

RAMBLE ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Do you support the plans to build a 13-story mosque (an Islamic place of worship) and a Moslem community center two blocks from ground zero?

Yes. Despite what happened on 9/11, the Muslim community has religious freedom.

58%

No. It's offensive and disrespectful. They should build their mosque somewhere else.

29%

I don't care.

13%

To participate in the poll, register online at thenewsargus.com

HBCUs struggle to compete with white institutions athletically

Before integration, black athletes were rarely recruited by predominantly white institutions so they had little options but to enroll and play at HBCUs.

Then in Sept. 1970, Sam Cunningham's historical performance against the University of Alabama changed college football recruiting forever.

Soon after that, many white schools began to heavily recruit black players.

University of Alabama offered a scholarship to Wilbur Jackson, the first African American in Tide history to receive a scholarship from the school.

Predominantly white institutions are able to pamper their recruits with state of the art facilities, dormitories, huge football stadiums and nationwide exposure to NFL scouts.

HBCUs have struggled to sign the best recruits because they are lacking in these categories and many of their schools' football programs are not funded like larger schools,

such as the University of Florida or the University of Southern California (USC).

The main difference when comparing football programs such as Howard's and University of Florida is that one is a private institution and the other is public.

"The obvious difference

between HBCUs and PWIs, is they have

a considerable amount of more scholarships to give out, which naturally adds more depth, which makes it hard for HBCUs to compete because it's a numbers game," said Donald Ware, who hosts the nationally syndicated sports show "From the Press Box to Press Row."

Public Universities receive millions in funding from the state for their football programs and other aspects of their school.

They apply this money towards physical facilities, academics, better dorms and

classrooms and quality labs. Also, the alumni base between a private and public institution varies.

A private institution is not as large, so its disposable income for giving back is not as high.

"Financial support is almost non-existent compared to the

other large division one schools in athletics field.

It's unfortunate we don't get the

same opportunity as those other athletes that attend the neighboring schools," said Chatman Young, senior right guard.

PWIs offer more seats for fans and onlookers than other schools.

The biggest football stadium for an HBCU belongs to Norfolk State University, which can seat up to 30,000 people.

The University of Michigan stadium can seat up to 100,000 people. Howard's Green Stadium can only seat up to 10,000 people.

"Overall, the HBCU does not have financial resources that predominantly white institutions have because the HBCU funding has been put into the physical plant of the university, to renovate dorms, class rooms and laboratories, as opposed to the emphasis in athletic venues," said Newton Jackson, PhD, former athletic director at Florida A&M University.

Although Cunningham's performance will forever be remembered as the day that broke segregation among college football, it was also the day that HBCU's lost key recruits and the ability to compete with predominantly white institutions.

*Karim Alammuri
Sports Editor
The Hilltop,
student newspaper
at Howard University
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Vets at WSSU suffering financially due to incorrect online catalog information

The veterans attending Winston-Salem State have yet to be awarded their government stipends.

Students -- vets -- who fall under Chapters 30, 31 and 33 (Montgomery GI, Vocational Rehabilitation and Post 9/11 Veterans) are entitled to receive financial compensation as long as they are enrolled in school.

Their funds are usually dispensed at the beginning of each month. However, the students did not get their money because of "errors included in the WSSU online course catalog." University officials say they are working on the corrections. But, how did this mistake happen in the first place?

As a student, I appreciate my school and have an understanding for administrative woes under a massive early fall semester workload; even upperclassmen need time to

re-adjust following a three-month hiatus from school.

As a veteran, I cannot fathom how my school would allow us to go this far into the semester without formally ensuring us that they are making a concerted effort to rectify the problem.

The fundamental legal principles passed down to us by our nation's founders was written at a time of both turmoil and trepidation, yet the delegates that gathered in Philadelphia possessed unparalleled optimism. They seemed to not only depend on God, but also on the strength of the country's newly formed armed forces.

That's how much the Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard mean to America; they are entities placed at a level scantily beneath divin-

ity. Time and again, we have celebrated the military for the defense of this country and all that it stands for. Their presence is constant and uncompromising, hence the appreciation shown for their service is continual.

America is indebted to the sacrifices made by those who gave up life and limb.

That is why it's so hard for me to understand why it seems that WSSU has not made a stalwart attempt to help keep its veteran student population financially secure.

We have altered our lives, oftentimes putting personal, family, and career affairs aside so that the many unsung liberties can continue to be enjoyed by all Americans.

There are many aberrations that can be made while processing paperwork; however,

the errors that were made, whether it directly or indirectly affected our veterans, came at a great cost. The stipends that are awarded each month are the source of many veterans' livelihood.

The stress of making the grade in school — in addition to making sure that rent or mortgage is paid, power stays on, the children are fed, and the car tank is filled — can often prove to be overwhelming for any student.

These financial conditions are unfair and inadequate for any student-veteran at any school. I love Winston-Salem State, but in the words of Chancellor Donald Reaves, "We can do better; we will do better."

It is my sincerest desire that this issue is resolved with urgency and immediacy.

*Jaye Cole
Argus Assistant Editor*

Op-Ed

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THE NEWS ARGUS OFFICE
Carolina Hall G005
601 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27110

Newsroom 336-750-2327
FAX 336-750-8704
Argus Advertising 336-750-8701

thenewsargus@yahoo.com
www.thenewsargus.com



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