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THE NEWS ARGUS

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Where's the Grass?

Wear, tear and drought has taken a toll on the Rams' practice field

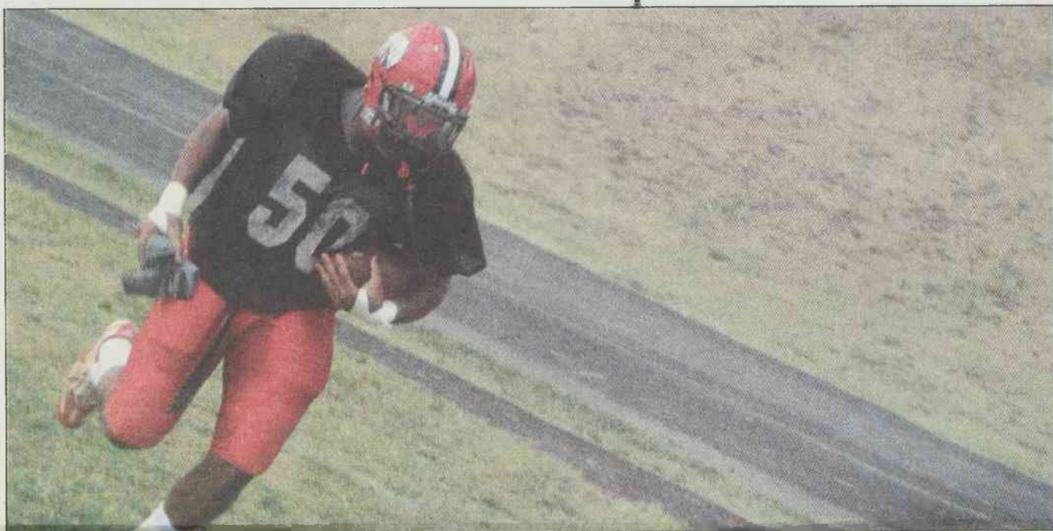


Photo by Sharrod Paterson

WSSU's practice field gets heavy use by the football team and other athletes, as well as the marching band.

By Steven J. Gaither
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For all but the most hardcore-college football fans, practice is an afterthought. As long as players perform well on Saturdays, most casual fans could care less about what goes on at practice.

The field on which the players practice is even less of a concern.

This summer, however, the practice field for Winston-Salem State has taken an extreme beating and could be dangerous for players.

A close look at the practice field reveals sizable patches of dirt, stripped of the grass that once blanketed it. When stepping off the grass and on to the dirt, there is a small, but noticeable drop. Some stretches of bare soil run 15 to 20 yards.

The brutal summer heat that has blanketed Winston-Salem and the Triad for much of the summer has hardened the exposed earth. Throw in an occasional summer shower, and the Rams' field of dreams can be a potentially dangerous area for players.

The Rams have been forced to practice at their current location, just below



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

Summer drought has taken a toll on turfgrass and soil moisture.

the Gaines Center, as a result of WSSU's recent exponential growth. Their old practice field has been turned into a parking lot. The good news for the Rams is that their current practice field is only a temporary home. A new practice facility will be in

the Civitan Park area near Bowman Gray Stadium. It will have both 100- and 50-yard fields. However, the new facility will not be ready until 2008.

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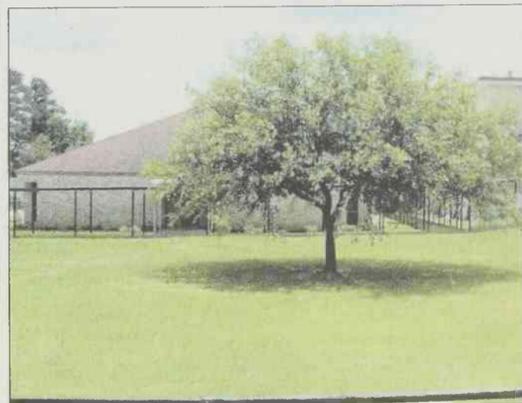


Photo by MCT Wire Services

The "Jena Six" saga has gathered national attention.

Jena Six picking up student support

By Vanessa Rozier
BLACK COLLEGE WIRE

A year ago, Mychal Bell was known in Jena, La., simply as a 16-year-old sophomore at Jena High School and a winning starter on its football team. Today he stands convicted of aggravated second-degree battery and faces up to 22 years in prison.

He is nationally known as one of the young men called the Jena Six.

A rally is scheduled in Jena on Sept. 20 in conjunction with universities and individuals who wish to support the six.

According to accounts of the developments, their case began on Aug. 31, 2006, when a black student in Jena asked permission to sit underneath what was understood to be the "white" tree at school — and he did. The next day, three nooses were found hanging from the tree. Three white students were held responsible and the principal recommended that they be expelled. The school board and superintendent, however, decided that an in-school suspension would suffice.

Outraged, black students organized a protest and, again, sat underneath the "white" tree. Two incidents took place the next November weekend.

On the Friday night, Robert Bailey, one of the six, was punched and kicked at a party attended by mostly white students. Then, Saturday, a confrontation took place

See **Jena Six**, page 3

WSSU conference addresses reasons for shortage of African-American nurses

By Charlene Wheeler
ARGUS STAFF

Since the School of Health Sciences at Winston-Salem State University is currently the fourth-largest producer of nurses in North Carolina, one might think that there would be a large number of African American nurses.

Think again. "There has always been a shortage, and I feel that it is increasing," said Dr. Lenora Campbell, interim associate dean of the nursing program. "There's no shortage of who wants to be in the program. There is a limit in the enrollment of the program. So, it is like a competition, where who has the best GPA and SAT scores, those are the ones who will get in."

A video conference took place at WSSU Sept. 13 to address the issue. The theme was "The Endangered Species: African American Registered Nurses." The free conference was available to HBCU deans, directors, faculty and graduate students.

The WSSU nursing pro-



Photo by Garrett Garrms

The historic shortage of black nurses continues.

gram is a community-based program. Nursing students and faculty are active in the African American community. Their services include hosting health fairs, working with grandparents who are raising grandchildren and working with Piedmont Park Public Housing Community.

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**Memorable Moments:
Homecoming Week begins Oct. 28**

See pg. 2 for details.

Photo by Lee Adams