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# THE NEWS ARGUS

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## Chief Bell announces retirement

MEDIA RELATIONS

**W**illie Bell, Winston-Salem State Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, has announced his retirement, effective June 30. Bell has served as Director of public safety and Police Chief at WSSU since 1997. Prior to coming to WSSU, Bell served as Chief of Police and Director of public safety for five years at Fayetteville State University.

Bell's career in law enforcement spans more than three decades. Twenty-eight of those years have been on a University of North Carolina campus. He began his law enforcement career in 1975 as a Durham County deputy sheriff. In 1980 he joined the University of North Carolina system as a patrol officer at Chapel Hill, where he rose to the rank of Captain over the course of the next 11 years. In 1992 Bell moved to Fayetteville State University police chief.

Bell spearheaded the Department of Public Safety's transition to a designated law enforcement agency, which gave WSSU public safety officers the same authority and power of arrest capability as other municipal law enforcement agencies. The designation also broadened their jurisdiction to extend beyond the boundaries of the campus.

In addition to his direct law enforcement service, Bell has been active locally and statewide in other ways. He has worked as a consultant to the president of the UNC system, serving in 2004 on the President's General Administration Task Force on the Safety of the Campus Community, and in 2007 as a member of the UNC General Administration's President's Campus Safety Task Force.

"Chief Bell has served the UNC and WSSU communities with distinction, and he will be sorely missed," said Chancellor Donald J. Reaves.

"He will be missed for his expertise in law enforcement, his dedication to WSSU and the broader UNC

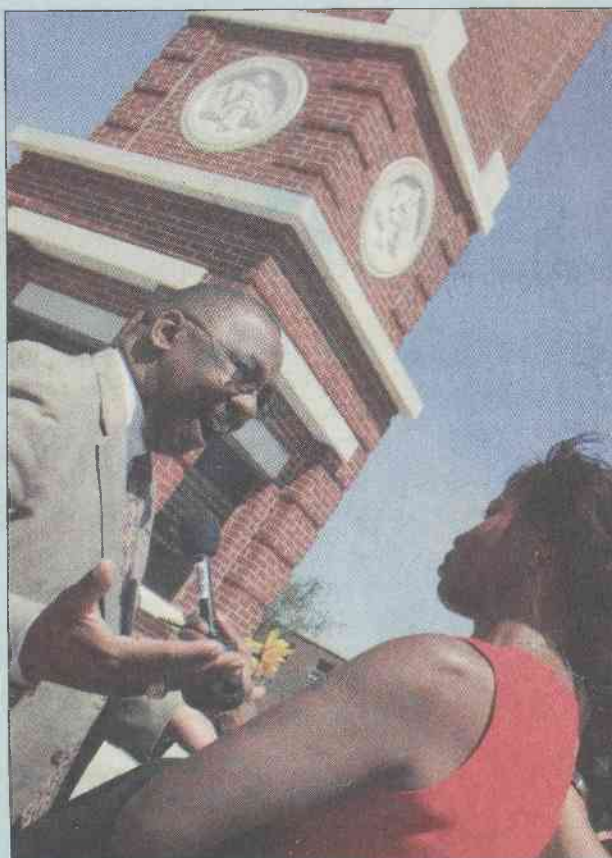


Photo courtesy of Garrett Garms

Winston-Salem State Police Chief Will Bell talks to WXII's Margret Johnson. Bell will retire this June.

community, for his friendship, and for his loyal and dedicated support of three chancellors, including me."

A national search will be conducted soon to fill the position.

## Band strikes a cord in ATL

Stephanie Douthit  
Grant Fulton  
NEWS EDITOR  
PHOTO EDITOR

On Saturday, Jan. 26, the Winston-Salem State marching band performed in front of over 60,000 people during its first-ever performance in the Honda Battle of the Bands in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The Battle of The

Bands is a national, invitation-only, showcase for marching bands at Historically Black College and Universities. Atlanta. The WSSU band performed in front of a crowd of more than 60,000 people.

The invitation is the only national program to showcase the pageantry, showmanship, and musicianship that HBCU marching bands are known for. WSSU was the first to perform and many spectators walked away impressed. "We may be small, but our sound was great," said WSSU freshman Eric Walker.

Other bands present were Shaw University, Virginia State University, NC Central University, Bethune-Cookman University, Norfolk State University, Albany State University, Tuskegee University, Texas Southern University, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

The Red Sea of Sound, as the band is known, had plenty of supporters. WSSU students, faculty, alumni, and fellow supporters packed almost an



## In focus: Election history in the making?

Tecarra Sutton  
AD MANAGER

With the excitement of the presidential race sweeping Winston-Salem State students and faculty alike are gearing up to cast their votes in North Carolina's May 6 primary election.

Democratic frontrunners, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama as well as leading Republican candidates, Mitt Romney, and John McCain are all vying their party's presidential nomination.

As the primary draws nearer, it becomes increasingly important for people to register to vote, get to the polls and choose their favorite candidate.

According to a recent informal poll done by The News Argus staff, 22 out of the 37 students surveyed intend to vote in the upcoming primary. Some students seem motivated to go to the polls by the possibility that a black man could become a presidential nominee and ultimately have a chance to run the country.

Junior Ebony Ross said she feels compelled to vote in the primary to help ensure that Obama becomes Democratic nominee.

"I want a black president," she said.

Other students echoed Ross, saying they want to see Obama in the Oval Office. "Obama needs to win. It's time for change," said Marcus Burton, a sophomore.

Although many students seem intrigued by the possibility of having an African-American president, others are just as excited by the idea of having a woman in office. Either way, Clinton and Obama are both in the position to make political history since former NC Senator John Edwards has dropped from the race.

Jasmine Mack, a sophomore nursing major, was not old enough to vote in the 2004 primary, but she



Photos courtesy of MCT Wire Service

ABOVE: With primary wins in Iowa and South Carolina, Barack Obama has chance at becoming the first African-American President in the U.S. BELOW: Hillary Clinton speaks to supporters at a rally for her presidential campaign. Clinton won the New Hampshire primary.



plans to have her voice heard in the primary in May. She cites the caliber of the presidential candidates as the reason for her desire to vote this year.

"The fact that we have such great candidates [compels me to vote]," said Mack. "It's wonderful that we have the opportunity to have our first woman or black male president."

For more information on how to register or other voting information, go to:

sboe.state.nc.us/NCSBE/index.html  
NC State Board of Elections  
pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?Id=16738  
People for the American Way  
lwv.org  
League of Women Voters



entire section in the lower level of the Georgia Dome.

"There was great fans support, and all of the bands were excellent," said Jean Avent, a WSSU supporter and Shaw University alumna.

"I loved seeing all of the college students perform after all of their hard work and practice. I truly enjoyed myself, and I look forward to doing

it all again next year," she said.

Highlights of the invitational not only included the band showcase, but also performances by entertainers Young Joo and The Dream. In addition a Old School/New School



competition, which was created to find out which age group had more pride, kept the crowd on its feet.

Drum major Theodis Chunn said the band appreciated the fan support.

"We couldn't have done it without seeing our very own fans," said Chunn. "It was great to see so many faculty, staff, and students in their red shirts to support what we do. Overall, it was a great experience."

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