

Boycott

attendees, performers and celebrities the festival attracts will join the boycott. "We're obviously concerned and will monitor that," said Geiger. He said there has already been some signs of the boycott locally. He said two small groups have canceled their hotel stay, one of which was connected with the furniture market. He said Winston-Salem usually has about 6,000 hotel rooms checked out for the market and this year it was about 5,200. Geiger said cycling and Frisbee events happening this year are considering not

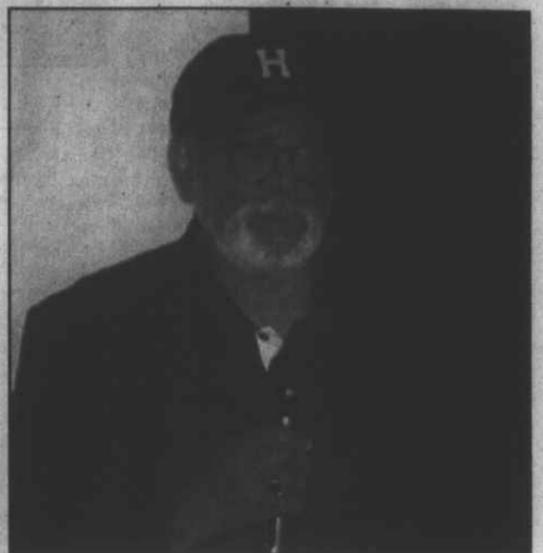
returning to Winston-Salem in 2017 because of HB 2. He's had emails from individuals canceling their travel plans to Winston-Salem. Geiger said Visit Winston-Salem is working to quantify the overall impact of the boycott, which is challenging since some may quietly boycott or the city may be affected by a cancellation elsewhere, like hotel reservations that were canceled by those planning to attend the Springsteen concert. "How many were thinking about coming to somewhere in North Carolina, to Winston-Salem, and chose not to come that we don't even know about?" said Geiger.

Mayor Allen Joines said he, too, has concerns on the impact the boycott will have on the city. The city has started \$17 million in upgrades to the Benton Convention Center in hopes more organizations will choose to hold events there. He also said it could affect the city's ability to get businesses since many have denounced the law and are considering it when planning where to locate and expand. Joines said he hopes the law is repealed or amended soon; but that the city will not be punished for the actions of the General Assembly. "Winston-Salem is a very diverse city that embraces diversity," said Joines.

"Don't judge us on a statewide bill that was passed." HB 2 was passed in late March during a special one-day session of the General Assembly and prevents local ordinances from going further than state law on discrimination, ensuring there are no local or state protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals. It also eliminates suing for employment discrimination under state law and says that individuals must use the restroom that matches the gender on their birth certificate at public facilities, which many consider discriminatory against transgender individuals whose gender may not match their birth certificate.



Calvin Michael Smith's father Augustus Dark speaks to the audience following the viewing of "Ordinary Injustice." The film is directed by Keith T. Barber.



Co-director of the Wrongful Convictions Clinic (WCC) at Duke Law School Jim Coleman describes the work WCC has done on Smith's case since 2003. Coleman said they will not give up until Smith is free.



Film director Keith T. Barber discusses his film "Ordinary Injustice." Barber said, he hopes the film inspires audiences to care.

"We never, ever give up. That's something we just don't do,"

—Jim Coleman, WCC at Duke Law School

Documentary

the scene of the crime, he was charged with the crime. The film shows that the Winston-Salem Police Department first suspected that Kenneth Lamourex, a white man, committed the crime, before shifting their focus to Smith. Although he had a history of violence and was known to stalk Marker and other women in the past, Lamourex was taken off the suspect's list following questioning after he moved to Charlotte. Through powerful footage of one-on-one interviews with those closely involved with the case, including Smith, Marker and Smith's father, Augustus Dark, director Keith T. Barber paints a picture of injustice that will leave a lasting image. The short film also includes the first on-camera interview with Ellen Lamourex, the ex-wife of Kenneth Lamourex, who questions the WSPD's handling of the case as well. According to Lamourex, her ex-husband had been admitted into the psychi-

atric ward of the Forsyth Hospital, which is, across the street from the Silk Plant Forest store, less than 24 hours before the crime was committed. Although Kenneth Lamourex has since died, in the film Ellen Lamourex said that for all those involved with the incident, the truth needs to come out. Barber said by making the film, he hopes to encourage the public to care about the injustice that plagues people like Smith and Darryl Hunt, who served 19 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. "I hope to inspire audiences to care," said Barber. "With this documentary, I wanted to give a human face to wrongful convictions." Following the viewing, Barber and others who are featured in the film answered questions about the case and the ongoing fight to urge N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper to free Smith. In recent months, students from Salem College, Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University have joined the list of local and state organizations

calling for the immediate release of Smith. Co-director of the Wrongful Convictions Clinic (WCC) at Duke Law School, Jim Coleman said they will not give up until Smith walks free. The WCC studies the causes of wrongful convictions and works with clients to have cases overturned. WCC has been working on Smith's case since 2003. "We never, ever give up. That's something we just don't do," said Coleman. "We will continue to urge Cooper and others to do the right thing." Smith's father, Augustus Dark, answered a number of questions as well. When asked how he remains so strong, Dark said his son's strength and courage is what makes him continue to stand strong. While a number of those in attendance said they were moved by the film in its present form, Barber said the film is not done and can only end one way. "The film will end with Calvin walking free," he said. "I couldn't imagine ending the film any other way."

Flack

found the WSSU Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities. The center is designed to educate community stakeholders on the disparities in minority communities and help develop strategies to reduce and eliminate those disparities. The program has served as a model for similar programs throughout the nation. Flack said it is impor-

tant that the people in Forsyth County understand that minority health disparities is a real issue. "People have to know how significant it is," she said. "I felt it was important that the university did its duty to involve the community." During a reception held at the Donald Reaves Center last Thursday, a number of Flack's colleagues, former students and members of the community thanked her for her hard work and dedication in the form of kind words and gifts.

Mayor Allen Joines read a proclamation marking the celebration and thanking Flack for her many contributions to WSSU and the City of Winston-Salem. Chancellor Elwood Robinson said the imprint Flack has left on the university is something they will always cherish. "We need more visionaries like Sylvia Flack," said Robinson. "As we move toward the future, she has already given us a glimpse at what being a visionary is all about."

Free Mother's Day Flowers!

THIS WEEKEND AT THE FAIRGROUNDS FARMERS MARKET

Flower vendors at the market on May 7 will give a free flower to the first 100 mothers who mention our flower give-away.

Don't miss our Very Berry baking contest June 4!
Entry form link on our new Facebook page:
WS Fairgrounds Farmers Market

Saturdays 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Winston-Salem Fairgrounds
Enter off 27th Street

Want to be a Homeowner or know someone who does?

Come to an orientation session to learn more about the Habitat program!

**Monday, May 9
Noon and 6 p.m.
1023 W. 14th Street
Winston-Salem**

Space is limited. No children, please.

Veterans are encouraged to apply.

For more info:
765-8854, ext 131 Jennifer Leigh FScoordinator@habitatforsyth.org