

## WSSU track team runs to gain respect

Any discussion that centers around the Winston-Salem State University track and field team should revolve around the word love.

Love, defined in the "American Heritage Dictionary" as strong fondness or enthusiasm, is the only explanation for the reason why the people on the track team compete.

Team members often train with inadequate equipment and facilities. Many students on the schools campus don't know about the exploits of Fred Malloy, Darrick Neely, Bart Nixon or Marcus Lily on the 4 x 100 meter relay team. Or that Darrius Wall runs in the 400 meter while Exazevia Logan competes in the long jump. So fame can't be the central reason.

"I just like to compete," said Tyrone Cheeks, who participates in the discuss and shot put events. "I feel like I'm a competitor and to me track is a challenge." The words that come out of the mouth's of each team member are different, but the sentiment remain the same. And so each day the team practices. Despite little recognition or the fact that the team hasn't won a track and field championship since 1960, the team continues.

Although every coach has high expectations concerning their team, Head Coach James Braswell set realistic goals for the team before the beginning of this season.

"We just wanted to survive," said Braswell. "Track and field is a nonrevenue sport at this

school with no scholarships. It cuts down our ability to go up against teams with specialized track people."

Braswell figures that it would take at least \$500,000 to make the team competitive, with the majority of that money going towards building a new track. In a perfect world Braswell would receive enough money from the athletic department to build a new track and to add more scholarships.

"I don't see it in the near future," said Braswell.

In this world the track team is low on the athletic totem pole at WSSU. The team must make do with the basics. That is if they are lucky.

"We're still running with the same shoes we ran in last year," said Bart Nixon. "We get no support. I run because I love track. But sometimes I wonder why. How can we represent the school like this." said Exazevia Logan. "This is a reflection on WSSU athletics. Every other team in the CIAA thinks we're a joke."

The Rams are a longshot entering this year's CIAA Track and Field Championship. The team is just hoping to improve on last year's point total. Maybe a massive 20 points, which is not asking much when you consider the winner may compile 135 points.

Whatever the outcome is for the season, Braswell remains proud of his players.

See TRACK, page 8

### HONDA, from page 1

kinds of questions are possible, students should be familiar with trivia, current events, music, history, and atlases.

"We want students who are hardworking and students who will be dedicated," Roseboro said. "We want to continue to move forward and out of our current division."

### SPIRIT, from page 1

we have more school spirit year round? Why can't we support our school on and off campus? Why can't we be proud to be WSSU RAMS?

During homecoming, I found myself looking at a yearbook from the '70s. I could tell from the pictures that WSSU used to be a fun place. Students were decorating their dorms, faculty and staff had their faces painted, and everyone seemed happy. While looking at these pictures, I thought about what college life would be like if our campus was like this.

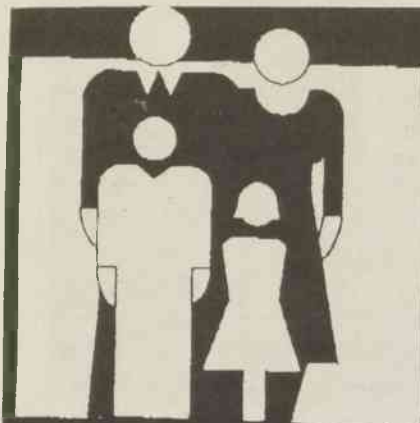
I asked one of the faculty members I noticed in the picture, what was happening back then that made them proud. She said that it came natural. Everyone had love for their school because everyone was on campus. Back then, Wilson Hall didn't exist and everyone was on the same side of the yard. Wilson Hall is a very nice dorm and should have been built as a dorm to bring more students together, not separate 400 of them. The faculty member also said that freshman were not allowed to go home the first nine weeks of school. I think this program should be brought back.

How can you get the full college experience if you are home every weekend? As a way of trying to get to the root of the problem, I asked several students what things they thought needed to be done about increasing school spirit. The majority of the responses were the same.

Javon Williams, a mass communications major, stated that, "The activities are not publicized enough. I feel like I am in high school still because the activities are so lame."

Synia Norman stated that we need more student activities and that, "We shouldn't have to pay for everything. Some things need to be included in our tuition." Other students feels that the administration needs to work along with the students in order to find a common ground and work from

See SPIRIT, page 8



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