Thomas, men's head basketball coach, resigns

Roy Thomas quits after five years with the Aggies. An assistant will replace him.

Poor playing blamed on A&T loss to Hampton

By Senai Marsh

Regent Staff

After a grueling five-game road trip in which the Aggies captured a big win over Morgan State and nearly upset Coppin State, the Aggies returned home on Feb. 13 to battle conference foe Hampton.

However, early in this contest it appeared the Aggies forgot to bring back a few key items from their trip — namely their intensity and shooting touch.

Despite being in front of the cameras for a live-television contest, the Aggies played surprisingly unmotivated basketball for most of the afternoon and shot a dismal 32.8 percent from the field. To its credit, Hampton capitalized on the Aggies' listlessness down the stretch and made several late free throws to secure a 64-53 win.

Afterwards, A&T coach Roy Thomas was adamantly befuddled by his team's uninspired play.

"The biggest disappointment of all was the lack of execution," said Thomas, who saw his club fall to 9-14 overall and 6-9 in the MEAC. "We just hit a wall and couldn't score anymore."

"That wall arrived at a most inopportune time for the Aggies, who were outscored 16-5 in the game's final minutes.

With A&T nursing a two-point lead with 4:05 to play, Hampton's Tajal Young hit a lay-up and completed a three point play to give the Pirates their first lead of the second half at 51-50. A&T quickly responded with a turnaround jumper by forward Kelvin Clyburn (8 points, 11 rebounds), but the Pirates then reclaimed the lead when Tony Adams made a slashing lay-up to make the score 53-52. Hampton would never relinquish that lead.

The final nail in the coffin came at the 1:55 mark when Hampton's Doug Belton scored on an offensive rebound with only seconds left on the shot clock. That basket exemplified the numerous defensive breakdowns A&T suffered during key moments of the second half. "We forced the shot clock down to about three seconds, but then we had a mix-up and let the Hampton player get a wide open rebound on the base-line and score," Thomas said. "That play really hurt us. We have to lock in (mentally) and be sure what we're doing in those situations."

After the Belton basket, the Aggies had several opportunities to stay close, but they failed to capitalize on repeated trips to the foul line and added only one more point on the scoreboard the rest of the way. As a team, the Aggies shot only 54.5 percent of their free throws.

"Our free throw shooting stunk," admitted Thomas. "We made only 12 of the 22 shots from the line.

Students react to Clinton's acquittal, Page 4
Local judge, A&T alumnus, rules more than courtroom

Lawrence McSwain says benevolence equals success.

By Crystal Ward
Register Staff

N.C. A&T graduate Lawrence McSwain believes that true success lies in helping others.

The longtime judge, recently appointed as chief district court judge for North Carolina's 18th judicial district in Guilford County, grew up with the belief that helping somebody special meant helping others. When he launches into one of his famous lectures, particularly to a juvenile offender, it's in the hope of turning them around.

In short, he's helping others.

McSwain was born in 1946 in Shelby and grew up in Kings Mountain. As the oldest of nine children, the responsibility for helping others came at an early age. He had to see that his younger brothers and sisters were taken care of.

"He always followed our parent's rules, and he made sure we did what we were supposed to do," said Bill McSwain, Judge McSwain's brother.

At the age of 9, in the days before bowling alleys had automatic pin setters, McSwain landed his first job which was not uncommon for children his age. He was a pin setter.

His paychecks went to his mother, he said, who in turn gave him an allowance. Between work and school, he found the time for hobbies like chess, bowling, photography and, after one too many beatings from an 11th-grade bully, karate.

McSwain's training taught him a headlock move that turned the tables on the bully, and the lesson was apparent a lasting one. He has continued to study karate, and has taught it for 28 years, and holds a seventh-degree black belt.

McSwain has been married for 29 years to Vivian McSwain, a registered nurse with a master's degree and a college teaching position. The couple has no children of their own, yet plenty of children in their lives. Judge McSwain is a father figure on the bench, and it doesn't stop there.

He works with the Children of Divorce program and speaks at DARE anti-drug programs. And then there are the lectures.

They're more than the average juvenile can handle, some say.

"He makes excellent points, but they're probably beyond the attention span of the kids he's lecturing," said Manley Dodson, a retired Guilford County juvenile court counselor. McSwain politely disagrees.

"I lecture to juveniles in court because I think some of these young people need guidance and direction," he says. "Some of them need to know someone cares about them, and I act as a parent and authority figure."

After graduating from high school in 1962, McSwain served three years in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He enrolled at A&T in 1969, earned his degree in political science, then completed law school at N.C. Central in 1979.

A 1977 student internship at the Guilford County district attorney's office started McSwain on his current path. A student internship at the Durham Legal Aid Service followed, and McSwain began work as an assistant district attorney in Guilford County shortly after completing law school.

By 1983, he was Chief Assistant District Attorney, holding that position until 1985.

Originally appointed as District Court judge in 1986, McSwain was elected to the position in 1988, then again in 1992 and 1996. In December of 1996, he was appointed to his present position, where he continues to hear juvenile, criminal misdemeanor and domestic cases. Among other things, he supervises judges who do the same.

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HAMPTON

From Page One

the line and a lot of those were from the line and a lot were one and ones.”
Jonathan Richmond, who led the Aggies with 11 points, agreed that his
team didn’t have the right focus for this game.

“It was just a lack of concentration on our part,” Richmond said. “No one
seemed like they were ready to play.”
Early in this contest, it looked as if Hampton might run the Aggies right
out of their gym.

At one point in the first half, the A&T team found itself down 23-10
before turning up the tempo on both ends of the court.

Sparkled by the off-the-bench heros

ics of forward Tony Mitchell (8 points) — who made two consecutive three-

point shots — and swarming team defense, A&T went on 21-4 run to end the

half leading 31-25.

The second half began with both teams swapping the lead back and forth before the Aggies eventually ran out of steam.

“We finished the second half, like we played in the first eight minutes of the first half,” Thomas said. “There are still times when it seems like we’re playing not to lose.

“We can’t if we’re playing tenta-

tive,” he said.

Although the loss dropped the

Aggies back ninth place in the MEAC with only two weeks left before the
college tournament in Richmond, it’s still too early for the A&T faithful to throw in the towel.

Thomas, for one said he’s still confi-

dent his club can turn things around
and make a run in March.

“We’re still right there in the middle of things,” he said. “We just came off a road trip where we beat Morgan at Morgan an just barely lost to Coppin in overtime.

“In the tournament, anything can happen.”

DANCERS

From Page One

tain of Aggie Essence, said racy rou-
tines were indeed Howell’s reasons.

“I spoke with Coach Howell, and he
told me that he thought our routines were vulgar,” Lynch said. “That’s the
reasoning he gave on why we were no longer allowed to perform.”

Founded in 1994, Aggie Essence has
grown steadily in popularity. The
team performs at charity events, local
high schools and rest homes and the
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tour-

ament, and has been pictured in Sports Illustrated.

“Aggie Essence is more than a bunch of girls dancing,” Gunn said. “We’re very active in the commu-

nity.”

“We’re not financially supported by the school, so we have the Little Miss Aggie Essence pageant, which is our annual fund-raiser. The pageant en-
courages lifetime social skills, and in-

still self-esteem in all of the partici-

pants.

The decision to stop Aggie Essence

from performing at basketball games was “very unfair,” Gunn said. “The dances we do are not just everyday dances. They require a lot of hard practice and dedication.”

“We opened practices for them to preview our performance, (they) didn’t come, but then canceled future appearances.

“Any dance moves they didn’t like could have been adjusted. It’s frustrat-
ing to hear negative talk about the Aggie Essence when we do so much
to help the kids and the elderly.”

“They should have talked with us first before e-mailing us. We were will-
ing to alter our routines, but we were never given a chance.”

Two A&T faculty members spoke in support of Aggie Essence.

“I saw them at halftime during one of the games, and the dancing wasn’t offensive,” said Donna Newell, an A&T English instructor.

Gizelle Jones, another English in-

structor, said the problem could have been solved without banning Aggie Essence from performing.

“I was impressed by their dancing,” Jones said. “It wasn’t offensive.

“The routines and outfits can be al-
tered, so why suspend the dancers?” Gayland Oliver, a 1988 A&T gradu-
ate, expressed support as well.

“A lot of people come to the game just to see Aggie Essence,” Oliver said. “What’s inspiring to me is the way they volunteer. They have a program that raises money for the community.

“All they want to do is dance.

And dance they will, Lynch said, anytime and anywhere - if anyone will let them.

“The Aggie Essence is used for recrui-
ting purposes and publicity for the university,” Lynch said. “They want us to perform at University Day, and we were in a recruitment video for A&T.”

“We were in a television commer-
cial, and a radio commercial even af-

er we weren’t allowed to perform.”

“Despite all of the drama, Aggie Essence still loves to perform. In the

face of all this, we would love to come back.”
REGISTER Q&A: How do you feel about Clinton’s acquittal?

“I am glad because we wasted a lot of time and money. As a result of that we saw that not only Clinton had an affair, but other politicians as well. Instead of them figuring out whether he lied or not, they should have been concentrating on other things like social security and education.”

Lucinda Aikens, sophomore, Raleigh, English

“I think that President Clinton’s acquittal is justice served. We’re taught in this country that the majority vote is the determining factor and the majority acquitted him so the Republicans should leave him alone and let him get back to work.”

Cedric Gerald, senior, Charlotte, English

“There was no way they were going to impeach him from the start. He is too popular and his ratings went up. Plus the country was in conflict with Iraq. I think the whole thing was a set-up. He was doing too good a job.”

Omwowale Anthony, senior, Fayetteville, English

“I don’t agree with it. I don’t think he should be acquitted because he is setting a bad role-model for our country.”

Betsy Mitchell, freshman, High Point, animal science

“What he did was morally wrong because lied to the American people. He should have had some sort of punishment. Maybe a censure.”

Bobby Gric, junior, Alexandria, Va., business finance

“I’m fine with it. I think it was just a partisan witch hunt. I just didn’t see the need for it and I am happy it is over because we have other problems.”

Brandt Westberg, graduate student, Wauke, Wis.

“Was Lennox Lewis robbed or what? • How many times have you spent your last 50 cents to get a snack or soda out of the machine? • Aren’t you still burnt out from last semester? • When was the last time you had a good night’s sleep? • How many times have you lied to yourself. I’ll get up early in the morning and finish this work? • Why is the elevator in Gibbs so slow when there are only three floors? • How many times have you dialed nine to call out while you were at home? • Didn’t the campus post office look better when it was plain old white? • Don’t we all miss Mary Kay on 102 JAMZ? • Why do most of the clocks on campus have the wrong time? • Why doesn’t the campus post office sell envelopes?”

• Wanted Lauryn Hill’s Grammy acceptance speech play the same 15 songs over and over? • Do you get more e-mail than regular mail? • How come some students don’t know how to share the sidewalk? • Aren’t we all glad that “The Jeffersons” have “moved on up” to Nick at Nite? • When will “Good Times” “move on up” to Nick at Nite? • Why do some girls always dress like they are going to the club? • What is the Bounce Squad? • Why are some so quick to criticize The A&T Register but never willing to help?

Submit any rhetorical questions (pertaining to the university or the community) to The A&T Register’s story submissions box. We reserve the right to reject or edit materials. Entries will not be attributed to the writer, nor will they be returned.
Student wants more computers

By Don Earle
Register Staff

The Feb. 12 issue of The A&T Register generated a great deal of discussion about how students feel about next year's student fee increase, and a general consensus seems to have emerged: We don't like it.

But a very important question remains: Do we need more computer terminals on campus? The answer appears to be a resounding yes.

"We definitely need more PCs (personal computers)," said Kevin McRae, a freshman print journalism major from Greenboro. "The IRC (Interdisciplinary Research Center) and the Maretena computer labs have the best computers."

Of the $305 pending student fee increase, $20 will be allotted to providing 24-hour access to the computer lab and technical assistance. The IRC would be the likely central point of availability. It's hard not to view that as a welcome convenience for all students, graduate or undergraduate, traditional or non, on-campus or off.

Most academic buildings on campus have labs for students to use, according to Shannon Edwards, a graduate computer assistant. But access to the College of Engineering labs in McNair Hall requires an in-house account.

Those of us without such access in other words, most of us - face long lines and mad dashes for what's available elsewhere. Making more computers available will give us what we need, but, as usual, we can't get something for nothing.

We have disposable income to do with what we want. Most of us can afford a $20 investment in our future. The thought of more working computer terminals on campus is a win-win situation for us all. Maybe, just maybe, you and I won't have to wait so long for a terminal.

A&T Campus Calendar

March 21-28
WNAA's (90.1 FM) Ubiquity '99 Radiothon
Contributions should be taken to 200 Price Hall

March 22
SGA Executive Board Forum
Harrison Auditorium, 6 p.m.

March 23
SGA debates
MUB, 6 p.m.

March 24
Elections, MU Room 209 and Williams Cafeteria
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

March 25
Honors Day Convocation
Harrison Auditorium, 10 a.m.

March 27
Women in Dance, MUB, 6 p.m.

March 31
Last day to drop a course without a grade evaluation

April 2
Good Friday, University Holiday

April 5-9
Early registration advisement

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City
Signature
State Zip

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The boy, the man: Tevin Campbell's music matures

Former teen star Tevin Campbell releases new CD.

By Jamie Wiggins
Register Staff

Voices mingle continuously as call-
ers enter the conference room, all of them shouting hellos and introduc-
tions across the lines. Students from different states discuss the weather,
jobs and schools as they wait patiently
for the moment to arrive.

Suddenly, a hush fills the room, voices quiet with anticipation. Then
he picks up the telephone.

"Hello everyone," he echoes. In unisi-
on, we reply, "Hello, Tevin."

It is Feb. 19, 1999, and the final col-
lege telephone conference of Tevin
Campbell's career has begun. Among
10 colleges solicited for participation, and one of two Historically Black Col-
lege or Universities present, was N.C.
A&T.

The topic of the discussion was

Tevin Campbell

Campbell's re-entrance into the mu-
ic scene with his new album simply
titled "Tevin Campbell."

"I named the album after me be-
cause I've been away for a while," Campbell said. "I wanted to familiar-
ize the people with me again."

During his absence, Campbell said,

"I was just hanging out being a regu-
lar bad person."

With his easy-going manner and
friendly attitude, that seems doubtful.
Campbell described his early years
in the music industry as a "child-
hood," of sorts, and compared it to his
adulthood.

"My childhood was not normal, but
I don't have any regrets," he said. "I
was young. Nothing affected me. For
two years I didn't even know I had a
top song on the radio."

As for now, he said, "You have to
make sure everything is going right.
You can't be unaffected — it's totally
different now."

Campbell's new album includes a
variety of contributing artists. Singer
Faith Evans co-wrote "The Only One
For Me" with Campbell. Rapper
Wyclef Jean contributed the song
"Never Again" to the collection. SWV's
Cheryl "Coko" Gamble joined
Campbell on the duet "Everything
You Are."

Working with other artists "was
great, a whole 'mother experience',"
Campbell said. "Faith is very, very
articulate as a writer, she is very laid
back - with Coko it was fun, a great
experience."

Campbell's goal for the album is
simple.

"I want (the public) to hear the mu-
ic not to have an image of it until
they hear it," he said. "I want the
music to market the song, and I want
the music to speak for itself."

Unlike his earlier years, Campbell
is taking a more hands-on approach
to his music— he's working behind the
scenes. Campbell co-wrote "The Only
One For Me. " Losing All Control" and
was the sole writer of "Just Beg-

"I've always had control over my
songs and what I sing," he said. "It
was just a long awaited responsibil-
ity I had to step up and take."

Campbell said that this album is
different from his other albums. "Back
To The World," was "not marketed
good," he said. "They (Quest Records)
did not want to market it. People said
it was because of the hair."

Campbell's personal favorite is "I'm
Ready" - but he sees his new release as
an improvement.

"I'm Ready" is still one of my best
albums, but I was 15," he said. "No-
body believed I knew what I was talk-
ning about."

"This album is much more passion-
ate, it's much more believable."

Campbell's advice to those pursu-
ing a music career is to stay in school.

"If you're young, and you haven't
finished school, finish school," he
said. "It's hard to concentrate on
school when you have a song on the
radio, but definitely go for it!"

Campbell says he has managed
to keep himself 'grounded,' and points
to several reasons for that.

I think the one thing that kept me
grounded is you can't always be suc-
cessful, fame is very fickle," he said.

"At 22 I accepted that. I accepted that
two years ago."

In addition, he said, "I have a per-
sonal relationship with God. I try to
be as Christian as I can be." "Relationships with others are an-
other matter."

"I'm not in a relationship," he said.
"I was in a relationship with someone,
but now I'm single."

"Fate is weird. I watch 'Jerry
Springer.' Someone is always sleeping
with somebody else's woman or man:
Relationships have no meaning any-
more."

Campbell spends his personal time
searching the Internet, walking his
dog, listening to Lauryn Hill and read-
ing.

"I love to read, I love to read biog-
rapiens. I love to surf the net and chat
rooms," he said. "I have a Rotweiler,
take him for walks and I listen to
Lauryn Hill."

"I really don't have a life," he joked.
Campbell does not believe in sell-
ing sex appeal. He wants his music to
spoken for him.

"I like to rely on singing instead of
sex," he said, "Beauty is natural. You
don't have to push it."

Campbell's plans for the future in-
clude touring, a new album next year,
acting, and producing his own label.

"I want to do action movies. Every
singer wants to be an actor and every
actor wants to be a singer."

"I want to have my own signature
style, and I want to have my own la-
bel and produce my own music."
Tomorrow

If only I knew yesterday what I know today, then maybe my mistakes of yesterday’s tomorrow, today, would never have been made.

Sometimes I wonder why I didn’t have yesterday, this knowledge that I have today, so that yesterday I could have avoided the mistakes that I’ve learned from today.

After contemplating that thought, I usually realize tomorrow, that I should have been grateful yesterday, that I acquired wisdom that I didn’t have before to carry me into tomorrow.

Today I need not fret that I will not see tomorrow, for I know that the same God that brought me from yesterday to today, will help me on my journey from today to tomorrow.

Today I realized that worrying about tomorrow only gives me less time to reflect on today, and there is nothing I can do about yesterday, except take the wisdom that it offers to make my today better.

— Michelle McCallum

My Reality

My reality lies inside of me
It is a force that controls
The type of person I let
The outside see

Your Reality is your perception of what I should
Be, often time shattered by who I am

How can you judge for me what is real or fake
Why assume that just because we share the same
Color I am destined to follow your fate

I am black and of course I care
For our reality has often times
Been a burden to bear

Reality in itself can be bleak
Without substantial faith
To sustain us, we are weak

Just because I see flowers
And you view thorns
Does not mean one of us has to change what we see
For after all this world that I live in is my Reality.

— Jamie Wiggins

Untitled

The arms of my pure Savior hold me in good times and bad.
Carrying me through the best times I have ever had.
He holds my hand, a frightened child.
But, “Be Still,” He whispers to me, ever so mild.
He never leaves my side though I often leave His.
He loves me for me, unconditionally.

Unconditionally, I think I know what that word means now,
Though I knew it before.
It means that we have hope for love forevermore.
An unending love, the very best kind.
God will be with us, He does not lead us blind.
He holds my hand, a touch that cannot be equaled.
He wraps me in His arms, like a small, struggling lamb.
He secures me, He loves me. It cannot be equaled.
He loves me, He comforts me. He is no bluff.
Why do we hide from His greatness? Why do we flee?
We are as children always stumbling and scrapping our knee.
But He is there to pick us up and save us though we deserve neither.
But He doesn’t work on deserving because none of us do.
He bases His wonderfulness on His love for me and for you.

There is not enough that can be said about our God.
He loves us yesterday, today, forever without clod.
His love doesn’t stop even when He disciplines us.
For this is His caring and not wishing to see us hurt ourselves.
LORD, You are truly awesome, unequalled to boot.
Words cannot express the joy I feel inside, the longing I have to in You hide.
Hide from the world’s hurt, evil and malice.
Hide in Your love, an unending chalice.
LORD, I love You in, I hope, every way.
Please, don’t leave me. Continue to fix me day by day.

— Jamilah Holmes

My Pen

Something inside moves,
The thoughts rush;
I see different contradictions,
My mouth has been hushed.

The things I write,
Nobody understands;
I am as real as a person can get,
My character never pretends.

I shall never give up,
The spirit in me will always live;
If I should be captured inside by my soul;
My poetry would be all I could give.

The eyes that see you,
Have become strangely blind;
Yet and still I can feel your pain,
But your image I can’t find.

My hand is closest to me,
I have found a friend;
It will never leave my side,
Because my poetry lives in My Pen.

— Ebeni Duke

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- The police are waiting for you.
- The police are watching for American tourists carrying drugs.
- You will not be released on bail.
- You will be thrown in a crowded jail cell.
- You will not have access to a modern shower or toilet.
- You will be given food that is not fit to eat.
- When sick or injured, you may not get adequate medical care.
- You will not see your loved ones—your parents, your children, your friends—for a long, long time.
- You will be fined thousands of dollars.
- You will stay in jail for years and years.

You will be blamed for anything in your suitcase, no matter who puts it there.

Ignorance is no excuse. If it’s in your suitcase, it’s your crime, and you will do the time.