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A&T graduate died in 1986 space shuttle explosion

For 11th time, Aggies honor McNair's memory: He reached for the stars

By Jaimee Canty
Staff Writer

Years after the tragic accident that took his life, Aggies gathered together to pay tribute to Ronald McNair in the building named after him. Before an overflow crowd of students and faculty, Cheryl McNair, his widow, spoke about the astronaut on January 28, the anniversary of the space shuttle Challenger’s ill-fated ending.

Ronald McNair was born to Carl and Pearl McNair on October 21, 1950 in Lake City, S.C. As a child, he excelled in school and had a thirst for learning.

McNair graduated from A&T in 1971 with a B.S. in Physics, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1978. After finishing as an undergraduate at A&T, he earned a doctorate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At MIT, his experimentation with laser radiation and molecular gases was helpful to understanding the molecule.

When NASA was looking for astronauts, McNair took the challenge. After a year of training and evaluation, he was given the duty of mission specialist for future space flights. He and a crew spent eight days in space in February of 1984 on his first mission as a flight specialist.

McNair was a Renaissance man who dabbled in various arts. He was a karate teacher with a fifth degree black belt, and was awarded the AAU Karate Gold Medal in 1976, along with five other regional championships. At one point in his life, he almost decided to turn his skills as a jazz saxophonist into his career. He also enjoyed cooking, boxing and football. Not surprisingly, he was loved by many people.

He married Cheryl Moore McNair and fathered two children, Reginald and Joy. Eleven years after his death, Cheryl still travels the country, spreading her husband’s message of determination.

On January 28, the anniversary of McNair’s death in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, North Carolina A&T took the time to celebrate his accomplishments. It was the 11th service of its kind, and was held in the auditorium of McNair Hall. His former professors, North Carolina state legislator William Martin and Greensboro city councilwoman Yvonne Johnson were among those paying tribute.

Martin left listeners with this thought: “It is not a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled; it is a calamity to die without dreams.”

Even before his death, McNair had received one of the highest honors a citizen can receive. He was awarded with a key to the city.

In McNair’s absence, his name still lives on. The Ronald E. McNair program helps low-income minority students graduate from college.

see McNair, page 3

Ronald McNair graduated from North Carolina A&T in 1971

Freedom rings again on King day

By Kevin Sturdivant
Features and Entertainment Editor

If someone were to tell you that you had a paid vacation day, would you gripe over the name of the day? Most people would readily take a day off from work without thinking twice about the name of the day. If fact, it stands to reason that many Americans don’t know the importance of most of the holidays that the nation observes. Veterans Day means something special to veterans that most Americans can’t understand. The same could be said with Memorial Day, Labor Day and most especially Martin Luther King Day: Martin Luther King Day means something more than a day off to African-Americans. Jason L. Powell, a 20-year-old sophomore from Laurel Hill, said, “It is a day of peace and harmony. A day you should get to know somebody that you never met before, no matter what race they are.”

For most African-Americans the very nature of the day is a time for all to unify. A time when everyone can come to together on one accord and, as Dr. King said, “Let freedom ring.”

In 1966, when the day was made a federal holiday, many Americans had mixed feelings. But inherently the message of the country’s lawmakers was that we should finally pay homage to not only the man, but also his message of peace and unity. But does the celebration of Dr. King Day bring us as a nation closer together to examine our differences and find solutions to those, or is it another excuse to polarize our differences and build more fences between us?

New Hampshire, known as the Granite State, does not now observe Dr. King’s holiday as such. New Hampshire is the only state in the country that does not observe Dr. King’s holiday. Instead New Hampshire observes, “Civil Rights Day.” Some residents of the state feel that no one person is big enough to encompass civil rights.
Aggie wants to make his mark world-wide

By Nichole Rose
Staff Writer

Khalid Malik was named after the great Muslim general Khalid. Malik said he envisioned his future plans are worthy of his name.

Murphy's 'Metro' continues its resurrection on the silver screen

By Kevin Sturdivant
Feature and Entertainment Editor

Eddie Murphy is Scott Roper, a fast talking, wise-cracking hostage negotiator whose unorthodox but winning ways make him the San Francisco Police Department's top arbitrator.

But even his silver tongue can't change his fortune when he and rookie SWAT team sharp-shooter Kevin Hall, played by Michael Rapaport, come face to face with a psychotic killer in a lethal game of cat and mouse, in Touchstone Pictures latest release "Metro."

When "Metro" director Thomas Carter first met with Murphy to discuss the possibility of working together, the two-time Emmy Award winning director boldly recognized the actor who had gained worldwide popularity for his performances on "Saturday Night Live" and in some of the most successful films of the past decade.

"I went to meet with Eddie on the set of 'The Nutty Professor,' and he was in full makeup for the role of Sherman Klump," director Carter explains. "It was very odd to see the least, seeing him dressed as a 400-pound man, replete with a few extra chins. His transformation was uncanny but once I saw his eyes, I knew it was him."

"After my initial shock," Carter continues, "we went on to have a great meeting, sharing a lot of the same ideas about the 'Metro' script. I also discovered that Eddie is a very sensitive, very thoughtful man who has a very strong sense of himself and a deep perspective on life in general. I was excited at the prospect of working with Eddie on this subject."

One of the most popular actors on the planet, Murphy was interested in doing a film that was a little edgier and at the same time had humor like some of his earlier action movies. "I'm a comedian at the core, so I try to inject humor into everything that I'm doing - even if it's something that's kind of serious," Murphy says of his attraction to the role.

"I thought it was a fantastic idea. The character is somebody who by the very nature of his job has to adapt himself to different situations. Each time he's in a different predicament, in very subtle ways he's sort of a different character, in the sense that he's trying to connect with the person he's negotiating with."

In addition to Murphy's obvious and renowned comic gifts, director Carter had always sensed that Murphy had the makings of a good dramatic actor. "This seemed to be a script that would allow Eddie to exhibit his dramatic skills as well as his comedic skills," Carter says. "It's a story about a cop who is constantly put in situations where he has to be on his feet on in order to avert crisis situations. Mix that up with Eddie's quick wit and sharp tongue, and you've got a fast-paced cop drama that takes the audience on a great ride."

A&T students take the time to lend a hand, show they care

By Toy Parker
Staff Writer

More and more North Carolina A&T Students are doing more community service throughout the Piedmont this school year.

Sharon Brown, a senior communications major, is just one example. She works with children at the Black Child Development Institute in Greensboro through a program called Each One, Reach One.

The program is a multifaceted academic and cultural enrichment program designed to improve the academic performance and skills of children who are considered academically at risk.

"I love working with the children in the program," Brown said. "Each One, Reach One is designed to improve the skill set of participating children through role models like myself, other mentors and cultural enrichment activities."

"It gives the children the hope that someone really cares."

"There are also programs for adolescents," Brown continued. "The Adolescent Connection is a peer leadership, street outreach program that gives a comprehensive training program for adolescents. We help mold the minds of the young and redirect the minds of the older children who may have gone astray."

"It's a good feeling."

The adolescent addressing substance abuse prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS and HIV, negotiation skills, decision-making skills, conflict resolution skills and modify to eliminate risky behavior.

Other students are reaching out to families in the Piedmont. Sylvia Akers, another A&T senior, works with the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Urban Ministry's stated mission is to "express God's love for hurting brothers and sisters in the Greater Greensboro area." Through financial support and donations of time and other resources, the Ministry provides food, shelter and clothing to needy families. It's a great program," Akers said. "It offers hope and the opportunity for spiritual growth and God's love to less fortunate families that need help the most."

Community involvement takes a lot of time from students' schedules. But knowing that they are helping others with life makes the sacrifice worthwhile.

"Sure, I lose a lot of sleep staying up late, trying to finish homework all the days I spend my mornings with the Ministry," Akers said. "But it's worth seeing families get back on their feet and knowing that they appreciate them for a second chance on life."

Brown agrees. "I know the importance and need for more black role models in our communities," Brown said. "I am helping children believe in themselves and their dreams."

Students interested in serving their communities through other programs can contact James Toon at Room 105 of the Student Union or by calling 334-7777.

Agriculture neglected in technical world

By Schwanda Rountree
Staff Writer

As the world grows from technological advances, one man reminds Aggies that this is also an agricultural university.

Dr. Ridgely Abdul Mu'min Muhammad, national farm director of Islam, spoke to students at the Carolina A&T State University on January 16 in McNair Auditorium.

"Do for self or die a slave," a popular saying around A&T, was said by Dr. Muhammad as he stressed the need for African Americans to produce for themselves.

In the past, farmers grew their own food and traded with their friends and neighbors; today, people purchase food and do not know where it even originates. Food is shipped from all over the world, not even going to the wholesalers, he said.

"You cannot eat a microchip," said Dr. Muhammad about this new technological future. "The web is a trap.

"The web is a trap."

Dr. Muhammad said there will be a cashless society coming. This new world order is just another way to trick people and what they need to do. Microchip are designed in automobiles now for satellites to keep an eye on for Big Brother," he said.

Providing the essentials for one's self is a necessity to survive in the future and A&T can help with its agricultural programs.

The lecture was part of the Third Thursday Lecture Series and was supported by the Pan-Hellenic Council.
Working hard, looking good and growing, A&T models set their sights on Spring fashion show

By Kia Hale
Staff Writer

The spring semester is off and running. As students try to get back into the swing of things - not to mention their classes - campus organizations are recruiting old and new members for upcoming activities.

North Carolina A&T State University's modeling troupe, Mo-Del Unique, may have gotten the jump on everyone else. By having open auditions for new members at the end of last semester, the group came back running to join the spring show.

Mo-Del Unique, headed by president Shannon Godfrey, already has begun practicing for the spring fashion show, and is in the process of putting out its second annual Men & Women of Mo-Del Unique calendars.

The group performs two big fashion shows each year - one at Homecoming and one during the spring - and both have been big hits with students. There is, however, more to Mo-Del Unique than meets the eye.

The group traveled to an annual modeling competition last year at Shaw University, taking second place behind the host school. It also will participate in designers' shows and will be featured in hair shows held in Durham.

Behind the bodies that Mo-Del Unique finds worth showing off lies rigorous training.

King

McQuaid, editor-in-chief of The Union Leader of Manchester, said, "I think Civil Rights Day is bigger than Martin Luther King. And I think there's been a strong sentiment in this state since presidents of the stature of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln have been relayed to President's Day - which is a trumped-up, made-up holiday - we don't see why one individual in civil rights deserves a day unto himself."

Some African-Americans feel the exact opposite. Don Wilson, a 20-year-old junior from Wilmington, Del., said that King "wasn't just Civil Rights - he was also represented the nonviolent movement. He started something bigger than the U.S. and the Civil Rights movement."

Isn't it interesting how people can see the same thing two different ways (just like Veterans and Veteran's Day)?

Though this problem may seem to be one that doesn't affect this region, we need to take a closer look. There are counties within North Carolina that don't observe Martin Luther King Day. Davidson County and Randolph County are two.

When these counties adhere to the name of the holiday, both county offices were still open and conducted business as usual on the holiday. This fact got some state and local members of the NAACP involved to find out why. The results of their findings are not known at this time.

This fact brings interesting feelings to light about the entire subject. Dr. King's daughter Bernice, said the rejection of the King holiday is "intentional, racist and separatist." On A&T's campus, some students have similar sentiments.

"It really makes you wonder why," said Erika Adams, a 21-year-old senior from Greensboro. "It almost makes it seem like nothing's changed."

Maybe, as the saying goes, "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

McNair

McNair attends graduate school. The McNair Doctoral Program gives students financial support for tuition, travel and academic research, and benefits mechanical and chemical engineering students as well as NASA.

Sidney Bryan, a McNair Ph.D. fellow, thanked McNair for "daring to be different and for setting the standard beyond the stars."

Dr. Gilbert Castlerow, a friend and classmate of McNair, spoke about McNair as a person. He remembered McNair's dreams and "his desire to achieve beyond all levels of achievement." He and McNair practiced karate together, and he said that McNair "was blazing a trail and doing everything that he could to achieve."

McNair's wife, Cheryl, was the speaker for the event. She shared with the audience a speech that her husband intended for A&T students, but did not live to read. In that speech, McNair warned: "The calm winds of comfort don't always blow your way. You'll sometimes find yourself engulfed in turbulence and confusion."

The speech went on to discuss the other hurdles that McNair faced on his way to greatness. Through it all, again and again, came the point that one must know that he or she is "good enough." Good enough to take on challenges and good enough to see them through.

Good enough to aim for the stars.

For more information on Mo-Del Unique, contactt sterling. For information on the McNair Doctoral Program, contact Dr. Castlerow. For information on Civil Rights Day, contact Don Wilson.
After the break-in: Thieves leave lessons, but never learn them

By Brian Holloway
Editor-in-Chief

Ebony has dominated conversations throughout the United States. Most black people are disgusted with the whole notion, while some whites and a few blacks keep telling us we are missing the true meaning.

Saturday night someone was shot after the Bethune-Cookman/N.C. A&T game. Before the shooting incident a fight occurred which may have led to tragedy. But one of the oldest crimes ever is still robbery.

There has been a rash of robberies around campus lately, but it really doesn’t matter to most people unless it happens to them. Speaking of happening to them, I was one of those people.

As I left my apartment complex on Wednesday in November, I still had friends, a loving family, and most of my possessions were in place. When I returned I was delighted to know that I still had friends and a loving family.

Because my possessions within a span of six hours now belonged to someone else. As my roommate approached me with a puzzled look on his face as if he had seen extra parking spaces on campus.

I started to ask him what was bothering him, but I just wanted to relax and play “NBA Shootout” on his Sony PlayStation. He told me something that might prohibit me from playing “NBA Shootout.”

According to Thomas, my roommate, we had been robbed. Not that I was doubting him, but he had to be lying because my car had just been broken into in January. As I ignored his warning that most of our possessions had been stolen, I wrestled with my books and briefcase.

As I stepped over the threshold there was no stereo on the left side of the wall, the PlayStation was no longer on top of the television, and also missing from the top of the television set was my VCR.

In the kitchen the microwave had been lifted from the position it had occupied for six months, but to my surprise they left the washer and dryer (don’t get any ideas). Unfortunately for myself, I still had to go upstairs and witness what evil deed they had done to me.

VCR, alarm clock, television, and power cord gone, but that wasn’t my biggest concern at the time. I usually keep my pants on top of the shell in my closet, but when I looked up, I saw Holloway, page 5.
No Pains, No Gaines

Reminiscing the sacrifices made for our existence today

By David Gaines
Production Manager

On the heels of Cosby’s son’s death, OJ’s verdict, the contempt for the condition of the working Negro bottom has not lessened. We enter Black History Month almost on a sad note. We have been through a lot as a people since shipped over here, but let us not allow the haunting past discourage us from progressing into the future. The future offers great opportunities and expectations for our people. We just have to take advantage of them. Simultaneously, we must latch on to our past, though.

Like televisions of the mid-century, the Internet has taken households by storm. Isn’t it ironic how we can utilize this technological invention to learn more about our prehistoric past?

“The Book,” http://www.blackhistory.com, is a web site that will take you through an inspiring tour of African-American culture and history in words, images and sounds. There’s also a “Black History Day Calendar” for day-by-day Black history facts at http://www.global-image.com/bithm/day/calendar.

Barbara Cohen, a black historian and author, has set up a website dedicated to the paths of the underground railroad at http://www.orsc.org/html.html. “Middle Passages Inc.” documents the journey of slavery to freedom and the millions of lives lost in the process at http://middlepasages.com.


Though trained by the colonel of the chicken industry in my fast food days, I do not claim to be a gourmet chef. When I do dabble with a recipe or two, why not try out African recipes at http://www.un.qmu.edu/African_Studies/Miscellaneous/African_Ric.html.

Coming to town this month will be Kirk Franklin and his instant-recognizable gospel music. For those who can’t seem to get enough, try http://maro.cruz.com/G服务于 or http://www.gospelweb.com.

The Internet is endless! The A&T Register Online is even coming! Look for that in the next issue or flyers planned to be posted soon.

My columns has already found a home on the web. Want to read more “No Pains, No Gaines” columns found in the A&T Register? Try http://jol.ncat.edu/~gaines/hq.html.

We have a rich history as African Americans. Here at North Carolina A&T State University, our history is just as rich.

While rummaging through some old A&T Register newspapers here in the 100-year-old Register Headquarters for some attention and renovations like Old Bluford, I found an interesting story I’m sure will surprise many of you true Aggies.

In the Nov. 9, 1968 issue, there read a headline, “Dowdy Proposes Black Stone, Student ‘Blow’ Money Needed.” Apparently, President Lewis C. Dowdy met with the Aoop every month to “chat.” On Oct. 24, he “presented ideas and proposals for the beautification of the campus, betterment of educational instruction for the students, and other specifics concerned with the Aggie family,” as written by Barbara Juyner.

Continuing, Dowdy suggested something I think we still need today if we can pull together as that Aggie family.

His first proposal was to ask students to participate in investing some of the money they “blow” in the construction of an all-black grocery store in which blacks have sole ownership and control. Now that’s an idea I welcome almost 30 years later. Harris Teeter just doesn’t seem to be looking out for me. But Dowdy wasn’t finished.

He next suggested the pool behind the Memorial Student Union be enlarged to 10 times its size. This could provide “ice skating in the winter,” interesting.

He also suggested finding a place for a dining hall accessible for students going to classes near Barnes and Merrick who do not have time to go to the dining facilities near Graham and Hodgin Halls. Two cafes? Dowdy presented to the Board of Trustees what he called “My Exciting Five Years,” a report which showed the percentage of Ph. D’s on campus had increased from 25% to 40%. Copies of this report was asked to be placed in Bluford Library.

As I read on, I learned Dowdy had been elected secretary of the Council of Presidents, a group composed of the chief executives from 99 major state universities and land grant institutions in the United States and Puerto Rico.

After a year as secretary, though, he had the honor of serving as the president of the body, the first “Negro” to do so.

Did I hear an Aggie Pride?

Moving along, let’s visit 1973. Many of us were just years away from life. This next piece of information may have helped brought you here.

On Oct. 19, 1973, five of nine dormitories voted for the first time to allow coed visitation. There was a two-day secret ballot voting process held in which Aggies stormed the polling sites.

The five lucky dormitories were Holland Hall, Morrison Hall, Scott Halls, Senior Dormitory and Gibbs Hall. The remaining dormitories that did not get coed was Cooper Hall, Curtis Hall, High Rise (later called Barbara Hall) and Vanston Hall.

Seriously, though, let’s travel back to Feb. 1 1968, where freshmen Ezell Blair, David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil made history. I’m going to wrap-up my column with an excerpt from the actual article written about the Woolworth Sit-in that Monday morning. But first, I’d like to remind Aggies you have to pay your dues to get anywhere in this world. You have to suffer to defeat understand the sweetness of victory. You have to give to get.

I mean, like my momma would warn me about this life, “No Pains, No Gaines.”

Blair: I’d like a cup of coffee, please.

Waitress: I’m sorry. We don’t serve coffee.

Blair: I beg to disagree with you. You just finished serving me at a counter only two feet away from here.

Waitress: Negros eat at the other end.

Blair: What do you mean? This is a public place, isn’t it? If it isn’t then why don’t you sell membership cards? If you do that, then I’ll understand this in a private room.

Waitress: Well, you won’t get any service here.

After this conversation, said Blair, the waitess left them and went to the other end of the counter.

Immediately following this conversation, however, he stated a Negro girl, a helper of the counter, confronted them, saying, “You are stupid, ignorant! You’re dumb! That’s why we can’t get anywhere today. You know you are supposed to eat at the other end…”

...The next morning, Tuesday, a group of approximately 20 students— including the freshmen initiators of the demonstration— returned and took seats at the counter.

They entered the day at 10:30am and remained throughout the day. They were not served, the waitress stating that “it’s a store regulation— a custom.”

Blair stated that the demonstration was originally planned for two or three weeks, but that now, “We are preparing to continue to sit for as long as necessary— until we’re served.”

I said, did I hear an Aggie Pride?

There were no pants there. My first reaction was to throw my hand on my chest like Red Fox; the only difference was I felt like I could have had a real heart attack.

I didn’t want to leave to the realization that I would have to come to A&T in the same black faded pants for weeks. Because I didn’t have classes on Tuesday and Thursday perhaps people would not notice that all my pants seemed to look alike (Ya right, this is A&T we’re talking about).

I had felt forsaken in January after being robbed, but in the spirit of Ebonics this time I felt forsaken. Why me? I’m sure the thieves were saying. Why not you?

In my rage and anger I did not notice the bottom of my closet, where my pants had been thrown to the floor. I was fortunate that the robbers didn’t like Levis. The only nice pieces (if they didn’t take those also), and rebuild yourself bigger and better than you were before. When it’s done that way, the predators don’t seem to come around as much.

Any suggestion, comments or story ideas you have please E-Mail us: holloway@aurora.ncat.edu.

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Holloway
New Edition comes Home Again, takes Coliseum crowd back to good old days

By Brian Holloway
Editor-In-Chief

Since 1983 New Edition has been one of the most noticeable groups in rhythm & blues. Ronnie DeVoe, Michael Bivins, Bobby Brown, Ralph Tresvant and Ricky Bell were constant on the R&B billboard charts with hits like "Candy Girl," "Mr. Telephone Man," and "Is This The End?"

In 1987 Bobby Brown left the group for a solo career, but the group kept coming out with hits. With the group down to four, they recorded "Count Me Out," which continued to give the group his status as one of the top groups in the country.

In 1988 New Edition added the silky smooth voice of Johnny Gill to the mix, and recorded one more album before the group split. With the solo careers high on the charts, the public awaited the reunion. In 1996 the group came back together, and on January 17 they came to the Greensboro Coliseum to take us back to the days of "Popcorn Love" and "Cool It Now."

New Edition brought along with them Electra artist Keith Sweat's MCA/Blackstreet, and Motown's 702. The concert started with 702, which took about 702 seconds for them to get off the stage. The Biz 10 group performed two unknown songs, and their hit "Steeze." The audience seemed more acceptable of the popular song than they were of the other two.

Blackstreet, in their designer jackets and shiny black shoes, seemed to have as much trouble getting the crowd going as 702. Fortunately for Blackstreet they had more popular songs than 702, and eventually got the crowd of 18,000 involved. Blackstreet did a good job of keeping Teddy Riley from singing, allowing him to do what he does best and that is make the music.

Riley, during the groups' song "Joy," did a tremendous job playing the keyboard. He literally made the keyboard talk. The group concluded their performance with their No 1 hit "No Diggity."

It really didn't get the reception at the start, but when the group went into the remix version, which is a re-make of Michael Jackson's song "Billie Jean," the crowd got excited. Perhaps because the group started to point at the crowd, and point their head towards the crowd with a rhythmic movement, reminiscent of the great MJ.

The next act was Keith Sweat. As The Coliseum became dark, Sweat yelled out "GREENSBORO" - but he sounded like Jed Clampett from the Beverly Hillbillies.

That was probably Sweat's only mistake of the evening. Sweat did an outstanding job of going back to his first album with the hit "Make It Last Forever," and he brought the crowd up to date with "Twisted." Sweat's show was excellent, and he really deserves his own show.

Aggie returning next year with high hopes

Beasley bides his time, waits to bounce back

By Brian Holloway
Editor-In-Chief

Like his other teammates Thursday night, Tarik Beasley was in the Sports Center dribbling a basketball. Unlike his teammates, however, Beasley was dressed in a burgundy sweater, jeans, and a gold necklace with a basketball half-way through a net.

Beasley, last season's leading scorer, has not been able to play the entire season because of a non-athletic leg injury suffered over the summer.

Beasley received a medical red-shirt and will return to the Aggies' lineup next season.

For Tarik it might be a good thing he's not playing this year," Aggie coach Roy Thomas said. "It might make him more focused. I think it's going to make him work a little harder and make him not take life or basketball for granted."

"It's been rough for me sitting out," Beasley said. "I was supposed to be a team leader this year, but sitting out is just going to help me.

"I'm working with coach, lifting weights and everything, so when I'm back next year I should be healthy."

Thomas rotates at 11 players, which means it would have been tough to add an additional player to the rotation. The absence gives players like Torrey Tucker, Maurice Chambers and Tony Mitchell a chance to gain experience. Despite the Aggies' depth, Beasley was prepared to play this season. He practiced with the team for two weeks before deciding to sit out.

"Every time I worked out it wouldn't bother me or begin to swell," he said. "Coach said it was up to me to get playing time."

"I went back to my doctor in New Jersey, and he told me it would be better for me to take the year off and give my leg a chance to heal properly.

"I wanted the decision to be up to Tarik and his family," Thomas said. "It's going to work out for the best for Tarik if he takes advantage of it."

It gives him another year of school and a chance to get a degree at the end of next year.

"Also it gives us a chance to have another senior on next year's team. This year we already have five seniors."

Without Beasley this season the Aggies are 6-7-2 in the MEAC, and they are tied with South Carolina State for the conference lead.

Beasley will return to be a leader for an Aggie team that will lose five players.

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Powell, McIntyre sink key shots

A&T takes pair of wild wins from Wildcats

By Wendy Wilson
Sports Editor

The action in Corbett Sports Arena was more explosive than a Die Hard movie on Feb. 1. Those in attendance were treated to a double header of buzzer beaters, one competition dimming twice with two buzzer beaters. The Lady Aggies defeated Bethune-Cookman 54-51. The Aggie men defeated the Wildcats, 86-85.

"This defeat hurt them [Bethune-Cookman] more than our defeat in Florida (81-61)," said head coach Roy Thompson.

Both teams shot the lights out. Bethune shot 62 percent from behind the three point arc and A&T shot 44 percent. Bethune's total field goal percentage was 60. Both teams shot 67 percent from the line.

A layup by Marcus Williams brought the Aggies within one (74-73) with 23 seconds left in regulation. Lonnie Mincey's two free throws with 10 seconds remaining appeared to have sealed the victory for the Wildcats - but Williams had other plans in mind.

With four seconds left, he made one of the biggest shots of his career, a three-pointer that sent the game into overtime tied 76-76.

"Percentage-wise, I am the one that you want to take the shot," Marcus said.

The game had been tight from the opening toss, and the overtime period was no different. Both teams exchanged turnovers, three-point plays, field goals and fouls. The key point in the game came when Johnahrian Richmond was foiled on a three-point attempt.

Richmond made all three free throws to put the Aggies up 84-83 with 30 seconds left. Two Athair Henry free throws put the Wildcats back on top 85-84, but Richmond pulled up for another three with seconds left. His shot bounced off the front of the rim.

A Bethune player had it for a moment, but no longer. Derrick Powell ended up with the ball and put the game-winner on the glass as the buzzer sounded.

"I just crashed the boards and was at the right place at the right time," Powell said.

Bethune guard Roseki Jackson wasn't so sure Powell's shot beat the clock.

"The buzzer call was very, very controversial," he said.

The Wildcats came in without Mario Miller, who had pulled a hamstring in practice. And by the end of the night, they were without Freddie Cole, who pounced in 24 seconds before leaving with an ankle injury with eight minutes left in the second half.

"I won't make excuses," Bethune coach Tony Shields said. "We came in playing without our best and fastest player, Mario Miller. We don't miss anyone. We have players that can play. We have enough talent. Our players must step up. "We came here prepared to play an aggressive team. When you come to Corbett, you are not only playing the team, you are playing the home crowd, the 'Aggie Pride,' and the Aggie tradition."

Jackson had 21 points for Bethune, shooting 5-for-9 from Wildcats, going five of nine from three-point range. Mincey followed with 15 and Reggie Bellamy and Henry had 10 each.

Carron led the Aggies with 18 points, 12 from three-point range. Richmond and Kimani Stewart had 16 each. Shemed Karonin added 13 and Williams had 10.

"We tried to make a statement," Thompson said. "If we remain undefeated at home and steal what we can on the road, we will go on for the title. We still have to work hard and put together 40-minute games. Our team is growing with each game. We may not always play smart, but we never quit."

In women's action, Latania McIntyre's two free throws with 20 seconds left sealed a 54-51 win for A&T.

Viasek Blanding made a layup to bring Bethune within one with three minutes left. After several timeouts, turnovers and blocked shots, McIntyre was fouled on the way to the basket.

With the pressure on, she hit both shots, finishing with 17 points. A last-ditch three-point attempt by the Wildcats went wild and the Lady Aggies celebrated their second straight win at home.

Nisha Watson added 13 points and Halima Cofwright scored 12 for the Lady Aggies. Nikisha Moffett led the Lady Wildcats with 12 points and Cheryl Dickson and Blanding both scored 10 points each.

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