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## N.Y. Pastor Speaks At Breakfast

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# Campus News

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## N.Y. pastor speaks at breakfast

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The A&T Four was remembered once again in what has become a staple tradition for the A&T family. Feb. 1 marked the 46th anniversary of the courageous acts that the four A&T students made in 1960 for the advancement of civil rights.

This year's celebration theme was "Reconnecting the Past, Establishing the Present and Shaping the Future." The annual program takes place on or around the first of February in Williams Cafeteria. The event was sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and attracts a large audience every year.

During the breakfast portion of the ceremony, which began at 6:30 a.m., members of the local media, alumni and student body gathered in the cafeteria. The atmosphere was similar to a mini-homecoming.

"I am very happy to be here because there is a lot of history here with this celebration of the sit-in movement," said Rev. Calvin Butts III, the keynote speaker, as he entered the building.

On Feb. 1, 1960, A&T freshmen Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Jibreel Khazan and the late David Richmond staged the first successful sit-in protest at the F.W. Woolworth lunch counter in downtown Greensboro. This was one of the many key events that trailblazed the civil rights movement across America.

Members of the A&T Four had fond memories of that historic day.

"We did not appreciate it at the time, but we were being a part of something much bigger and it has lasted for years," McNeil said.

When McCain was asked about the legacy that he felt his actions made, he humbly



PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE MCCRAY

**The Rev. Calvin Butts III speaks at the annual Feb. 1 Breakfast about hardships while being a civil rights advocate. Butts is a pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York.**

responded, "I expect the students to take away an awareness that they should always seek change. I would also be lying if I told you that I felt that what we did would still have an affect on the world some 46 years later!"

Some of the highlights of the program included a powerful poetic expression by

Judy Rashid, the vice chancellor for student affairs, and a special tribute to the late Coretta Scott King, given by SGA President Justin Ramey.

A stirring rendition of "Lift Every Voice" was performed by the A&T Gospel Choir.

Perhaps the most surprising moment occurred when Khazan delivered his own

musical tribute to the late Rosa Parks.

After some presentations by the A&T Four and members of both A&T and Bennett College's Student Government Associations, the keynote speaker, Rev. Calvin Butts III, took the stage.

Butts is a pastor of the renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York

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City and president of SUNY College at Old Westbury. He is also an active member in his local community and has led several boycotts against New York institutions for what he viewed as racist policies and employment discrimination.

Butts delivered a speech centered around the theme of "carrying on the covenant." He illustrated several instances to the audience of some of the hardships that he and others encountered while being advocates for civil rights.

"If we do not find something worth dying for, then we are not fit to live," Butts said.

He encouraged the black race as a whole to never lose the sense of struggle that has got the black race to where it is today. He closed his speech by explaining how those in a struggle can look to the A&T Four and be reminded of their courage and steadfastness while facing adversity.

Butts was presented with a plaque by members of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Chancellor James Renick closed the program and thanked Butts and others for attending.

Matthew Melvin, the president of the Council of Presidents, summed up the general feeling of the occasion.

"It is a good annual event to celebrate these wonderful brothers and I look forward to it every year," he said.

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