing to a campus-wide e-mail sent by Melody Pierce, the vice chancellor for student affairs.

Routes include trips to Hanes Mall, restaurants and appointments, and the bus passes are on sale in the campus bookstore.

Corey Hill, a 23-year-old gerontology major, uses the bus transit system to get to and from Greensboro.

"It saves me a lot on gas," Hill

said. "I drive a big car, a Cadillac, and it would take \$10 to drive from Greensboro to Winston-Salem. I can get on the bus and ride all day for one dollar."

"The bus system rides every hour on the hour," he said. "The drivers are pretty clean and I have connected with students who also take advantage of the bus system."

Muslims are focus of attention because of war in Iraq, some students feel targeted for beliefs

By Dreama Williams
ARGUS REPORTER

In most ways, Esther Shahin, a 23-year-old junior from Charlotte, is a typical college student.

However, in one important way she stands out from her peers on campus. Shahin is Muslim, and although there are no statistics on how many students at Winston-Salem State University are followers of the Muslim faith, they are in the minority both on campus and in the city.

Despite their relatively small number locally, a spotlight continues to shine on the world's 1.3 billion Muslims because of the Iraq war and the ongoing furor in Europe over newspaper cartoons that portray the prophet Muhammad as a terrorist, including one that depicts him wearing a turban shaped as a bomb.

Fellow student and Muslim Charles Hinton said he is against the war in Iraq, stating that this country has no business there, and he added that he is appalled at the cartoons that make fun of Muhammad. "I think that it is immature," Hinton said.

The senior added that he would like to see a Muslim Students' Association (MSU) established on the WSSU's campus. The MSU began in 1963 with 75 students on 10 U.S. campuses and has branched out to tens of thousands of students in more than 150 college chapters. It is based in northern Virginia, and generally, the association works for the betterment of the Muslim and non-Muslim community on campuses through community service, education and social activities.

Hinton said that there are no

places for Muslims to worship on WSSU's campus, and so he worships at The Community Mosque on Waughtown Street, typically from 1 to 2 p.m.

Although Hinton said he has on occasion felt uneasy on campus, he said he hasn't experienced any incidents of hostile treatment or harassment. "At times I do [feel uncomfortable], but I'm not ashamed of being a Muslim".

Shahin, on the other hand, said she believes she has been targeted because of her religious beliefs. She said she follows the Muslim code of dress for women, which makes her more easily recognized as a follower of the faith.

As a result, Shahin said she has been sworn at and cursed, and she believes that the driver of a car that nearly hit her one day intentionally targeted her because she is Muslim. She added that she was most shocked when a faculty member asked her if it was hard for her to get the clothes that she wears.

Shahin said she converted from Christianity more than two years ago after the death of someone close to her. The death led to her questioning her beliefs. "I started comparing Christianity and Islam, and Islam was stronger and answered more questions," she said.

Like Hinton, she said she opposes the war in Iraq. "It's wrong, what he (President Bush) did," Shahin said.

As for Hinton, he said he has been an active adherent of the faith for 10 years. "I decided to change my life and follow a new way of life," he said.

Students make plans for break

By Danielle Cheree Ragland
ARGUS REPORTER

For everything under the sun there is a season. And sunny weather, bright-faced flowers and short, tight clothing signal a favorite season of university students: Spring Break.

Yes, that time of year has rolled around again. Some Rams say they will head home, others will head for friends' homes and still others will seek out the sun and shore of Florida.

Some of the most popular spring-break destinations of students at other campuses are the least popular among Rams. For example, a random stop-and-ask survey of students on campus showed Cancun, Mexico is not on the A list of WSSU students—and primarily because the airfare and accommodations are too costly.

Instead, many students here say they are renting cars and carpooling down to South Beach Miami. There have been advertisements and meetings on Facebook.com and senior Charles Noel is organizing a round-trip bus trip for those without wheels or wings. Once there, students say they expect to party, tan, relax ... so forth and so on. After all, it's the season for it.

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Students shocked at arrest of Marcos Bryant for murder

By Lisa R. Boone
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Marcos Devon Bryant, a 23-year-old business administration major at WSSU, has been arrested and charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

Winston-Salem police arrested Bryant on Tuesday, Feb. 7, according to an Associated Press story that quoted university spokesman Aaron Singleton.

"It looks like he was in a class, and they asked him to step outside the classroom, and that's when they made the arrest," Singleton said.

Bryant is a suspect in connection with the deaths of William "Slim" Miller, 23, and Marcus

"Beek" Anthony Wilson, Jr., 19.

Wilson and Miller were found dead early on Jan. 18 in the 2100 block of East First Street, where residents reported hearing gunshots. One body was found in a back yard, and another was in a nearby empty lot.

The reported on Feb. 15 that Bryant bought three boxes of Winchester and one box of Remington cartridges from the Wal-Mart on Kester Mill Road on the night the two men were shot to death. The *Journal* reportedly obtained the information from a search-warrant application Winston-Salem police filed in the case.

Police did not say what led

them to Bryant or whether they are searching for any other suspects. He was arrested without incident.

Students who know Bryant expressed disbelief that he could be connected to a double homicide. A Facebook.com entry by J. Lee Woodruff showed Bryant's image as it appeared on local TV news and encouraged students to post messages about the situation and even write to Bryant.

"I [am] doing this for my nig to make sure people don't forget about my SC folk," Woodruff said in Facebook.com message posted on his wall Feb. 11. "I love Marcos and it hurts me every

time I think of this stupid sht-t.

Y'all keep my nig in mind..." Cedric Ellington, a 2004 WSSU graduate, posted a message that said Bryant was in his prayers and he encouraged Bryant to stay up.

"It seems out of his character," Sabria Fields, a junior enrolled in a business class with Bryant, said in an article in the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

Fields described him as "always active, answering questions in class."

After Bryant's arrest, Chancellor Harold L. Martin

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