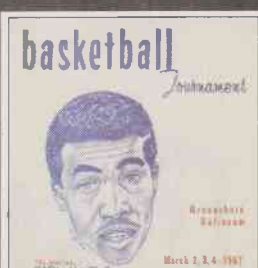


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Monroe brings Black Magic

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THE NEWS ARGUS

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Cross at your own risk: Student hit on MLK

Stephanie Douthit
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday Feb. 18 Leah Poole, a sophomore at Winston-Salem State, was struck by a car while crossing Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Poole was crossing the busy street in the crosswalk when she was permitted to cross by a car slowing at the stoplight. According to WSSU Police Captain Marcus Sutton, Poole was then struck by a car, driven by Darryl McCrae, who was in the left lane heading in the direction of Bowman Gray Stadium.

In the past few years, these types of incidents have occurred frequently as construction of dorms and other buildings have gone up along with enrollment, leading to an increase of foot traffic on MLK. "I think that because our campus is an open campus

and Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. is such a busy street, and I don't see anything getting safer," said senior Dianna Sanders. "The only solution I see is building a pedestrian bridge."

Steps have been taken to improve the safety of students, but many people are questioning whether enough is being done.

WSSU campus police have undergone extensive radar training to combat the speeding problems on and around campus. In addition, the WSSU National Alumni Association have suggested that the university work with the city of Winston-Salem, that maintain MLK, to lower the speed limit through the portion of the street in which the school is located.

Attempts such have been made in the past, but with little success.



Photo by Grant Fulton

Students cross Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. to get to their dorms and classes.

The WSSU campus police often assist the Winston-Salem police with incidents on MLK, but it is the sole responsibility of the city police to maintain

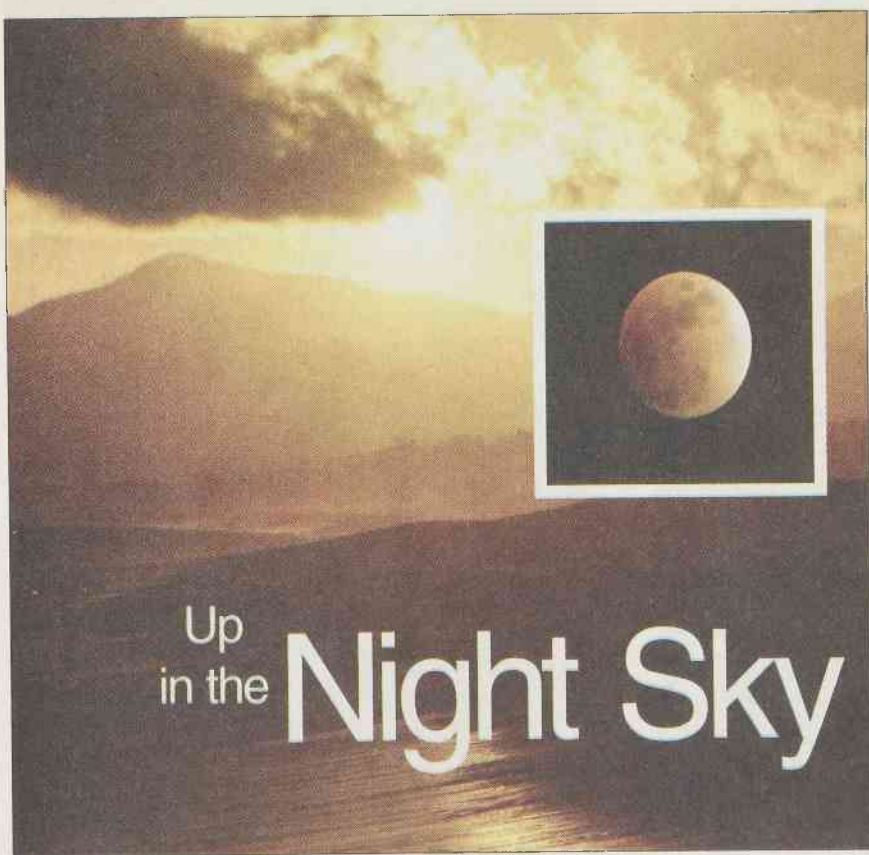
the safety of the busy street. McCrae, driver of the car involved in the accident, was charged Feb. 20 with driving with a revoked

license and failure to leave information after the accident. Poole suffered no serious injuries and is recovering at home.

Safety Alerts

When Winston-Salem State University considers a safety issue that would pose an ongoing threat to students, employees and members of the Winston-Salem State University community, "Safety Messages" are posted. If you have safety concerns contact the Department of Public Safety.

Report any concern to 750-2900, in an emergency 750-2911, while off campus 911.



Up in the Night Sky

Photos courtesy of

Lunar eclipses, like the one seen Feb. 20 occur only once every two to three years.

SGA sends letter to Reaves

By Terri Day
STAFF REPORTER

On Feb. 11, Winston-Salem State Student Government Association President Robert Stephens sent Chancellor Donald L. Reaves a letter listing requests of the student body towards his office.

The letter, which was written by the SGA and signed by Stephens, took aim at a seven issues involving Reaves. The note addressed several areas where student leaders felt slighted by Reaves. Students who attended a Feb. 20 Student Body Forum were given a copy of the letter, which was also forwarded to University of North Carolina President Irskine Bowles, as well as former WSSU Chancellor Dr. Harold Martin.

"We wanted to make the chancellor aware, and put it in print," Stephens said.

Points of the letter included remaining true as an HBCU, his

visibility on campus, admission standards and increased student athletic fee.

"The Student Government Association stands united with the student body in opposition to the full increase you recommended for the 2008-09 Athletic Fee."

Vice President of Internal Affairs Harold Respass said this was not the first time the SGA addressed its' concerns to Reaves.

"We'd met with the chancellor at his house last semester, and we addressed a few of our concerns, mainly visibility; even at basketball games, he's very isolated," he said.

At the meeting, several students expressed opinions about the chancellor's lack of visibility. Some think that he hasn't felt truly welcomed. Stanley Johnson suggested a way to help Reaves feel more welcome.

"Every organization should construct a letter, welcoming

[Reaves], saying we haven't seen you much, but we'd like to see you, you're a part of the family now."

Senior Class President Haven Powell shared that sentiment.

"I did feel this letter was necessary," said Powell. "But I do think that as students we do need to understand that he is a person, he just got here, and things do take time," she said.

On Feb. 22, Reaves responded to the letter.

"I am always interested in understanding the perspectives of our students," he said. "I take their views very seriously. Hopefully, through communication, we can resolve the issues addressed in the letter."

Reaves will meet with the SGA today. Stephens is optimistic about the meeting.

"Hopefully the Chancellor will respond positively," he said. "Because it's important that he corresponds with the students."

Spike Lee comes to WSSU

By Steven J. Gaither
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Feb. 26, legendary director Spike Lee spoke to a full house at K.R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State.

Lee served as the keynote speaker for Black Men For Change's 5th Annual Black Male Symposium.

A jet-lagged Lee talked to students and audience members about several topics, ranging from the upcoming presidential election to the inspiration behind his career and his films.

Lee urged students to pursue their passion and not to choose a major because of what their parents want them to do.

"Parents kill more dreams than anybody," Lee told the audience. "I get down on my knees every night and thank God 'cause I have a job that I love."

Lee also cautioned the audience to be aware of the effect that the media has on people's lives. Lee told the young women in the audience that listening to derogatory music just because they like the beat is inexcusable.

"We have to start holding our artists more accountable," he said. "You have to start listening to lyrics."

Lee also discussed several of his films, including 1988's "School Daze." Lee said the film draws heavily off his experiences from his years at Morehouse, a historically black university in Atlanta. "That film was my four years at

Morehouse crammed into a homecoming weekend," he said.

Lee was a third-generation Morehouse student. He had his college tuition paid for by his grandmother, a retired school teacher who saved up her Social Security checks to put him through school.

Lee managed to keep his composure as a belligerent audience member interrupted him while trying to ask a question prior to the designated Q & A session. After campus police quieted the man, Lee allowed him to ask the first question:

"Why don't more black people of your caliber hire black people?" "I can't think of another black person in cinema who has hired as many black people in front of and behind the camera as I have," Lee said.

Several students who attended the event said they came away inspired by Lee's speech.



Photo courtesy of Garrett Garms

Spike Lee autographs a pair of Nike Air Jordan III's while on his visit to WSSU. Lee directed Nike ads that made the shoes popular.

"He was very inspirational and gave me a lot of insight on the issues throughout the black community," said senior Alexia Whitley.

Sophomore ShaRanda Royster also found Lee's speech riveting. "I was very impressed and inspired by Spike Lee," she said.

-SHADONNA BOYD CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.