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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



THE A&T REGISTER

"COMPLETE AWARENESS FOR COMPLETE COMMITMENT"

Archives

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Greensboro, N. C. 27411

VOLUME LVIII NUMBER 16

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY, GREENSBORO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1987

A&T in program to urge research

A&T has been selected as one of three historically black universities to participate in a federal program to encourage research cooperation between the universities and the private sector.

The one-year program, funded by the Department of Energy, is designed to encourage research in the sciences and engineering, according to Dr. Suresh Chandra, dean of the A&T School of Engineering.

The other universities in the program are Howard and Morgan State of Baltimore.

Chandra said it is hoped that the new program can be successful enough to be used

as a model by other historically black schools.

Under the program, the universities will participate in private industry task forces and exchange programs between the universities and industrial research centers and will seek corporate financial support for research in the sciences and engineering programs at black colleges and universities.

"This is an extremely important program," said Dr. Fort, chancellor of A&T. "It reinforces the growing national esteem of our engineering and scientific programs and faculty."



Photo by Wade Nash

James Thomas, trainer/director, sings "He's Only A Prayer Away" during The A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir's second 'live' recording. The choir anticipates the national distribution of their album prior to their upcoming tour of New York in April.

Activism

A&T professors test the political arena

WARREN MCNEILL
Managing Editor

Long known as a hotbed for human rights issues, A&T may be on its way to becoming known as a breeding ground for politicians.

A&T has produced several candidates in the 1980s for public office; some have been successful.

The most successful has been business education professor Katie Dorsett who first ran for office in 1974.

"I was recommended for a seat on the City Council by the executive committee of the Democratic Party to replace Zoe P. Barbee who was killed in an automobile accident," Dorsett said.

Dorsett lost that race and was also defeated in 1981 when she ran for the City Council.

Her perseverance paid off when she was finally elected to the Council in 1983 and again in 1985. She gave up her seat

last November and was elected to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

"The role of teacher and political person complement each other," Dorsett said. "Both roles have an impact on people's lives, so there is no real separation of the two."

Dorsett said she's been exposed to student views through politics as well as the classroom.

"I have been to several political science classes and a few writing classes because students want to know my views on certain issues, whether it be women in politics or some other issue," she said.

"Interacting with the students and the dialogue between us is as useful to them as it is to me. It's exciting and a challenge.

"I really enjoyed my tenure on the City Council. I left with mixed emotions but I look back with no regrets."

Dorsett said there is a noticeable change in the duties and policies of the two positions.

Although the Board of Commissioners funds the sheriff's department and boards of education in the county, the commissioners do not control those agencies, Dorsett said.

"The county commission is an extension of the state," she said. "The majority of our budget is mandated by the state."

Dorsett said Greensboro's at-large method of elections, in which candidates are voted on citywide in general elections, does not "allow minorities and diverse people the adequate representation that they deserve."

"It's an unfair system because minorities are almost never elected, so they don't have a voice in government," she said.

(continued on page 5)

Simkins' commitment to help the City Council

BARBARA SILVER
Staff Writer

Anna Simkins spent much of a recent snow-bound Sunday afternoon grading papers -- a typical activity for the clothing and textiles teacher at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and professor at A&T.

She also spent a portion of the afternoon reviewing the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

Going through those papers was not typical for her -- until recently.

Simkins became the newest member of the Greensboro City Council in December when she was appointed to finish the unexpired term of Katie Dorsett.



Simkins

Dorsett, who also teaches at A&T, and was elected to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

(continued on page 6)

State, National and International News

A&T to benefit

Scholarships established for black colleges

NEW YORK--A merit scholarship program, named in honor of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, has been established for students attending the nation's historically black public colleges and universities.

The creation of the Thurgood Marshall Black Education Fund was announced by officials from the Office for Advancement of Public Black Colleges (OAPBC), representing 35 member institutions in 18 states.

Inaugural support is being provided by Miller Lite beer through a grant of \$50,000 and promotional advertising exceeding \$1 million in value.

The United Negro College Fund has long provided support for private institutions, but, heretofore, a similar fund has not existed for public col-

leges and universities.

OAPBC institutions, with 130,000 students, enroll nearly 25 percent of all U.S. black students in higher education.

Marshall attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, a member of the OAPBC.

As the Marshall Fund's founding corporate sponsor, Miller Lite, in cooperation with the National Basketball Association, will elicit public support through an extensive promotional campaign encompassing print, radio and television advertising.

Special 30-second television commercials, featuring former professional basketball star Bob Lanier, will air on the NBA Game of the Week on CBS during February which is Black History Month.

Other promotional advertising will begin in February and

continue through the remainder of the year.

It is significant that funds from the scholarship program will not be used for athletic scholarships since many minority teenagers feel the only way to succeed is through athletic endeavors.

"Hopefully, the Marshall Fund will help encourage the pursuit of scholastic and other longterm opportunities," said Kevin Tripp, Miller Lite assistant brand manager.

According to OAPBC Director Joyce Payne, "The fund fills a critical gap in the black higher education community. This effort moves fund raising beyond individual campuses and communities, and provides a mechanism for tapping the resources of private corporations, foundations, alumni organizations

and other groups.

"In spite of their importance as a national resource, public black colleges receive minimal corporate and alumni support compared with private institutions. Public black colleges in the U.S. currently receive less than one percent of all voluntary support to higher education."

She added, "The history of the nation's largest black institutions is marked by achievement, progress and pre-eminence in virtually every aspect of the American experience. The quality of the graduates themselves is the most striking testimonial to the enormous contributions of these universities."

The Marshall Fund will be administered by a 15-member advisory committee. Scholarship support will be made

directly to member institutions and awarded to students who meet qualifications established by the committee.

These students will be known as "Thurgood Marshall scholars."

Miller Brewing Company has maintained an educational partnership with selected historically black colleges and universities for more than a decade and has initiated a number of programs designed to help prepare students to compete in the private sector.

The Washington-based OAPBC is an office of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges in cooperation with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Howard Beach

White teens charged in death of black man

NEW YORK--A dozen white teenagers, including three charged with murder, have pleaded not guilty in the attack on three blacks in Howard Beach that left one black man dead, officials said.

Details of the racial attack are emerging with the help of one of the accused, officials said.

The 12 whites, ages 16 to 19, were charged in indictments unsealed Tuesday with being part of a mob that on Dec. 20 attacked three black men in the all-white section of Queens, chasing one of the blacks, Michael Griffith, 23, onto a highway where he was

struck and killed by a car.

State Special Prosecutor Charles Hynes said the indictments resulted from new information provided by an alleged participant in the attack who came forward Jan. 19, the holiday marking the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The witness, Robert Riley, 17, was one of the three youths charged with second-degree murder at the arraignment in Queens before state Supreme Court Justice Alfred Lerner, who called the case "an American tragedy."

Hynes asked Lerner to release Riley on his own recognizance because of his

assistance. Riley was the only suspect released without bail.

Hynes said Riley decided to assist in the investigation after being told of what might happen as a result of a trial. But the prosecutor said he has not offered the teenager immunity from prosecution.

The two others charged with second-degree murder, Scott Kern, 18, and Jon Lester, 17, already had been indicted on counts of reckless endangerment.

The other nine youths were named in the indictment on charges ranging from attempted murder to rioting.

The indictment is the most far-reaching step yet in the investigation of the case which

fueled racial tensions in the city and drew nationwide attention.

"This kind of thing can happen . . . where people distrust and hate because of an accident of birth and indeed it (has) happened all over the world," Hynes said. "It's about hate and distrust. It's not an indictment of Howard Beach."

"The probability of conviction is substantial," Hynes added.

All 12 white youths pleaded not guilty and were ordered back to court March 6. Kern and Lester were denied bail. The nine other posted bail

ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000.

Hynes was appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo last month after the two survivors of the attack, Cedric Sandiford, 36, and Timothy Grimes, 20, refused to cooperate with Queens District Attorney John Santucci.

Lawyers for the survivors refused to comment on the indictments and scheduled a news conference for later.

Griffith was killed after he and the two others stopped to use a phone in the New Park Pizzeria in Howard Beach after their car broke down.

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Than you could ever guess,
You're the reason for my
hopes and dreams,
My every happiness . . .
I'm very proud
and grateful, too,
That I can call you mine . . .
You are and you will always be,
My only Valentine

Love WEH

The joy of Love That is pre-
sent on this special Day is one
that many hope will never fade
away.

Many look forward to see
that special glow in their
special loves eyes, revealing I
Love You and hope it never
dies

By MTM.

To :
Mil, Bird, Fro, Andy, Tina, -
Court . . .
Happy V-Day!

From: Skee-wee 9

REALITY

Love is you
Life is me
Brought together
Like we were born to be.

by
Moezilla
for
Temple Howell

To: Skee-Wee Sorors,

The true colors of hearts are
pink and green.
I love you,

From: 9 minnie mouth

One never ceases to recognize
true and uninhibited beauty,
This was the case when
I first saw you, "Tweetie."

Nothing in all the universe
is as charming as you, besides
the relationship between two
human beings,
a man and a woman.

The love that the two shall
share,
and cherish can only wear thin
in
DEATH!!

By B. D. Black

"TILL THE END OF TIME"

I will be with you until the
end of time.
Not only in heart, but in soul
and mind.

There's a bond we share
that cannot be broken

My feeling for you
are a special token
To treasure, to share
until the end of time

I'll keep in my heart, my
soul, in my mind
...Special friends, sometimes
sweethearts
...But always loving you "till
the end of time"

KNOWING YOU

To see you is to know you
And to know you is to love.
In you there is beauty,
sent from above.

If life was never-ending
And dreams really came true,
I'd dream of spending my life
With one as lovely as you.

I've met a lot of women
Some smile like movie stars,
But they can only wish to be
As charming as you are.

Whoever holds your heart,
Has a blessing in disguise
And should try his best to keep
That golden sparkle in your
eyes.

By Mandell Jackson

To: All AKA calender men:

Happy VALENTINE'S Day to
"The Finest" of A&T

Luv: 9 minnie mouth

Love Poem One-O-Five

I am so in love with you
Is that infatuation all right with you
Because there's nothing for you I would refuse to do
I know you are the one I will always come running to
And can't you see what this love is doing to me
Making my life oh so easily
And I don't care what other men may say
With their foolish thinking and their insecure ways
And if I loved you by the way they live their lives
It wouldn't be love but a lot of painful intimate lies
That's why I fulfill all my dreams and my life with you
Because no one else in this world would never do
The joy, the excitement you create so very well
The kissing and the touching when it's show and tell
No other man can claim a greater prize
When I say I love you that's so surprise
It will always be whatever you want to do
I am so in love with you.

By Moezilla
for Lenora Young

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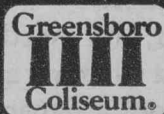
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Points of View...

Celebrate

Black History Month is always celebrated during February. You may not know, however, that this celebration goes back not just 10 or 20 years but hundreds.

We talk about and hold programs to elaborate on black society. But while reading an article in the February issue of *Essence*, this writer stumbled across what we should consider real black history.

The article pointed out the many trials and troubles that our black ancestors went through during slavery.

The article said that in addition to Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman there were many other famous slaves.

It stated that while the number of slaves who gained their freedom by way of the Underground Railroad is unknown, it is estimated that around 100,000 ran away to freedom between 1830 and 1860.

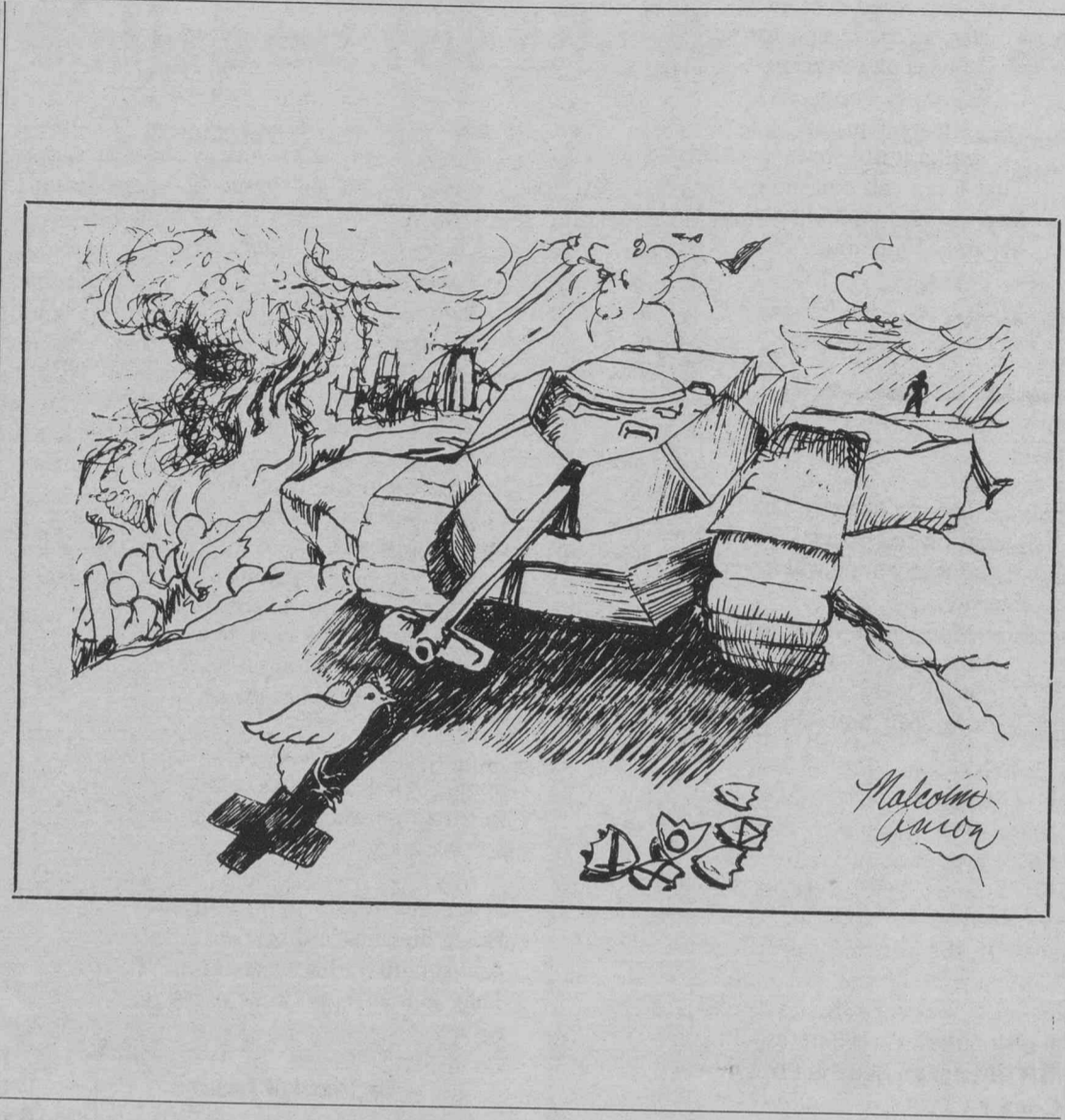
In one incident a slave woman who was scared of being separated from her only child planned to make her flight to freedom beyond the Ohio river. As she reached the river, she discovered that the ice had broken up and was drifting in large pieces. As slave catchers closed in on her, she darted into the river, holding her child in her arms.

She lost her shoes in the icy water but, with her feet bleeding, she made it to safety on the opposite side.

This is just one of the many courageous stories which show the fight and flight of black slaves as they struggled for freedom.

As we attend programs on campus and elsewhere and take in the advice given by the speakers, lecturers, etc., we should remember that the struggle was long and hard for these slaves. We should celebrate the marks of our history.

We, black Americans, have a history that can never be overlooked. CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH.



News writing

WARREN MCNEILL III
Managing Editor

There are about 40 communication students enrolled in the basic news writing course at A&T.

To my knowledge there was a greater number of students enrolled in the same course during the fall semester.

Out of all those students you would think that The Register staff would be loaded with students eager to practice their newly learned skills.

Not Hardly.

Of those students that have completed this course only one person is a member of this staff.

However, this is not a recent occurrence. The lack of student interest in the paper by communication students on this campus is as old as time itself.

Many of you are saying that print journalism is of no concern because you are pursuing careers in broadcast, production, public relations or advertising.

There, my friends, you are missing the point.

By actively participating on the staff you will have the opportunity to sharpen your writing skills by interacting with experienced student journalists and professionals.

Furthermore, this experience will greatly enhance your marketability in

all areas of communication upon graduation.

As for you print journalism students, the start of your careers are almost always dependent on how well you do on your student newspaper.

Believe it, your white counterparts are earnestly doing this at their respective universities.

They know the deal no matter what their discipline is.

Annually the ratio of print jobs available versus other communications jobs is almost four-to-one.

According to a colleague involved in the television profession, it takes a broadcast student an average of one year to gain entry in the television industry.

Also you will find that public relations firms hire a greater number of people with newspaper experience than people with any other type of experience.

So, on Wednesday and Thursday night when we are feverishly working to put out a paper and you are concerned about the lives of the Carringtons and the Huxtables or seeing who's at Side Effects, you should think about broadening your career possibilities over your competition.

You won't be sorry.

The lead column on the opinion page is written by the editor in chief of *The A&T Register*. It does not carry a byline. None of the columns on this page necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire staff.

Published weekly during the school year by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University students.

THE A&T REGISTER

To receive *The A&T Register*, send \$10.50 for one year or \$18 for two years to *The A&T Register*, Box E-25, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, N.C. 27411 to cover mailing and handling costs.

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Dorsett

(continued from page 1)

Dorsett also said she is confident that the effort by the Greensboro chapter of the NAACP to replace the at-large system of electing city school board members with a ward system will be successful.



Dorsett

In a ward system, city school board candidates would be voted on only by members of the districts, or wards, in which they run.

Under the present district system, both black candidates, the Rev. Michael King and Alma Adams, who won in the primaries in the predominant-

ly black districts last year, subsequently lost in the citywide general election to two other black candidates.

King and Adams were incumbents.

Dorsett said she hasn't considered running for a higher office — yet, but she hasn't ruled it out.

"If in the future I see a need and an opportunity to run I may, but it's too early to decide what I will do," she said.

* * *

James C. Johnson, an A&T sociology professor, ran unsuccessfully in 1984 for mayor.

"I feel that my campaign was positive because it was helpful in bringing issues pertaining to minorities to the forefront," Johnson said.

Often consulted on minority government affairs, Johnson, like Dorsett, said he sees the at-large voting system on its way out because of NAACP pressure.

"It definitely must go because there is no parity, no representation. It's like the Boston Tea Party concept," he said, referring to the colonial slogan of "no taxation without representation."

Johnson said he sees black political power being badly diminished by voter apathy.

"Many people are registered and don't vote because they look at voting as a task, like going to work," Johnson said. "They should be happy to be able to vote and should get involved to shape their own destiny."

Johnson criticized the voter registration drive spearheaded by the A&T Student Government Association last fall. He said the effort emphasized numbers rather than voter education.

Johnson added that A&T fails to use its full political power, citing a lack of involvement by students and faculty.

"We are lackadaisical about the power that we hold," Johnson said.

"I guarantee that the focus and power of A&T would change on the local and state level if we could get 3,500 votes from this campus."

"Our political power would not be ignored anymore. We have the potential."

A&T should be in position to get a greater share of community resources funneled back to the university, Johnson said.

Pleading nor begging should

be necessary for such things as funds for a new library, he added.

"There needs to be more significant involvement," Johnson said. "We're missing out on the opportunity."

* * *

Norman Jarrard, an A&T English professor, said he learned a lot during his unsuccessful campaign for a city school board seat last fall.

"I halfheartedly ran because I thought I had something to offer," he said.

"It may be two to four years before my ideas will be known again, but I will try some other way of getting them out."

Jarrard said the current district system of electing school board members is weak because there is a lack of professionals in the positions.

"The board is little more than a rubber stamp for administrative policy," Jarrard said. "There is a need for higher standards and more research in education."

Jarrard also questioned the fairness of the at-large method of voting for board members in the general election.

Alton Thompson, an A&T agricultural economics professor, was also unsuccessful

in his bid for a seat on the city school board.

Thompson was defeated during the primary election when he attempted to unseat the Rev. Michael King.

"I do plan to run again, but this time I'll start earlier and hopefully get the word out to more of the community," Thompson said.

"I plan to get involved in more decision-making organizations which concern community development."

Like the other A&T politically involved teachers interviewed, Thompson was critical of the current district system of electing city school board members because, he said, it allows voters outside of a district to determine the winner of a race within that district.

"The black community made it clear during the primary that they wanted King and Adams to represent the second and third districts, but the city as a whole did not," Thompson said.

"Our representation went through the roof during the general elections."



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ATTENTION MAY AND DEC. '87 GRADUATES

There will be an important Senior Class meeting Monday, Feb. 16 in room 214 of the Memorial Student Union at 7 p.m.

GRADUATING SENIORS planning to participate in the commencement exercise on May 3, please pay for regalia at the Cashier's Office and bring your receipt to the bookstore for your measurements to be taken. You may order your announcements at the same time. Students graduating in December, who plan to participate in the commencement should stop by the bookstore before leaving. Deadline for ordering is February 28, 1987.

GOJU-RYU KARATE is being held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10-12 noon. Dr. Casterlow is the head instructor.

Simkins

(continued from page 1)

"Anna Simkins brings a commitment to Greensboro and to the quality of local government," said City Manager William Carstarphen.

"I'm very pleased with her contributions at this point; I'm sure all of her future contributions will be worthwhile because she is such a quality individual."

Simkins, one of two blacks on the council, says she would like to focus on matters of employment and housing improvement.

"I'm very much interested in good and affordable housing and in downtown development," she said. "The center city of downtown is in my district and I'm very interested in its revitalization."

"Though the Council has its

list of priorities, these are my interests for District Two in East Greensboro."

Members of the City Council are elected from districts.

Simkins said her family urged her to apply for the seat on the Council. Although Simkins said she did not actively seek the Council seat, her first political office, she may be interested in staying in politics.

"It's proving to be interesting so far, but I have a lot of catching up to do," she said. "I'll do my best for all citizens I represent. I want to see how well I represent them in this first appointment and I still have a lot to learn."

In addition to her duties on the Council, Simkins is the coordinator of an Inter-Institutional Intern program,

a liaison with the visiting student program of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and a trustee of the Greensboro Historical with volunteer groups and I'm very impressed with her," said Mayor John Forbis. Museum.

"She is used to working through the public sector and

"Anna Simkins is really a class person," Forbis said.

"Anna Simkins is really a class person," Forbis said.

AFROTC will sponsor the Annual Blue & Gold Drill Meet Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Corbett Sports Center. The meet will consist of ROTC drill teams throughout the area. The event is free to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION will have auditions for Aggie MardiGras '87. All interested persons should pick up applications at the Student Union Information Desk or WNAA. Applications are limited. For more information contact Al Blake or Charles McCollough at 334-7820 or 334-7821.

TUTORIAL SESSIONS for the National Teacher Exam (NTE), the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and other exams (GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, MAT) will be held twice a week during the Spring semester on Mondays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Crosby Hall Rm. 201. Monday's session will be conducted by Dr. Robert Levine and Wednesday's session by Dr. SallyAnn Ferguson.

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swear in Winston-Salem and has taught at Morgan State University in Baltimore and Bennett College.

Simkins, a native of Charleston, S.C., enjoys swimming, clothing design, reading and travel.

Her husband, George, is a dentist and former president of the Greensboro chapter of the NAACP.

The Simkins' have a daughter, Jeanne Simkins-Hollis, an international lawyer with an Atlanta firm, and a son, George Simkins III, a reporter in Springfield, Massachusetts.

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ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

Aggie Sports

Williams scores 20 points, leads Aggies to win over Southern

WADE NASH
Sports Editor

Don Corbett's Aggies played up to preseason expectations this week as one of the top programs in Black College basketball by routing Southern University 78-57 in Corbett Sports Center.

The Aggies placed four players in double figures with Claude Williams, the 6-7 center, dominating inside for 20 points and 13 rebounds. Williams, who converted nine of 10 shots against Southern, leads the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference in field goal shooting with a 62.3 percent a game average.

George Cale scored 18 points while Kenny Cox and Thomas Griffis added 13 and 11, respectively.

The balanced scoring shows the versatility of the Aggies, a characteristic they need to stay at the top of the MEAC. The Aggies are tied with Howard for first place in the MEAC.

"I'm very satisfied with the way we've played this season," Corbett said the morning after the Aggies beat

Southern of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

He said he hopes the team maintains its consistent play going into the MEAC tournament.

Winning the regular season carries a first-round bye in the tournament. The Aggies have five games remaining.

"The regular season isn't that important because the tournament winner gets the automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament," Corbett said.

"If we were to get a key injury, I don't know where we'd go from there."

The Aggies have avoided injuries but they play away games at South Carolina State this weekend and at Howard and Morgan State University next weekend.

"We must win on the road in order for us to capture the regular season crown," Corbett said. "I don't think anyone else in the conference will beat Howard because they're intimidated by them."

A&T beat Howard earlier

this season in Corbett Sports Center. Three of the Aggies' four losses this season have been by a total of seven points.

Corbett credits the team's depth and flexibility as the keys to the 16-4 record.

"We've been able to match-up with people," he said. "We can play with most teams and the only thing that hurts us is our lack of height in the middle."

"We've been playing together a lot. We know each other and have confidence in each other."

If the Aggies have a problem, it's playing with intensity against all of their opponents.

"We don't have that killer instinct," Corbett said. "There is a lack of aggression I can't explain. We play up to our competition and we have a problem with concentration."

"When basketball gets to March, it's a mental game."

The MEAC tournament will be held in the Greensboro Memorial Coliseum March 5-7.

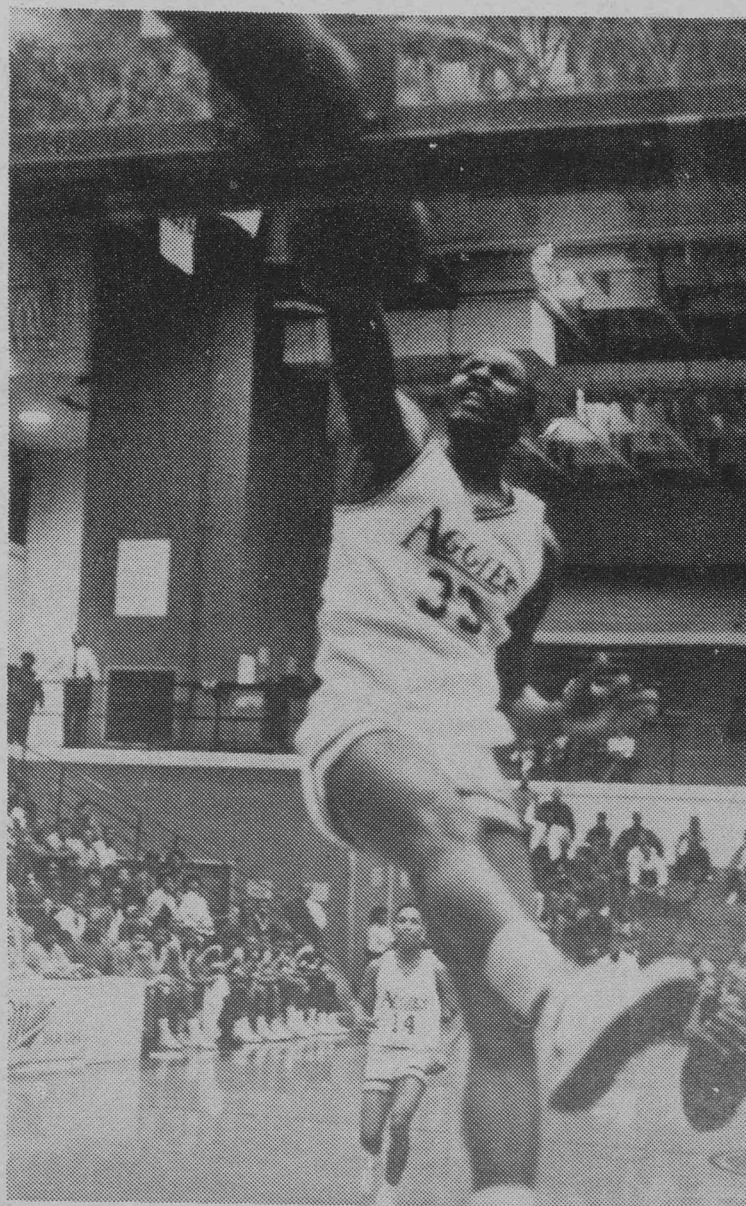


Photo by W. Nash

Claude Williams, 33, stuffs two of his 20 points as Aggies record their 16th victory.

Aggies seek first track championship

WADE NASH
Sports Editor

The Aggies have never captured a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference track championship but with four all-conference performers returning, this could be the year.

The championship will be this weekend in the "Tin Can" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Shot putter Reggie Lee, triple-jump MEAC record holder Ed Smith and long jumper Melvin Ballard are favored to capture their respective events and earn all-conference honors again.

"I expect to dominate the field events," said track coach Roy "Spaceman" Thompson, reviewing his team's performance after their first meet in Johnson City, Tenn.

"I believe we will be very competitive in the MEAC and will shock a lot of people. I think we're going to be in the top three in men and women.

"To win the MEAC, we'll have to score in as many events as we can and hope that the return of Florida A&M adds some parity so that Delaware State and South Carolina State can't lead up in each events."

Adding depth to the A&T field events will be freshman pole vaulter Charles Stewart who's already vaulted 14 feet. Shot putter Angus Jenkins and long jumper Derrick Homesley are capable of big performances also.

Thompson said he thinks his men and women's mile-relay teams are capable of taking the top honors.

"For the first time in four years, our mile relays were very competitive against Auburn, Georgia and Tennessee and those are some of the top programs in America," Thompson said.

"Even though there was inexperience, the mistakes they made can be easily corrected."

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Photo by W. Nash

Coach Roy Thompson pauses with returning all-MEAC performers. (L to R) Ed Smith, Reggie Lee, and Melvin Ballard.

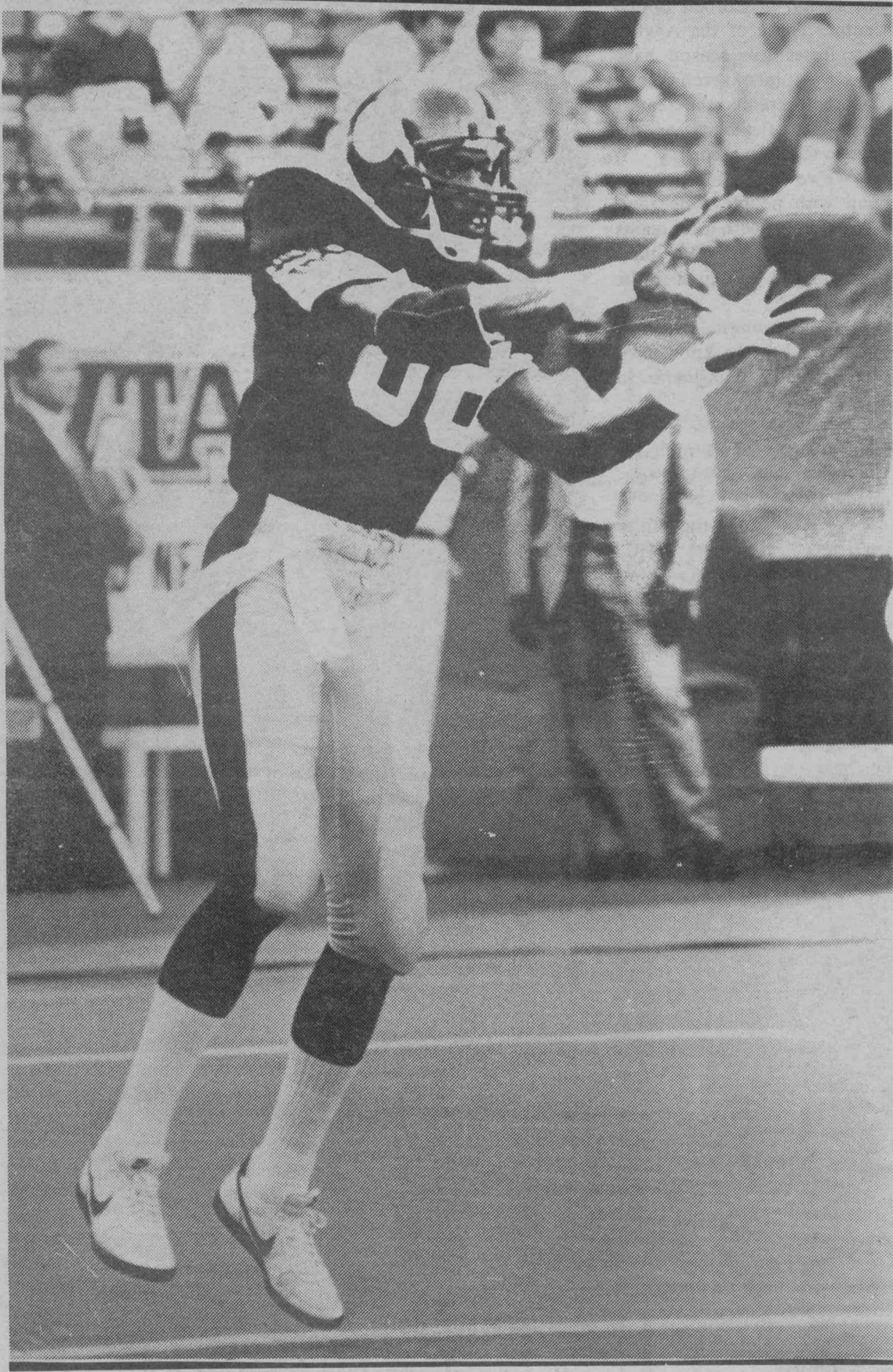
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Aggie sees dream come true with Pittsburgh Steelers



Jesse Britt, 88, catches one of his many passes while playing with the Pittsburgh Steelers last season.

LINDA BUMPASS
Editor-In-Chief

A former A&T football player has had his most important dream come true and says that it all happened because of his self-confidence.

Jesse Britt, a receiver for the Aggies in 1986, beat the odds and became a National Football League player last fall.

"I had confidence that I could make the team," said Britt, a wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers. "All I could think about when I made it was my parents for their support."

Britt said he got a chance to try out for the Steelers after A&T head football coach Mo Forte told some Steeler coaches about him.

"I was then asked to send a film to Pittsburgh," said Britt, who is back at A&T working on his degree. "After sending the film, they (the Pittsburgh coaches) said they liked what they saw and signed me as a free agent."

"When I found out I had made it, the feeling was unexplainable."

Britt said he learned that he had made the team from the local news.

"My roommate and I were watching the news in our hotel room and they showed the roster of names," Britt said.

"My roommate saw his name first and then I started getting scared because they were at number 39 and there were only 45 players."

"Then I saw my name. All I could do was fall on my knees and thank the man above for that was my biggest goal."

Earning a place on the team did come easy. Britt says he worked hard for it.

"I attended mini-camp in May 1986 which is a camp all rookies and first- and second-year players have to attend," Britt said.

"Next, I had to attend a training camp which began in July and ended the last week in August, but the last four weeks we played all preseason games."

Although confident, Britt knew that the odds were against him.

"I had everything against me because I was a free agent coming from a small black college and not too many scouts get to see you," he said.

The 6'4" 208-pound wide receiver said he was chosen from among 15 tryouts for the position.

"I think I was chosen because the type of coaching system that Pittsburgh uses is similar to the type of system I used here at A&T which made it very easy for me to catch on," said Britt, a native of Sunbury.

"I was also taller and bigger than the other wide receivers trying out."

He said the second most thrilling factor of becoming a professional football player was being given jersey No. 88, the number of retired Pittsburgh Steeler Lynn Swann who is now a broadcaster for ABC Sports.

"When I went to my locker and saw whose number I had, I was shocked because I thought that they had retired his jersey because no one had worn it since he retired," Britt said.

According to Britt, his best game ever was when he played against the Dallas Cowboys in a preseason game. He caught six passes and helped the Steelers to a 40-28 defeat of the Cowboys.

Britt says he has a three-year contract with the Steelers which includes an option year in which the coaches will evaluate him and determine if he should remain with the team.

Although he did receive Most Valuable Player honors while playing with the Aggies, Britt never made the MEAC all-conference team. That made him determined to make the Steelers, he said.

His advice to A&T football players is that they should take advantage of their opportunities. He warns that there are no shortcuts to success.

MEAC

(continued from page 7)

Curtis Parton, Homesley, Ernest Canada and Melvin Ballard ran a 3:22 mile relay. Thompson said their problems were taking off after the exchange and slowing down at

the baton exchange.

The women's mile-relay team turned in a 3:56 and Thompson hopes Ruth Morrison, Lisa Dobbs, Joanel Kellman and Shonda James

can capture the top honors in Chapel Hill.

"The key to us really having success is getting somebody to qualify in the men and women's 60-yard dash and for

Ivan Mosely and Revoun Hooker in the two-mile and mile, respectively," Thompson said.

"We're using indoors for a

building block for outdoors but we're ahead of the game. With proper conditioning they have the potential to qualify for the nationals this summer."