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Emphasizing action over words:

Black Student Summit unites colleges

The 1994 Black Student Summit held this weekend offered an opportunity for Black students across North Carolina to come as well as express their opinions about the problems in the Black community. The Summit, titled "From the Campus to the Community Using Your Education to Uplift Your People," featured three workshops that focused on spiritual, educational, and economic upliftment.

Nearly 100 people, young and old from the local community and students from A&T and other colleges, including UNCC, Central, Shaw and Virginia Tech, attended the Summit, which was held in the Student Union Ballroom.

Dwayne Patterson, chairperson of the event and a member of the History Club, said the purpose of the seminar was to show how education can uplift the community and how education is relevant to Black people.

William Busier, coordinator of the Summit, said the event was a success. "Key points were touched on and everyone who participated was enlightened," he said.

Busier wants people to know that "Black people are coming together and this is the start of a movement."

After the workshops, A&T alumnus the Rev. Nelson Johnson gave an inspirational speech of his days as SGA president in the turbulent 60s and emphasized actions over words.

During the Summit, Patterson and Busier proceeded to unveil a new organization, North Carolina Coalition of Black Studies (NCCBS). According to Summit officials, the NCCBS was established out of the growing need to develop a permanent network that would unite Black students across the college campuses of North Carolina. The non-profit organization is dedicated to tying the Black student back to the community, using communication and networking for success. The overall objective is to link the Black student to political, social and religious community leaders.

An Analysis

Recruiting Black males to college: What is the solution?

By Curwin Thomas
Staff Writer

Where are we going? What is happening to us? And, are we really an endangered species?

These are just a few of the questions raised when we discuss the Black male of the 1990s. This is not just a community issue but a concern that should be raised and debated more on college campuses, especially on Black college campuses where the enrollment of Black males has decreased over the years.

Everyday it seems that someone has come up with a new reason as to why this issue is so enormous. Some blame crime while others say drugs are the culprit. Regardless of the cause, we all know this is a crucial issue and it is time to stop searching for the cause and search for the solution.

During recent interviews with some Black college officials, this writer found that A&T is already working to help solve this crisis.

The Black males enrolled at A&T. Over the past several years, "our (enrollment) rate has been consistent," said Dr. Sullivan Welborne, vice chancellor for student affairs. "A&T goes the extra mile to recruit Black males.

Welborne is "very concerned" with this issue that plagues our colleges. "Young men don't see an immediate goal," said Welborne.

Many of the Black males of today strive for now and they don't look toward the future, he said.

They have "no vision," said Welborne. They have "no time to be proactive because they're too busy being reactive."

Helping in the recruitment of Black males is Dr. Samuel Moseley, assistant professor of political science at A&T.

Dr. Moseley and several other officials are members of the African-American Male Recruitment Recruitment Task Force, whose purpose is to recruit Black males in middle school, work with them through high school, help them get to college, and keep them there until they graduate.

"We want to serve as a model of what higher education can do for the entire Black community," said Moseley.

Dr. Hill, their coordinator on the task force, said, "They're not adjusting. Some come right off the street from the hip-hop generation and can't cope," she said.
Gibbs elected to national board of non-profit service agency

Dr. Meada Gibbs has been elected to the Board of Directors of Family Service America, Inc., an organization of nonprofit human service agencies in North America. She will serve a three-year term on the board.

Gibbs is the Interim Dean of A&T's School of Graduate Studies and an associate professor of business education and administrative services.

Founded in 1911 and headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., Family Service America, Inc., strengthens family life through services, education and advocacy. The organization serves 280 member agencies throughout the United States and Canada.

DR. MEADA GIBBS
Chair of Vocational Teacher Education and the National Women Political Caucus.

She has served as chairperson of the board of directors of Family and Children's Service of Greater Greensboro, a local member of Family Service America. Gibbs has served in various board capacities at Family and Children's Services since 1987. She also sits on many area boards, including Reading Connections and Parent, Teacher and Student Association.

Gibbs received her doctorate and master of science degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also attended Allen University and was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education and Business Administration.
Students learn lessons at NABJ course

By Meeka Jackson
Staff Writer

Over 35 African-American college students recently participated in the National Association of Black Journalists Student Broadcast Short Course held at A&T.

The short course was open to all African-American juniors and seniors enrolled at a four-year accredited college or university with a major in broadcast journalism or communications and a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above.

A&T was one of three historically Black colleges selected as a site for the short course. Xavier University and Florida A&M University were also selected.

Student representatives from A&T, UNC-G, Bennett College, Virginia Union, the University of Maryland and Winston-Salem State University participated in the three-day short course. The students were involved in seminars and workshops and gained hands-on experience while completing assignments and performing newsroom operations.

"The course is well structured," Stacey Tate, a senior speech communication major at the University of Maryland-College Park, said during the short course. "I'm definitely getting practical experience and I'm also learning about different positions in the broadcast field."

The aim of the NABJ professionals was to encourage more African-American journalism students to pursue television management as a career as well as acquaint students with behind-the-scenes jobs in the broadcast industry.

"We want to bring these students decades of experience from the broadcast field," said Shelia Stainback, vice president of NABJ, "and the students at A&T are so eager to learn; they're the most enthusiastic students out of all the schools I've visited."

Throughout the short course, students also focused on news writing, news gathering, production and editing techniques. They also assimilated a 30-minute newscast that was critiqued by the NABJ professionals.

"There is definitely a lot to be learned and I think the students are taking advantage of the opportunity," said Anzio Williams, a senior broadcast major at A&T and second year participant in the short course.

According to Nagatha Tonkins, site coordinator for the short course and instructor of broadcast news, the NABJ professionals were pleased with the students' progress in writing and production and have made a commitment to return to A&T next year.

Tonkins also added that the NABJ professionals offered much insight into the broadcast industry and reinforced what the students learn in the classroom.

Black music festival stars Silk and Intro

By Tiffany Whittington
Staff writer

The SGA will sponsor several spring festivities April 8-9.

A party is scheduled in the gym on Friday night. On Saturday, the N.C. A&T Black Music Festival, starring the groups Silk and Intro, will be held at 8 p.m. at the newly renovated Greensboro Coliseum Complex.

Comedian Ted Carpenter from Def Comedy Jam will host the festival.

Other special guests featured at the show will be Krs-One, Onyx and Lords of the Underground.

Tickets are available at the A&T ticket office, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex and at all Select-A-Seat locations. Anyone interested can also charge by phone. Tickets are on sale for $10, $12, and $14. On the day of the event, tickets will be $16.

Kimya Nuncio, SGA secretary, said, "I think the Black Music Festival is going along well. SGA is hoping that this will bring Aggies closer together by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
THE STAFF SPEAKS:
Calling me a criminal

By Trevor L. Wooten
Illustrator

It often appears that males of African-American descent are the objects of an extreme propaganda campaign, meant to destroy any credible existence within the American society. Everything from subtly biased network news programs to overly ignorant, racist factions takes a part in the conspiracy. There is a no-win situation masking the border between failure and success and the distinction becomes almost irrelevant to the observer as well as to the subject.

What does one concede to do when no action is deemed by society as worthy of respect? Of course criminal and violent activities must be curbed for the protection of everyone involved, regardless of race or gender. However, as a means to offset or negate his physical prowess, a successful athlete is often discredited as possessing minimal intellect. Surely everyone has heard sports journalists comment on Michael Jordan's "natural athletic ability" while Larry Bird conversely "worked hard" to become great.

Likewise, the double standard for artists and performers shackles African-American creativity with censorship; unfounded protests and police action while Axl Rose sings about "...niggers, spicks and Jews" and the Ku Klux Klan "has a constitutional right" to march on public property spouting racist doctrines. Also, there would appear to be myriad limits set within the corporate or professional world, under which only a select few are hired and of those few, only a small fraction are allowed to progress according to their abilities.

Of course, much of this would be much less obvious and painful if African-American males were not viewed by many people as fearsome animals from the outset. I have personally watched Caucasian women lock their car doors or clutch their purses at the first glimpse of my presence, when I was dressed better than they and I was driving a nicer car. Likewise, I have noticed store managers covertly watching me like James Bond, simply because I happened to be the only African-American customer at present, while rowdy Caucasian customers had a run of the establishment. At the other extreme, it is sad when a person actually has to purposely start handling merchandise before a salesperson will offer assistance.

One can only assume as to the true viruses that cause such illogical diseases in otherwise civilized human beings. True, there are a lot of negative individuals who reinforce the stereo-types, but news broadcasts that only post photographs of African-American crime suspects while briefly reporting on other groups as well as the projection by society of hatred upon anyone who rises "out of his place" to speak up for sanity within the American asylum, are much more likely causes.

Honestly, after watching CNN, I am almost afraid of my "hateful, criminal-minded" self.

The People Speak...
Small crimes can lead to major crimes

By Latoya McLaughlin
Staff Writer

Around the campus of A&T, minor crimes such as larcenies, assaults and other small misdemeanors do not seem to be a big problem to most students. They seem to think that things could be worse, like the shooting on the campus of Shaw University last year or the shooting and mugging incidents on Howard University's campus in the previous years. They are right—things could be worse and they are becoming worse everyday.

Stealing on campus is a problem because it can lead to shooting or robbing, if a person is that desperate to have someone else's belongings. The so-called "small" crimes should not be overlooked.

So far this year on our campus, there have been two robberies. A couple of young ladies were held up near Haley Hall and their money and other valuables were taken. Is it fair? A&T's students should be able to leave in and out of their dormitories without being at the risk of a robbery. Any human being with any kind of moral standards would agree with this. It's not fair for one to be harassed around his or her own living quarters. This one incident should be enough for someone to want to take a stand and put a stop to this nonsense.

Even more recently, a student was walking down Bluford Street when he was called to a rental car and held up. All of his money was taken. Is it fair for a student to be robbed of his possessions while walking from class in the broad daylight? Here again, is another example of the growing crime on campus that is so unfair to all A&T students. Learning of such incidents occurring on campus should raise many questions. Why isn't anything being done about this? If it can be prevented, how? Are campus officials aware of these crimes? And if so, what are they doing about it? What solutions do they have? One could go on and on wondering about these things, but there comes a point when someone needs to stand up and do something about them.

I feel that students should speak out on this issue to bring this to the attention of campus officials. I don't think campus officials are doing enough to deter crime. The reports are filed and that's it. I never hear of anything really being done. One solution would be to find a way to keep "outsiders"—those who don't attend school here—off campus because this is where a lot of the problems come from. There are many other ways to solve this problem. We all need to stop, think about it and work together to come up with some solutions.
America is slowly creating 'a lost generation'

By Dr. Manning Marable
Columnist

The social crisis of urban America threatens the prospects for an entire generation of African-American and Latino young people.

The economic deterioration of our central cities, the loss of jobs and the decline of investment, are only part of the story. The loss of recreational facilities such as theaters, public parks, bowling alleys and playgrounds, reduces the environment for social interaction among young people. The deterioration of city services, unequal educational facilities and higher taxes drives middle and upper class people out of the central cities. All of these factors combine to create a context of hopelessness and social alienation.

Consider the proliferation of teenage pregnancies and single-parent households.

When I was growing up in the 1960s, teenage pregnancies occurred, but were not generally considered customary behavior within the Black community.

Today, a radically different situation exists. In each of the past five years, more than one million teenage girls became pregnant. In 1989, 49 percent of teenage pregnancies resulted in birth, with the remainder ending in either abortion or miscarriage. For African-Americans, the two-parent household is becoming almost extinct.

Twenty-five years ago, two out of five first-births by Black women under the age of 35 were out-of-wedlock. Today, the ratio is two out of three. A Black child born today has only a one out of five chance of growing up with both parents until the age of 16. And for single African-American women living below the federal government's poverty level, about 65 percent of them have children, double the rate for poor whites.

The most tragic aspect of the growth of out-of-wedlock births is the so-called "boarder babies." About 22,000 newborn infants are abandoned in hospitals each year. Approximately 74 percent are Black, with another eight percent Latino. According to a 1991 study by the Department of Health and Human Services, more than three-fourths of all boarder babies tested positive for drugs and nearly half are born prematurely.

Consider the issue of homelessness. The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that there were 1.4 million homeless persons in 1989. The American Brotherhood of Executives estimated that five million more were "street people." The Department of Health and Human Services acknowledged that 500,000 families were homeless in 1990. The Department also reported that the number of homeless persons increased by 35 percent from 1980 to 1990. Today, it is estimated that 5 million persons are homeless and 3 million children are homeless.

According to the research by Professor Bruce Link of Columbia University, about three percent of all Americans have been homeless during the past five years, and a surprising seven percent had been homeless at some point of their lives. This translates into two million Americans who are homeless in any given year.

In New York City, the overall figures for homelessness and their racial dimensions are even more devastating. Nearly one-quarter million New Yorkers have lived in public shelters over the five-year period between 1988 and 1992. African-Americans are 16 times more likely to become homeless than whites. And Black children are the most likely candidates for homelessness, with one out of 12 spending some time in a public shelter. Overall, about 8 percent of all Black residents of New York City, nearly 150,000 people, used the public shelters during the five-year period.

Teenage pregnancies, "boarder babies" and homelessness all combine to create a social context of rage, fear and social disruption. But to comprehend why such problems exist, we must not indulge in the conservative illusion of blaming the victims of oppression. Neo-liberals and even some black intellectuals blame the social crisis on an absence of "values," or the problem of "Black nihilism." Actually, the fundamental factors behind the chaos are inequality and class exploitation.

Do most people deliberately choose become homeless? Or are they homeless because the value of the monthly rental subsidy to New York City's 300,000 families on welfare has declined 42 percent since 1972, while local housing costs have skyrocketed? By 1989, nearly half all low-income families in the U.S. were spending 70 percent of their income on shelter alone.

Instead of condemning teenage mothers, we need constructive and innovative programs for teen parents, both male and female. They need training in parental skills, and child care, health and employment counseling. We need to focus on pregnancy prevention measures for teens, including sexual education in the school. By elevating the confidence and self-esteem and career objectives of young women, we will see teen pregnancies begin to decline numerically.

Instead of blaming victims, we need progressive measures by government and community-based organizations to save those in what is becoming a lost generation.

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Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and director of the African-American Studies Institute at Columbia University.

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Air Force ROTC holds 12th annual Blue & Gold Drill Meet

On Sat., Feb. 26, A&T's campus was filled with excitement and the spirit of competition.

There was no big game or party, but the 12th Annual Blue & Gold Drill Meet was being held.

Thirty-one Junior ROTC units from across North Carolina and parts of Virginia converged at Corbett Sports Center, Moore Gym and the Memorial Student Union to compete in the 12-event drill meet.

The event, sponsored by Air Force ROTC Detachment 605 at A&T, is one of the top drill meets in the Southeast region. It is organized and executed totally by the cadets of Detachment 605. A year's worth of planning goes into the event to ensure that every thing runs in a professional manner. ROTC officials said.

Senior cadet Quentin Rodgers was given the task of running this year's drill meet and he proved to be up for the challenge. The 1994 Blue & Gold Drill Meet was so successful that Rodgers was promoted to Cadet Colonel. When asked about the success of the drill meet, Rodgers said, "It was a very exciting and fun-filled event to plan and watch. All cadets gained valuable leadership and followership skills."

In addition to leadership and followership skills, Detachment 605 cadets gained a lesson in old fashion hard work and dedication. Detachment 605 cadets served as judges, scorers, runners, photographers, clean-up crews and concession crews. For 10 hours, the cadets were bonded to accomplish their mission. Everyone did their jobs with motivation and pride; however the long day took its toll. One cadet said, "This has been the longest day of my life, but I feel good about our accomplishments."

The competition was intense as the Junior ROTC units showed their best stuff from the drill meet's beginning at 9 a.m. until its conclusion at 4:30 p.m. Events ranged from Regulation Flight/Platoon Without Arms to the crowd favorite Fancy Flight/Platoon With Arms.

At the end of the contests, Goldsboro High School emerged as this year's overall winner, walking away with eight awards. Second place overall went to Fayetteville's Seventy-First High School and third place went to Scotland High School.

Lt. Col. Ronald K. Murphy, professor of Aerospace Studies at A&T, said, "The fact that we started on time and ended on time and met all of our objectives is a direct result of outstanding planning and superb leadership during the execution phase. The entire corps did a tremendous job."

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Woman who build African art collection honored Sunday

Mattye Reed, who is largely responsible for developing the huge collection of African art that is housed in the Mattye Reed Heritage Center on A&T’s campus, was honored Sunday at a reception at the Satellite Gallery located in the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center.

The reception also linked the opening of a new exhibit on "Traditional and Contemporary Nigerian Art."

The seeds for the Mattye Reed African Heritage Center were sown in the Black student protests of the 1960s. In the face of student demands for more courses and University attention to Black culture and history, the A&T administration in 1968, founded the African/Afro-American Cultural Center.

At first, the new center had only a small library and virtually no collection. All of that changed, however, with the appointment of Mattye Reed as director of the Center in 1973.

A public health nurse who, with her diplomat husband, had spent many years living and working in Africa, Reed rapidly built up the collection by asking her former colleagues and friends to make donations of their African art to the University. As a result, the collection grew rapidly during her tenure. Now it totals over 6,000 pieces of art and artifacts, representing 35 African countries. The collection also includes significant pieces related to African-American culture and history.

Reed retired in 1988. At present, The Mattye Reed African Heritage Center is one of the major museums of African art and artifacts in the United States.
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