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> Brother David Boone
and Civil Rights in Rock
Hill

> CRT at Winthrop and
South Carolina

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to Abortion Ban

> The 118th Congress

Est. 1986

THE RMR

RODDEY MCMILLAN RECORD



THE INSPIRATION

Rev. Cynthia Plair-Roddey, a 1967 Winthrop graduate, is a trailblazer for change. She was the first Black student to enroll at Winthrop 10 years after the Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools with their *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Nine of her friends attended Winthrop alongside her. She was accepted to Winthrop College in the summer of 1964, where she earned a Master of Arts in teaching library science after having graduated from John C. Smith—an HBCU—with two bachelor's degrees. Roddey worked in education for 55 years before she retired in 2017.



The Roddey McMillan Record (RMR) is named after both Roddey and Sheila McMillan, which is one of the many honors that the publication has received since its inception. McMillan was the first Black person to sit on the Board of Trustees in 1983. Before coming to Winthrop, she was one of the first Black students to integrate into the University of North Carolina and the first Black Senate attorney with the South Carolina Legislature after she earned her doctorates in law from the University of South Carolina. Both of the magazine's namesakes have broken glass ceilings for Black women across the country. When the RMR was created by Gail Harris in 1986, she was inspired by these women to establish a safe space for minority students.

The purpose of the RMR is to

“shine a light on the diverse cultures at Winthrop, focusing on the concerns facing the multicultural community on campus.”



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The RMR explores the legacy of Brother David Boone, a White Catholic central to the Rock Hill Civil Rights struggle.

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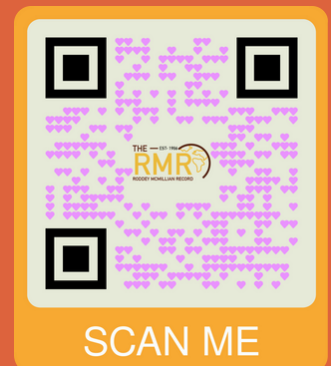
NAACP Sista Session Brunch



Arts, Culture, and Tech Editor Emory Lewis provides insight to the NAACP's Sista Session Brunch held on Saturday

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FOR CHANGE 
respect. communication. consent. 

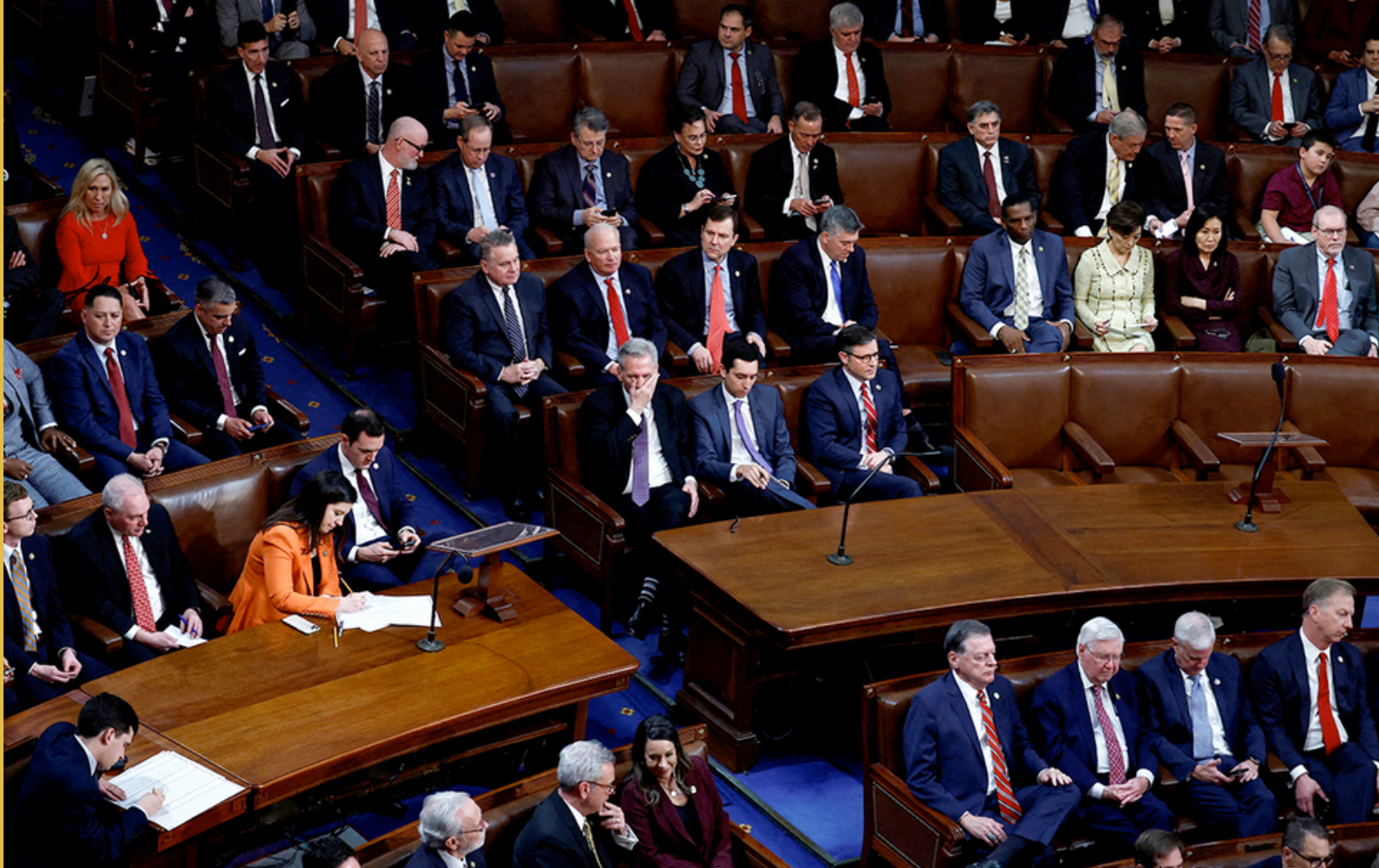
Find resources at: levelupforchange.org

For on-campus support visit: Winthrop.edu/CSW

This used to be your favorite seat.
Now it makes your skin crawl,
because all you can think about is
what happened there the other night.

Congress Shrouded in Controversy

By Ravyn Rhodes



The 118th Congress attempts to elect Kevin McCarthy as Speaker

Evelyn Hockstein | CNS photo/Reuters

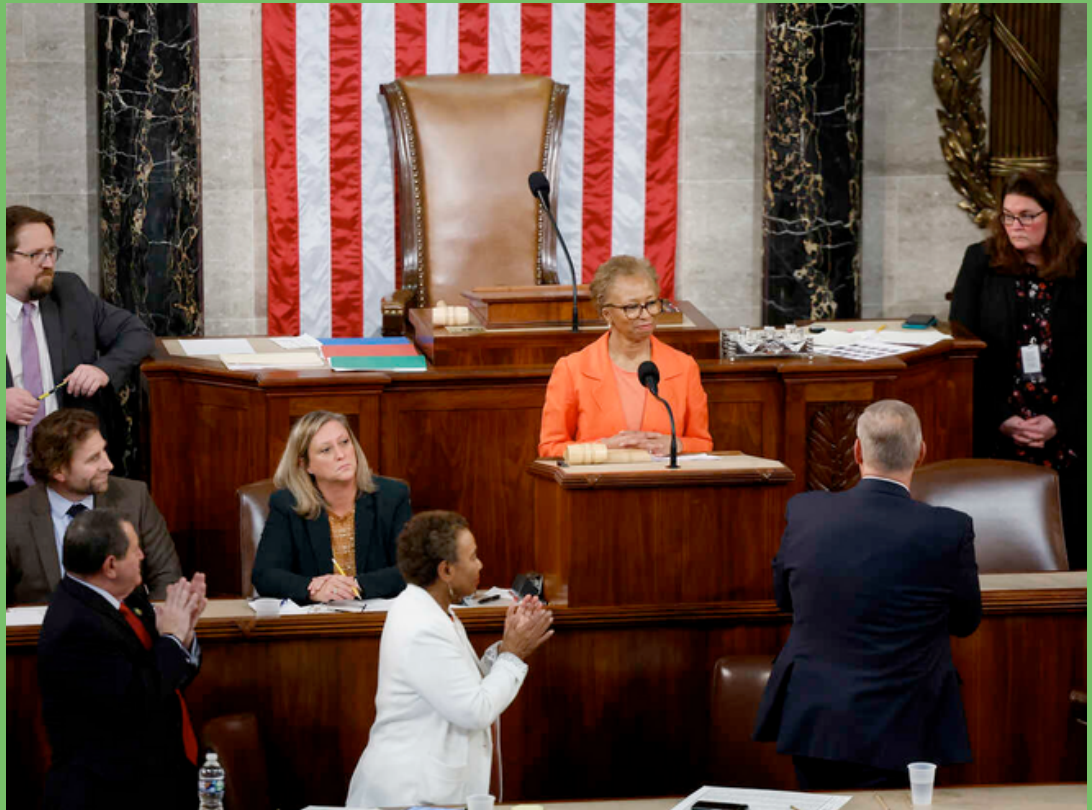
The 118th Congress was sworn into office at the beginning of January. While the Senate was able to be sworn in on Jan. 3, the House was not due to the contentious Speaker of the House election. Kevin McCarthy eventually won the battle for the Speaker of the House seat, but it took him 15 consecutive ballots to get there. While House Democrats

consistently voted for Hakeem Jeffries, the Speaker of the House seat, Republicans were more divided with a small group of dissenters, largely from the far-right so-called Freedom Caucus, halting House proceedings. This fringe group of Republicans nominated several different candidates during the voting, including Donald Trump, Byron Donalds, Jim Jordan, and Andy

Biggs. McCarthy was ultimately able to get most of the opposition to support his nomination as well as convince a few others to vote present, therefore lowering the number of votes he needed to secure a majority. While Republicans regained their majority in the House, Democrats expanded their Senate majority by one vote with the

election of John Fetterman from Pennsylvania. On the heels of Democrats expanding their Senate majority, Senator Krysten Sinema of Arizona announced that she was switching her party affiliation from Democrat to Independent. Sinema said that "I intend to show up to work, do the

"As the Democrat-controlled Senate promises to halt Republican agendas, another congressional deadlock seems imminent."



Cheryl Johnson presides over Speaker election

NPR

same work that I always do. I just intend to show up to work as an independent."

Sinema still plans to caucus and receive committee assignments from the Democrats. She now joins the two other independents in the Senate who also caucus with the Democrats, Angus King of Maine and Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Scandal has also recently surrounded the newly-elected representative of New York's third congressional district, George Santos. Santos has recently been caught misrepresenting his education,

ancestry, career history, family deaths, religion and more. Santos originally claimed that his mother passed away on 9/11. However, later documents showed that she was in Brazil during the tragedy and, when she applied for a visa in 2003, she stated that she had not been in the United States since 1999. Santos has also stated that his grandparents survived the Holocaust, but multiple ancestry records show that his grandparents were also living in Brazil during that tragedy. Amid calls for his removal from members of Congress, the Nassau County

Republican Party and many of his constituents, Speaker McCarthy has said that Santos will continue to serve unless he is charged with a crime. This is the same rule that applies to all House Republicans. "You know why I'm standing by him? Because his constituents voted for him. I do not have the power simply because if I disagree with somebody or what they have said, I remove them from elected office."

Several bills and resolutions have already been proposed in the House, primarily along major Republican

stances such as abortion restriction, border security, and oil and gas production on federal land. As the Democrat-controlled Senate promises to halt Republican agendas, another congressional deadlock seems imminent.

SC Legislature to Target CRT

Raquel Simon



Ryan Best | FiveThirtyEight

“American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful and more terrible than anyone has ever said about it,” - James Baldwin.

In an age of endless access to information, younger audiences have become far more open to accepting ugly truths than their predecessors. In South Carolina and many other states, this has manifested in the specific interest of CRT.

“Critical Race Theory, or CRT, is an academic and legal framework that denotes that systemic racism is part of American society –

from education and housing to employment and healthcare. Critical Race Theory recognizes that racism is more than the result of individual bias and prejudice. It is embedded in laws, policies and institutions that uphold and reproduce racial inequalities.” This is CRT as defined by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. It is an academic discipline, studied and respected by highly-educated people who have dedicated their lives to understanding social inequalities. Critical Race Theory was born out of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1970s

and 1980s by legal scholars such as Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw and Richard Delgado to name a few. These scholars analyzed the framework of the legal system in the United States and began to recognize patterns that prevent equality and justice. “Critical Race Theorists believe that racism is not an anathema or disruption in the way that society normally functions. That racism is a feature of American society, in the same way that the air is comprised of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other gasses... the

atmosphere of the nation, racism is a part of that. That is ever-present,” said Dr. Adolphus Belk Jr., African American Studies professor. State Representative Ralph Norman sent a letter to The University of South Carolina, Clemson University and Winthrop University warning against the instruction of Critical Race Theory. Norman refers to the discipline in his title as, “Critical Race Theory: A Twisted and Vile Philosophy.” Norman was joined in this letter by his colleagues and fellow South Carolina representatives. In the letter, Norman claims there are, “countless examples of the CRT being infused throughout public education, popular culture, corporations, and government agencies.” He also acknowledges the cruel realities of injustices in our history and modern society, but claims CRT to be a, “**sick and**

dangerous way of looking at that history and our path forward. It needs to face strong and bold opposition everywhere it rears its ugly head." Norman and other representatives are more appalled at the potential acknowledgement of racism, then they are with actual occurrences of racism. These lawmakers have taken CRT and its legitimacy as an academic discipline and used it as a buzzword and misnomer for any conversations about race and racism in America. Efforts for diversity and inclusion in primary and secondary schools are now viewed, by some, as liberal indoctrination, even if they do not derive from Critical Race Theory in the slightest.

instruction that deals race, racism, inequality, and injustice. It is not pedagogical, it's political,"

-Adolphus Belk

The Legal Defense Fund says this active rallying cry against CRT is really "An attack on free speech, on discussions about the truthful history of race and racism in the U.S., and the lived experiences of Black people and other people of color." In January, two bills were introduced and entered into committee in the State House regarding Critical Race Theory under "Prohibited Subjects of Instruction" with the guise of protecting intellectual freedom. These bills instruct the board of trustees within each public school district and public universities to prohibit certain teachings that could be politically motivated.

"What this has become is a catch-all to sneer [at] any instruction that deals

The original bill is designed to prohibit teachers from in any way compelling students to "personally adopt, adhere, or affirm any of the tenets of Critical Race Theory or provide related instruction, and to define necessary terminology." The secondary bill was introduced to make clear a lack of intrusion or violation on any student's first amendment rights or prohibition on promotion of diversity and inclusiveness. For the last couple of years, we have seen lawmakers argue about critical race theory within K-12 education- a place it is unable to be found. At that level, you would not find educators with the training and wherewithal to teach about it, or the "tenets" of it. "What this has become is a catch-all to sneer [at] any instruction that deals with race, racism, inequality, and injustice. It is not pedagogical, it's political," Belk said. As it stands, Critical Race Theory is a concrete academic concept that has been recognized for over 40 years.

Most recognize The bold stances that we are witnessing today across the country, by people, many of whom have not attempted to understand the discipline, are a result of political tensions and debates on immigration, religion, and culture. The reality is that this fight has little to do with students in our educational system, progressive indoctrination, or the fear that white people may be viewed 'unfairly' as guilty. If you ban the teaching of Critical Race Theory outright, you will ban the complexities and realities of multiple components of American History. "It seems to me that some people are not interested in dealing with the history for what it fully is. The good, the bad, the ugly, the infuriating, or the inspiring - they want hagiography; they want worshipful biography, and American history has always been more complex than that," Belk said.

Remembering Brother David Boone

Br. David Boone served Rock Hill for over 60 years, protesting alongside the Friendship Nine and acting as Treasurer for the NAACP.

He proved a life-changing neighbor and a true ally during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Boone moved from New Haven, Kentucky to Rock Hill in 1951, joined the Oratory of St. Philip Neri and immediately noticed that communal spaces there were not racially integrated like they were where he grew up. He had been used to attending church and private school alongside peers of a variety of identities, notably in an unusual community diverged from larger societal norms. He openly supported integrating St. Anne's Parochial School and drove Black students to school regularly.

He also raised funds for accessible private transportation during the 1957 bus boycotts, for which he unified the efforts of a number of Rock Hillians. He received praise from the Black community, and condemnation from

white supremacists.

Through his activism, he became known as the "most hated White person in South Carolina."

This made him cautious whenever leaving Crawford Road.

He said in an interview in the University of South Carolina digital archives that integration of St. Anne's was met with fiery opposition in more ways than one. Boone met with St. Anne's was met with fiery opposition in more ways than one. Boone met with St. Anne's pastor—Father John Mende on a Sunday in 1956 to find the remnants of a burning cross by the building. When addressing it in the interview, Boone said, "I only wish now that I'd saved it. At that time, you didn't care about it. There were many crosses burning across the state in different places and everything, it would have been another



Rock Hill Herald

cross. But now, if I had saved it, it would be very historical just to have. I didn't think about it. But it didn't deter the parents and children. [By] then it had been going on two or three years, and they were determined to see it through. They saw the benefit of it, and so . . . It didn't deter them." Another fellow colleague Father Edward Wahl is credited with building Saint Mary Catholic Church to give the Black community of Rock Hill a place to convene for religious and recreational activities—something that was scarce for the time. Boone was then assigned to that institution for his interest in athletics and youth programs. His name is now forever marked on Crawford Road,

but readers may also find his name engraved into a seat at Kounter, formerly known as McCrory's lunch counter, where the Friendship Nine sit-in took place. He is the only White person to receive this honor.

The Roddey McMillan Record (RMR) reached out to Father Augustin Guzman, who presides over The Oratory and Saint Mary's, as well as John Richard C. King, the South Carolina State rep. who was partially responsible for drafting the legislation for the street name that passed in the Senate last March. Attempts to contact them have so far been unsuccessful. Brother Boone died in 2017 after an extended battle with cancer.

SC Supreme Court: NO to Abortion Ban

Kimberly Boensch

Editor's Note: This article was written before H.3774 was introduced by South Carolina lawmakers on Jan. 26. This bill would restrict abortion access in the state entirely, with no exceptions.

The South Carolina Supreme Court ruled 3-2 that a bill banning abortions after a six week gestation period violates the right to privacy provided in the state's constitution. Many are wondering what happens next, especially those whose bodies were directly targeted by the bill.

The initial lawsuit came last July from reproductive health clinics and advocacy groups, including Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, citing constitutional violations. In the official court filing, the groups alleged the act was "an affront to the health and dignity of South Carolinians", and specifically "an attack on families with low incomes, South Carolinians of color, and rural South

Carolinians," who already struggle to find adequate medical care.

At the time, a circuit court judge declined to block the ban and suggested that Planned Parenthood and the other clinics take their case to the state's Supreme Court.

The 10th Amendment of the South Carolina Constitution specifically states that

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures and unreasonable invasions of privacy shall not be violated."

The decision comes less than a year after the bill went into effect.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* catalyzed the rise of anti-abortion bills not just in the Palmetto State, but nationwide. Justice Kaye Hearn wrote in the

lead judicial opinion that "[the] state constitutional right to privacy extends to a woman's decision to have an abortion." The narrow ruling triggered backlash among conservatives.

Justice John Kittredge wrote in a dissent that he stood by the decision of the general assembly, saying "Abortion presents an important moral and policy issue. The citizens, through their duly elected representatives, have spoken. The South Carolina legislature, not this court, should determine matters of policy." He was joined in this dissent by Justice George James. Gov.

McMaster, displeased with the ruling, maintained that the amendment cited was not intended by the people of South Carolina

to be used in that manner; "With this opinion, the court has clearly exceeded its authority. The people have spoken through their elected representatives multiple times on this issue. I look forward to working with the general assembly to correct this error." With this ruling, the General Assembly and the Governor's options for restricting abortion access in the state have become more limited. Barring another Supreme Court case regarding abortion access, the only way for this precedent to be overruled is an amendment to the state constitution. With both chambers of the State Legislature, the Governorship and the Attorney General seat belonging to the Republican Party, it might be fairly easy for the general assembly to make an amendment and subdue the Supreme Court's decision.



The State | Columbia

Sista Session Brunch on Blackness

Emory Lewis

Jasmine Simone

WU NAACP



French toast, cinnamon, and conversation on microaggressions filled the air at the "Sista Session Brunch" on Jan. 28th. The Sista Session Brunch was hosted by Winthrop University's Chapter of the NAACP. The panel included an influential group of young black women. Jasmine Simone, Courtney McClain, and Davette Peoples. The conversation started with a panel discussion on seeing other black women as competition in the workplace. Comments like "destroy the competition culture and focus more on celebrating the achievement of black women as a whole" were what lead to this discussion. From there we got to hear the panelist's take on European beauty standards and how that can affect black women. While talking about cultural appropriation

(the inappropriate adoption of customs and ideas from another group) Courtney McClain says, "They want every part of the blackness without the experience." Comments like "destroy the competition culture and focus more on celebrating the achievement of black women as a whole" were what lead to this discussion. The panelist also touched on how splitting women into subcategories like the clean girl aesthetic and the city girl aesthetic do more harm than good. They cause a divide for black women and

can even be rooted in white supremacy because of the way they take simple tasks like wearing only mascara and applying those characteristics to a group that consists of only white women. Davette Peoples also believes that these groups can "cause women to want to fit in so much that it distracts from their actual personality." Lastly, the panelist spoke about how their hair defines them as black women. "My hair does not define me," says Jasmine Simone. The panelist felt as if their hair was just an extension of themselves.

Our hair holds history, and we are the only people that can wear locs, box braids, and other protective styles." Says, Courtney McClain. All in all, the "Sista Session Brunch" brought a fresh perspective on issues in the black community to Winthrop. Conversations like these that promote diversity will continue to progress our society forward.

"They want every part of the blackness without the experience."

-Courtney McClain

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