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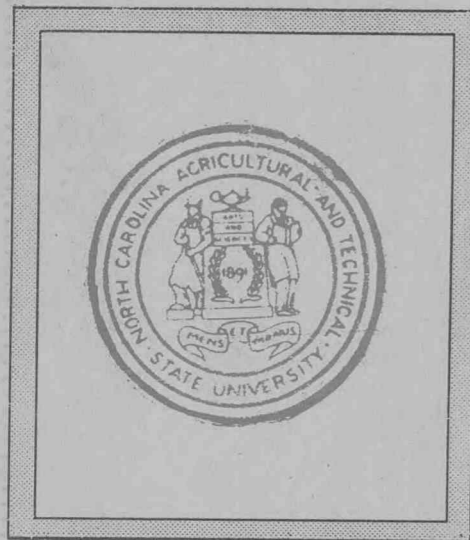
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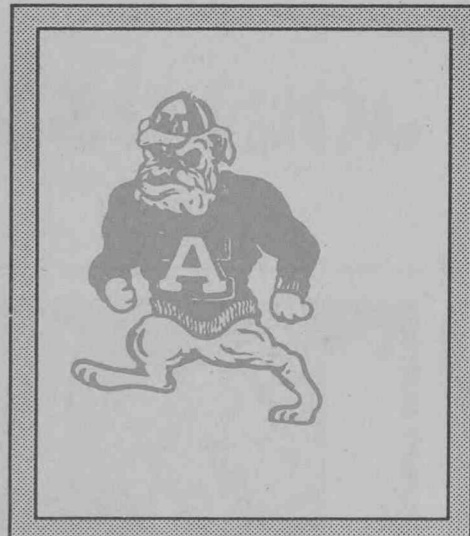
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THE A&T REGISTER

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Greensboro, North Carolina 27411

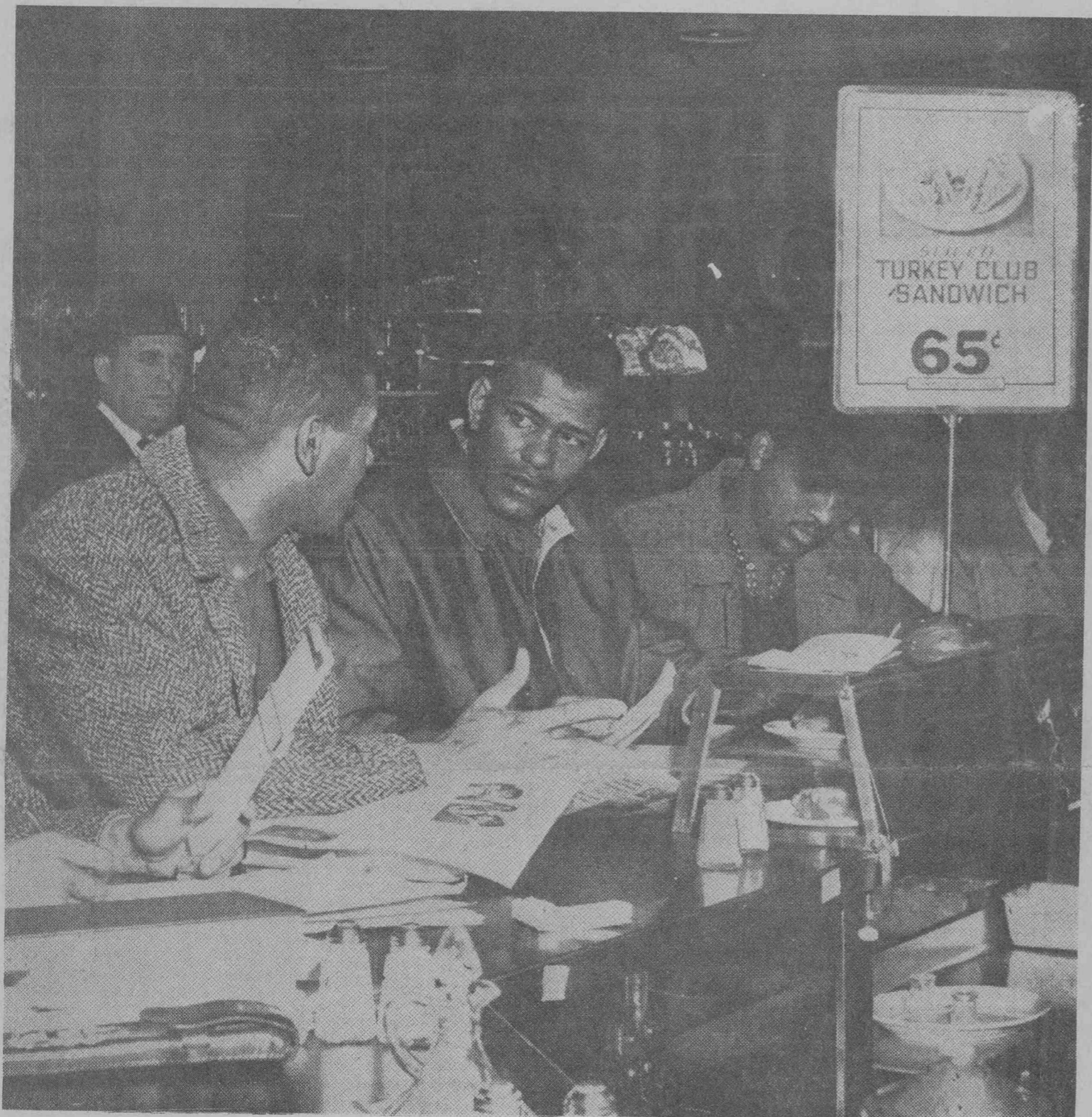


Volume 68 Number 6

Black History Month Edition No. 1

5 FEBRUARY 1993

Aggie remembers King and his legacy



Students from A&T College began, February 1, 1960, what they called a "passive sitdown demand" at Woolworth's downtown five and dime store in Greensboro. The "sitdown" sparked a mass "sitdown" movement throughout the south. This photo is a reprint from a February 5, 1960 issue.

by Deboria Bell
Staff Reporter

When he thinks about his former college classmate Martin Luther King, Jr., says Wayman McLaughlin, a philosophy and humanities professor at N.C. A&T since 1967, "even to this day I grieve his passing."

"Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. was one of the finest persons with one of the most incisive minds that I have ever known," observes McLaughlin.

Born in Danville, Va., McLaughlin received his Ph.D. from Boston University, majoring in metaphysics and with a minor in the history of philosophy.

"I was the second black to receive a Ph.D. in my field," he says. "I worked my way through school. I received forty dollars in student aid during the entire time in school."

Rev. King even officiated at McLaughlin's marriage to his wife, Zenobia. The couple have five daughters and one son.

McLaughlin speculates on how King would view today's "almost obsessional search of young African-Americans for their identity."

King would say, McLaughlin believes, that "this quest is a positive search for the truth inherent in the need for a larger self. As on the belly of the lizard on the rock, there is dust from long, long ago.

"So, too, this quest of our

young people reflects the need for a new historical frame of reference, rooted in a more total, objective understanding of the past," McLaughlin imagines King saying. "Cultural diversity is not the solution, since it over-emphasizes differences. Multi-culturalism is not the answer, as it spotlights many cultures with one being superior. Cultural pluralism is a more coherent view. It maintains unity amid differences."

Despite higher minority visibility in the economic, social and political arena, McLaughlin says that King would not believe that African-Americans have reached the "promised land."

While certain blacks, particularly athletes and entertainers, have achieved "visibility in the circles of the majority," King would view an individual such as these as "not more than a principle-less puppet, a powerless robot, or a high-tech Uncle Tom," McLaughlin says.

Referring to the fact that "our young (black) people are dying like flies on the streets," McLaughlin says he takes some hope from the words of African-American poet Langston Hughes: "Hold fast to dreams/for when dreams die/Life is like a broken wing/bird that cannot fly."

If King were to redefine the American dream today, McLaughlin concludes, he would tell listeners that "the dream is that the Fatherhood of God implies the brotherhood of man."

McCullum reflects on years at A&T

by Tara Bennett
Staff Reporter

"Blacks have come a long way since the Sixties," said N.C. A&T mathematics instructor Cardoza McCollum, "when we had to sit in the balcony at the movie theaters, ride on the back seats of buses and eat out of the backs of white-owned restaurants."

McCullum, a native of Durham, N.C. with a bachelor of science degree in math from A&T, said that he has seen diverse changes in the student body during his 39

years at the university.

Black students in general tended to stick to their own communities and colleges more frequently 25 years ago than today, he observed. "Before desegregation, all black students attended the same college. Today, many African-American students attend predominantly white universities as well as historically black universities."

McCullum said he believes that educated African-Americans are receiving higher pay and better job opportunities, which are advancements due to the civil rights movement.

"Today," he said, "more blacks are finishing college, which better equips them with skills not available 25 years ago."

A&T plays a vital role and fulfills an important responsibility in preparing its students for the world after graduation, said McCollum.

"North Carolina A&T offers excellent programs in business and engineering," he said. "The school has helped numerous African-Americans prepare for the stringent job markets they face."

The advancement of African-

Americans in the United States is due to leaders such as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X and Langston Hughes, McCollum said.

He said he believes that young black Americans would like to follow the pacifist teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. to solve the social and economic problems facing African-Americans, but that youth are more apt to be attracted to the fiery, aggressive, charismatic style of Malcolm X.

McCullum said he vividly remembers how A&T students of the past participated in the sit-in movements in Greensboro and other activities to help fight segregation.

Graduating A&T students will be well-prepared for the future and will be productive members of society, he noted.

"The bright, intelligent and talented students attending our world-class university is the key to keeping me motivated," McCollum added, urging students to "try to be the best at whatever you do; strive to stay on top."

SGA stresses Black Studies

by Towanna Dickens
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association will continue its push for mandatory African-American studies this semester by adopting "Black Studies" as the theme that it has chosen to emphasize during February, Black History Month.

"The series of programs scheduled are for the enjoyment and entertainment of the student body," said SGA President Erica Smith.

The various activities range from an observance of the anniversary of the lunch counter sit-in of the "Greensboro Four" to having an African-American Family Feud. "We hope everyone is enlightened and that's what we're pushing to do," said Smith.

Deidre Wilson, an agricultural education student, said, "I feel the SGA has done a good job of planning activities for 'Black Studies Month' and we need to support them more, as well as to continue these activities not only in February, but every month as well."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

•All Black Day
(Wear all black to show your support for black studies, and the Greensboro Four observance)

•Celebrate the Greensboro Four at 7:30 a.m. at the Woolworth breakfast, and 1:00 p.m. on the front steps of the Union, and at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel A.M.E. (200 Riggins St.)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

•Heritage Display Program with the E.Gwynn Dancers, Richard B. Harrison Players and Jazz Ensemble & Reception

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

•Speaker Professor Griff formally of Public Enemy in Harrison at 7:00 p.m. Reception following

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

•African-American Family Feud at 6:00 in the Ballroom

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

•Attorney Thomas Todd in Harrison at 7:00 p.m. "Combating the Injustices of Racism and Violence in Our Community"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

•Dinner Theater in Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. featuring Special Guest

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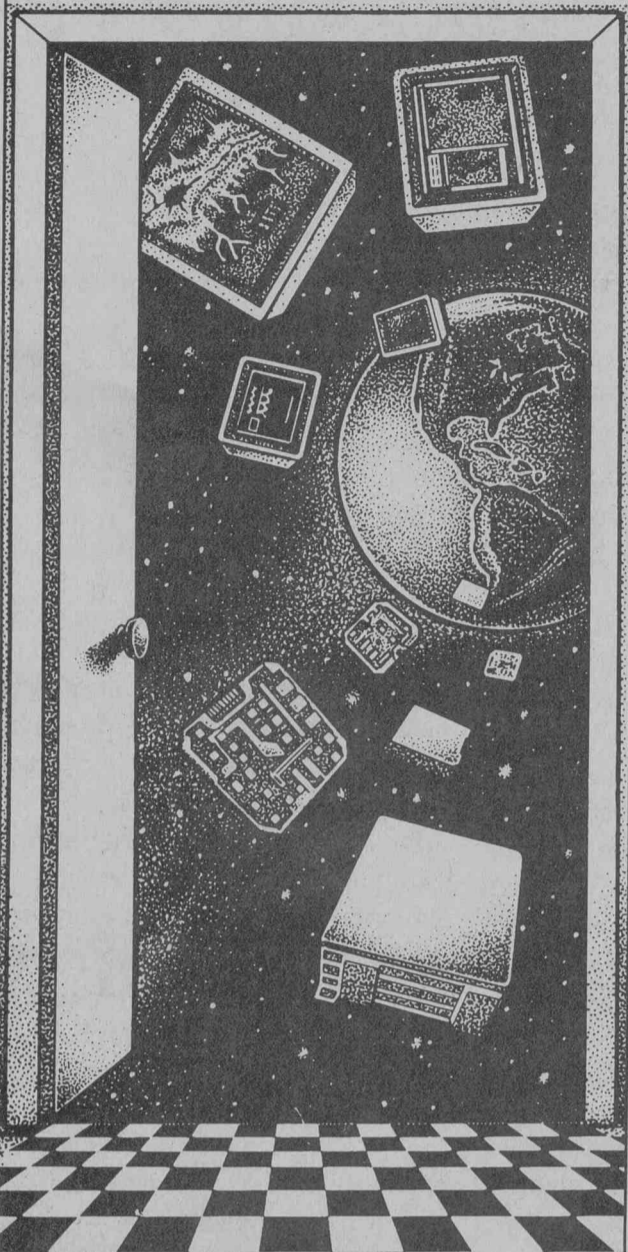
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CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Out and About



Aggies take advantage of a sunny day in front of Brown Hall

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving

Designated Giving
1991-92 Annual Giving Campaign

School of Nursing	\$5,000.00	Gospel Choir	600.00
Athletics-Golf	500.00	Building & Grounds (Alumni Office-Blinds)	25.00
Football	2,000.00	Radio (WNAA)	750.00
University Choir	375.00	Industrial Technology-Manufacturing	500.00
School of Business & Economic s	850.00	Speech & Theatre Department	250.00
Business Administration	250.00	Athletic Department	250.00
Business Education	350.00	Child Development Lab	300.00
University Band	625.00	Home Economic Department	100.00
Accounting	25.00	Sociology Department	50.00
School of Engineering	925.00	Architectural Engineering	600.00
School of Agriculture	100.00	Art Department	300.00
Basketball	500.00	Athletic Rings	111.00
School of Technology	4,500.00	Field House	8,850.00
TOTAL	\$28,686.00		

1992- A year in review

by Renee Nixon
Arts Reporter

With Oscar time fast approaching, this is a good time to look back at the top contenders from 1992. As a typical college student attempting to stretch her funds as far as possible, I rate movies base on whether I felt the movie was worth the money. My rating system for this column is:

- Full Price — Great
- Matinee — Good
- \$1 House — Okay
- Rent — Bad
- Cable — Horrible

My top ten movies of 1992 are:

1. Malcolm X (R) — Full Price

"Malcolm X" was the only movie this year that was worth full price. By far, it is Spike Lee's best movie. Lee's directing and writing have greatly improved. Any time that an artist makes a movie that makes men cry (or get misty-eyed), that movie is a ten in my book.

2. Boomerang (R) — Matinee

"Boomerang" was a nice change for Hollywood and Eddie Murphy. Finally, a movie about relationships and love with black actors as stars and not race as the star. As for Eddie, he was playing an intelligent businessman and not some smart-mouth slapstick guy. More movies like "Boomerang" should be made. (Hint, Hint, Spike).

3. Sister Act (PG) — Matinee

Who would have thought we'd see Whoopi Goldberg playing a role written for

Bette Midler. And play it Whoopi did! "Sister Act" was a funny movie that gave new respect for the church choir. My only problem with the movie was that Whoopi's character and the police officer — played by Bill Nunn — didn't fall in love. Whoopi, it's way past time you fell for a black man in your movies!

4. Aladdin (G) — Matinee
Cartoons just don't get any better than this. "Aladdin" is for anyone who loves romance and cartoons: a story about a beautiful, spirited girl and a handsome and heroic boy who are both people of color. As soon as it comes to video, see it. It's going to be a Disney classic.

A Critical Thought

5. A League of Their Own (PG) — Matinee

This was a great movie about women relating with other women. And if nothing else, it shows that women can play baseball as hard as the big boys and still be feminine.

6. Basic Instinct (R) — Matinee

Sex, sex, sex — oh — and more sex. "Basic Instinct" was a good murder mystery that had you guessing up until the end. Actually, some people are still debating the movie. There will be many copies of this movie, but the original will never be topped.

7. Prince of Tides (R) — Matinee

Want to talk about a dysfunctional family? The family in this movie, which kept a horrible secret from the world and itself for over 30 years is an unbeatable example. What kind of secret? I won't tell. "Prince of Tides" was one of those movies that make you exclaim, "Oh my God!"

8. The Hand that Rocks the Cradle (R) — Matinee

This was one of the best psychological thrillers in a long time. A psycho nanny out for revenge and a mother too dumb to think that anything is wrong seem true-to-life to me. This is the kind of movie that makes you wonder if this kind of thing could happen. At the very least, it will teach you to check for references.

9. A Few Good Men (R) — Matinee

If for no other reason, I'd see this movie for the portrayal of the black Marine accused of murder. This was one of Demi Moore's best movies. It's been a long time since we've seen her play a strong female role.

10. Single White Female (R) — Matinee

This movie about a psycho roommate not only kept you on the edge of your seat throughout the film, it also made you want to just shoot Jennifer Jason Leigh. I bet that will be the last time Bridget Fonda puts an ad in the paper for a SWF.

Next week, I'll rate the ten worst movies of 1992; the ones so bad, they were barely worth the "\$1 House" rating.

Students kick off Black History Month with "All Black Day"

by Katriel Tripp
Staff Reporter

Webster's dictionary and Roget's thesaurus define "black" as "destitute of light, dark, gloomy, sullen, atrocious and wicked." "Black" has historically been stereotyped as an aspect of a negative gesture or connotation: black market, black sheep, blackmail, black cats and the color associated with death and funerals.

The A&T Student Government Association (SGA) tried to reverse that stereotype Monday by kicking off Black History

Month with "All Black Day." All administrators, faculty, staff and students were asked to wear black.

The SGA Executive Board released a statement asking participants to show that "Black is indeed beautiful and not derogative."

"We want the students to become pro-active, to stimulate discussions and to make a change daily," said Theron McConneyhead, SGA vice-president of external affairs.

The SGA urged students not to let the event

end by simply wearing black, but to think black as well.

"Let's make this the first day to resurrect that 'Aggie Pride' that's been dead since the '60s sit-ins," said one A&T student. "Let's put A&T back on the map as a positive term by making radical changes just like we were once known for: demanding mandatory black studies, black ownership at the bookstore. A&T, stop being the living dead, the walking zombies. Wake up mentally as well as physically."

Jazz Showcase to be held

The North Carolina Jazz Network, Burroughs Wellcome Co. and the North Carolina Arts Council will present the fifth annual N. C. Jazz Showcase on Sunday, February 21 at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro.

Eight of the state's best jazz artists and groups have been selected to perform for agents, recording industry representatives and jazz fans in the ArtsCenter's intimate concert setting.

This year's Showcase begins at 1 p.m. with a panel discussion, "Make It Happen!" (or "How to Succeed in Presenting Jazz") led by Lawrence J. Simpson, Ph.D., managing consultant

from The Mogus Group, a consulting agency for arts and other not-for-profit groups such as the Ohio Arts Council and the National Jazz Service Organization.

Joining Simpson on the panel are Wanda Montgomery, director of programs for the Afro-American Cultural Center in Charlotte, Gregg Gelb, saxophonist, educator and founder of the Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra from Sanford, and A.B. Cook, WNAA radio announcer and jazz promoter from Greensboro.

Following the panel discussion, "Jazz for Listening," a small group showcase, will take place

from 3-6 p.m., with six artists and groups expected to perform: the Beth Chorneau Quintet, Matt Kendrick Unit-Jazz/Art, the Oregno Band, Daryle Ryce, the Wasabi Brothers and the Ira Wiggins Quintet.

After a buffet supper for registrants and musicians, the showcase resumes at 7:30 p.m. with "Jazz for Dancing," featuring the New Orleans sound of the Swamp Cats and the Latin Jazz beat of the Ricardo Granillo Group.

Jazz fans and professionals who want more information can call Jane Reinecke, the Showcase Coordinator, at (919) 967-6256 or the ArtsCenter at (919) 929-ARTS.

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VISIT CAPTAIN WILLIAMS OR GUNNERY SERGEANT DAVIS AT THE STUDENT CENTER FROM 10:00-2:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 8, 1993, OR CALL 1-800-722-6715 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STATE & NATIONAL

Jury candidates asked if they engaged in riots

LOS ANGELES (AP)- As a second trial began Wednesday for four policemen in the beating of Rodney King, more than 300 prospective jurors were asked if they participated in the riots that followed the first trial. The prospective jurors also were asked whether they could reach a verdict without fear of a new outbreak of violence.

The defendants in the federal civil rights trial- Sgt. Stacey Koon, Officers Laurence Powell and Theodore Briseno and former Officer Timothy Wind- faced the prospective jurors as U.S. District Judge John Davies introduced them.

The 333 prospects were promised that their answers on a 53-page questionnaire would be kept secret forever.

Davies assured prospects that their identities and written answers would remain secret forever. And he told them the jury will be sequestered at a hotel away from families for the duration of the trial.

The officers are charged in the videotaped beating of King after he was chased and stopped for speeding on March 3, 1991. Wind, a rookie who was still on probation, was fired after the beating; the others have been suspended since then.

The officers' federal trial opened a year after they went on trial on assault charges in state court in the mostly white suburb of Simi Valley. Verdicts last April acquitting them of most charges triggered deadly riots. More than 50 people

died and \$1 billion in damage was done.

After the riots, a federal grand jury indicted the officers on charges they violated King's civil rights. The officers are white and King is black, but Davies has ruled that prosecutors don't have to prove the beating was racially motivated.

Davies released a blank copy of the questionnaire. The questions included:

- "What was your personal reaction to the verdicts in the state court trial? Did you feel that justice had been served or were you disappointed with the verdicts?"

- "Did you or any friend or relative participate in the civil unrest?"

- "Do you fear the prospect of social unrest following a verdict in this case?"

Commission urges revamped college aid system to avert societal crisis

Washington (AP)- Educators and several members of Congress Wednesday praised a proposal to guarantee \$14,000 a year in aid to every U.S. college student. Bankers and others criticized the plan as unworkable.

Implementing such reforms would "subject students to a crapshoot because they might not work," said Sam Kipp, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission, which runs the state's grant and scholarship programs.

Education Secretary Richard Riley said he was "delighted" that the congressionally mandated commission led by former

Sen. Paula Hawkins, R-Fla., "agrees with many of the Clinton administration's proposals," such as partial repayment of student loans through community service.

The \$14,000 in assistance would be available regardless of family income, according to recommendations of the National Commission on Responsibilities for Financing Postsecondary Education.

But less well-off students would get more in outright grants. And students from families with higher incomes would get more in loans. The reforms would entail billions in new federal

spending.

The recommendations "reassert the federal role as primary in terms of financial aid; we haven't had that for 12 years," said Richard Rosser, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Private financial institutions would be cut out of the federal student aid program and a direct loan system would take its place.

The money for direct loans would come from Treasury borrowing, "which would add probably \$15 billion to \$20 billion to the national debt. Some savings!" said Kipp of the California Student Aid Commission.

Cincinnati Reds owner suspended for racial slurs

CHICAGO (AP) - Marge Schott was suspended as the Cincinnati Reds' owner for one year and fined \$25,000 Wednesday for "using language that is racially and ethnically offensive."

After an investigation that began Dec. 1, baseball's ruling executive council found that statements attributed to the 64-year-old owner were not "in the best interests of baseball." The suspension will begin March 1, but Schott can apply for reinstatement now. If she completes multicultural training programs.

"Mrs. Schott's remarks reflect the most base and demeaning type of racial and ethnic stereotyping... indicating an insensitivity that cannot be accepted or tolerated by anyone in baseball," executive council chairman Bud Selig said after 8 1/2 hours of meetings.

Schott's lawyer, Robert Bennett, said she would accept the penalty but didn't deserve suspension. All-time home-run leader Hank Aaron said Schott deserved more than that. Now a senior vice president with the Atlanta Braves, Aaron is one of the few black



Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott admires the new uniform worn Wednesday by outfielder Reggie Sanders. Later in the day, she was suspended for making racial slurs.

executives in major league baseball.

"I know Marge is laughing all the way to wherever it is she is going," Aaron said. "She won this one. I am very much disappointed... It sends out a message that we're still living in a captivity world where blacks are treated no better than 20 or 30 years ago."

Former employees accused Schott, among other things, of calling Reds players Dave Parker and Eric Davis "my million-dollar niggers." In her own deposition, Schott admitted she occasionally used the slurs and wondered why a Jewish employee was offended by a Nazi armband she had in her house.

Monkey wrench thrown in "Machine"

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)- For decades, the way into student government at the University of Alabama has been the Machine, a shadowy collection of white fraternities and sororities highly effective at getting its people elected.

Few people have been able to overcome the power of the Machine, which has backed many student leaders who later made their mark in politics, including a number of congressmen.

Even a leader-to-be like George C. Wallace was no match for it. Wallace, the four-time governor and presidential candidate, ran for a student post in the 1930s without machine backing and lost.

But after a non-Machine candidate for student president reported being beaten and slashed and a cross was burned outside her house, administrators shut down the student government.

While school officials say there is no proof the Machine is to blame and leaders of the coalition deny any role, administrators and many students say it's time to start over.

"When the contests are marked by violence, that's just a clear indication that

something has to happen," said Harry Knopke, vice president for student affairs. Minda Riley, a non-Machine candidate for president of the Student Government Association, reported that a man entered her home Sunday night, bruised her cheek, busted her lip, cut her face with a knife and told her she was allied with the wrong people.

Two months earlier, a cross was burned on the lawn of the white student's off-campus house, and threatening notes with the phrase "machine rules" were put in her mailbox and on her door.

This week, the university suspended campus elections scheduled for next week.

"Reform of student government on this campus has my full support," school President Roger Sayers said Tuesday.

Knopke said that for several months, a number of people have made allegations of threats. Although some blame the Machine, a coalition of members of 27 fraternities and sororities, Knopke stopped short of that. But, he said, "There is an

undercurrent involving the so-called Machine, and it will be discussed."

The Machine-backed candidate for student president, Neil Duthie, said he had no part in the alleged attack and does not believe the Machine was responsible. "I think it's really horrible it happened," he said.

Miss Riley belongs to Phi Mu sorority, one of 48 Greek organizations at Alabama and one of the organizations that make up the Machine. But the Machine endorsed Duthie, a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Marlon Trone, a member of a non-Machine fraternity, said the administration "should have investigated the situation a long time ago, who's in the SGA, the way it's been run."

Miss Riley's brother, Rob Riley, the Machine-backed SGA president in 1987, said he had no doubt that the Machine or a candidate backed by it was responsible for the attack.

"Today the Machine is a little club of thugs and cowards," he said. "And I don't blame my sister for not wanting to associate with this group."

North Carolina attack victim meets with Congressmen

WASHINGTON (AP) - A North Carolina man who was beaten at a gay bar, allegedly by three Marines, says the incident shows the need for the government to protect the rights of homosexuals.

Crae Pridgen claims he was attacked last Saturday in a protest of President Clinton's plan to lift the ban on homosexuals in the armed services.

"I was beaten by people who were supposed to be protecting my rights and freedoms," Pridgen, 28, of

Wilmington, N.C., said Tuesday. "I know that I am not the only victim. It will continue until the government does something to protect gay Americans." Pridgen said he also would ask the White House for a meeting with Clinton and would remain in Washington "as long as it takes to get the message across."

During an appearance on NBC-TV's "Today" show earlier Tuesday, Pridgen said he hopes Clinton will establish a task force on gay-

bashing.

Members of the Human Rights Campaign Fund believe politicians opposed to allowing homosexuals in the military are using fighting words, and they should tone down their rhetoric to avoid more violence.

"When people say they don't want to shower with us, that they don't want to eat with us, that makes us subhuman," said Tim McFeeley, executive director of the fund.

"By their actions and

their failure to vigorously oppose discrimination and bigotry, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell and Sens. Bob Dole and Dan Coats give encouragement and support to those whose hatred leads to gay bashings," McFeeley said.

Three lance corporals from Camp Lejeune were arrested after an attack that took place at a bar frequented by homosexuals in Wilmington. Colin C. Hunt, 20, Patric G. Gardone, 23, and Walter G. Watkins, 26, were

charged with assault and released on \$400 bail each.

Pridgen said the Marines shouted, "Clinton's going to pay! You faggots are going to die," during the fight. Pridgen lost a tooth and suffered a black eye, a swollen lip and cut ear.

Meanwhile, Martina Buckley, 19, of Wilmington on Tuesday said she was the woman who jumped into the brawl and helped break it up. Pridgen said the woman placed herself between him and the attackers, protecting

him with her body.

But Buckley said if she was hit, she doesn't remember it.

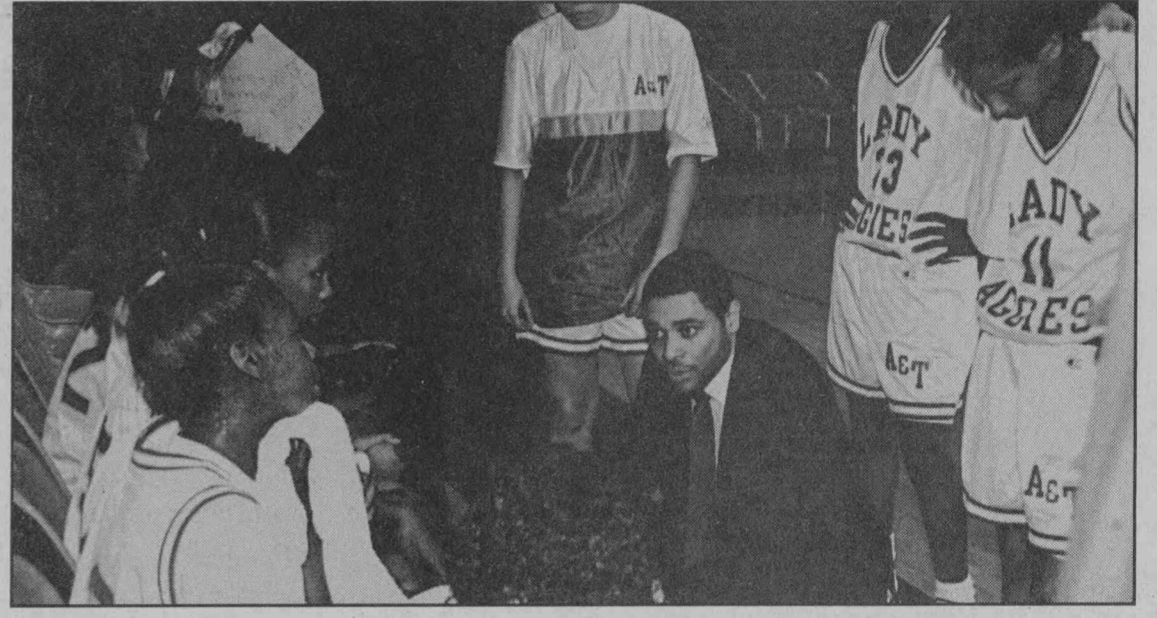
"I was yelling, 'Hey, chill out! Let it go! Let it be! If you don't like gays just leave,'" she said. "I was too mad to feel anything. This just shouldn't have taken place. ... They shouldn't have vented their anger in that way."

Buckley said she is not gay, but stopped by the bar Saturday to visit gay friends and listen to music.

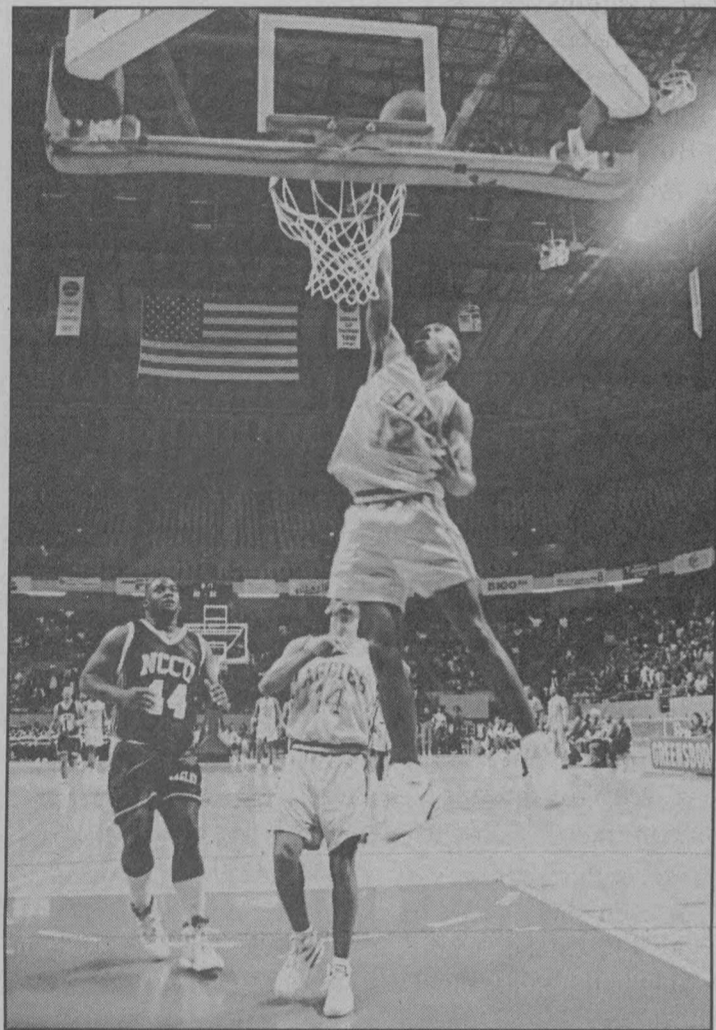
SPORTS



Here comes the hook: Aggie forward Jamaine Williams #21 drives in a shot over a Bethune-Cookman defender.



Huddle up: Women's head basketball coach Tim Abney instructs his team during a timeout.

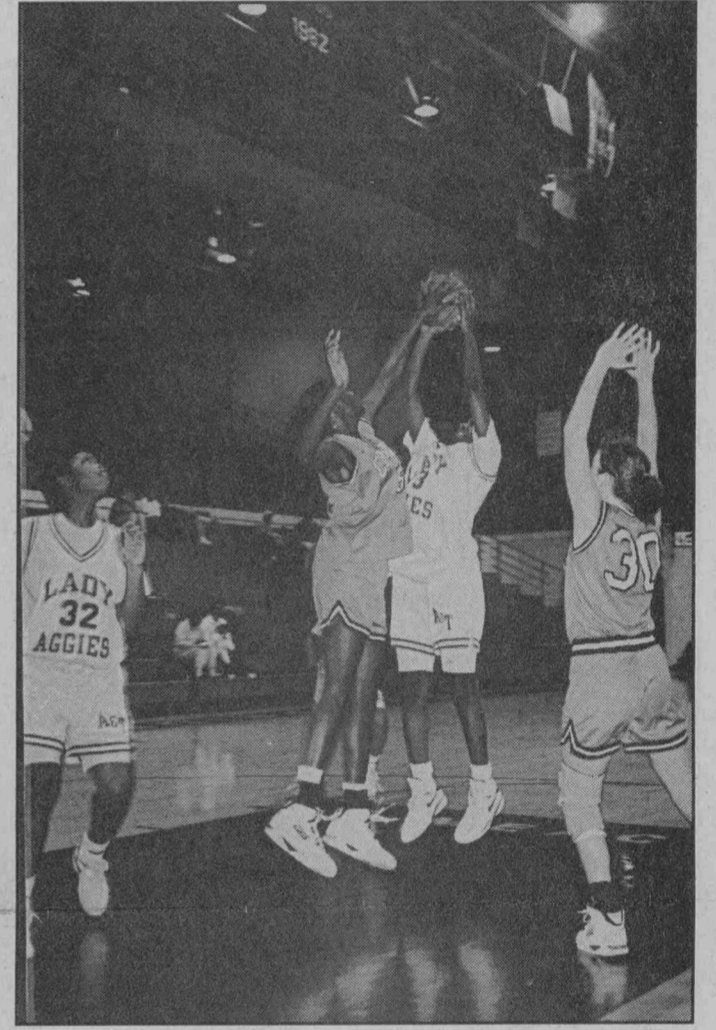


Flying high: #12 Phillip Allen soars over a N.C. Central defender for an easy two.

Photo essay by Doug McCullough



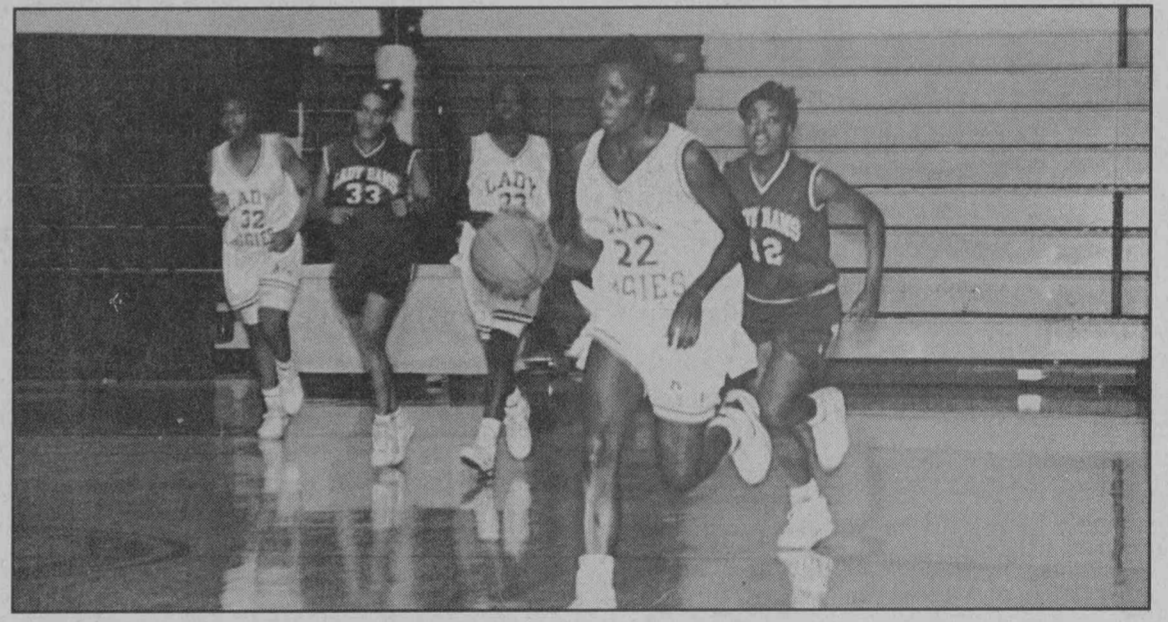
True champions: Head football coach Bill Hayes holds up the championship trophy for the 1992 season as his players signal, were number one!!



Shooting for two: Lady Aggie' Angela Hill goes up for a potential score against the Lady Camels.



In your face: Florida A&M defender #22 gets a up close view of a Phillip Allen #12 slam.



Out on the break: Hope Monroe #22 pushes the ball up the court for A&T as the Lady Rams give chase.

MEAC STANDINGS

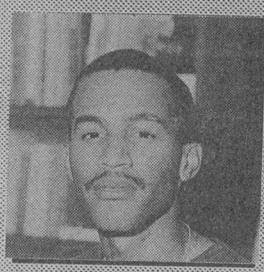
Men	Conference	Overall
Coppin State	8-0	11-7
Morgan State	7-2	7-10
S.C. State	6-3	11-8
NCA&T	5-4	10-9
Howard	4-5	7-12
Delaware St.	3-5	7-10
Maryland E-S	4-6	8-11
Florida A&M	3-6	3-15
B-Cookman	0-9	1-17

Women	Conference	Overall
S.C. State	8-1	10-6
Florida A&M	6-2	11-8
Coppin State	5-2	11-6
Morgan State	6-3	9-8
Howard	4-4	4-16
NCA&T	3-6	5-12
Maryland E-S	3-7	6-10
Delaware St.	2-5	5-11
B-Cookman	1-8	4-14

This Week's Games
 Feb. 6 (Saturday)
 A&T versus Delaware State, 5:30p/8:00
 Feb. 8 (Monday)
 A&T versus Maryland E-S, 5:30p/8:00

MEAC Player of the Week- Jamaine Williams/NCA&T

OPINION



B.J. Evans
A&T Register
News Editor

Just a thought

For the third straight year the Buffalo Bills are Super Bowl losers, this time at the hands of the Dallas Cowboys, America's team once more. As I sat and watched this totally one sided game with four friends all rooting for Dallas except one; as she was from Buffalo and her hopes still remained high despite the score; I began to wonder why the Bills save their worst for last. I was once told that you were only as good as your last game.....if this holds true, then the Bills have a long way to go.

How can a team with so much talent at all the skilled positions come out and play as if they had never seen a football, much less a football game before? It almost seemed as if Dallas toyed with the Bills early; only to send the message.....you're not quite there yet, try again next year!

One would think after three consecutive years, improvement or at least a solid effort would be in order, but I forgot, this is the Buffalo Bills.....always a brides maid but never a bride. Early arrival to the dance but display's two left feet once the music starts. It must be something in the water!

Before I end this column, I would like to speak out on President Bill Clinton's lift of the gay ban for the armed services. First of all, I'm glad he is fulfilling his campaign promises while he is still around, but I will honestly say, I would be quite uncomfortable now if I were in the military.

Now that a soldiers sexual preference is permissible, the unity and camaradery that soldiers need for combat to me will seemingly decrease as many will be watching their back side instead of their fellow soldiers back.

Many have said on the other side of the coin that gay's are facing now what we, African-Americans have faced and continue to face to this day; I don't buy it!

Gays have rights, too

by Lisa Johnson

Gay rights! Black rights! All rights — that's the issue.

I must admit, I was somewhat annoyed with Bill Clinton for spending so much time on the issue of homosexuals having the right to serve in the military.

Surely, I thought, there must be more pressing issues that our new President could address within his first hundred days.

But the more I thought about it and the more I listened to the arguments against Clinton's proposal to lift the ban on gays in the military, I began to realize my annoyance wasn't with Clinton's proposal, but with those stubborn individuals who opposed it.

Let's face it: homosexuality is and will always be a fact of life.

Gay men and women are a part of our society just as African-American men and women are a part of our society. Despite one's sexual preference and one's skin complexion, there is no room for discrimination of any kind.

The policy that Clinton has proposed will only allow homosexuals to voice the sexual preference that they have been forced to hide in the military.

So, if you stop and think about it, the proposed policy is actually a good idea, even for those who don't like homosexuals. If being around gays makes you uncomfortable, wouldn't you rather know who they are?

Maybe the world would be a better place to live if we all had the same sexual preference, the same skin color, the same backgrounds and even the same religious beliefs, but we don't. It has never been that way and never will. That's what makes us unique, and we cannot force our own preferences and prejudices on others.

By lifting the ban on gays in the military, the proposal provides another tool to fight discrimination and allows Clinton to make good on one of his campaign promises. In keeping this promise, he has a chance to do the right thing: insure equality and diversity.

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The A & T Register is published weekly during the school year by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University students.

"When the truth is ugly..."

by Mike Sutton
A&T Register Advisor

Right now, more than a few A&T administrators and students are probably fuming.

"Why," they may be asking themselves, "did the A&T Register give prominent coverage to the bench-clearing fracas that erupted at a January basketball game between A&T and Morgan State, an event that embarrassed school officials and supporters? Why not just bury the story on an interior page, or better yet, simply kill it?"

The impassioned, often heated exchange between Register editors and myself last Thursday as we debated the degree of coverage the story deserved mirrored the anger courtside on Jan. 11.

From a strictly journalistic standpoint, the reasons to run the story were obvious. On Wednesday, the day before our discussion, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference officials had reversed an earlier ruling and decided that rather than replaying the suspended game without fans or the press present, the victory would be awarded to Morgan State, which was leading 35-31 when the contest came to an abrupt and tumultuous halt.

The story had timeliness, proximity, conflict and direct relevance to the A&T community; in short, all those buzz words that journalism professors

love to throw at students in newswriting and reporting classes.

Staff photographer Doug McCullough had captured the entire sequence in a series of dramatic and telling photographs that illustrated the intervention of security forces, game officials huddling to reach some kind of decision, and the A&T players seated dejectedly on their bench.

In short, it was an excellent news package. If we decided not to run it, to hide our heads in the sand like ostriches and pretend it never happened, we would be violating the most basic principles of journalism.

Journalism means covering the ugly as well as the beautiful, looking unflinchingly at the truth and presenting it honestly and clearly. The Register is a newspaper, not a p.r. organ or a catalogue advertising A&T.

But if the Register's editors and advisor could not ignore the story, you might ask, couldn't we at least have buried it inside the paper, perhaps in the sports section? I would (and did) argue against such an approach.

When fans attend a sports event, they expect to see an athletic contest. One team will win, one will lose. If that's all that happens at the game, then the story does indeed belong on the sports page. However, once the altercation broke out, the event transcended an ordinary sporting event. Something unusual had interjected itself into the

story, transforming it from a sports story to a general interest story.

When Cincinnati Reds manager Lou Pinella physically attacked one of his own players during a locker-room press conference last summer, the event was sufficiently startling to be featured during the general news segments of many television news programs. It was an incident not typically seen at a baseball press conference. To take this line of argument to its extreme, if the President of the United States were assassinated at a Baltimore Orioles game, would you expect to find the event covered only in the sports section, because it had occurred at an athletic event?

One editor argued that coverage of the MEAC decision was like adding another bruise to the black eye the school had already received from the event. To blame the messenger for the message is an old tradition, but it simply doesn't wash here.

The behavior of the players—both from Morgan State and A&T—gave the school its bruised eye, not the news reporters who covered it. We simply presented the unvarnished truth for the world to see. That's our job as journalists.

For example, is it the press's coverage of the Los Angeles Police Department's frequently brutal and unjustified behavior toward minorities that gives the department its awful reputation? Or is it the police

department's conduct itself? Journalists could not cover the vicious acts of certain officers if those acts were not being performed to begin with.

On some occasions, ugly images can even bring beautiful results. When Birmingham, Alabama police turned fire hoses and attack dogs on civil rights protestors in the early 1960s, television and newspaper reporters carried the images around the world.

In Washington, D.C., President John Kennedy and his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, were so outraged by the ugly images that they were finally moved to propose civil rights legislation that they had been dragging their feet in presenting to Congress, for fear of losing white southern support.

If reporters had turned away from those terrible scenes, had swept the incident under the carpet, many of the civil rights laws in place today might have mouldered in Congressional committees for much longer.

Perhaps instead of attacking the Register, members of the A&T community should concentrate their efforts on examining the reasons behind the basketball altercation and draw up recommendations to avoid such incidents in the future.

In the meantime, I'll continue to teach my editors and reporters that journalists don't flinch from the truth, no matter how painfully close it hits home.

Open Letter from SGA President to the Student Body

I would like to first thank the Executive Board, class officers and all S.G.A. committee members for the roles they played in contributing to a successful and history making year in Student Government.

The Executive Board of '92-'93 began our terms following the largest ever voter turnout for University Spring Elections. Had it not been for a concerned student body, who turned out in record numbers to cast their votes, this momentous event would not have occurred. I thank each of you, on behalf of the entire Executive Board for your efforts to effect change. Now, almost a year later, we still solicit your concern and input as we Review last semesters activities and Reveal the upcoming events for the Spring.

'92 in Review..... Our year began with the theme of "Step Aside It's Aggie Pride". We showed our pride in our political stride as to our Volunteer Registrars, political candidates forum committee, and our political affairs representative William Keamey. With the dynamic planning of our V.P. of External

Affairs Theron McConneyhead, Homecoming '92 went down in history as the first of this celebration to sell out all three shows! In the midst of this celebration, we were still able to address student concerns through the leadership of our V.P. of Internal Affairs Alicia Smith. Rodney L. Boone, Attorney General has developed a top rate Escort Program that will be in operation within the next month. This done in response to your concerns about the safety of individuals on campus. Our fiscal integrity was upheld by the meticulous work of our Treasurer Sonya Evans.

With the infinite talents of our hard working Secretary Mondrivia James our office decor was very conducive to progress and our performance was "Time on Task."

Our illustrious Miss A&T, Machel Cato, continues to deliver classic performances as she represents us on the collegiate level. But our planning, implementation and excellent performance could not have been what it was without the help of our support staff. I would like to thank Alexis Ellis and Donovan Kirkland (Special Assistants to the President), Gerard Morrison (Chief of Staff), Vann-Di Galloway (Parliamentarian), Felicia Thompson (Corresponding Secretary), Melissa Smith (Minority Affairs Representative), Carlton

Brooks and Greg Bush (Publicity Chairmen) and Dr. Dorothy Harris and Dr. James Sibert (S.G.A. advisors) for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome aboard our new V.P. of Internal Affairs, Keith Bryant.

Revealing '93..... With the remaining months left in our terms, we will exhaust ourselves and our resources to leave you with a memorable and fulfilling year. We have a host of entertaining and enlightening Black Studies Month activities planned for you. We are investing considerable funds in this endeavor and strongly encourage you to get full mileage! Although we will not be having Aggie Fest in April, we will deliver a Celebration that will be as exciting and fulfilling as Aggie Fest used to be. Our remaining Spring

activity is the Awards Ceremony. However, No reward is as important to us as the trophies of your student support and blue ribbons of excellence displaying your satisfaction in our performance.

In closing, I would like to again thank all S.G.A. affiliates for their hard work. Many of them go unrewarded and a simple "Thank You" every now and then would really brighten their day. Please support us in our remaining endeavors. But most importantly--"Support 'Each Other!' Support the Basketball Team, Baseball Team, Track Team, Softball Team, Band, Choirs, and all other individuals who contribute their extra time to make this an "Award Winning" University. AGGIE PRIDE!!

Erica D. Smith,
SGA President

Are you having trouble relating to the female population because of how you dress? Do you feel your boyfriend is slipping away into someone else's arms? Okay Aggies, you asked for it and it's here, your own personal advice column at the A&T Register called *What's Up Nikki!*.. a question and answer column designed to help our readers with their problems. If you need Nikki's advice please follow these guidelines:
Send all letters to *What's up Nikki!*

A&T Register
100 words or less
Print or Type
Givenname or code names
ex. Confused in Cooper

Or drop your letters off in the mailbox outside of the Register House.
Maybe your problem might be solved next!