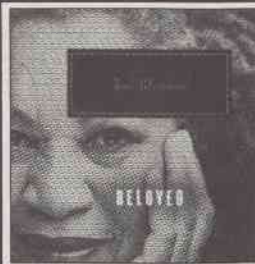




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THE NEWS ARGUS

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Winston-Salem State University's Student Newspaper

Feb. 18, 2008

Upward Bound program restored

STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem State University was recently notified by the U.S. Department of Education that funding to operate its Upward Bound Program has been restored with a four-year grant award.

Effective Dec. 1, 2007, WSSU received a first-year award of \$383,534. Seven other Upward Bound programs in North Carolina also received restored continued funding. WSSU is currently seeking 9th grade applicants. The funding period for the renewal grants is Dec. 1, 2007 through Nov. 30, 2008.

The legislation that supported the restoration of the funding of these eight programs, and others throughout the country, will provide academic support and financial aid counseling to prepare an additional 12,000 high school students to attend college.

"We are truly excited that we will be able to continue providing eligible high school students with tutorial services, assistance in securing financial aid for college, cultural enrichment events, college tours, summer school, and mentoring programs," said Clarence McKee, WSSU interim director of the Upward Bound program.

"I want to personally thank parents, the community, the WSSU family, and our Congressional Delegation for their untiring support and guidance in helping to restore Upward Bound's funding."

WSSU's program, which ceased operation May 31, 2007, because of federal budget cuts, will again serve 80, 9-12 grade students. The program is tentatively planning to begin tutoring and support services Feb. 18, for students previously enrolled. Tutoring will be offered for new 9th grade students by March 14. The Upward Bound Office is now located in the Anderson Center, suite 141.

For more information call McKee at 336-750-2673.

Feeling the Pain?

Students learning to adjust to high gas prices

Tecarra Sutton
AD MANAGER

Across the United States, spiking gas prices have left consumers in general, and students in particular, anxiously waiting for relief. Gas prices continue to rise, seemingly by the hour, leaving many people wondering when the price will stabilize or, more importantly, drop.

According to CNN.com, gas prices nationwide dropped approximately nine cents earlier this month; good news for drivers yearning for the days of inexpensive joyriding, owners of gas-guzzling SUVs, and regular consumers who have been staying put and citing expensive gasoline as the main cause.

While the decrease may be welcome, there is little indication that gas prices will likely remain under \$3.

Consumers can thank slight decreases in crude oil prices and corporate profit margin shrinkage for the price break, but as drivers enjoy the cheaper gas and buy more, the price will rise again.

At Winston-Salem State, students and faculty are struggling to deal with fluctuating gas prices.

"Gas prices have been affecting me tremendously. It's been taking a lot of money out of my budget to keep my car filled so I can go places," said junior Quiotti Ratliff.

Although he can't

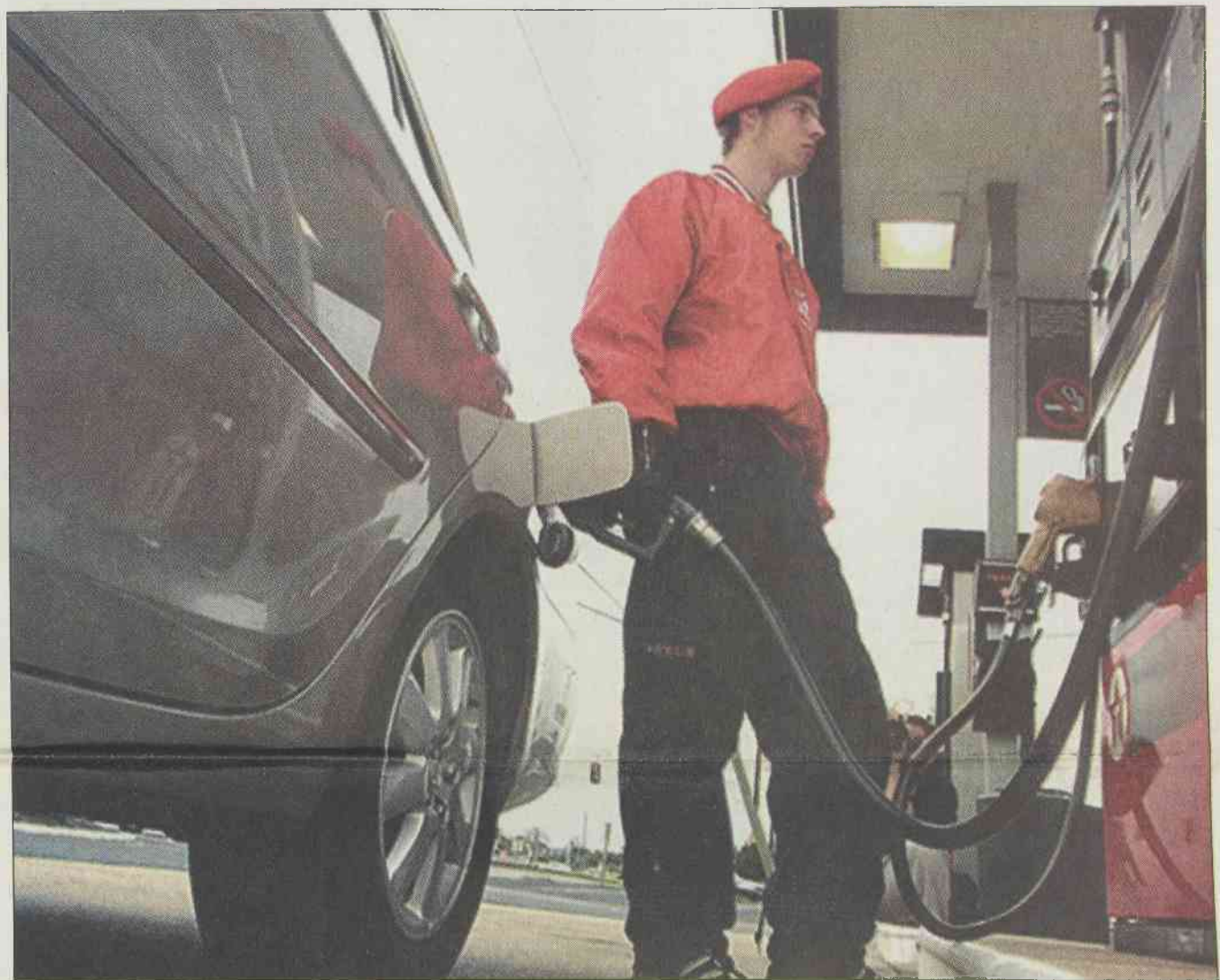


Photo by: MCT Campus

ABOVE: Consumers have been feeling the burn of fluctuating gas prices in their pockets. LOWER RIGHT: Charting gas prices for the last two years.

drive his car on campus, freshman Kelvin People has felt the sting of rising rates for gas.

"I don't have enough money to do what I want to do. It's so expensive for me to go home since I live so far away," he said.

On the other hand, senior Marcus Gill doesn't think too much about the prices.

"I think [gas is] rather costly, but you have to do what you have to do if you want to go somewhere. It's not really affecting me

that much. It is an inconvenience," he said.

Justin Grandison, a staff member at O'Kelly library, is outraged by what he sees as price gouging.

"Exxon Mobil, which is one of the biggest crude oil refineries in the world, posted record-breaking earnings for the years 2006, 2007, and probably 2008. This means that they're in no shortage of money or funding to distribute their gasoline at a price that

everybody can afford. I think it's a total debacle on the part of the government, state agencies, and the companies that provide the service to us," he said.

Steven Epps, director, at Gleason-Hairston Terrace says he does not like the fact that he spends \$80 to \$90 at the pump every week, but he sees little that can be done about it.

"I'm going to do what I want to do regardless," said Epps. "I just have to spend more than I want to spend."

Pump prices

U.S. weekly average retail price for one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline:

Since last week
Down 5¢

Week ending Jan. 21, 2008
\$3.02

Two-year trend

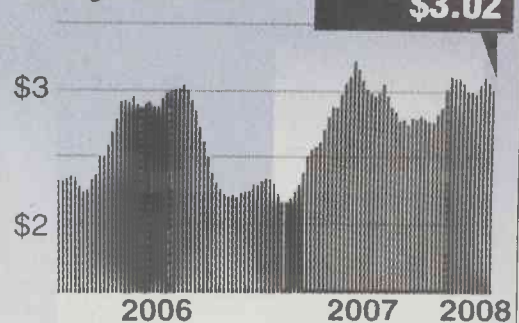


Chart courtesy of MCT Campus

Perfect Brew: Nugroove Cafe' hits the spot

James Cherry
ONLINE EDITOR

By day, Winston-Salem State's Java City is a coffee house where students and instructors gather to enjoy a cup of morning or afternoon coffee with the occasional pastry. By night, Java City transforms into the soulful Nugroove Cafe'.

Dale Williams of the Office of Student Activities organizes events at Nugroove, including an Open Mic Poetry Night, Neo Soul night with a live band, and a Featured Author Night. The events take place between 7 and 9 p.m., a time when students can come and enjoy a relaxed and culturally stimulating atmosphere.

"Nugroove has its own following," said Williams, "We try to do programming once a month in the form of cultured arts, poetry, authors, and music."

Nugroove is a genre of music, similar to that of Neo Soul.

Open Mic Poetry Night, is the most popular event as Java City is always jam-packed with students with an ear for poetry listening to local poets "spit" their thoughts in flowing, lyrical verses. Both Neo Soul and Featured Author Night spotlight the creative minds of local authors and the sultry harmonies of live bands.

"I use a lot of local authors, authors contact me, a lot of the bands are local.

A lot of bands play in small venues," Williams said.

To celebrate Black History Month, on Feb. 11 a Black History storytelling program featured Lorenzo Mecchum, a former WSSU professor. The art of storytelling is an ancient and large part of African tradition. Author and WSSU alumna Trice Hickman, will be on campus, Tuesday, March 4, to discuss one of her books.

Williams said the atmosphere is important.

"We want to continue Nugroove at the coffeehouse. Coffeehouse programming is a current trend for students, creating a thought provoking, relaxed environment."



Photo By Grant Fulton

Java City hosts Nugroove.