

# OPINION

## THE CHRONICLE

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## Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

# Obama moves to save lives

Who would have thought that Winston-Salem State University would have to deal with the death of one freshman let alone two within one-and-a-half months.

Both freshmen died from gun violence at times that should have been joyous. One was killed on WSSU's campus just as its homecoming weekend was winding down. One was killed two days before Christmas.

Both accused gunmen have been arrested. In both cases, the gunmen did not randomly shoot their victims. Both accused shooters and the victims were young and black. In both cases, other people were hurt in the shooting.



Anthony White



Kari Watson

The university family barely had time to mourn over the fatal shooting of Anthony White Jr., 19, a freshman from Charlotte, when the news about the fatal shooting of Kari Omyea Watson in Raleigh just came out just before Christmas. Watson, 18, who was home in Raleigh during the WSSU winter break, was buried on Jan. 2.

These two young people had full lives ahead of them at Winston-Salem State. So many good things are happening there, and those students had such high expectations.

Watson was a 2015 graduate of Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School and earned one of the first Wake County Future Teachers scholarships. She made the dean's list her first semester at WSSU and hoped to pursue a career in education.

White "was real cool and laid back," one fellow student said. "He was really serious about his education and he encouraged others to take it seriously as well."

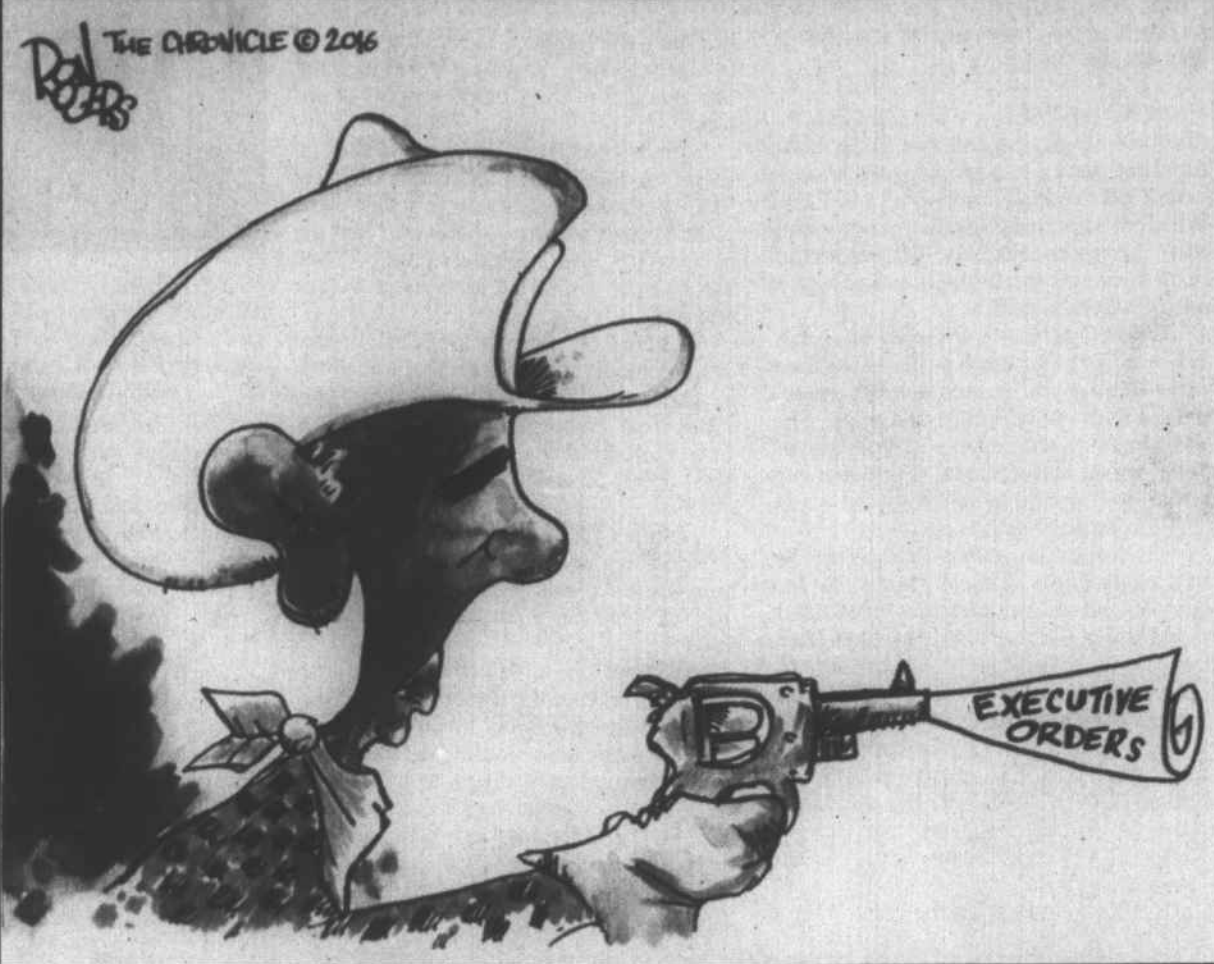
So why did students with such bright futures die at the hands of gunmen? One might say that the ease of access to guns led to their deaths. The accused gunmen had records or were wanted on other charges when the shootings happened. Both are 21 years old.

Gun violence has shaken Americans to the core, in one way or another. Whether it's mass shootings or relationship shootings, people die needlessly because of gun violence.

President Obama took action by himself because he hasn't gotten help from Congress. He issued executive orders on Tuesday to help decrease the number of deaths. Go to [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) for information. He will be featured in a town hall meeting tonight (Thursday, Jan. 7) on CNN at 8 p.m.

This issue has divided Americans for several reasons, including the debate over Second Amendment rights, but Obama appears to be the one taking leadership in trying to do something about it without infringing on Second Amendment rights. It has come too late for two WSSU freshmen.

Where do you stand? We would like to hear from you. Send your brief Letter to the Editor to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com), post a short note on [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com) or drop off a brief opinion to our office at 617 N. Liberty St.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Organization thanks community for helping with 1,000 deliveries

To the Editor:

Lifeline Shoebox Ministry is a nonprofit organization that provides personal need items to nursing home and assisted living residents at Christmas time. After collecting donations and products all year long, it was time for the deliveries to begin.

On Dec. 20, there were a host of volunteers of all ages, sizes and ethnicities from the community. The Girl Scouts along with the Sigma Beta Club were among the many volunteers. You could see the unity for a cause in action as they unloaded the U-Haul truck that was donated to present the much-needed gifts to the residents of these facilities.

Each gift contained between 12 to 15 full-sized personal need items for each resident accompanied with a smiling face that was also a "BOX OF LOVE." The many volunteers, both young and old; were emotional-

ly moved by the impact of giving a gift to someone who they did not know yet knew it was appreciated. A few of the volunteers have been annual participants in the cause since Lifeline started the first delivery in 2008.

Lifeline Shoebox delivered a record number of boxes this year. Volunteers delivered 1,000 shoeboxes to 1,000 residents in 10 facilities (eight nursing homes and two assisted living facilities).

The facilities that were served were Grace Health Care, Oak Forest Nursing Home, Brian Center Health Care, Springwood Nursing Home, Brookridge Retirement Community, The Oaks, Kindred Transitional Care (Silas Creek Manor), Trinity Care (Lutheran Home), Forsyth Village and Somerset Court at University Place.

I am coordinator and project manager. Over the past few years deliveries have hovered around 550 residents each year. It is truly a milestone, that we have gone to four digits. I hope to reach even more residents in 2016 because of the need being so great.

The organization is looking for donated space to centralize the operation. Currently the organization is

using three separate sites to house the product, supplies and donations. Because the organization collects donations all year long, the organization will need to locate a place that can house its growth. I am very grateful to all of the community for their support of this endeavor each year. We could not function without the support of the community and their compassion for those who have a need.

A special thanks to silent financial partner and friend, Derrick Holland, who has provided his vehicle and home to support the mission of Lifeline Shoebox. To each and every one and the countless volunteers and supporters of this cause. Thank you.

Lifeline Shoebox will begin planning for 2016 deliveries Jan. 15, 2016. I am requesting that if there is anyone who has available space or is able to help to locate a donated space or would like to participate with Lifeline Shoebox, please email me at [info@lifelineshoebox.com](mailto:info@lifelineshoebox.com) or call 336-546-7015.

Wanda Reid  
Coordinator and  
Project Manager  
Lifeline Shoebox Ministry



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

In this photo are members of Girl Scout Troops 41688 and 01929 from Winston-Salem, the Delta Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (at WSSU) and the fraternity's Sigma Beta Club. Wanda Reid is far right.

## We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com) before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com).

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

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