

Booted Out!



Lady Rams Rally

WSSU FOOTBALL and BASKETBALL will be hosting camps and clinics.

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THE CHRONICLE

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NBTF is local concern in HB 2 boycott

Attracting businesses, tourism and events also in jeopardy

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

With many boycotting North Carolina because of HB 2, events that draw visitors from out of state, like next year's National Black Theatre Festival, may be affected.

Other cities have felt the effects in high profile ways, like cancellations at the High Point Furniture Market and Bruce Springsteen canceling his concert in



Mayor Joines



Alston

Greensboro in protest of the law, which opponents say is discriminatory.

Locally, the National Black Theatre Festival would be the biggest out-of-state

draw in the city, as attendees from all over the nation and the world come to see its plays. The 2015 festival saw a 10 percent growth in ticket sales with nearly 70,000

attendees. Visit Winston-Salem estimated its economic impact in tourism at \$7.5 million. The N.C. Black Repertory Company, which produces the festival, estimates its impact at \$11 million, calculating in things like ticket sales and production.

Black Repertory Company Interim Executive Director Nigel Alston said with the festival more than a year out, there hasn't been contact with potential theatre companies or patrons yet.

"We've talked it about it," said Alston about HB 2. "We're aware of what the concerns are. We're not sure what, if any, impact there will be."

Visit Winston-Salem President Richard Geiger said there is concern over if the

See Boycott on A9

Flack retiring after 26 years of service

WSSU's founding dean of Health Sciences helped revitalize nursing program



Photo by Tevin Stinson

After serving Ram Nation for more than 20 years Dr. Sylvia Flack announced her retirement earlier last month. Flack currently serves as executive director of the WSSU Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities.

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

When Dr. Sylvia Flack agreed to return to her alma mater, Winston-Salem State University, in 1989 as dean of health sciences, she had only planned to stay one year. Earlier this month, more than 25 years later, Flack officially announced her retirement from WSSU.

According to Flack, she was persuaded by former Chancellor Dr. Cleon Thompson and others during a visit to the campus. Flack said at that time she also had an offer in West Virginia as CEO of a community college.

Flack noted she was leaning toward taking the position in W.Va., but it was her son who helped her make the decision to choose WSSU.

"My son said 'Let's go to Winston-Salem,' and I've been here ever since," she said.

As the founding dean of the School of Health Sciences, Flack

helped revitalize WSSU's nursing program which was headed toward closure when she arrived. When she took over the position, UNC Board of

**"My son said
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—Dr. Sylvia Flack

Governors and N.C. legislators had already agreed that the nursing program should close.

Not only did she end talks of closure, Flack's efforts as dean from 1989 to 2005 helped progress the nursing program to become one of the best in the nation based on excellence in education, research, and public

service.

Flack said she couldn't have done it without the students, faculty and other staff members she worked with during her time at WSSU. She also served as special assistant to the chancellor.

"Some of the most brilliant, creative people are right here at Winston-Salem State," said Flack. "The people I have worked with here are just amazing."

Throughout her illustrious career, Flack has served on many committees, state and national boards and commissions in healthcare, public education, higher education and civic organizations. She also consults nationally with colleges and universities on educational programs and has served as a SACES visitor and a scientific reviewer for the United States Department of Education.

In 2006 Flack's lifelong interest in helping to eliminate inequality in health care for minorities led her to

See Flack on A9

Documentary sheds light on Calvin Smith's conviction

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Last week dozens of residents filed into the Hanesbrand Theatre in the heart of downtown to get the first glimpse at a documentary that sheds light on Calvin Michael Smith, a black man who was wrongfully convicted of a brutal assault in 1997.

Entitled "Ordinary Injustice," the film documents the mishandling of Smith's case, who is serving a 29-year sen-

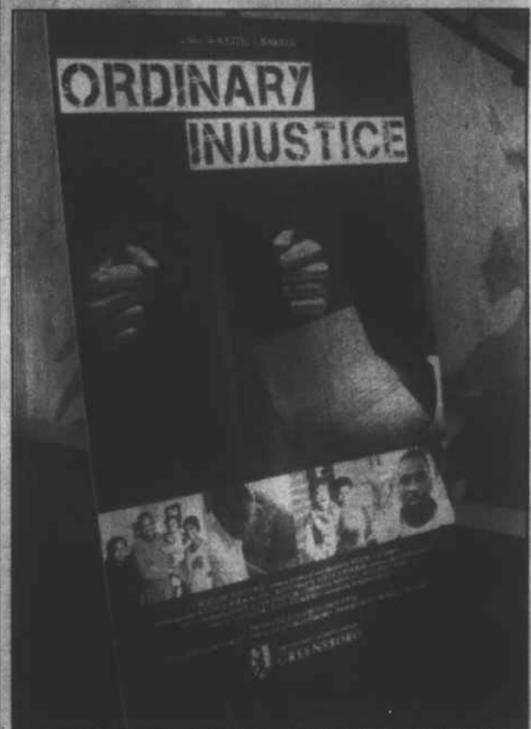


Photo by Tevin Stinson

Last week residents got a chance to see "Ordinary Injustice," a documentary that sheds light on Calvin Michael Smith, a man serving a 29-year sentence for a crime he did not commit.

tence for the brutal assault of Jill Marker at the Silk Plant Forest store in December of 1977 that left her with brain damage. Even though Smith was reportedly nowhere near

See Documentary on A9

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