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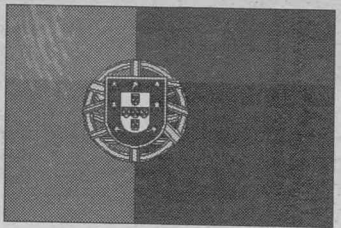
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Portuguese coming to A&T, page 5

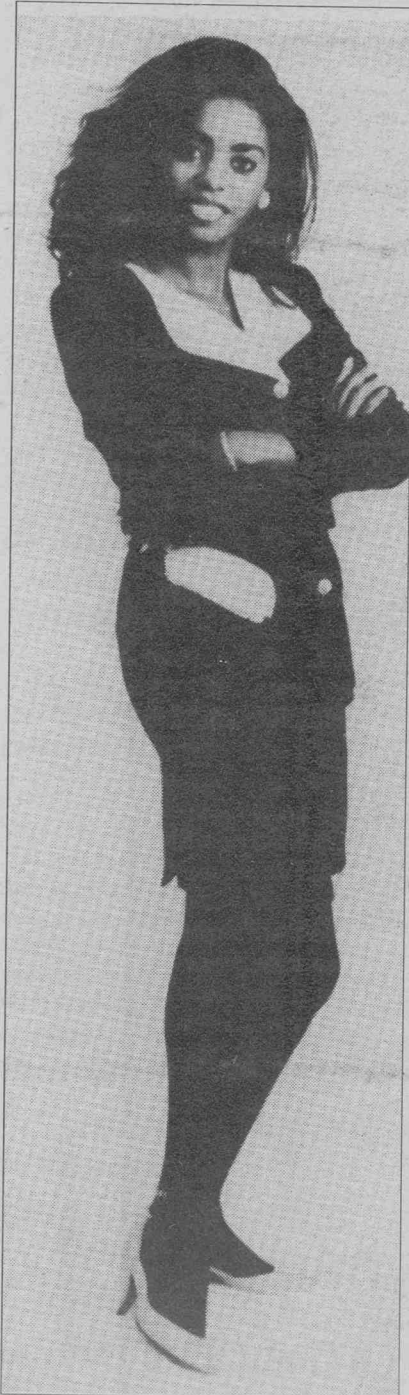
Wishbone formation could answer Aggie's prayers, sports page 7

THE A&T Register

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Volume 72 No. 5

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A&T PRESENTS JACKIE BOATWRIGHT, executive producer and host of "The Jackie Boatwright Show," 7:30 p.m. today, Harrison Auditorium. Boatwright is Miss Black Georgia 1991 and a model for Fashion Fair and Dark 'N Lovely. For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities, 334-7676.

Bridging gaps Variety is the spice of literary appreciation

By Jacqueline Koonce
Staff Writer

The A&T English Department Lecture Series presented "Black Women Writing: Depictions of the Black Male by Contemporary Black Women Novelists."

Of all the points made during the discussion last night by teachers and students, one point was clear: One should read a variety of works to appreciate all types of writing. Reading provides an outlet for African Americans to be exposed to all aspects of African-American life.

The four panelists featured during the discussion in the Memorial Student Union ballroom were LaVie T. Leasure, William Boone, Beverly Threatt Kulii and Gibreel Kamara, all of the English department. Donna Newell was the moderator.

Leasure discussed "Dismantling the Superwoman Myth." She pleaded for the "aesthetic release for black women writers."

Black women should be allowed to express what they believe to be the truth as

long as it's true historically. Writing is cathartic for African-American women, she said.

Leasure explored the works of Alice Walker's "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens," Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye," Deborah McDowell's "The Self and the Other," Terri McMillan's "Waiting to Exhale" and others.

Boone chose to discuss "Bridging the Gaps That Exist." He said works such as "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison, "Waiting to Exhale" by Terri McMillan and "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker "all bash males and expose the lowest forms of human life." He added that the authors "help perpetuate these stereotypes."

Kulii used "Misrepresentin' The Color Purple" as her topic. In "The Color Purple," she said, "humans are transformed for the worst and for the better."

However, some negative reaction did follow the work's release. For example, "one mother tried to have the novel banned from libraries" because it was an

"unrealistic portrayal of African-American life."

Also, Kulii said, the film and novel are extremely different. Even Alice Walker commented that "The Color Purple" "is not intended to be a male-bashing novel."

The last panelist Kamara discussed "The Responsibility of the Artist and the Critic." The writer has a "responsibility to art."

She or he should have a "moral vision," a "balance, order and criteria" in her or his work. "Black women malign black men in their work," he said.

But Kamara prefaced his remarks by saying there was "some truth" to Boone's observation that the "womanist movement is for lesbians." He defined womanism as a war of women seeking a utopia. In this utopia there are no men, hence — lesbianism.

In response to Kulii's comments, he said because "some black (male writers) portray women negatively does not mean that black women (writers) should do" the same.

Aggies build QUEENS and MEN

By Jacqueline Koonce
Staff Writer

Quality, Understanding, Enrichment, Education, Nurturing and Success are the things Miss A&T, Bridgett Herring, her court and other organizational queens are striving for. They seek to enrich the lives of impressionable female adolescents in the community and demonstrate the qualities of true QUEENS

Motivators, Educators and Nurturers are what the Aggie MEN, under the leadership of former Mr. Aggie, Alex Gray, strive to be in their quest to enrich the lives of adolescent males in the community. Sister and brother organizations, the Aggie QUEENS and the Aggie MEN enrich lives in the community by reaching out to adolescents at Allen Middle School.

The Aggie QUEENS work sixth-through eighth-grade females at Allen Middle School. Although all female students are invited to participate in the program, Herring wants to target students who have a "low socioeconomic status, display behavioral problems, have problems academically or those who simply need a big sister."

She continues, "The purpose of the program is to become a liaison between students at North Carolina A&T State University and adolescent females in the Greensboro community and to enhance leadership qualities and self-esteem."

She adds, "It will provide credible female role models for the children of the community to emulate. This program will also

see QUEENS, page 5

Callahan works to bring change

By Raegan Burden
University Relations

Dr. Linda Florence Callahan, chairwoman of the department of speech, communication and theater arts at A&T, recently attended a conference at the Leadership Institute for Journalism Education Administrators in San Francisco.

Callahan was one of 20 people selected by the Freedom Forum to attend the six-day, all expense-paid conference.

The Freedom Forum, sponsor of the event, is a nonpartisan, international foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit. The foundation addresses these issues through conferences, educa-

tional efforts, partnerships and a host of other activities.

The conference addressed a wide range of issues critical to the operation and administration of successful journalism education program. The workshop presenters of key foundations, the media industry and leading journalism programs across the United States.

"North Carolina A&T State University



Callahan

will benefit from my having the opportunity to participate in this Leadership Institute for Journalism Education Administrators," Callahan said.

"I am looking forward to implementing many of the ideas and suggestions that were discussed," she added.

Callahan received her bachelor degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her master's and doctorate from Ohio State University.

Callahan also is the National Association of Black Journalists board representative for associate members (journalism educators and public relations professionals).

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Register@ncat.edu

UPCOMING

Housing Conditions...
Is campus life acceptable, or are improvements overdue?

Help grant Christmas wishes for needy kids

By Kevin Walker
Staff Writer

For the past four years, the annual Wishmustree and Wishmuswreath have given smiles to needy kids who otherwise might not receive some of the joys Christmas can bring.

The Wishmustree sponsors a needy child in the community selected by the Urban Ministries and the Salva-

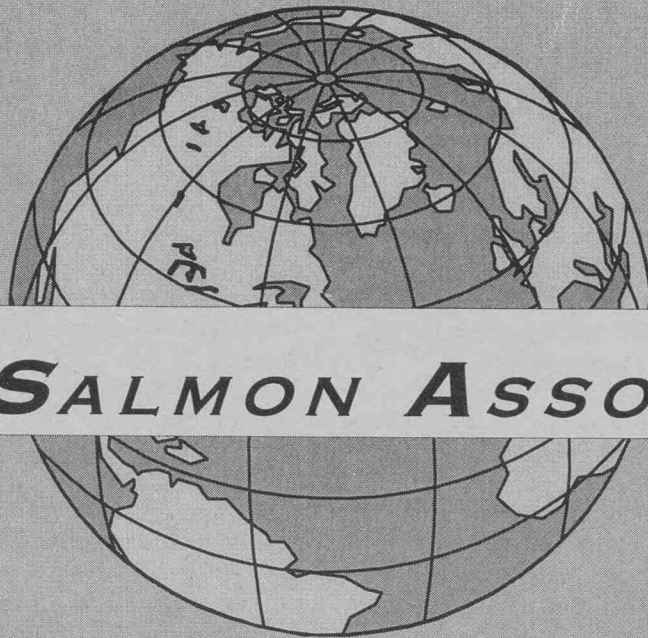
tion Army. The goal of the program is for one person or organization to purchase a gift selected by the child.

Wishmustree and Wishmuswreath founder Fredrick Stocks, Cooper Hall dorm director, hopes that students show the spirit of giving and help the efforts of the program.

The deadline for the program is Dec. 10. If you would like to become a part of this program, select a child by choosing a name from the Wishmustree or

Wishmuswreath from a participating dorm. Register the child with the host or the hostess on duty. Purchase the gift for the child. Do not wrap the gift. Place the tag on the gift (this is to indicate which child is to receive your selected gift). Please include wrapping paper for your gift. Return the gift to the location you select the tag.

A Wishmustree Program representative will collect the gifts and distribute them to the proper agency. For more information, call 334-7919.



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Management group to be chartered at A&T

The Zeta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Iota Epsilon, the Student Division of the Academy of Management, will be chartered 1:30 p.m. Sunday in Merrick Hall, Room 205.

This chapter will be the first at a historically black college or university.

Membership in the National Honorary and Professional Management Fraternity is based on academic performance (minimum 3.0, with a B average in management courses; 3.25 for graduate students).

Students from all majors are eligible if they have taken one management course and will take another and if they have at least 30 undergraduate hours or nine graduate hours.

Charter members will be inducted by national President Paul Wilkens, who will serve as keynote speaker. They include:

Dr. Janice Witt Smith, assistant professor of management, School of Business

and Economics. Smith will also serve as the chapter's adviser.

Dana J. Coles, senior management major from Gloucester Point, Va.

Terre D. Gill, senior business logistics/transportation major from Louisburg.

Kohmela Grier, sophomore finance/management major from Greensboro.

Urundi T. Moore, senior management major from Charlotte.

Elwanda Johnson, senior nursing/management major from Tabor City.

Alana O. Stokes, graduate student in agency counseling from Greensboro.

Rhonda M. Turner, senior accounting major from Burlington.

LaShawn T. Corbett, junior accounting major from Greensboro.

Terricka U. Baskin, junior transportation major from Pleasant Garden.

For information, contact Dr. Janice Witt Smith 334-7656 Extension 4037.

Ensemble to present "Let My People Go"

The Touring Theatre Ensemble of North Carolina will be presenting its acclaimed new theatre piece, "Let My People Go: The Trials of Bondage in Words of Master and Slave," at the Broach Theatre 8 p.m. today through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Based on recently collected court documents about slaves and slavery, "Let My People Go" features six of the area's most talented performers who portray the documents in a series of vivid sketches intertwined with well-known spirituals. These performances, funded by the N.C. Humanities

Council, the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation, are hosted by 11 local religious organizations: Beth David Synagogue, Congregational UCC, First Presbyterian, Laughlin Memorial United Methodist, New Garden Friends Meeting, Providence Baptist, St. Francis Episcopal, St. James Presbyterian, St. Stephen UCC and Temple Emanuel.

Admission is free, but reservations are necessary. Call the Broach Theatre, 910/378-9300.

the 411


Najee and Jonathan Butler in the "Jazz Concert of the Year," 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21 at Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte, 2700 E. Independence Blvd. Tickets on sale at all Ticket Master locations and the Independence Arena box office. Or charge by phone: (704) 522-6500. For more ticket information, call (704) 335-6500.

Audition for the "Carolina's Holiday Talent Showcase '97." Call 1-888-1700 for an audition.

The Art Circle is sponsoring "The Art Mingle" 6 p.m. today in Frazier Hall for art majors.

Send your 411 to The A&T Register at Box E-25 in the mail center or drop them off at 119 Nocho St.

Edward McKay



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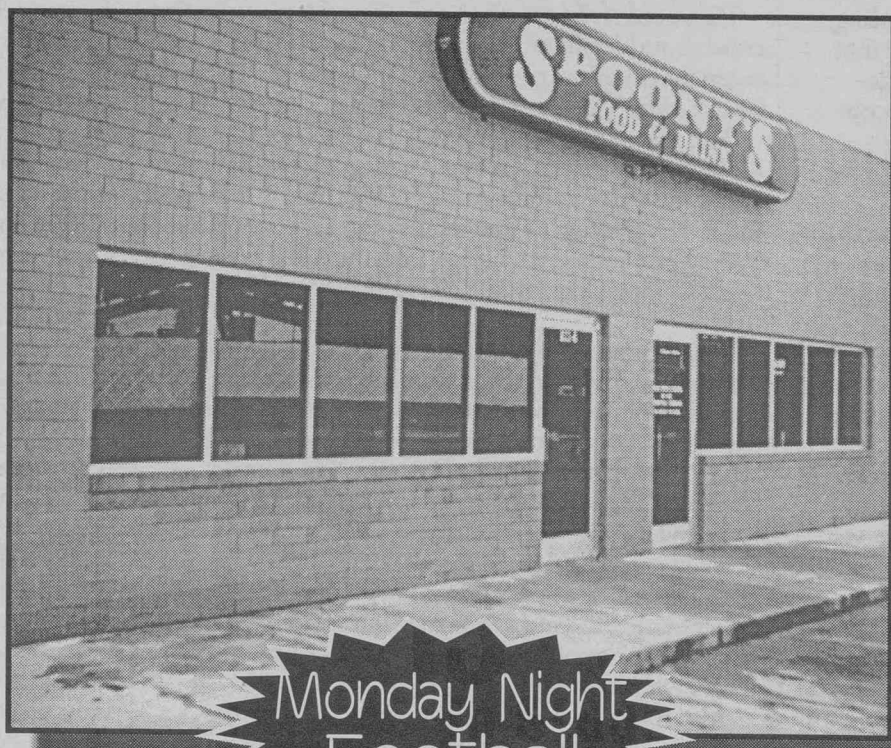
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Views in editorials reflect those of *The A&T Register* but not those of the University.
 Views in letters to the editor are those of the writer.

The A&T Register
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The A&T Register is a student-produced publication affiliated with the Department of Speech, Communication and Theatre Arts.
 Dr. Linda Florence Callahan, chairperson

Represented for national advertising by Communications Advertising Services for Students, AllCampus and American Passage Media.



Affirmative Action is equal opportunity for all

By Lynette Jones
 Staff Writer

Affirmative action – what is it? Does it involve racial preferences, quotas and set-asides? Do not be fooled. These are terms used interchangeably with the term affirmative action by proponents of disbanding the program by giving it a negative connotation that has no real basis in fact. These programs were designed to create, if not improve, equality of opportunity for everyone.

Affirmative action has its roots in Executive Order 11246, which was passed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. It was about equal opportunity in the work force. It required that contractors in business with the federal government (of \$10,000 or more) include a clause in their contracts asserting equal opportunity.

They were required to take "affirmative action" in preventing job discrimination based on race, national origin, religion and gender.

The intentions of Executive Order 11246 were not to create set-asides, promote racial preferences or fill quotas. The term "affirmative action" was derived from the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, involving the workers' right to unionize. This act sought to ensure that "affirmative action" would be taken to prevent the penalization of workers by their employers for being union members.

Reinstatement and/or back pay were components of the "affirmative action." The usage and meaning of "affirmative action" was applied for the enforcement of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 through Executive Order 11246.

1965 was a turbulent time, when racial prejudice continued to be as blatant as ever. It was and still is very much a part of the social and economic lives of all people in the United States. It was not denied that people of color were not allowed the same benefits and "opportunities" to succeed as others. In most other

countries, economics (not color) is the motivating factor in class and status.

People of color deserve the opportunity to compete in all aspects of the work force. Affirmative action was not intended to show "preferential treatment" toward individuals of color.

The people who are given equal opportunity must be capable and qualified. Affirmative action does not mean that there are positions available to incompetent blacks, simply because they are black.

Perhaps people of color would have jobs and lucrative positions if it weren't necessary to ascend to any standard of training to compete in the job market. In 1995, 97 percent of the senior managers of Fortune 500 companies were white. According to the Federal Glass Ceiling Commission, 95 to 97 percent were male.

In fact, white women have benefited most from affirmative action. Women have also, historically, been denied opportunity and suppressed. Not to nearly the extent as blacks, but notably. Some may argue that white women have achieved because they have reached a peak in attaining educational degrees.

It can also be argued that they had the opportunity to receive that education. Is that not affirmative action at work? Affirmative action is not reverse discrimination intended to leave white men out of consideration. It would also apply at a historically black university with a white enrollee.

In 1969, President Nixon amended Executive Order 11246. Title VII prohibited discrimination in private employment. Federal contractors also had to adhere to new standards that changed the numbers previously set in 1965.

Those new standards included employing 50 or more people and holding contracts of \$50,000 or more with the federal government. Other changes required that affirmative-action plans be written; therefore, goals would be set to secure more equality in the workplace.

This is where confusion and much of the controversy comes into play. Two criteria must be met under affirmative action. The potential employee must be a group member that has been historically underrepresented at the particular place of employment and must otherwise be qualified for the job. Goals are to make the work environment more heterogeneous and thus a reflection of the community it serves. This means that the employers must strive to mirror the availability of workers in the qualified labor pool.

The only threat that white men are feeling is an increase in competition. With more people competing in the workplace, there are fewer jobs. Without affirmative action, blacks and women may not be given the same consideration as white men. Racism and gender discrimination may no longer be as blatant as in the past, but it has not ended.

Affirmative action need not be disbanded, but reorganized to fit the mode of the times we are living in. We are living in a society of fakes, people in denial and those who are content at any turn when confronted with race relations. Racial prejudice is ingrained in our society.

It is passed down from one generation to the next. How can people say that we do not need to be concerned about ensuring equal opportunity? Interracial relationships continue to be shunned, and our neighborhoods and schools continue to be segregated.

No matter how many laws are passed, moving vans will still be available. However, people cannot run forever. Nonwhites will not go away and their numbers are increasing. If being dark-complexioned is so terrible, then why do whites run to beaches to tan every summer at the risk of cancer?

As an African-American woman living in the United States, I expect equal opportunity and recognition when it is due. I would expect the same fairness if I were physically challenged, of a different nationality or opposing religion. Affirmative action is equality of opportunity for all.

Portuguese to be offered at A&T this spring semester

By Kevin Walker
Staff Writer

The department of foreign languages plans to offer elementary Portuguese I in the spring.

This will be an introduction to the language and culture of the Portuguese-speaking world, which includes Brazil, Portugal, five African nations and four Asian colonies. Elementary Portuguese I will be the first of four courses to be offered in later semesters. A&T will be the only local college that will offer Portuguese regularly.

Foreign languages Professor Robert Anderson will teach the course. He expressed the importance of the language. Brazil is one of the Portuguese-speaking countries that does business with the United States, Anderson said.

"Brazil is one of our largest trading partners, and doing business in Latin America means doing business with

Brazil," he said.

Few realize the importance of the Portuguese language. It is the eighth-most widely spoken language in the world. Portuguese is spoken by hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their descendants in North America.

Above all, the emerging market for U.S. products in Portuguese-speaking countries is expanding. This expansion has opened doors for college-level students who have a background in communication, agricultural economics, engineering, computer science and technology.

The course will consist of cultural activities such as viewing films on the Portuguese culture and roundtable discussions to aid the course. Dr. Anderson says that he loves the language and the culture and is very enthusiastic about teaching the course.

For more information, contact Dr. Robert Anderson at 334-7568 or roberto@ncat.edu, or Dr. Nita Dewberry, department chairperson of foreign languages, 334-7886.

Aggie speaks out in newsletter

Malcolm Lee Boney, senior mechanical and aerospace engineering major, is seeking answers in the form of a self-funded newsletter titled "Malcolm Speaks."

"The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the student body of controversial issues that most students are talking of, yet no one wants to deal with," Boney said.

The first two issues of "Malcolm Speaks" are creating waves. Articles about the blockade on Laurel Street and the Homecoming '97 saga has raised some eyebrows.

In addition to the newsletter, Boney has created a student organization, the United Aggies Coalition. The coalition consists of President and founder Boney and five to six students from each residence hall on campus.

The coalition's only executive position is that of president. Members are only required to register with Malcolm and submit a weekly story idea.

Boney invites feedback from students and administrators. Anyone with story ideas or concerns can send e-mail to boney@jade.ncat.edu.

—Corey King
Staff Writer

Foxmail solves e-mail-less problem

Berkeley, CA—Foxmail, Inc. announced the launch of a permanent e-mail company that solves post-collegiate e-mail service problems.

Thousands of college seniors will lose their college e-mail accounts when they graduate. A viable solution to this approaching problem is to sign up for permanent e-mail before graduating. A permanent e-mail address allows the user to travel, change workplaces and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and still keep the same e-mail address. This flexibility eliminates the need to repeatedly notify friends and business contacts of a "new" e-mail address.

Foxmail offers its subscribers two methods of accessing their e-mail: via the World Wide Web or using their current e-mail software. Using the web option, subscribers can access their e-mail from any computer that has access to the Internet.

Subscribers can forward their messages to as many as three e-mail addresses simultaneously. This option appeals to users who access their e-mail from several different locations. The forwarding option is a solution for people who do not have access to the Web.

Foxmail's goal is to provide subscribers with the most user-friendly e-mail system. "With Foxmail, you can have your e-mail forwarded for two weeks to a friend's AOL

account and then redirect your e-mail back to your home without anyone ever knowing," explained Lee Ann Bezazian, Foxmail's Sales and Marketing Manager.

As part of that user-friendliness, subscribers can switch between using the web-based e-mail option or changing to just the forwarding function anytime they choose. All users need to do is update their account information on the web. User's e-mail is protected by password encryption and is hosted by secure servers offering greater security.

Foxmail is very concerned about their users' privacy. Foxmail is not advertising sponsored and does not sell its subscriber list. "Foxmail is not in the business to advertise its users. We, at Foxmail, are in the business of providing an intrusive-free e-mail environment where our subscribers never have to wonder what is waiting for them in their in-box," explained Kimberlynn Locklin, Foxmail founder and President. Subscribers offset the cost of storing their e-mail by paying an all-inclusive annual fee of \$19.95. "By charging subscribers an annual fee, Foxmail is able to provide an advertising free mail environment," Locklin continued.

For more information, visit Foxmail's web site at www.foxmail.com Or call 1-888-FOX-WIRE (1-888-369-9473).

LaBelle has the right attitude

Concertgoers will have an opportunity to give the gift of giving during this upcoming Thanksgiving season. By donating a nonperishable food item at the time of ticket purchase at the Coliseum box office, patrons will receive a dollar off any ticket purchased to the Patti LaBelle concert. The food item will be donated to the Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina.

Fans will receive immediate thanks when LaBelle takes the stage and belts out hit after hit like "New Attitude" and "The Right Kinda Lover."

Nationally recognized for her humanitarian work and extraordinary musical talent, with concert tours playing across the world, LaBelle performs to standing ovations.

This Grammy Award-winning singer, actress and humanitarian is also an accomplished writer and dedicated social servant. On behalf of her work for cancer awareness, a special research comprehensive care center was dedicated in her honor at the Sylvester Comprehensive Care Center at the University of Miami.

LaBelle brings her electrifying performance, 7 p.m. Nov. 26, to the Coliseum in Winston-Salem for the 1997 Thanksgiving Eve concert. Tickets, \$24, \$28, \$32, \$38, are available at all Ticketmaster Centers and at the Coliseum box office.

For additional information, contact the Coliseum box office at 910/725-5635.

QUEENS

from front

provide workshops and activities to enrich the adolescent mind."

The QUEENS meet with the "Allen Aggie Princesses" on Saturdays to involve the students in various workshops and enrichment activities. Possible topics for these workshops include drug/alcohol information, proper etiquette, health/nutrition, self-esteem and conflict resolution.

Enrichment activities include trips to the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial, Greensboro Cultural Arts Center and the Greensboro Historical Museum; various sports, art, music and fashion events.

In the spring, the QUEENS will have a "Day in the Life of a College Student" where the Allen Aggie Princesses will accompany the Aggie QUEENS to classes, and other places they usually go during the day to give the princesses a taste of college life. Mentors will also act as big sisters by eating lunch with the princesses at the middle school.

Tutoring is also available to those students who desire help with their school work on Saturdays when enrichment activities are held.

More female students at A&T are welcome to participate in the program so that more applicants at Allen Middle School can participate in the program. However, Herring requests that all female students "express a yearning desire to contribute to the University and the Greensboro community." She continues, "Maturity, dedication, and commitment are required attributes." All participants, whether mentors or administrative assistants, are required to serve a minimum of 12 group activity hours and 10 individual activity hours.

Other community projects planned through the program include the QUEENS and princesses working in soup kitchens, donating to the homeless, adopting a family. The purpose of these projects is to show the princesses the value of serving their community.

Also dedicated to serving their community are the Aggie MEN, brothers to the Aggie QUEENS. This organization was born last April.

Gray said he wanted to create a program where black men were mentors for black adolescent males. He states, "I've often seen females acting as mentors for males." He wanted to change this situation by requesting Aggie males to reach out to seventh- and eighth-grade males at Allen Middle School.

Although Gray started the program while in office, it is not a program continued under that alias. Leadership and responsibilities will be passed on to any Aggie Man who exhibits leadership qualities, a profound interest in the community, and of course, the desire to help adolescent youth succeed.

"We chose Allen Middle School because it is predominantly black, located in a remote area, and receives little attention from the community." This program opened with 20 adolescent males from Allen Middle School who are called "Allen Aggies," but has dropped to 17 students.

The Aggie MEN have already had rap sessions, gone to football games at the middle school, and brought the students to the A&T Homecoming fashion show.

This month, the Allen Aggies will also do a canned-food drive at their school. Gray states that this is important in instilling leadership skills in the youth.

The Aggie MEN are also planning to take the Allen Aggies to various museums, cultural activities, and church once a month with the consent of the students' parents. Gray states, "these activities will broaden their aspect of society."

**Got
a problem?**
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Send your letters to *The A&T Register*, Box E-25 or at 119 Nocho St., across from Graham Hall.

A&T vents against Delaware State

By Earnest Wallace
Sports Writer

Over the years the A&T-Delaware State game has been less than spectacular.

On a dreary, desolate day in Aggie Stadium, an estimated 15,000 plus fans came to support the Aggies. The game was indicative of past contests: very little offense, much defense, and suspect MEAC officiating.

In a game replete with penalties and steeped in lackluster performance, the A&T Aggies overcame a 14-3 deficit to overpower the hapless Hornets 22-14.

After a slow start, A&T special teams proved its dominance, blocking three punts that resulted in two critical touchdowns for the Aggies.

The special teams, as well as the defense smothered Delaware State's chances of generating any offense, along with key play calling and subpar officiating.

After an obvious field goal by kicker Matt Baldwin, the officials declared the attempt no good. But after Baldwin vehemently pleaded his case, the officials recanted a judgment call and declared the kick good.

In the third quarter with A&T up 15-14, quarterback Adon Hall fumbled a snap, which Delaware State recovered. Once again, the officials made an egregious mistake and called the play dead, continuing to give the Aggies life.

Delaware State Coach John McKenzie might have been bitter about the officiating, but his team took a commanding 14-3 lead over the Aggies. Quarterback Reggie Brown connected with Damarien McCants for a 20-yard touchdown pass.

At the beginning of the second quarter running back Louis Gould trotted into the end zone on a 47-yard touchdown explosion to give the Hornets an abrupt lead.

The turning point of the game came when Majid Hassan blocked a punt that gave A&T great field position at the Delaware State 22-yard line.

The A&T offense then responded. With 10:13 left before the half, Adon Hall hit a diving Henry Douglas for 25 yards, which narrowed the lead to five.

"All I did was concentrate on the ball and scored the touchdown. I just wanted to win," Douglas said.

On Delaware State's next possession freshman Jason Hughes blocked one of

his two punts that resulted in a pickup and return by David Hunt for 20 yards for an Aggie touchdown.

Delaware State's punt team continued to exhibit major flaws. The ensuing possession saw Jason Hughes block another punt, which resulted in a missed field goal.

The Aggies returned to the locker room with a narrow 15-14 halftime lead.

In the second half, the "Blue Death" defense came alive, aborting any potential comeback Delaware State had in mind.

Delaware State did not get more than one first down until their final possession, and they were also held to a mere 46 yards in the half.

Chris McNeil spearheaded the defense with 2.5 sacks and a forced fumble that B.J. Little scooped up and scattered to the Delaware State 10-yard line.

It did not take long for the Aggie offense to strike.

Quarterback Hall found a galloping Michael Basnight for a 10-yard touchdown pass and catch, giving the Aggies a 22-14 advantage.

Senior cornerback Tori Coston sealed

the Aggie victory with his fifth interception of the year, and the Aggies sixth win of the year.

However, it was the last home game for the departing seniors. Chris McNeil has had an outstanding year for the Aggies thus far, recording an incredible 22 quarterback sacks with two games remaining.

"These are my last college games. I'm supposed to make plays. I'm going out as a senior like I want to go out — and that is winning," exclaimed McNeil.

Next, the Aggies visit Grambling for coach Eddie Robinson's last home game.

Afterward, they meet the Bulldogs of S.C. State for a perennial showdown in Charlotte.

"These are my last college games. I'm supposed to make plays. I'm going out as a senior like I want to go out — and that is winning."

Chris McNeil
Blue Death

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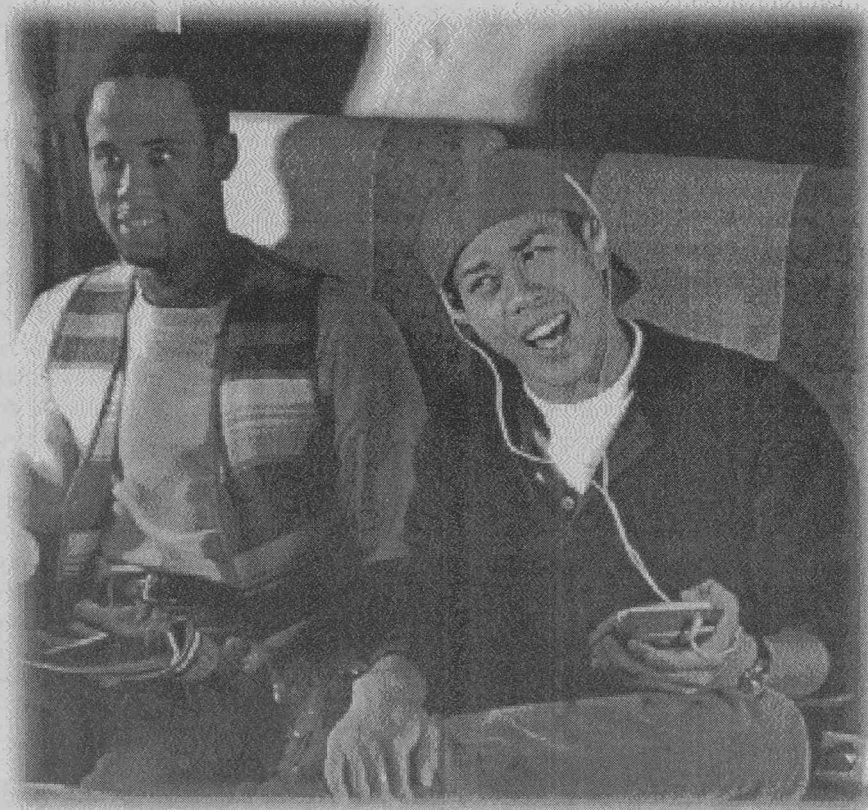
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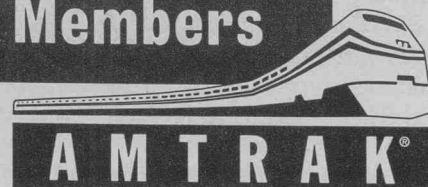


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Season fails to gain enough momentum

Aggies have offense on their wish list

By Marq King
Sports Editor

The A&T football team is 5-3 when it should be a perfect 8-0. The problem is evident; despite a sparkling defense which has carried the squad all season, the strong-legged A&T offense possess an anemic arm.

Why are the Aggies not running the run-oriented wishbone offense or at least an option variable? It seems that we are not taking full advantage of our strongest offensive assets.

QB Ben Garrett has good foot speed and mobility. He is not the pocket passer; he passes better on the move or rolling out of the pocket. Why not let him get on the corner and use his gifts?

Michael Basnight is a feature runningback. Allow him to wear the defense down with irrepressible punishment. The mercurial Reggie Shuford would have more chances to turn the corner and fly up field. Maurice Smith's combination of speed and quickness would make the threat of the game-breaking run even more probable.

The blocking schemes for the wishbone are simpler and designed to enhance the speed of an offensive line. It is hard to defend because most teams do not face more than two option teams a season.

In addition, most teams run the option from different formations. And when passing the quarterback will not be asked to throw into two man coverage because of the threat of the run. Most importantly, it would put additional pressure on the defense to be disciplined and maintain lane and zone responsibility.

Because a breakdown in lane responsibility will result in a large gain and even if lane integrity is maintained, the offensive player has an opportunity to be one-on-one with a defender.

Other programs with the limited resources similar to A&T's are finding success with the option. The military programs of Air Force and Army have had good success with the wishbone. The University of Texas and Old Miss run the option from the "I" formation. LSU used the option twice for touchdown runs of 50 and 30 yards to knock then top-ranked Florida Gators from the ranks of the unbeaten.

Right now A&T will need help from Hampton and S.C. State in order to play in the post-season. The injustice is that A&T should be deciding whether to play in the Heritage Bowl or Division II playoffs. It would be nice to see the Aggie backs first opposition to be defensive backs instead of defensive linemen.

By Marq King
Sports Editor

The A&T football team dropped their second game in a row with a loss to Bethune-Cookman and loses ground in the playoff picture.

Before the two game skid, the Aggies seemed poised to make a run for post-season play with tough wins against Morgan St. (7-6) and FAMU (40-37). The losses to Howard during Homecoming (21-13) and Bethune-Cookman (26-25) have put the team into a desperate situation in which other MEAC schools must lose in order for the Aggies to play after Nov. 22nd.

The Aggies are now 5-3, 2-3 in the conference. The disintegration of the season began, curiously enough, with a victory. The Aggies staged a brilliant second half comeback to beat the Rattlers of FAMU in double overtime.

Oteman Sampson of FAMU shredded the top-ranked Aggie defense, despite good pressure from the defensive line, for an eye-popping 413 yards and three touchdowns. Bill Hayes countered with second string QB Adon Hall. Hall's ability to pass allowed A&T to gain larger chunks of yardage as well as spread the field, which opened up the running game.

Reggie Shuford and Michael Basnight combined for 161-yard performance. Morgan St. proved a more difficult problem for the Aggies. Without Basnight or Shuford the Aggies struggled mightily to complete offensive drives.

QB Ben Garrett went down with a shoulder injury. Most emphatic was that A&T was penalized for more yards than they gained on the ground. The Aggies finally won the sloppy game with 11 seconds left on 24-yard touchdown pass from Adon Hall to Henry Douglas.

A&T's luck would not hold out in the next two games.

Howard demoralized the Aggie faithful on Homecoming. Once again A&T's inability to score cost the Aggies a victory. The Bison were led to victory by such and such.

An upstart Bethune-Cookman squad awaited

the Aggies on Nov. 1. The 26-25 loss was marked by such and such. The remaining schedule consists of Delaware State, Grambling and South Carolina State. In order for the Aggies to play in the post-season, they must win all of their games and the league leaders must lose at least three conference games.

But, stranger things have happened; just look at what happened to the Aggies this year.

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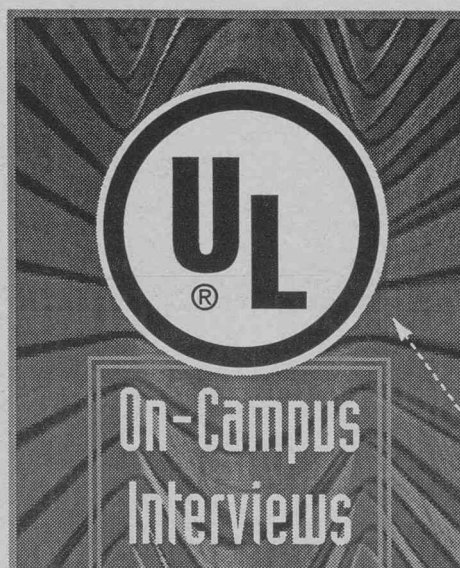
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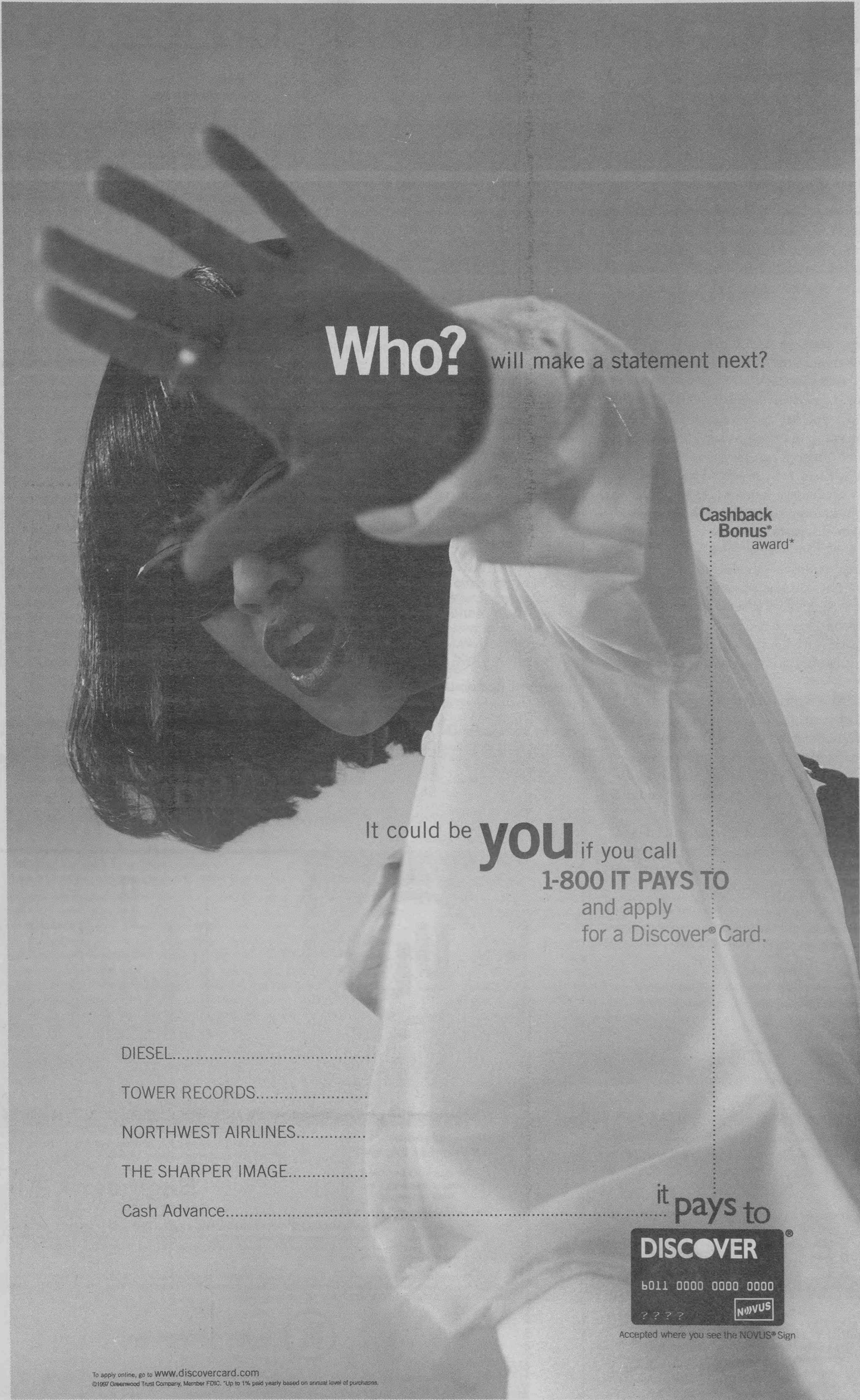
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