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# THE A&T REGISTER

"The Light of the University"

Volume LIX Number 16

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY, GREENSBORO

Friday, February 26, 1988



Haley

## Alumnus Stresses Importance of Political Involvement

LaVonne McIver  
Staff Writer

1988 represents the best of times and the worst of times for black Americans, said 11th District New York Congressman, Adolphus Townes.

The Congressman spoke Thursday at a Black History Month program in the Memorial Student Union.

According to Townes more blacks are holding public offices and entering colleges in the country but drugs are rampant on the streets and the high school drop out rate among black youth is increasing.

Townes said that for some, America remains a land of hunger and for others a land of plenty.

One of the most effective tools that blacks can use to affect change is participation in the political process, Townes said.

"Politics determine where you are born, work and where you die," Townes said.

He said that not being politically involved allows others to make decisions for you.

"There is power in the vote. We must elect candidates who are sensitive and ask what will you do for us and if they have been in office already, we must ask what have you done for me lately?" he said.

Townes said blacks must remember their history,

celebrate their achievements but not become complacent.

"What if we had gotten comfortable in the 1960's? Thank God we did not get comfortable," he said.

According to Townes, Black History Month is very special simply because it is celebrated for a month now instead of a day.

"We need Black History 365 days a year, and if it's a leap year, 366," he said.

Townes said, students should be confident and should not let anyone talk them out of being successful.

"If America shows you a Donald Trump, you show them a Will Parker," he said.

Townes, a graduate of A&T said he was glad to be back at A&T.

"A&T is on the move and has changed a great deal," he said.

## Haley Recounts the Making of "Roots"

Shermonica Scott and

Sherry Rogers  
Staff Writers

Dr. Alex Haley, the renowned lecturer and author of the best selling novel, "Roots", spoke to a packed Harrison Auditorium Wednesday during a Black History Month Program sponsored by the SGA.

Haley, whose historical saga, "Roots," later became the most watched mini-series in the history of TV, gave a recount of his boyhood.

According to Haley, his biggest hero was his grandfather Will Palmer.

"Grandparents sprinkle star dust over your lives when you're a little child," Haley said.

Haley, who's grandfather died when he was five years old, said his grandparent's past was very special to him.

"I remember vividly the death of my grandfather," Haley said.

According to Haley, Oral history, which is the oldest form of history intelligence, is

how he learned the history of his ancestry.

"A custom became a Practice," Haley said.

According to Haley, whenever a new generation was born, the father would gather the children together and tell the ancestry and story of "Roots".

While Haley's father, Simon Haley, was a graduate from what later became A&T, Haley said that he did not do well academically in school.

"I was in school but I was not a good student," Haley said.

It was for this reason, according to Haley, that he went into the Coast Guard.

Haley said that while in the Coast Guard, he wrote letters to the faculty at his father's college and would receive about 30 to 35 letters in return.

His fellow shipmates, who received much less mail, noticed this and asked him to write letters to girls they were interested in, Haley said.

According to Haley, his let-

ter clients started him on the long road to writing.

Haley wrote his first book, "The Autobiography of Malcom X," which was published in 1965.

According to Haley, he did not know what to do with himself after the autobiography was completed so he performed odd writing jobs until he started researching "Roots."

In September of 1976 "Roots" was published and in January of 1977 the film was shown.

Haley stressed that the answers to the prayers of ancestors were seated in the auditorium.

"We are incredible answers to the prayers of our ancestors -- how could they have fantasized the level of intelligence in this audience," Haley said.

Freshman Accountant Major Tammy Parker learned a lot from the lecture.

"I learned basically how important it is to appreciate your grandparents and all your ancestors," Parker said.

## Mother Futhers Career With Scholarship to A&T

An A&T State University student and mother of three, has won a \$25,000 scholarship in a Black History Month contest sponsored by Coca Cola USA.

Arlene K. Cunningham, who has enrolled at the university as a chemistry major, said she submitted at least 50 entries in the contest.

Her scholarship is being administered through the National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington.

The contest was entitled the "Share the Dreams Sweepstakes" and persons entering the contest simply had to submit their name on a 3x5 index card, according to Cunningham.

Cunningham, who had lived in Buffalo, New York and attended Erie Community College in Buffalo, later earned a two-year degree in human services from the Jamestown Community College, in Jamestown, N.Y. in 1977.

She said while in Buffalo, she worked for Cummings Engineering, and as a metallurgical laboratory technician.

"Since I was nine years old," she said, "I have been fascinated with chemistry."

When Cunningham obtained the scholarship, she said she quit her job in Buffalo and enrolled at A&T.

"The first thing I did," she added, "was to pay my rent in advance."

# Campus News

## Flu Epidemic Runs Rampant

Shermonica Scott  
Associate News Editor

The number of students with flu symptom reporting to A&T Sebastian Health Center has dropped from about 30 a day to 10, according to Dr. Charles Frazier, the University Physician.

The epidemic, a Type A Influenza, started in the middle of last week.

The symptoms of influenza include chills, muscle aches and pains, fever, coughing and nausea.

Treatment for the flu consists of amantadine, an antiviral agent prescribed in the early stages of the flu, Tylenol for the aches and pains, a decongestant to relieve the congestion and a cough medicine, Frazier said.

According to Frazier, the flu usually lasts about two or three days and is not an isolated occurrence.

"There is evidence that it's been all over the city," Frazier said.

While many students have reported to the infirmary with flu symptoms, none has had to seek outside medical attention.

"No students have been referred to Moses Cone or L. Richardson for the flu," Frazier said.

He said students who missed classes because of the flu were given excuses.

Some students with flu symptoms have not gone to the infirmary.

Sophomore English Education Major Lavonda Jackson said she had flu symptoms for about a week.

"I had a sore throat, coughing, runny nose and a headache but I haven't been to the infirmary because I feel they are ineffective in their treatment," Jackson said.

## Islam is Alternative for Some Blacks

J.R. Williams  
News Editor

It is ironic that during the civil rights movement, which was supported by the black church, many blacks inclined their ears, focused their vision and opened their hearts to what they believed to be the message of Islam, according to an expert who spoke on the subject in the student union Sunday.

The Rev. Vann D. Battle, who is an ordained Christian minister, said that the emergence of Al-Islam in the American society provided blacks with an alternative.

"The initial emphasis of Al-Islam in America had to do with bare survival and, as I see it, this has continued as their basic motivation through the years," said Battle.

"It's leadership had taught individual men and women, most of whom were on the lower steps of the ladder of society, how to survive."

Al-Islam in America, which originated in the black ghettos of Detroit, was founded in 1930 by W.D. Fard Muhammad. The contents of Muhammad's message, according to Battle, were magic, mystery, self-respect and the teachings of Islam.

After Fard's mysterious disappearance, Elijah Muhammad took over as the leader of Al-Islam.

"Fard's successor saw in the Nation of Islam the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new movement that was being established," said Battle.

"Elijah Muhammad sought to redirect his organization

with a new emphasis from the magical and mysterious to the rational and pragmatic."

Elijah Muhammad continued to serve as the leader of the Nation of Islam until his death in February 1975.

Louis Farrakhan, who was the national representative of Elijah Muhammad, is a strong opponent of Imam Muhammad, son and successor to Elijah Muhammad.

"The basis of the conflict is seen in the fact that Imam Muhammad concurs with Malcolm X's evaluation of Nation of Islam as being a "strait jacket" in so far as some of her historical perspectives are concerned," Battle said.

"He (Iman Muhammad) wants his people to survive, not barely, but as true Muslims.

## Student Stresses Concern about Limited Opportunities

This letter to the editor concerns a recent visit to the University Placement Center, and my observation at Career Day last fall.

While looking through the recruitment bulletin of interviews for the first half of the month of February, I noticed an abundance of scheduled appearances for technical and accounting majors, but only two positions for disciplines in the School of the Arts and Sciences.

The only jobs I was qualified for, according to that recruitment bulletin, was that of a police officer or an employee of Kroger stores.

After four years of college, I would hope that I have earned a more marketable degree than one that qualifies me only as a police officer or an employee in a grocery store.

While I realized that A&T stands for Agricultural and Technical, there are a

number of students on this campus are not math, science, or engineering majors and wouldn't be offended if we could possibly be recruited for future employment also!

If there is any doubt about the validity of this letter, just venture through our beautiful campus to Murphy Hall Room 101 and leaf through current issue of "N.C. A&T's Placement Manual Spring 1988" and count the number of positions available for non-technical majors.

I'm sure Mr. Leon Warren and his staff are doing the best job possible and, if so, he should be commended. But those of us in majors that aren't technologically related would like to see more recruitment in our fields from companies seeking career-minded employees.

Micah R. Dixon  
Speech and Theatre Arts  
Senior



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# News

## Students Get Caught Red-Handed: Cited for Stealing Newspapers

Mark Ausbrooks  
Special to the Register

Twenty-six A&T students have received citations from campus police this month charging them with taking newspapers from racks.

"The Greensboro News and Record had complained about the problem of losing papers for quite some time," according to A&T Chief of Police John O. Williams.

"Since the problem was on our jurisdiction we had to solve it."

Campus police initiated an investigation and found that on an average day three to five people steal two to four papers a piece, Williams said.

"The problem is much greater than I ever expected," Williams said.

"Newspaper vendors usually expect to lose 5 percent of the papers they distribute in bins. However they were receiving a 50 percent to 60 percent lost."

Under state law a bin is the vendor's property. If an in-

dividual takes that property without proper compensation it is stealing, Williams said.

"It is a crime to take more than one newspaper and you will have petty larceny on your permanent record," Williams said.

A copy of the Greensboro News and Record costs 25 cents. Sunday issues cost \$1.

Persons found guilty of stealing newspapers must pay a \$40 fine and \$36 in court costs.

## Black Vote Represents 11% of Nation in '88

The number of voting age Blacks is expected to total 20.4 million in November 1988, or 11 percent of the national total, according to Census Bureau projections.

Blacks will represent 17 percent of the voting age population in the South, 10 percent in the Northeast, 9 percent in the Midwest, and 5 percent in the West.

About half of voting age Blacks are expected to be living in the South, compared with 20 percent in both the Northeast and Midwest, and

10 percent in the West.

About 65 percent of the District of Columbia's voting age population will be Black, according to the projections. The largest Black proportions among states are expected to be in Mississippi (31 percent), Louisiana and South Carolina (27 percent), Alabama (23 percent), and North Carolina (20 percent).

The projections are based on the resident population, including armed forces stationed in the states, and exclude all persons living overseas.

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# Viewpoint

## Influence



**Shermonica Scott**  
Associate News Editor

It is impossible for me to write about the one black American that has influenced me the most since many people including members of my family as well as close friends have had an impact on my life in some way.

I think the most obvious of black Americans to have had a definite influence on my life is my mother. She was the first one to nurture me, to instill in me that "can do" spirit and to help me see myself as a person of unlimited potential.

I think the one thing I really value the most about her is that she is so honest with me and I know that when I get on the "wrong track" (which is more often than not) she will gently but firmly get me back on course.

Now, my grandmother took over where my mother left off. She has

always prided herself on being independent and she has emphasized that to me by always saying "don't depend on anyone, God bless the child that's got his own."

She taught me that it was alright for me to have a mind of my own and not to be bullied into going along with the crowd just because it was the easier or more popular thing to do.

She planted the seeds of not letting other people determine the way I live my life and I value that. I am very thankful for all that she has done and continues to do for me.

I have only mentioned two of the people that have influenced me.

I could go on forever because so many people have provided me with a foundation of love, support, and understanding that I can only try to build on it.

## Thanks!

**Ursula Wright**  
Managing Editor

When asked which Black Americans have influenced my life the most, there was no doubt in my mind. No two people have effected my life more than my parents, Hampton and Amanda Wright.

Like any typical kid, I thought my parents were a drag. They made us go to church every Sunday, we had to be inside before it got too dark and we were continuously pestered about making good grades.

Parents were all the same to me until I was old enough to realize that mine were somewhat different from the other neighborhood parents. My parents were always trying to help people.

Whenever someone needed something, they were always willing to help financially and otherwise. They gave amply to needy causes and needy people when I always thought that we were the ones needing.

They always encouraged us to have kind words and to share what we had with other neighborhood kids, this was especially hard for me because often times people didn't give us the same treatment in return.

When things were looking bleak and I thought my world was coming to an end, they would say, "no matter how bad things seem to be there is always someone out there who is in a worse situation." At the time this provided little consolation but later I learned that this was a positive way of looking at any situation.

When time came for me to enter college, they sacrificed heavily to see that I had everything that I needed. Once, when I returned home, I couldn't believe how much they had cut back. I can remember fussing at my mom for carrying a pocketbook that looked like she paid \$2.98 for it at the flea market.

To this day, I have something that the majority of my friends don't have and that is a mother and a father, who have supported me through every bright idea that I have had and every not-so-bright idea that I would like to forget.

I couldn't express how much they mean to me or how much they have given to me. I can only say that without them I would not have the motivation to achieve my goals or the courage it takes to stick it out through the rough times. Thanks mom and dad.

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.

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# Forum

## Historians Reduce Misconceptions about Black History

"History is written by the winners."--Alex Haley

When Harvard graduate Carter G. Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, he had an enormous undertaking; to fill the void of the Black man's omission in the "White man's world" and in history books. What a task!

The observance of Negro History Week was established in 1926 and was expanded from a week to a month in 1970. Similarly, there has been an expansion of

awareness of the Black man's impressive role in society through the ages. This expansion of awareness can be seen through the numerous activities on this campus during the month of February, or heard on WQMG (Power 97) or WGHP (TV 8). Also it can be noticed through visits to the African Heritage Center on campus or in the availability of courses offered by the University on Blacks in such areas as history and literature.

Generally, the void still remains due to the long length

of omission of Blacks in history and because of the remaining apathetic views of the importance of Black History shared, not only by whites, but by far too many Blacks as well.

Really, how prone is the general populous to taking Afro-American History over standardized American History or World Civilization?

More Afro-American and African History should be taught in the schools at all levels, not only to get the full historical picture, but to

reduce misconceptions, stereotypes, and prejudices, while increasing the inspirations and spirit of Blacks which such knowledge could provide.

History is often the product of some hero's or heroine's perception of it. However, thanks to such historians as Lola Johnson, John H. Franklin, Woodson and others, we now can read about such omitted winners as Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, Denmark Vesey, Sojourner Truth, Mary S. Peake, Cleopatra, Sonni Ali,

Askia Mohammed, and numerous others.

Therefore, my fellow Aggies, I encourage you to go to the library and read as much as you possibly can, for as U. S. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. once said, "There is no future for a people who deny their past."

**Jimmy Williams II**  
President of Alpha Lambda Delta

## Garrett Morgan: A Historical Portrait of Black Excellence

**Brian Scott**

### Special to the Register

Garrett A. Morgan was an exceptional black inventor who made great contributions to the field of science and to society.

Morgan was born in Paris, Ky. on March 4, 1877. His highest level of formal education was elementary school.

After leaving home at an early age to find work, Morgan ended up in Cleveland where he taught himself how to repair sewing machines. By 1907, Morgan owned his own sewing machine repair shop.

Due to the success of his repair shop, Morgan decided

to open a tailoring shop in 1909.

It was in this shop that he made his first invention while experimenting with a chemical solution he developed. He had hoped to find a way to reduce friction between the sewing machine needle and the material, but he accidentally wiped the solution on a piece of wiry pony-fur cloth.

Later he noticed that the wiry fuzz of the cloth was straight. He then tried the solution on the fur of a dog, and the dog's fur became straight too.

Morgan then tried it on his own hair, and the first

human-hair straightener was born.

In 1912, Morgan invented a safety hood, later called the gas mask. Placed over the head, the hood was connected to a tube designed to keep the occupant out of the reach of gas fumes, dust, or smoke.

The invention was intended for firemen who entered smoke-filled houses.

The hood had its first major test on July 24, 1916. There was an explosion in a Cleveland water works tunnel 250 feet below Lake Erie which left many men trapped. Morgan and his brother, Frank, were called to rescue the men.

Wearing the hoods, the two went into the tunnel and rescued all of the men who were trapped. The hood was improved and was later used by the US Army during World War I.

Morgan made many other contributions to society, but his most prominent contribution came as a result of his concern about safety hazards on the streets due to the growing number of automobile use at that time.

To aid in traffic safety, Morgan invented and patented the electric-light signal, or traffic light, in 1923 to regulate traffic at intersec-

tions.

There was widespread demand for this invention in not only the US, but Canada and Britain. Morgan eventually sold the rights to his traffic signal to the General Electric Corporation for \$40,000.

In 1943, Morgan developed glaucoma and lost 90 percent of his vision, but remained active in organizations such as the NAACP until his death in 1963 at the age of 86. Garrett A. Morgan, a virtually unknown contributor to Black History.

**GARRETT A. MORGAN:**  
Someone You Should Know About.

Register Camera Corner  
by Talmadge Sullivan

## What famous Black American do you most admire?



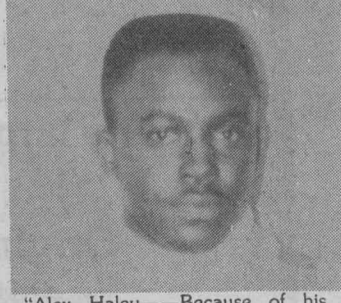
"I admire Shirley Caesar, a gospel singer that's out to win souls. A lot of gospel singers are turning to contemporary music, but she is still singing for the Lord."

**Donna Wood**  
freshman



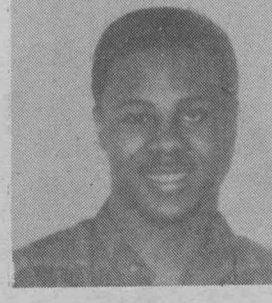
"Martin Luther King Jr.—At an early age he saw the need for not just for blacks, but for everyone to be treated equal and he gave his life for that."

**Michelle Parker**  
sophomore



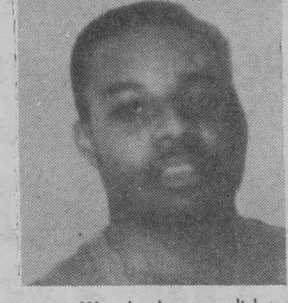
"Alex Haley—Because of his literary talents and the way he makes the reader aware of emotions which he expresses that are so close to reality that anyone who reads it can relate to the situations no matter what race."

**Wilbur Fike**  
senior



"Bill Cosby— He is a good role model for today's black family and his realistic portrayal of the black middle class inspires young blacks."

**Hank Dozier**  
junior



"Stevie Wonder's accomplishments are indeed remarkable. I admire him because of what he has done for the music industry and the black culture, his handicap makes him an inspiration to all people."

**Edgar Zimmerman**  
freshman

# Entertainment

## A&T Student Wins Irene Ryan Scholarship

Marcelyn Blakely  
Entertainment Editor

"It's my turn," said Mary L. Grimes, winner of the Irene Ryan Scholarship sponsored by the American College Theatre Festival held Feb. 10 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Grimes said she became interested in acting when a friend invited her to a reading of a play at the National Association of Speech and Dramatic Arts in Chicago in 1983.

It was at that event that Dr. H.D. Flowers, director of A&T's Paul Robeson Theatre, discovered Grimes and offered her a scholarship to

A&T in the fall of 1985.

She was enrolled in South Western Junior College in her native Los Angeles at the time.

Grimes accepted the scholarship and came to A&T where she joined the Richard B. Harrison Players under the direction of Flowers.

She describes Flowers as her mentor.

"Without him I would never have had the confidence or the training to receive such an award," Grimes said. "I will never forget him. He is a theatrical genius."

The competition for the Ryan award lasted two days.

Grimes beat out 11 other finalists. Her winning performance was a monologue from "Tick," a play written by Olivarene Thompson from Los Angeles.

Grimes and Junious Leak, another member of the Players, did a scene from "Pearly Victorious" by Ossie Davis.

"I just couldn't believe that all this was happening to me," she said. "I was totally shocked."

"I didn't think I was going to win but now that I have won I feel like I have made an

accomplishment. Richard Thomas, who was one of the judges, told me 'your work really moved me.' I was very honored because I've always respected and honored his work. That made me feel good."

In April, Grimes will compete at the Kennedy Center in Washington against 12 regional finalists from all over the United States. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Grimes said that during her spare time she listens to a lot of classical Greek plays and records.

"I like to study the culture of the Greek era because I find it so fascinating," she said. "A lot of plays today are written with the same tone like the Greek tragedies and at that time actors had to be of superior quality because the acting carried the plays."

Grimes said she plans to attend graduate school at Yale University or Michigan State University.


Grimes has received many outstanding awards for her performances such as best supporting actress for her portrayal of "Miss Lydia."



Grimes

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# Aggie Sports

★ Paula's ★  
★ Rap Up ★  
★ ★

Paula A. Hamilton  
Sports Editor

As the end of another basketball season draws near, Aggie men's and women's fans can once again applaud their teams on jobs well done.

Both teams won games this past week over Howard University and Morgan State.

Both teams also spent the season at the top of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference standings. And both will undoubtedly win MEAC tournament titles this year.

But what will happen from there? Of course, the men will advance to the NCAA tournament. But if they do not win the first round, what will become of the hardwork spent topping the MEAC?

And as for the women, they will drift out until next season when they will be known simply as the defending 1988 MEAC champions.

It is time for more recognition to be given to black college basketball teams. It is time that more black teams be allowed to play in the NCAA tournament.

Motivation should be given by tournament fans to those thought of as underdog teams like A&T. It seems that A&T's placement in the tournament is taken lightly by those other than fans of the school.

By no means do I dare suggest that A&T, or any other black college for that matter, be coddled or pampered for making it to the NCAA. It was hardwork that got them there, and hardwork will determine their outcome.

But with the many people who don't think black teams stand a chance in the tournament, there is hardly the motivational incentive needed to succeed.

Any team that has the ability to capture a conference title, whether it is from the Atlantic Coast Conference or the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association or the MEAC, has accomplished an outstanding feat.

It is time that people begin to accept schools such as A&T as not just outstanding black college basketball teams but as outstanding teams that just happen to come from black colleges.

## Quick Thinking Keeps Davis Ahead of Game

Blake H. Dye

Special to the Register

With the score tied and just 10 seconds left in the game against Winston-Salem State University, Corvin Davis stole the ball as a Winston-Salem player was driving across the foul lane for a game-winning basket.

"When I got half-court and looked at the clock, it only had three seconds," Davis remembered. "So I just shot the ball.

"I had no idea it was going in the basket, only because I was leaning forward and fell to the ground. When I looked up I saw the ball go right through the net. I watched the crowd come out of the stands and pile on top of me.

"That only happens once in a lifetime. That was the big-

gest shot of my career."

Davis, a junior shooting guard for the Aggies, stands at only 5'10". He is shorter than the average player but makes up for it with his quick thinking on the court and his knowledge of the game.

He began learning the game at 10 years old when his three older brothers introduced him to it. It was his brothers, along with many of his neighbors, who gave him the inspiration to master the sport, he said.

Davis looks back now and feels that playing with larger counterparts helped to make him a stronger and harder player.

By his senior year in high school, Davis said he realized it was time to leave his small town of Laurel Hill and learn

more about life and the world of basketball.

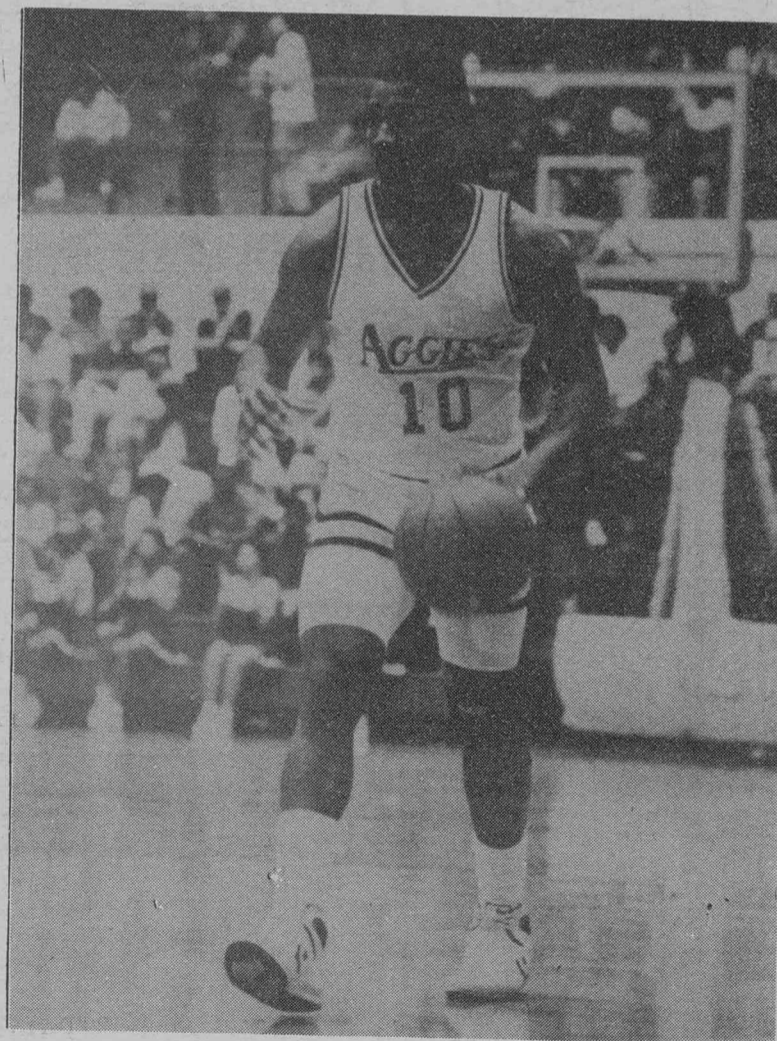
When he looked at the prestigious alumni, great academics and excellent Division I program, he said he knew that A&T was the only teacher for him.

While attending A&T, Davis set two major goals. One was to be the best possible basketball player he could. The second was to graduate on time next year.

His major is communications with a concentration in broadcast production. He says he would like to become a sportscaster or television announcer.

He said he would love the opportunity to play professional basketball, but if he doesn't make it he might join the Air Force to satisfy his urge to see the world.

**Aggies  
in  
Action  
vs.  
South Carolina  
State Bulldogs  
8 p.m.  
Corbett Center**



Davis

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