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A&T Four: A Closer Look

1980

Original Sit-In Participants Honored on Anniversary

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N. C. A&T STATE UNIVERSITY, Greensboro, N. C.

March, 1980

\$192 Boost in Student Fees Approved by A&T Trustees

The spiraling costs of fuel and labor will necessitate an increase in student fees at A&T State University the next academic year.

The \$192 per year increase was approved by the A&T board of trustees in

January.

Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, chancellor of the university, said the increase was made ncessary by dramatic increases in the cost of utilities and salaries.

The total expenses during 1980-81 for North Carolina Students living on campus

'I be \$2,093.50. Out-of-state students uving on campus, who represent approximately 19 percent of the student population, will pay \$3,798.50.

There is no increase in tuition.

Dr. Velma Speight, president of A&T National Alumni Association, (center) with David Richmond (left), Jibreel Khazan, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeill. (Photo by William Peeler)

'meal at Woolworth's'

Original Sit-In Participants Honored on Anniversary

GREENSBORO, N. C. — When four A&T freshmen students staged a sit-in at the local Woolworth's twenty years ago, little did they know that their decision would cast them firmly into American history.

How much this is true was apparent on Feb. 1, 1980 when Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeill, Jibreel Khazan and David Richmond returned to the city to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their daring deed, which set off a national civil rights movement

The A&T family honored its distinguished sons at a mammoth university-wide convocation and at two public receptions.

Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, chancellor, presented the four men with specially designed and emblazoned navy blue blazers; A&T State University National Alumni Association president, Dr. Velma Speight, gave the heroes laminated plaques; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also presented them plaques.

The Greensboro community, the governor's office and the office of the vice president of the United States also had tributes for the men, and a permanent historic marker was unveiled at the corner of Elm Street and Friendly Rd., two blocks north of the Woolworth's store.

In a luncheon in the Hilton Inn, Dr. Samuel D. Proctor, former A&T president, said "The sit-in demonstration of 1960 was the watershed of the movement of America's black population toward full integration into this society."

"Because of their courage," added Proctor, "the end came quickly to an entire system of demeaning, dehumanizing and divisive customs and mores."

When the four former A&T students returned to the Woolworth's store for an early morning breakfast on Feb. 1, their anniversary date, this time the meal was paid for by the management.

In addition the four men attracted more than 50 newsmen, including representatives of the three national networks, the major newspapers and newsmen from several foreign nations.

Mrs. Shirley Frye, assistant vice chancellor for development and university relations was chairperson of the Greensboro observance, which was one of the largest ever staged in this city.

Woolworth's also unveiled a plaque in honor of the men in front of the store, and in addition, donated \$6,000 to A&T to initiate a lecture series each February in honor of the sit-ins.

Piggott New AD

Dr. Bert C. Piggott, former head football coach at A&T State University, has been named the university's athletic director.

Piggott's appointment was announced by Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, chancellor. He said Piggott will replace Jim McKinley, who has served as acting athletic director since Cal Irvin resigned in August of 1978.



Dowdy said McKinley will devote full-time to the duties of head football coach.

"Dr. Piggott has enjoyed a distinguished career in athletics, dating from his playing days at the University of Illinois and during his more than 18 years of coaching at A&T," said Dowdy. "He is

o an outstanding teacher. I feel that he will provide leadership and direction for our intercollegiate athletic program, and we are fortunate to have a man of his

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