

RAMBLE ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Did WSSU's programs pay enough tribute to Black History Month?

Yes
28%

No
31%

Some of them
19%

I didn't attend
22%

To participate
in the poll,
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thenewsargus.com

Evolution of the black experience

American history; Black history; African-American history; Afro-American history; Negro history; emancipation; slavery; Africa.

The evolution of the Black experience has traveled more than four centuries, creating a tapestry of artists, musicians, writers, scientists, mathematicians, civil leaders, inventors and even a president, to deliver us where we are today.

The rich, cultural history of African Americans has been the productive undercurrent of this country. Its economic strength was built on the backs of our ancestors from the Mother Land.

Yet, despite the immense contributions and the world-class benchmarks that African Americans of the past have set, many blacks from generations past often pose a question: What is this generation doing to make its mark on the historical timeline of America?

I would like to think the question would have been

answered Nov. 4, 2008, when President Barack Obama was elected the 44th Commander-in-Chief of the United States; however, there are several that would disagree.

An argument of those that oppose this is that black America cannot simply sit back and ride the coattails of President Obama's appointment and that young African-Americans, which appear to remain stagnant, are allowing the world — and opportunity — to pass them by.

I can agree on the fact that stagnancy will eventually lead to the demise of any group, especially one that is already crippled by a number of significant problems. I was taught that anything that isn't growing is, in fact, dying.

But I don't think this is an issue for this forthcoming generation of African-Americans.

This generation is doing the same thing that generations of the past have done. Historically, when change was

needed, there were those who stepped up to the plate.

President Obama saw a need for change and acted upon it. Not unlike his predecessors, he dared to dream the impossible.

He was not alone.

Just 15 years after Tupac Shakur, a martyr in the hip-hop community, vocalized his controversial yet candid verse 'we ain't ready, to see a black president' on his song entitled 'Changes,' the impossible happened. President Obama, The black version of Generation Y, and a host of others defied the notion of 'black is whack, white is right' and caused an upheaval in the way things were. President Obama and company utilized the techniques found in his grassroots organizer past and successfully translated that into a nationwide campaign. Suddenly black America had a renewed sense of faith in the future, chanting about change.

I'm not sure if President

Obama had a 'mountain-top' experience, or if he just thought America needed something new; what I do know is that somewhere between 2007 and 2009, the black communities of this country came together, the same way our progenitors did in the past, and demanded change.

And that's the ebb and flow of Africa-America; things may seem dismal, even to the point of extinction, yet somehow they find a way to thrive.

The struggle for blacks may seem never ending but as sure as flowers bloom in the springtime and harvest comes in the fall, growth will eventually meet change.

This Black History Month, I encourage African Americans to continue to grow; because you never know when it will be your time to make your mark in history.

Jaye Cole
Copy Desk Chief

Lockout threatens 2011 NFL season

Can you imagine a late September Sunday afternoon with no football to watch? It's not because your favorite team has a bye week, but it's because of a labor strike.

The National Football League has a March 3 deadline set to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement between the NFL Players Association and the owners.

If the owners and the NFLPA are not able to come to an agreement, it would force the NFL into a lockout.

The last time the NFL had a labor dispute this large it was in 1987 when the NFL used replacement players for three weeks until the dispute was settled.

When you hear about the

dispute you think of two things; the owners are being stingy and the players are being greedy. But, let's examine the effects of the possible lockout, shall we?

The immediate impact will be felt in the cities where the teams are located.

Each city is estimated to lose nearly \$160 million and more than 115,000 jobs would be affected.

Those jobs include everyone from the concession stand worker to the beat writer for the team. Coaches and scouts for the teams would possibly be forced into taking pay cuts up to 50 percent or have their contracts suspended or terminated within 20 days' notice of a lockout.

The 2011 draft class will also be affected by the pending lockout. Imagine being the first overall pick in the draft and having no training camp, no organized team activities and most importantly, no money.

Because of the talks of a labor strike, it made the decision to return to school easier for the juniors, but has the seniors who are entering the draft walking on eggshells, to say the least.

With television ratings for the NFL being the highest they have been in 20 years -- according to The Washington Post -- the lockout would do more than hurt the league. It would strip it of its title.

The NFL is the richest

league on the planet with a net worth of \$7.6 billion in 2008.

With the NFL generating most of its revenue through lucrative media deals, not having a season will actually cause them to lose more money than they would save.

The careers of the future NFL stars are also being affected. The juniors who had to return to college risk the possibility of injury playing another 13 to 14 game schedule, and killing any chances of a NFL career.

I guess without football for six months, we all need to find hobbies to kill time until 2012.

Jordan Holloway
Sports Editor

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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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