

## THE WAY I SEE IT

### Attention Shoppers: Racism available at 16

Shopping is one of my favorite things to do.

I'll shop anywhere from Macy's to Wal-Mart. For me shopping is a stress reliever. It's a time to get away and do something for myself. When I am at the store, I expect to be greeted and treated with respect.



TIFFANY  
GIBSON  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After all, it's my money that will contribute to the success of the store. Recently for some black shoppers at a Wal-Mart in New Jersey, peaceful shopping was not the case. As the customers were walking around in Wal-Mart, a 16-year-old boy took over the public address system and said "All black people, leave the store now."

Soon after the announcement, a manager quickly went on the intercom system and apologized for the remark. The teen was arrested and charged with harassment and bias intimidation. As a result of the incident, Wal-Mart has updated the PA system at the New Jersey store to ensure this will not happen again.

I must admit, when I was a child I used to see the microphones at the grocery store and at Wal-Mart. I wanted to play with them but I never did. Even when I was bold enough to touch one, my mom quickly told me not to think about it.

Many times as I walk through the stores, I see parents holding their young child's hand to ensure they know what their child is doing.

After reading the story about Wal-Mart incident, I read the comments from different readers who thought this was just a prank and the boy should not be punished.

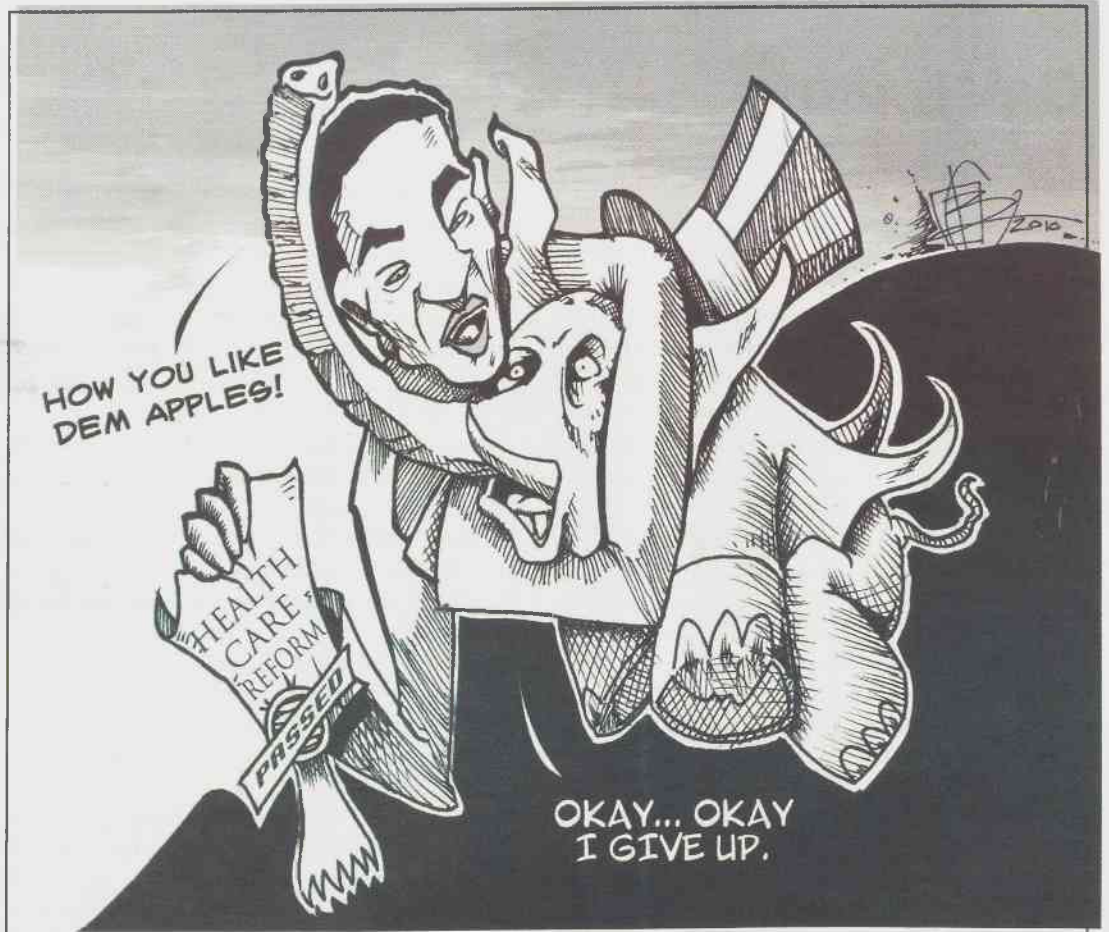
That is the problem with society today. People think they should be allowed to say or do anything without facing the consequences.

Like many parents of teenagers, the boy's parents didn't see any harm allowing their son to be in the store alone. It is sad that a 16-year-old feels like racial comments are appropriate. I know he knew what he was doing was wrong.

Not only did he touch the speaker, but he also yelled something that could have potentially started a riot. It concerns me especially that a young person is still saying racial slurs in these times.

But I must remember that although it is 2010 racism is still alive and well. This boy chose to hide his racist identity behind a microphone instead of a sheet. It bothers me that he does not think racial comments like this could quickly cause a problem to rise.

It is my hope that this young man will receive counseling and be educated about sensitivity, so he can understand the severity of his actions.



### How did WE miss that?

In the March 16 issue, 'News Argus collaborates to host senatorial debate' we erroneously reported that the debate will featured Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).

As a matter of policy, *The News Argus* will publish corrections of errors and clarifications in fact that have been published in the newspaper.

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### Letter Policy

*The News Argus* is a student publication of Winston-Salem State University. *The News Argus* encourages written comments to the editor and guest columns, but some rules apply:

- ❑ A signature, address and phone number must accompany all letters. Letters should be double-spaced and no more than 300 words.
- ❑ Letters will be verified by *The News Argus* by a phone call prior to publication. If *The News Argus* is unable to contact the writer of a letter, the letter will be held until contact is made. Letters intended as advertising will not be published.
- ❑ *The News Argus* does not publish "form letters" or letters sent to multiple newspapers outside the Triad unless the issue discussed in the letter is of importance to the WSSU community.
- ❑ *The News Argus* reserves the right to edit letters and guest columns for clarity, length and libel. *The News Argus* will edit letters that are grossly inaccurate or cross the boundaries of good taste.
- ❑ *The News Argus* allows readers to reply to someone response to any earlier letter only once.
- ❑ Guest columns may be no more than 400 words. *The News Argus* will accept endorsements of candidates, but only one per writer per candidate. The letter may challenge a candidate's record, but no intensely personal attacks will be printed. *The News Argus* permits candidates to write letters to the editor to specifically respond to another letter.

## CAMPUS CREW

Forum of comments from WSSU students, faculty, and staff randomly selected to answer a provocative question from *The News Argus*. Comments do not represent the opinions of *The News Argus* staff. Listen to the podcasts of the complete interviews at [www.thenewsargus.com](http://www.thenewsargus.com).

Interviews and photos by Brandon Wainright

Jan. 2 N.C.'s smoking ban began. It had been signed into law by Gov. Bev Perdue May 19 2009. The statewide smoking ban prohibits smoking in all bars and restaurants as well as in government build-

ings and government vehicles. The ban exempts cigar bars and private clubs. Since the ban has been in effect for more than two months, this issue's Campus Crew asks ...

What is your reaction to N.C.'s smoking ban in for public facilities?



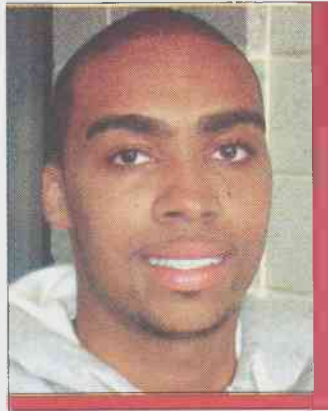
ALEX SONATO  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
DOBSON, N.C.

I don't really like smoking, but other people should have the right to smoke if they want to smoke.



KRISTIN HENRY  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  
RALEIGH

It's a good thing because I won't have to smell smoke and my hair won't smell like it.



ALVIN QUEEN  
EXERCISE SCIENCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

It's great the state banned smoking in public facilities because of all the health risks associated with smoking.



SEGUN IDOWU  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
NIGERIA

Its really not fair on the people who smoke. It should be a matter of choice for people.



MERCEDES JACKSON  
NURSING  
BREVARD, N.C.

Smoking should be banned, I wouldn't want to smell smoke while I'm trying to enjoy my food. And I am a smoker.