

# Abner Joyner Is

By Mickey Flowers  
and Janet Brower

Talk to Abner Joyner and you won't give a second thought to the statement, "Athletes are all muscle and no brains."

It's not that Joyner, the first to be crowned Mr. Ram in WSSU's history, lacks in the muscle department—he's a good match for Mr. Atlas—but, he also has many major hopes and goals for himself and WSSU.

Joyner, an advanced junior Biology major from San Antonio, Texas, feels that as Mr. Ram he can "help create and organize other things that will enable students to participate and reveal their natural talents."

One idea is a comedy program for students related to the popular television program, "Laugh-In".

"The incorporation of new programs will lead to the development of other activities," he said. "Students could enjoy and benefit from them rather than do the same old tired things that seem to bore them."

Joyner also would like to see a program at WSSU that would enable students to take educational tours around the world.

The program would involve an introduction to foreign culture, school systems, etc., as well as provide the opportunity to meet other students from other countries to exchange educational and social ideas.

"This would be a very worthwhile and advantageous project," he said. "WSSU students are limited in their exposure to universal ideals and ideas."

Pageants and programs like the Mr. Ram Pageant are good for the students because they provide variety, according to Joyner.

He said the Mr. Ram Pageant should be an annual event. "It gives the guys a chance to play and compete for something that will be decided upon in one night," he added. "The guys have to really earn what they receive."

"The pageant was a beautiful thing because the cooperation shown revealed true brotherhood. It was beautiful to see all the brothers competing for the same thing and still helping each other, cooperating and still respecting each other."

Joyner himself entered the pageant at the insistence of friends. At first, the idea didn't appeal to him.

"But, the idea appealed more when I began to attend the meetings and rehearsals," he said. "Finally, I decided to enter at the very last minute...it would be a very good feeling, I felt, if I could be the first Mr. Ram."

In the pageant, Joyner sang a medley of songs that included "Rainy Night in Georgia" and "Daddy's Home." He accompanied himself on the piano. The musical combination—the playing and singing—nearly "brought the house down."

Although he's been singing since childhood, Joyner, surprisingly, cannot read music.

"It's like trying to read and write a foreign language," he said.

"But if I can sing something, I can play it on the piano because the notes that make up chords to a song are the same as the notes that make the harmony."

When Joyner isn't at the piano

working out new tunes or practicing with his singing group, he's probably playing some kind of sport. He loves all sports, especially wrestling. He is a member of the WSSU wrestling squad.

His other hobbies include drawing, fishing and playing pinball.

"I definitely am an active person," Joyner said.

He jokingly describes himself as "always behind and always late for everything, be it business or pleasure."

"Sometimes," he said, "I'm so far behind until attempts to make up for one thing put me behind for something else! I'm usually in a hurry."

After graduation from State, Joyner plans to attend graduate school or preferably medical school.

"I would like to further my education in an environment



## Mr. Ram

that's totally different from the present one—out of the United States," he said. "Perhaps in the Far East, if possible Mecca."

Right now Joyner's plans focus on Homecoming.

"I hope everyone enjoys this year's Homecoming and get what they want out of it whether it be victory, a ticket to the show or a date after the show," he said.



photo by Head

Abner Joyner  
Mr. Ram

## Mr. Ram Pageant Is Successful

by Gloria J. Ross

We came in fun; everyone expected a joke. But it turned out that the joke was on us, because what we saw was one of the best pageants that Winston-Salem State University has ever seen.

What we saw were eight men from WSSU competing for the title of "Mr. Ram 1975," in the Williams Auditorium on October 23.

Beginning with the parade of "beauties" and continuing on to the crowning of Mr. Ram, the audience was entertained and delighted.

Mr. Thomas "Podo" Allen set the mood of the show by appearing on stage in a white 'Vet, and proceeding to "bare his innermost self" to the audience by removing his caftan and showing himself in cut-off jeans.

As Ms. Narrell Council introduced them, the contestants proceeded on stage in outfits ranging from jeans to swimming

trunks. The contestants were: Antoine Terrell, Abner Joyner, Marvin Morrison, Paul Ferguson, Mr. Gregg Marshall, Northal Gaddy, Irwin Allen and Ronnie Holmes.

What would a pageant be without fashions? These gentlemen modeled casual wear and formal wear with the flair of an Ebony male model. Tennis outfits, walking suits, everything and anything imaginable could be seen, but worn with the style and tone particular to the Black male.

The highlight of the evening was the talent competition. In most pageants, the talent spot is dominated by songs, but this contest had a variety of talents. The most outstanding performances were the medley of tunes done by Abner Joyner, the basketball exhibition given by Antoine Terrell, the Karate demonstration done by Ronnie Holmes, and the radio-comedy

routine done by Irwin Allen.

As the judges deliberated, Ms. Deborah Knox, a former WSSU student, and now Miss Statesville, entertained the audience with "Summertime" and "The Impossible Dream." An impromptu selection by Rahn Scott, Abner Joyner, Dale Rivers, and Samule Wiggs really aroused the audience, as girls screamed with delight at seeing so many talented males in one night.

The answer of the judges finally came, and the first MR. RAM was announced to be Abner Joyner. Crowned and given a regal robe, Mr. Joyner walked the length of the stage to give his admiring audience one last look. Abner is a senior here at WSSU.

The Mr. Ram pageant will now become an annual event, and if the ones to follow are anything like the first annual contest, they'll be something that you won't want to miss.

## Soulful Spirit of '76

- November 13 Miss Homecoming Coronation Ball. Whitaker Gym. Coronation: 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. DANCE: 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M. FREE. Sponsored by SGA.
- November 14 Red & White Day. Pep Rally and Campus Mini-Parade. Sponsored by Day Students Association.
- Cabaret - Benton Convention Center 11:00 P.M. - 3:00 A.M. ADM: \$2.00. Sponsored by SGA.
- Alumni Dance - Benton Convention Center. 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M. Coronation: Midnight, ADM. Sponsored by WSSU Alumni Association.
- November 15 Homecoming Parade. 9:00 A.M. West on Third Street to Liberty Street; North on Liberty Street to Fourth Street; and East on Fourth Street to Woodland Avenue.
- Rams Versus Bears of Shaw University. Bowman Gray Stadium 1:30 P.M. ADM.
- Second Annual Hall of Fame Banquet. Hauser Student Union. 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. ADM. \$7.50 per person.
- Alumni Cabaret. Benton Convention Center. 9:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M. ADM. Sponsored by WSSU Alumni Association.
- Dance. Spinners, K.C. & The Sunshine Band, and Jimmy Castor Bunch. Winston-Salem Memorial Coliseum. 9:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M. ADM. Sponsored by SGA.