



Homecoming Highlights inside!

pages 2,5



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page 4



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page 6

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Keeping With Tradition

Coronation pays tribute to the past while king and queen make strides in the present

Tiphane S. Deas
MANAGING EDITOR

A 72-year-old tradition continued in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on Wednesday night, Oct. 4, as Tiffany Turner and Jason Lewis were crowned Ms. WSSU and Mr. Ram 2006-2007.

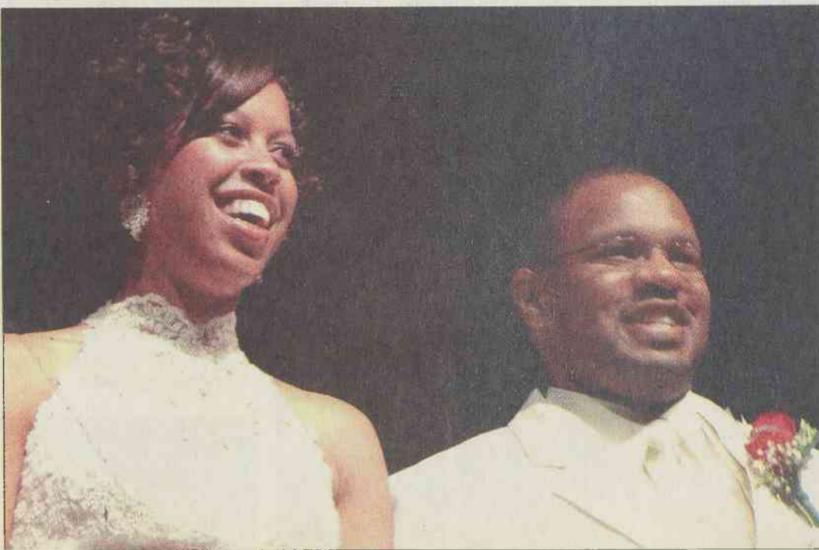
For Turner, the continuation of this legacy is what gave the coronation ceremony special meaning.

"It is an honor to be part of something that has been going on for years and years, to be officially crowned and walking in the legacy of other queens," she said.

This year's coronation was entitled "Egyptian Royalty: Treasures of the Nile," following a theme that Turner said she got from her father.

"We wanted to pay homage to Africa and our roots. We wanted to recognize that the first kings and queens were from Africa," she said. The program certainly had a Pharaoh's touch, from the opening dance performed by the Association of Rhythmic Talent (ART) to the pyramids and foliage decorating the stage's background, to Ms. WSSU's grand entrance on the shoulders of four muscular young men dressed in Egyptian costume. Mr. Ram himself serenaded the procession with "A Whole New World" from Disney's "Aladdin." Presented along with the university king and queen were Little Miss Winston-Salem State University, Little Mister Ram, Miss Alumni 2006-2007, the class kings and queens, and 53 organizational kings and queens.

"We do have a lot of leaders on our campus, and it was a chance to showcase the talent of WSSU," Turner said. "It shows that a queen does not come in one form."



Tiffany Turner and Jason Lewis charm the audience with radiant smiles at the 2006 fall coronation.

Coronation ceremonies have been held since 1934, and kings and queens have been reigning together on this campus since 1975, when the first Mr. Ram was elected. However, there is an element present this year that separates the current Ms. WSSU and Mr. Ram from the rest: the friendship that began long before last semester's showcase.

Turner and Lewis, both of whom are Biology majors, have been good friends for the four years that they have been at WSSU.

"I definitely think it is a great experience to work with Jason because we have known each other since freshman year," Turner said. "We came into this reign knowing what each other had to bring, so where he slacks, I can pick it up, and where I slack, he can pick it up. He has always been my king since I met him and now that that's officially true, we already know and understand each other."

"I cannot imagine working with somebody I did not



Miss WSSU, Tiffany Turner, waves to fellow Rams and guests at the 2006 Homecoming football game's halftime.

know; we are so comfortable with each other," she added.

The coronation ball in the Neil Banquet Hall of the Anderson Center immediately followed the ceremony, where students, family, friends and general supporters showed up in outfits that ranged from business casual to prom-worthy formal wear. Food, song and dance set off the celebratory atmosphere as the smooth tunes of the live band, Platinum Sounds, set bodies in motion.

Once the festivities came

to a close around midnight, however, these two outstanding students were ready to get back to work representing and serving the university through public appearances, campus volunteer projects and community partnerships.

"Having the opportunity to represent our great institution as Ms. WSSU, you have more power to do community service on our campus. It makes it easier to make a difference by implementing programs and partnerships, holding forums, and serving our student body," Turner said.



Yung Joc thrills the crowd with his "Dopeboy Magic."

Yung Joc's star is on the rise

Steven J. Gaither
SPORTS EDITOR

When you've got the number one record in the country, life is good. Just ask Yung Joc. "When you get money, people don't wanna make you spend it. I go to restaurants and they tell me I don't have to pay," laughs Joc, who recently performed at Winston-Salem State's Homecoming Concert along with Ludacris.

Since the 23-year-old's hit single, "It's Goin' Down," hit airwaves early this year, Joc has experienced fame firsthand. He said that past experiences helped prepare him for his current role as an artist. "I've been around a lot of entertainers. I've been the camera man, the radio promoter, the hype man, so it's nothing different than I expected," he said.

Joc's debut album, "New Joc City" (Bad Boy South/Block Entertainment) was released on June 6, 2006. The album, highlighted by "It's Goin' Down" and "I Know You See It" reached as high as #3 on Billboard 200, as well as occupying the top spot on both the R&B and Rap charts. The album is currently at Gold status and is approaching Platinum (1 million).

Joc, aka Jasiel Robinson, is not content just to stay behind the microphone. He is a burgeoning entrepreneur. He recently became president of his own record label, Mastermind Music. He also started a production label, Hustlenomics, and has also started his own car luxury rental service in his hometown, Atlanta, Ga.

"If you're ever in the A (Atlanta) holla at me, I'll put you in something big," said Joc, who says he was influenced by a variety of music, from Quincy Jones to Outkast.

After performing at the Homecoming concert, Joc was off to shoot the video for his third single, "First Time." He said that after pumping out two club anthems, it's time to take it back to the house. "It's about to get cold, so I'm taking it to the bedroom," he said, "I'm going to slow it down a little bit."



Demetrius Rivers (21) wraps up Howard quarterback Willie Bladden.

Photo by Lee Adams

Rams defeat Bison, 12-0

Steven J. Gaither
SPORTS EDITOR

To the fans at Bowman-Gray Stadium, Winston-Salem State's 12-0 Homecoming victory over Howard University may not have been pleasant to watch. But to Rams head coach Kermit Blount, and the players on the field, it was a sight for sore eyes.

"Every win is beautiful," Blount said on the field after the victory. The Rams improved to 2-4 with the win. The game was a defensive struggle from the opening kick-off. Neither team was able to move the ball effectively in the first quarter. As the second quarter began, quarterback Monte Purvis connected with wide receiver Josh Crawford on a 37-yard pass play, Purvis' second of the season. The Rams missed the

extra-point as Marvin Uzmanor continued his struggles in the kicking game, leaving the score 6-0.

Both defenses continued to dominate in the second half, with each team intercepting two passes. As is often the case in a defensive battle, a key turnover clinched the game. Defensive lineman Jason Holman stripped the ball from Howard quarterback William Bladen in Howard territory, and Corey Swinnie scraped the ball up and raced 35 yards for the game-winning score.

The Rams' passing game continued to improve as Purvis completed seven of 13 passes including the touchdown. However, the Rams' normally potent rushing attack was held to just 115 yards on 41 attempts. "We didn't get enough push up front," Blount said of the running game.

Howard's offense, coached by former Rams defensive backs coach Linwood Ferguson, failed to score against the Rams

See Homecoming page 6