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Taylor is credited with building "Essence" magazine into a world-wide brand.

As she approached the lectern Taylor with assured those in attendance that her conversation for the evening would remain candid.

"I'm looking in the mirror," Taylor said.

Taylor addressed the disparity of African-American elementary school student's scholastic aptitude test scores below grade level and called for an increased involvement in the welfare of students.

"They are our responsibility."

Taylor stressed the need for young people, particularly women, to take an active role in reshaping the world.

"Every generation needs to ask itself, 'what am I doing here?'" Taylor said.

She said issues that society faces have the potential to be resolved if the female population exercised more authority.

"The world is out of balance...too much testosterone in there."

The author's personal testimony highlighted the theme for the evening.

From running a small family boutique in Harlem, to surviving a failed marriage, Taylor became one of the most successful women in

American journalism history.

At the age of 24, a college graduate and a mother of one, she found herself financially exhausted and in need of serious medical attention. Taylor checked herself into the New York City emergency room and was told her ailments were caused by acute anxiety.

"Your life speaks to you in phenomenal ways," Taylor said.

She explained that her walk home from the emergency room prompted her to stop into a church on Broadway.

Feeling broken and hopeless, Taylor said she listened intently to the preacher.

That day, she recalled, was the day she found her inspiration.

"You have the power and the responsibility to create the life you want," Taylor said.

From then on, her life took a new direction.

Taylor's visit, hosted by the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, appeared to have a positive effect on all who were in attendance, including Carlton A.G. Eversley, a professor of African-American Culture at WSSU.

"We should all look in the mirror and deal with self-empowerment," Eversley said.

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junior psychology major.

"I can't speak for everyone else, but I will donate again, but it's a nice feeling in knowing that I helped out someone who truly needs it."

Rams H.O.P.E. is one of the many organizations at Winston-Salem State that gives back to the less fortunate.

"It's very wonderful to know that this money will help so many people begin to rebuild their lives," said Chelii Broussard, adviser for Campus Life Marketing Committee and the Ragin' Rams Pep Squad.

"Most of all, it lets them know that WSSU cares."

Rams H.O.P.E. has collected gift cards, clothes, and other donations for the relief efforts.

"Everybody needs a helping hand," said Nikki Norris, a junior majoring in marketing from Durham.

Norris also said that they are planning fundraisers for other major disasters, such as the earthquakes in Chile and Japan.

"I believe that it is important for students to be aware of things happening in the world, not just their communities," said Mi'Chelle Johnson, junior nursing major from Charlotte. "Rams H.O.P.E. keeps students alert of international crises."

Rams H.O.P.E. was organized in January by Broussard.

"We're new on campus and the impact that we have had so far is astounding," Broussard said.

Rams H.O.P.E. is still requesting donations of medical supplies and food that can be dropped off at the SGA office at 106 Thompson Center or the Campus Life Office at 305 Thompson Center.

ENTERTAINING CRITICISM

J. Cole gives WSSU intimate, killer performance

Marcus Cunningham
COPY DESK CHIEF

The bleachers and courts of Whitaker Gym at Winston-Salem State were packed in anticipation of a live performance from J. Cole during the "Ram Battle 2010."

Cole did not disappoint.

Unlike other artists who may sing a song or two during an event, Cole seemed eager to perform song after song from his catalog. He even went as far to rap verses from songs he was featured on, including "A Star is Born" from Jay-Z's "Blueprint 3," "Gladiators" from B.o.B's "May 25th," and "Beautiful Bliss" from Wale's "Attention Deficit."

Cole, a native of Fayetteville is the first artist signed to Jay-Z's Roc Nation record label. Even

with such success it was evident that Cole is amazed at how far he has come. As the audience members began to recite his lyrics word for word Cole said it still amazes him to see people actually rap his songs.

With Cole performing in a small venue like Whitaker an intimate setting was created. As soon as Cole began performing he immediately called for the audience to come closer and closer. The crowd certainly responded as they rushed towards the stage getting within just a few short feet of Cole and the stage.

In some instances Cole grabbed the hands of audience members and rapped his songs to them. In an almost show stealing moment Cole actually pulled a crowd member on stage and let her sing

the chorus for his song "Dreams." What was most impressive about this is that the more than willingly participant was actually a really talented singer. The audience and Cole alike seemed astonished.

The red jacket that was once on Cole's back found its place on the floor of the stage as the artist covered in sweat began to hold nothing back in his performance. As an intermission Cole autographed magazines that he was featured on, and handed them out to the most lively and animated audience members.

It was a \$5 well spent to see this killer performance, whether it was songs from his mixtapes, acapella verses or songs Cole is featured on, there was a little bit of everything for everyone.

"Blood Done Sign My Name," successful film effort of N.C.'s role during Civil Rights

Jaye Cole
CONTRIBUTOR

North Carolina's role in the Civil Rights Movement continues to remain prevalent with the release of the big screen adaptation of Tim Tyson's "Blood Done Sign My Name."

The film, written and directed by Jeb Stuart, noted for his work on *The Fugitive* and *Die Hard*, is based upon the memoirs and life experiences as the son of a radically left Methodist preacher in rural Oxford.

Tyson recounts the racially charged events that would eventually lead to a march on Raleigh during the 1970's.

The story begins with the introduction of the Tysons, a bubbly family of five. Vernon, the patriarch is a progressive, idealistic preacher played by Ricky Schroder.

The Rev. Tyson takes the position as

the new pastor of Oxford Methodist Church. Within its traditional congregation, the good reverend and his family soon discover the gross inveterate shadow of Jim Crow looming in the segregated sections of the town that they now call home.

The story initially unfolds through the eyes of a child, Tim Tyson, played by Gattlin Griffith.

Tim is friends with Gerald Teel, whose family owns one of the local grocery stores.

Between their dialogues, the darker images of the movie can be seen as Gerald constantly makes racial remarks of bigotry at nearly every person of color that they encounter.

Around the same time that the Tysons arrive in town, a burgeoning young man named Ben Chavis, played by Nate Parker returns home

from college and takes a teaching job at the local black high school. He is determined to make a difference, and he certainly has the intellect to do it.

As Stuart injects Chavis into the equation, the movie's perspective changes, somewhat twisting the plot, and it becomes evident that this story is about more than just a preacher's family moving to a new town.

Drama continues to build within the small town. Two examples include: an invitation to Dr. Samuel Proctor, a black preacher and president of NC A&T, to preach at Oxford Methodist's all-white congregation courtesy of the Rev. Tyson, and the scene where Tyson takes his two sons to see a Ku Klux Klan cross-burning.

Outrage bursts through the seams as the black community takes to the streets rioting, vandalizing, and even

attempting to destroy all things "white."

It wasn't until Chavis brought the people together and called in renowned political "stoker man" and civil rights activist Golden Frinks played by Afemo Omilami. Frinks organizes and empowers black Oxford residents to stage a March on Raleigh.

Parker and Schroder give outstanding performances, despite the fact that the script called for a "forked" story line.

The balance was there, and one actor did not outshine the other.

The release of this movie came in February -- Black History Month. Tyson, Stuart and others deserve a round of applause for the accuracy, competency, and quality of this work.