

Thanksgiving

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said she starts planning for the event the day after the previous year's event is over. She said she wanted to give a special thanks to Food Lion, Harris Teeter and Lowe's Food for donating gift cards to assist in their efforts. She also wanted to thank Best Buy for the employees donating funds for the goodie bags they gave out.

The individuals who came were first treated to an inspirational word from Elder Donald Littlejohn, then proceeded downstairs to look over the clothing. They were then treated to a good meal and the fellowship of the church members.

The food was prepared by Barbara Coleman, who said she was happy to help because she loves cooking and loves giving back to the community. She says she was glad they could have a full stomach and some clothes on their backs.

Church member Johnnetta Brown said, "This is all about the homeless population and making sure they know we love them. I've been here for many, many years and I love what we do here."



The members of the church sit down and enjoy a meal with the visitors from the shelters.

Photo by Timothy Ramsey

WSSU students sleep in boxes to wrap up Homelessness Awareness Week on campus

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Tents, sleeping bags and cardboard boxes made into makeshift forts were spread out in the grass near the clock tower at Winston-Salem State University last Friday night as student braved the elements to bring awareness to homelessness in the area.

The event, sponsored by the Delta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, has been an annual tradition at WSSU for the last 20 years. This year, more than a dozen students joined fraternity members, and ditched the comfort of their dorm rooms to experience what hundreds of homeless people in the area endure year-round.

"You have to be a strong person to live under these conditions," said WSSU sophomore Jasmine Reed.

Reed, a political science major, said she decided to participate this year because she felt the need to give back to the community.

"I honestly feel like we need to give back to our own community instead of looking for others to do it for us," she continued.

"There's always strength in Allen, said the organization



Photo by Tevin Stinson

WSSU students sleep in boxes to wrap up Homelessness Awareness Week

family."

In addition to the sleep out, this year the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma sponsored a number of events throughout the week to bring even more awareness to the growing poverty rate, and homelessness here in the city.

To jumpstart the week on Monday, Nov. 14 someone from the Bethesda Center discussed their trials and tribulations during a open forum style event. The fraternity also held a candlelight vigil, and collected non-perishable food, school supplies, clothes and monetary donations for those in need. Vice president of the chapter, Lamont

felt the need to do more this year because a lot of people don't understand what homeless people go through and how big of an issue poverty is here in Winston-Salem.

When it comes to ranking the poorest urban areas in the state, Winston-Salem has three areas that rank in the top 10, which is directly linked to the number of people living without homes in the East, Southeast and Northeast wards. While Mayor Allen Joines and members of City Council have established the Winston-Salem Poverty Thought Force to combat the issue, Allen, who is a senior business

administration major, said more has to be done.

"It makes me sad when I ride around the city and see people sleeping in cardboard boxes and on the street," he continued. "So to be out here tonight helping those in need makes me feel good, but I still believe more needs to be done."

"Although we're only students and most of us

will only be here 3 or 4 years, it feels good to be able to make a difference. It's our responsibility to bring about change; elected officials can only do so much."

While speaking with The Chronicle, Delta Alpha member and current WSSU senior Jamarkis Mitchell said after the week of events, the affects

of homelessness really hit home.

"Of course, sleeping outside one night doesn't give the full affect of what it's like to be homeless, but after the event on Monday and others throughout the week, it really makes you appreciate what you have and not take things for granted."

Conference

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tice system needs to be revamped. It is a serpentine system and we are reliving everything that happened to Darryl Hunt and so many others who have served their time wrongfully and yet it's still a fight to have him exonerated.

"There is no evidence that proves he is guilty, and the Chris Swecker files, which our potential governor has not read yet, and it's disheartening. It shows that some think that life is cheap but black life is the cheapest of all life.

"We are hopeful and thankful for what has happened thus far with Calvin being released, but we are hopeful and we are calling on Josh Stein [the apparent new N.C. attorney general] and we are calling on Roy Cooper [our potential governor] to do the right thing," Fulton continued.

Carlisle was asked about the presidential and gubernatorial races, in which Republican Donald Trump won the presidency

and Roy Cooper apparently won the governor's race. He stated, "The conference is non-partisan and we definitely have been pushing people to get out and vote. It's always been our belief that when everyone votes, we get the right people in office."

"We were very glad to see the way the local races went as far as the attorney general and governor. Both of those potential winners have said some things that we feel are going to be beneficial to the people of North Carolina. I'm disappointed in the presidential election, but I look at it as a chance for African-American people to network together and strengthen our own economy."

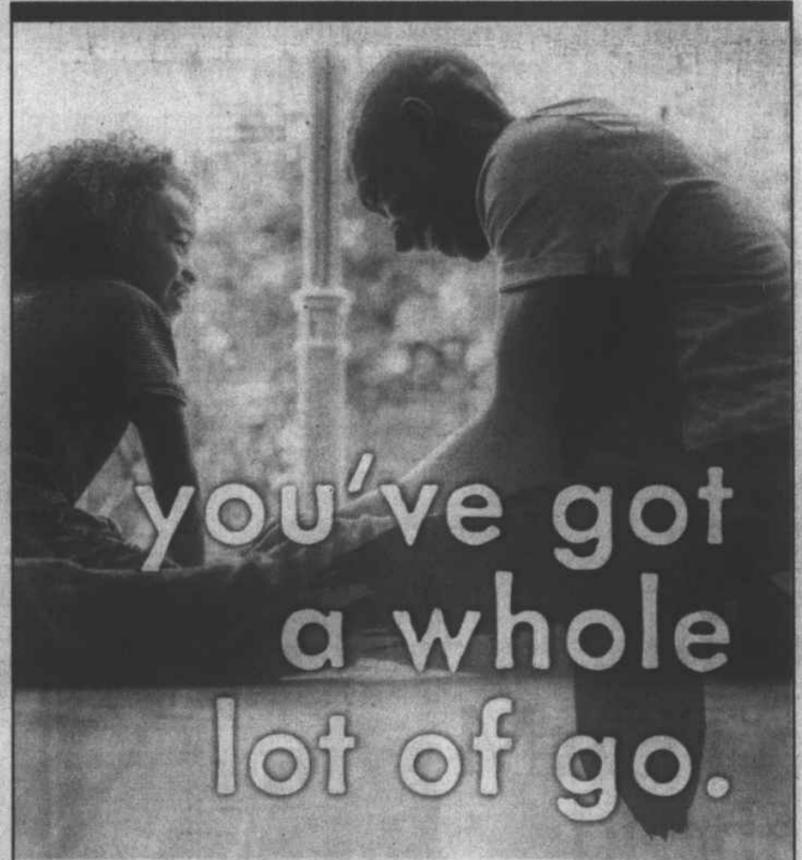
Carlisle said the conference has had conversations

with Stein concerning Smith, and Stein assured them that he would take a look at the case and see what he could do. He said they will continue to exert pressure onto the attorney general and the governor to exonerate Smith once and for all.

Fulton said, "It's a reality check for the African-American community, but it's really nothing new. It's the same old agenda, and we see that Donald Trump represents a divided America. He represents what part of America looks like and that is disrespect and bigotry. He gives us a snapshot of what this country looks like divided."

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636



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