

## Technology shortcuts are poor substitutes for learning

UWIRE -- Technological achievements, especially regarding communication, are often initially regarded as a step back for society.

These hesitations are often brushed aside as useless nostalgia in the light of improvement; however, they are important to consider.

When writing became increasingly used in teaching, Plato, the classical Greek philosopher, lamented that "If men learn this, it will implant forgetfulness in their souls; they will cease to exercise memory because they rely on that which is written, calling things to remembrance no longer from within themselves, but by means of external marks."

For thousands of years, at least up until their encounters with Westerners, Asian belief systems such as Buddhism were handed down orally and spread, with surprising accuracy, throughout millions of people and dialects.

Yet, writing allowed these traditions

to be taken from their place of origin and shared around the world.

Through the wonders of translation and transcription, people throughout Europe were exposed to thousands of years of thought and philosophy without the tiresome obstacles of language and memorization.

Subsequently significant was the printing press, then the typewriter, word processing and finally, the Internet.

The Internet, lauded as the world's first truly democratic medium, is our most recent communication revolution that lets anyone in reach of a computer or cell phone access up-to-the-minute news and information from anywhere around the globe.

It is also sometimes portrayed as the solution to today's ever-increasing media conglomeration; as a supposedly vast, unregulated, uncensored resource of diverse perspectives, public self-expression and equal opportunity, it is

the antithesis of the syndicated mass appeal broadcasts of powerful, biased corporations.

In the name of progress, we've come a long way from the face-to-face oral traditions of our ancestors.

For each invention, convenience or shortcut, tradition, artistry and individuality — the very things a society is based on — are lost. People have always feared for the future. Now, in our increasingly homogenized global economy, we may begin to see why.

It has been said that we are facing a glut of information — that education is devalued by the ability to Google any topic under the sun, and then, just as quickly, forget it.

Furthermore, it is impossible to control. Though it is now possible for anyone to operate a blog and express his opinions to the world, these opinions are not necessarily well-informed or reasonable.

There is no way to correct all the mis-

information on Wikipedia, let alone the Internet in general — especially before it has been read by others.

Larry Page of Google has said that one of the company's long-range projects is the study of artificial intelligence.

He described this vision at a conference: "The ultimate search engine would understand everything in the world.

It would understand everything that you asked it and give you back the exact right thing instantly... You could ask, 'what should I ask Larry?' and it would tell you."

Eventually, we will be able to Google, maybe even G-chat, from the chips in our brains. If and when this comes to fruition, why would you ever leave your house?

Hass is a member of the class of 2010

By *Stephie Hass*  
Campus Times, U. Rochester

## Fan offers five reasons for 'bleak' Ram season

The Winston-Salem State University football team is having one its worst seasons in history. Many fans are asking, "Will the Rams turn around this bleak season?"

The Rams have a mediocre schedule facing five teams and only one has a winning record, the Wildcats of Bethune-Cookman University. The Rams were defeated by the Wildcats for homecoming game.

Don't get me wrong, I love the Rams. I am a Ram all day, every day and hope the Rams can get back on the right track. The Rams need to turn this season around now, but I have five reasons why the Ram will not win another game this season.

### Reason No. 5

Fan support is non-existent! It's true that most sports fans are fair weather and only support a team that is already winning. The problem is the Ram "faithful" have never really been all that supportive to begin with. In general, the marching bands dominate HBCU sports.

### Reason No. 4

This carries over from No. 5. We joined the MEAC too early. The Rams competed in the CIAA pretty fiercely, but had not won a conference title since 2000 when they won it back-to-back time on the arms and legs of Tory Woodbury. Let's face it. You cannot be competitive in a higher division until you dominate in the lower division.

### Reason No. 3

We lost three of the most dynamic players WSSU has ever seen. For an offense that lived and died on the legs of Monte Purvis, it was no doubt that offensive production would be slow this season.

Let's not forget about William Hayes being drafted by the Tennessee Titans, a player who could change the outcome of a game merely on a swim move or a rip to the inside. Last but not least, Winston-Salem's own Jed Bines, whose vision on the field and his quickness between the tackles reeked havoc on an

opposing linebacker and a safety. The Rams offense is too one-dimensional and the passing game is nonexistent.

### Reason No. 2

Coach Blount is still running the same offense he ran in the late 1970's. The game of college football has changed tremendously and unfortunately WSSU hasn't. Until we spread the offense a little, and quit running the tailback up the middle on third and eight to go, we will never score enough points against a true division one team.

### Reason No. 1

The defense cannot continue to carry the offense the way it has this season. The defense has been out of this world. In seven games, the Rams defense has held its opponents to 953 yards rushing and 1,272 passing.

When you compare that to the Ram offense, which has 757 yards rushing and 962 yards passing, you can clearly see that the defense has been doing its part.

In most games, the Rams have been right in the thick of things, but failed to put the ball in the end zone. No defense can continue to hold a team when its offense has punted 10 more times than the opponents, and they only convert on 36 of 102 third downs.

It's no wonder the Rams even beat Howard. Sadly, Coach Blount will remain at 88 wins on his career. Lucky for the Rams they will have next season to start from scratch.

Rams  
1-5

By *Sharrod Patterson*



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