



CIAA to remain in the Queen City

-See Page B10



Smith takes on anti-gay bigotry

-See Page A3



Fall Festival brings out the kids

-See Page B1

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXVII No. 10

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, November 4, 2010

Films for Thought

WFU alum returns to campus to screen some of the stinging films he produces

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Devin Smith, who has co-produced films such as the controversial "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price," returned to his alma mater last week to challenge Wake Forest University business students about their ideas of big business and ethics.

Smith, a Gastonia native, is vice president of Operations for Brave New Films, a California-based company that produces progressive documentaries like the Wal-Mart film, which criticized the retail giant for things like cutting corners when it comes to providing benefits for its employees.

Because of the controversial nature of the company's full length films, no major distributor will touch its work. The company self-distributes its films on DVD. Currently, the company is focusing on producing short online documentaries on specific issues involving politics, war, the media and big business. Each film ends with a call to action for viewers, followed by the company's motto "pssst...Do Something!"

"It's about activating or motivating people to do something," said Smith, who appeared last Thursday evening at the Calloway School of Business to take part in the first in a series of forums on business ethics. He screened two short online videos for Business and Enterprise majors. One of them called for the firing of former Bank of America President, Chairman and CEO Ken Lewis because the company paid big bonuses to executives while planning to lay off more than 30,000 employees after receiving \$35 billion in taxpayer bailout money.

The other featured billionaire Henry Kravis, whose company KKR is known for buying other companies, streamlining them - often by firing workers - and then reselling them at a profit. The short film encourages viewers to fight for a change in the tax code that currently makes the money that KKR borrows to buy these companies tax free.

"This is not an indictment of capitalism or the accumulation of wealth," said Smith. "I do believe in capitalism; I do believe in the accumulation of wealth; I do believe it has worked. It continues to work and will work for the foreseeable future."

See Smith on A5



Photo by Todd Luck

Devin Smith



Mitchell Brown is the proud owner of Downtown Dollar.

Photo by Layla Farmer

More Bang for Your Buck

Downtown Dollar set to open

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

For some, entrepreneurship is a dream. For Winston-Salem resident Mitchell Brown, it's becoming a habit.

Brown, 32, is slated to open his highly-anticipated Downtown Dollar store at 131 West Fourth Street today. The store, which he hopes to expand into a chain, is the first of its kind to grace the downtown landscape, and the latest in a long line of business ventures for Brown, a Greenville native.

See Dollar on A9



New Prodigals alumni (from left): Victor Todd, Christy Vineyard, Donald Massey and Chris Sloan.

Photo by Layla Farmer

Graduating to a life of sobriety

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Four members of the Prodigals Community were feted Monday night for reaching a milestone in their lives: sustainable sobriety.

Prodigals, a long-term residential Christian substance abuse treatment facility on Waughtown Street, held a graduation or "Step-Up Service," in

honor of Prodigals residents Donald Massey, Germaine Payne, Chris Sloan, Victor Todd and Christy Vineyard. They all recently completed the more than yearlong program.

Massey, Sloan, Todd and Vineyard (Payne was unable to attend) were given certificates, handmade quilts from Northwest Baptist Church and plenty of praise during the program, which was held inside the Prodigals'

onsite sanctuary.

For Todd, the excitement is almost too much to bear. At 30, he has been in more than his share of drug treatment programs. The New Jersey native said he began dabbling with marijuana as a teen. Over time, Todd's recreational drug use snowballed into a full-blown addiction to crack cocaine. For most of the last decade, Todd has ridden the

See Prodigals on A10

Visually-impaired group starts Lions chapter



BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem has a new Lions Club chapter.

Fourteen people associated with the Industries for the Blind (IFB) were officially inducted into the IFB Community Lions Club last Thursday during a ceremony at the Hawthorne Inn.

"I'm honored to have you become a part of our organization," said Bill Womack, District Governor of the Lions Club, the world's largest service organization. "I'm tickled to death that we've got new members coming in, and better than that, we've got a new club."

Throughout its nearly 100-year history, the Lions Club International has been dedicated to serving people, especially those who are blind or



Powell

Betty Chisholm receives her official Lions Club pin from Lions Club District Governor Bill Womack.

See Chapter on A10

COLD HARD CASH



Photo by Layla Farmer

WSSU Professor Dr. Nkrumah Lewis presents money raised last month by his students to QuinStar Coleman of Family Services. The donation will support the agency's domestic violence shelter. See full story on A11.

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