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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Suspensions at schools linked to incarceration down the road

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Attorneys from a Legal Aid of NC program told a crowd at Winston-Salem State University last week that there is a direct correlation between the disciplinary actions that are taken against students in schools and whether or not they end up in prison.

Jason Langberg and Lewis Pitts of Advocate for Children's Services, which advocates on behalf of "disadvantaged young people" spoke on Sept. 21 at a program sponsored by Real Men Teach, which encourages more men to become educators.



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garmis  
**Lewis Pitts speaks as his colleague Jason Langberg looks on.**

Langberg, who said African Americans account for 69 percent of all expulsions statewide. "There's no evidence that these students have committed more offenses."

Langberg walked the audience through the basics of the school to prison pipeline, which he defines as "a system of laws, policies and practices that pushes students out of schools and into the juvenile justice system," before touching on the societal issues that fuel the pipeline, and what educators and others can do to help stop it. Students who receive punishments that keep them from the classroom are more likely to become disengaged in the educational process, and in some instances, their punishments have actually kept them from educational opportunities, Langberg said. This sense of disenfranchisement, coupled with the fact that students are more likely to sustain criminal charges for small offenses in school because of the presence of school resource officers (law enforcement) on most campuses, often translates to a much higher likelihood of contact with the juvenile justice system, he explained.

The presence of school resource officers has increased 250 percent since the 1995-96 school year, Langberg said.

"Schools are becoming the most controlled, criminalized environment that we have in our society," remarked the Asheville native. "...No studies that I have been able to find can definitively say that SROs are making schools safer."

See Suspensions on A2



File Photo  
**A regular community presence, Judge Hartsfield speaks at a local church.**

## Judge Hartsfield ready to move on

*Commission to recommend a suspension*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

After six months of scrutiny, a light is finally at the end of the tunnel for District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield.

Hartsfield, who appeared before the N.C. Judicial Standards Commission at a three-day long hearing in Raleigh earlier this month, received word late last week that the Commission has recommended that she be suspended for an unspecified amount of time. The recommendation will now be considered by the state Supreme Court, which will ultimately decide Hartsfield's fate, explained David Freedman, Hartsfield's attorney. Freedman said the process would likely take several



Freedman

See Hartsfield on A9

## True Homecoming for Howell

*Renowned actress/singer returning to her Ram roots*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

When songstress Maria Howell graces the stage at Winston-Salem State University's Homecoming Alumni Scholarship Gala tomorrow night in the Embassy Suites' Grand Pavillion Ballroom, it won't be just another show for the veteran vocalist. It will indeed be, well, a homecoming. Howell, an accomplished vocalist who is known internationally for her talent, is also a WSSU alumna.

"I feel like I'm going home," said the Gastonia native, whose mother also attended the school. "It's a family reunion to me."

Though her singing career has taken her many places - including Japan, where she lived for six years - Howell says some of her most important life experiences took place at WSSU.

"My experience was ... life changing," commented Howell, a member of the school's Class of '83. "Coming from a small town ... it just opened up my world. I already had big dreams and aspirations, but being here with so many different people from so many different places, it really inspired me to want to see the world."

Howell, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and former biology/chemistry major who once considered becoming a physician, was active on campus in a variety of capacities, serving on the Pep Club, the Mass University Choir, as a resident advisor, class leader and member of the student government.

"Winston-Salem State was the beginning of my life, it was the beginning of my adulthood," said the Atlanta resident. "I grew up

See Howell on A9



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garmis

**Maria Howell performs at the CIAA Tourney earlier this year.**

## Scholar: Medical pioneers used blacks as guinea pigs



Dr. Harriet A. Washington speaks at WSSU.

BY JAESON PITT  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

An untold history of African-Americans and medical research was shared by Dr. Harriet A. Washington on Thursday, Sept. 22 at Winston-Salem State University.

The former Harvard Medical School Fellow based much of her discussion on her best-selling book "Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present."

Like the book, her lecture highlighted several of the wrongs that the medical community has inflicted on African Americans. The practice of using blacks as medical guinea pigs, Washington said, dates back to the days when the first blacks set foot in this country.

She spoke of doctors like J. Marion Sims, who is celebrated and credited as being the founding father of gynecology. Few discuss the fact that the South Carolina native perfected the medical speciality by using female slaves for testing. Washington said Sims did many horrible things to the women - without using any sort of anesthesia.

See Washington on A5

## Family Matters



Photo by Layla Farmer

**Mayor Allen Joines issues a proclamation to Angela Parns in honor of Family Day, which encourages families to eat together. Read more on page A3.**

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