

Rolling up His Sleeves



NC A&T Photo

N.C. A&T State University Chancellor Harold Martin pitched in last weekend as Aggies returned to campus ahead of the 2014-2015 academic year. Classes started yesterday. On Sunday, Aug. 24, students will take part in Aggie Fun Fest from 3-5 p.m. at Aggie Stadium.

WSSU

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onated with college students, said WSSU Student-Government Association President Olivia Sedwick.

"It could have been any one of us; it could have been any community in the world; it could have been any young black person, any person, period, that this could have happened to," she said. "The people are, quiet frankly, fed up, and the students really feel this pain."

Details about what led to Brown's death are sketchy. It is believed the shooting was sparked by Brown's walking on a street instead of on a sidewalk. The National Guard has been called into Ferguson, a curfew was put into place last week and even the start of the school year has been delayed in the largely African American city.

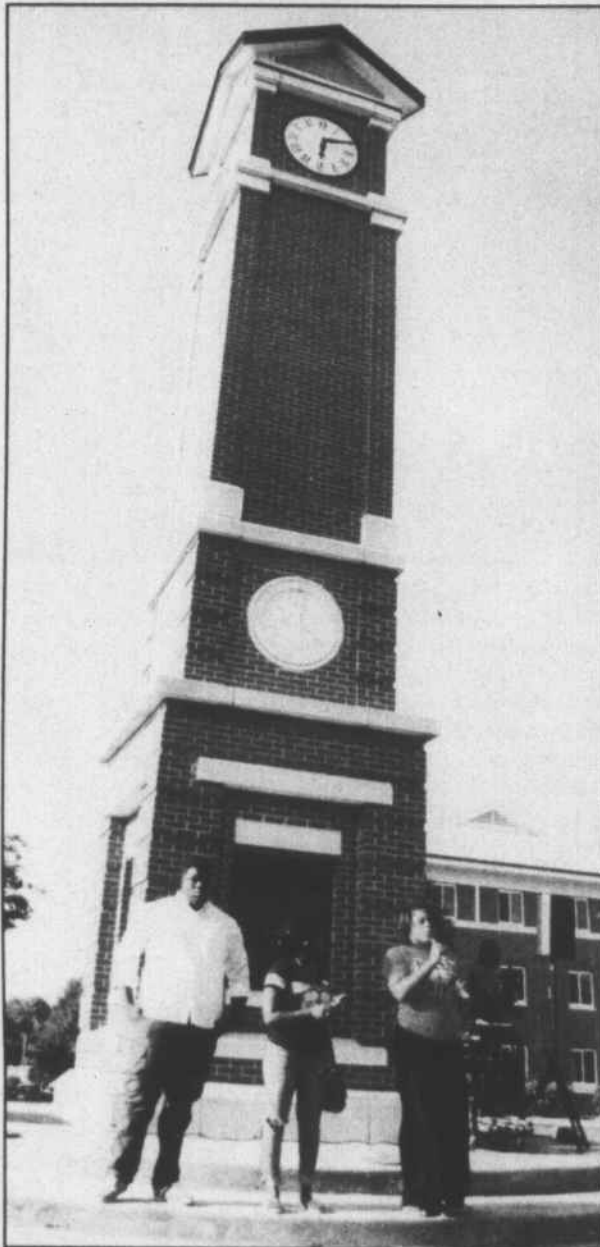
There was peace and calm at the WSSU gathering. Students assembled near the school's looming clock tower to hear words from Sedwick and Mona Zahir, who read the names of those who recently died at the hands of law enforcement. Eric Garner's names was included. He died last month when a New York City police officer placed him in a choke hold during a confrontation about untaxed cigarettes. In recent weeks, John Crawford, 22, was also shot and killed by cops in a suburban Ohio Wal-Mart. It is believed police mistook one of the store's toy guns that Crawford was holding as the real thing.

WSSU SGA Vice President Kenny Brown, no relation to Michael Brown, told attendees they have to band together to create change.

"I've seen all you on social media talk about the Civil Rights Movement and how we should start it back," he said. "A key component to the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s was unity. We have to unify in each other and that starts in your neighborhoods."

The moment of silence movement was conceived early last week by a New York activist who goes by the Twitter handle "Feminista Jones." The idea circulated through social media. WSSU students made the decision to take part just hours before last Thursday's event started. Classes had not yet started, so only freshmen and a few upperclass students were on campus. A whirlwind social media push and word-of-mouth campaign managed to attract a crowd of more than 100 students.

Social media posts got Devante Mackins' attention. The Gastonia native is the school's Mr. Sophomore and a member of Renaissance Men, a campus male mentoring program. He said he came



Photos by Todd Luck

The student speakers stand in front of the clocktower.



Mike Brown



Crawford



Garner

to show support for the Brown family and disapproval of the way authorities have handled the case.

"They have made no movement ... for this thing to stop," he said. "And they're basically saying they're okay with it."

Eric Johnson also attended. He wears quite a few hats on campus — Sophomore Class vice-president, president pro temp of the Student Senate, Renaissance Men

President — and believes the issues of racial profiling and inequality in the justice system are larger than this one death.

"I think it's bigger than Mike (Brown); I think it's bigger than Trayvon (Martin); it's bigger than Troy Davis (a black man who many believe was wrongly executed for killing a white police officer); it's bigger than Renisha McBride (a young black Detroit woman killed by a white homeowner after she knocked on his door); it's bigger than Emmett Till," he said. "It's a black issue; it's a social issue. If we don't get people to stand up for it, then it'll never get changed."

WSSU plans to work with the SGA to come up with forums or other events to facilitate discussion of the issues that have come out of the Brown case.

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



Silverhawks Photo

Coach Res (far right) takes players through drills during a recent practice session.

Team

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"I wanted to help some of these guys perfect their craft so at some point they can go to the next level," said the Raleigh native. "I want to have as much influence on these guys' lives and have some sort of footprint on them getting to that next level."

Marrow played the game himself at Merced (Calif.) College and overseas in the German Football League. He believes his experience will allow him as a manager and owner to always see both the players' and the business perspectives.

He is adamant about the team putting in as much work off the field as on it.

"We are going to adopt the Boys & Girls Club of Reynolds (Park) Road, and we are working to start a nonprofit to work with kids that have obesity issues," he said. "I am excited to show the community how positive this is and what they can get out of it."

The Carolina Silverhawks, which has landed Burger King as its official sponsor, will compete in the American Indoor Football league, which includes seven other teams — the Atlanta Sharks, Cleveland Saints, Baltimore Mariners, Washington Eagles, York Capitals, Rochester

Raiders and Buffalo.

Former Marine Josh Resignalo has signed on to coach the Silverhawks. "Coach Res" has a litany of semi-pro coaching experience. He is currently the Offensive Coordinator at Greensboro's Grimsley High School. He said he is excited about the opportunity to lend his coaching expertise to another Triad team.

"Having the opportunity to bring indoor arena football back to the Triad area is pretty awesome, and I am glad to be a part of it," said Resignalo, a former QB for the Raleigh Rebels and the Carolina Speed. "In this area, there is a lot of local talented guys who did not have the opportunity that some of the DI colleges have. This gives them a chance to show why they need that opportunity and why they should go to the next level. That's why I enjoy coaching at this level."

Defensive Cornerback Kayo Bryce already has a place on the squad. He says he has a lot of game left in him and is looking forward to proving it.

"This gives athletes a great platform to showcase their abilities, play the game that they love and get paid doing it," Bryce said. "I want to stay young, keep chasing that football and take things to a higher level one day. Right now, I'm just glad to play the game that I love."

Resignalo said those

coming to try out should expect to work hard and give it their all.

"They should expect a different atmosphere than what they're used to. They will know that this is professional football and there is a high-standard that they will have to measure up to," Resignalo said. "It will be very high-intensity, and the guys will get a good work out."

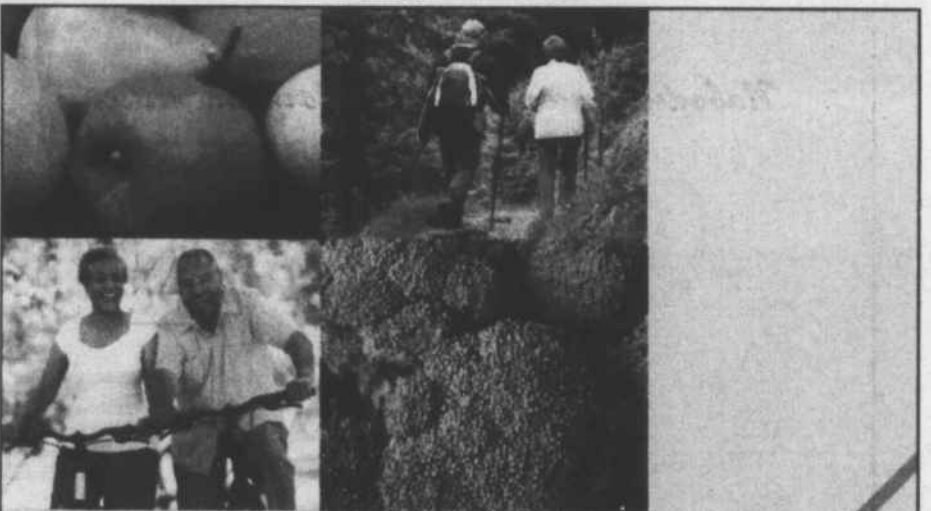
The Silverhawks are also starting a Junior League for kids 9 to 13.

"The kids will be playing under the exact same rules that we do," Resignalo said.

Marrow said that he does not want the community to think twice before calling upon the Silverhawks.

"Any help that you would need, do not hesitate to call, whether it's to visit the schools or churches. Our biggest thing is our youth. It is not just about football for us," Marrow said. "It is about the future for our children."

For more information about the team, including tryouts, tickets or appearances, contact Marrow at 336-341-3987 or the-carolina.silverhawks@gmail.com, or visit track the team on Facebook page, www.facebook.com/TheCarolinaSilverhawks, or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CSilverhawks), www.twitter.com/CSilverhawks.



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