Renick named chancellor; succeeds Fort in July
Michigan educator skilled at fundraising.

By Don Earle
Register Staff

After several months of extensive searching and more than 60 applicants applying for the job, a new chancellor has been named at N.C. A&T State University.

Dr. James C. Renick, formerly chancellor and a professor of public administration and education at the University of Michigan at Dearborn, was voted in by the 16-campus University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Renick, 50, had been chancellor of the Dearborn campus — one of three campuses of the University of Michigan — since 1992. He was responsible for 8,500 students — only 6.5 percent of whom are black — and 230 faculty members.

Renick and his wife, Peggy, will be moving to Greensboro in early summer. He assumes his new duties at A&T on July 15. Fort will retire in June.

Renick grew up in Rockford, Ill., and got his undergraduate degree at predominantly black Central State University in Ohio. In his seven-year tenure at Michigan-Dearborn, Renick oversaw the establishment of 11 new degree programs, and helped convince Michigan state legislators to appropriate $32 million for a liberal arts building. His success as a fund-raiser gained him favor in the legislature and in the private sector.

Honors program set for fall
Fort announces campuswide honors program. Students must maintain 3.5 GPA.

By Jaimee Canty
Register Editor-in-Chief

Plans are underway to implement North Carolina A&T's first university-wide honors program in the fall of 1999, Chancellor Edward B. Fort said at his last faculty forum meeting on Thursday.

Chancellor Fort, who has held the position 18 years, will resign this summer James C. Renick, who is the chancellor of public administration and education at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, was recently named as the next chancellor.

North Carolina A&T is one of few schools in the UNC System or the country that does not have such a program, according to Honors Program Committe Chair Peter Meyers. Academic Affairs Vice Chancellor, Harold Martin, said that the honors program will provide the university with a chance to develop programs that "stimulate and excite students and teachers."

In order to participate in the program, students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average. Meyers, who is also the chair of the history department, said that 10 percent of students attending North Carolina A&T are eligible for the program. Helping

Assistant takes over basketball squad
By Don Earle
Register Staff

Curtis Hunter, assistant basketball coach at N.C. A&T for the past two seasons, has been named interim head coach.

He succeeds Roy Thomas, who resigned after a 13-15 season.

"This represents the chance of a lifetime," Hunter said.

Hunter, a 35-year-old Durham native, is a 1987 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a scholarship basketball player under legendary coach Dean Smith. He has played professionally in England and Australia and was an assistant at Fayetteville State prior to coming to A&T.

Hunter has a solid nucleus for next season with eight freshman and sophomores already in the program and only three seniors departing. His players appear pleased at his hiring. Bruce Jenkins, a freshman from Silver Spring, Md., said having "Hunter," as he is referred to by his players, will maintain continuity.

Tony Mitchell, a senior from Fayetteville, said: "The hiring of Coach Hunter makes good sense because everybody knows the system and the players don't have to worry about a new coach bringing a new system and new players."

Thomas took his first A&T team to the NCAA tournament in 1995, but has not returned.

In his five years at A&T, Thomas' record was 61-79. The Aggies advanced to the semifinals in this year's Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament before losing to South Carolina State.

See COACH on Page 5

Register Index

Campus News............2, 8
Cartoon....................4
Calendar....................5
20 Questions.............4
A&T sings to victory in Big Apple competition

Fellowship Gospel Choir named most outstanding singing group.

By Crystal Ward
Register Staff

Sing choir, you've done it again!
On March 26 in New York, the N.C. A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir once again lifted up their voices and won the most outstanding choir, and the most outstanding student director.

"The choir was very excited about our victory, and I am very proud of each choir member," said Jasmine Watlington, choir president. "This victory took a lot of hard work and dedication."

"Awesome, awesome is all I can say about the choir — they're just bad," said Giselle Jones, choir advisor and wife of Ronald Jones, choir director.

Ronald Jones, whose tenure with the choir began in 1989, has led the choir to prominence in the gospel music industry as well as the national college arena. Under his direction, the choir recorded two albums — "Give Him Praise" in 1991 and "Jesus Is Real" in 1997.

"Being the choir director and teaching vocal notes is not my sole purpose for being here," Jones said. "I try to be a role model and positive example in the lives of these young people.

"I don't want the choir members to view me as just their choir director. I want them to be able to confide in me and know that I truly care about them."

Talented as Jones obviously is, he doesn't tithe that as a secret to his success.

"I didn't just stumble upon my talent," he said.

"My 20 years of hard work has helped me to groom these young people to their musical perfection. "Things don't happen by touching a crystal ball. You don't get good by sitting around, you get good by practicing."

"Practice makes perfect, and I try to convey this to the choir members."

Jones has very high expectations of these young people as choir members and as people. He expects each member to be dedicated to the choir and in the classroom as well. Each choir member must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average; anything less is unacceptable.

In addition to providing the minimum direction to the choir, Jones also meets with the choir four times a week.

The choir has weekly, hour-long prayer meetings on Mondays, four-hour rehearsals on Tuesdays and Saturdays and individual vocal training on Thursdays. Along the way, Jones finds time to watch a handful of choir members — he calls them his "kids" — play intramural basketball.

It's above and beyond Jones' job description, to be sure. But he does it, he says, because he loves the Lord — and his choir.

In addition to the A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir, Jones also has his own gospel group called Perfect Praise, four of whose members double as A&T Gospel Choir members.

"I thank God for leading me to the A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir and I pray that God will continue to take us to the level of our highest potential," Jones said. "We are an excellent choir and I am extremely proud of each member."

The Fellowship Gospel Choir was organized in 1969 under the leadership of Albert Smith, then director of athletics, and in conjunction with Vernon Hatley, president of the Baptist Student Union.

The choir was conceived as an avenue through which A&T students could maintain continuity with the Black religious experience. Its aim was to keep alive those religious traditions that are black people's heritage and those that have been their life blood since their arrival in America.

The contention was that black people hold a rich and sacred heritage which is and has been most profoundly expressed in music the spirituals and the gospels.

The choir has added that dimension to the religious life of the University and to the Greensboro religious community.

The choir is a vital part of the Student Development Division at the University and, along with other choirs, supports the United Christian Fellowship program by providing music for worship services on campus and the surrounding community.

This support has been provided since the choirs origin when the Reverend Cleo McCoy, director of religious activities, became its first chief advisor, a position he held until his retirement in July 1978.

The Reverend Dr. Ralph M. Ross succeeded Reverend McCoy as chief advisor and assistant dean of student development.

For a brief period of time after the resignation of the Reverend Dr. Ross, the Fellowship Gospel Choir was placed under the supervision of Dr. Dorothy Harris, assistant vice-chancellor for student development.

Ralph Brown succeeded Reverend Ross as assistant dean of student development and chief advisor in 1994 and remains in those positions currently.

Yvonne Haygood-Smith, the choir's first director/trainer, served from 1969 to 1982. Under her direction, the choir became a nationally known college gospel choir.

Jimmy Thomas succeeded Smith in 1983 and oversaw the recording of two albums — "Leaning On Jesus" and "God Is My refuge."

100 Year Calendar

"The only calendar you will ever need!"

Review or project dates from the past to the future

Send $10 to
Priority Enterprise
306 Burl Lawrence Road
Vilas, N.C. 28692

Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Also seeking area "reps"

Call 828.297.9590

ACT NOW!

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
School of Nursing

Advancing the Science of Nursing

The University of Maryland School of Nursing prepares scholars and researchers who will advance the science of nursing • design, conduct and communicate research relevant to nursing practice • provide innovative leadership.

BSN to PhD  MS to PhD

Doctoral Emphasis Areas
addictions, critical care, family health and development, gerontology, health promotion/illness prevention, maternal and child health, nursing health policy, nursing informatics, nursing services delivery, research methodology, evaluation & outcome assessment and oncology

For more information call:

800-328-8346
email nursinfo@parsons.umaryland.edu
Fast-food blues: Burger King vacates Aggieland

By Sonia Clark
Register Managing Editor

Aggies can no longer “have it their way” at least not close to campus. On March 26, the Burger King located at 1524 E. Market St. closed. The fast-food restaurant was situated directly across from the university administrative offices and Bluford Library.

According to a news release from Burger King corporate headquarters in Miami, 90 of the corporation’s restaurants throughout the northeastern and southeastern United States have recently closed in an effort to “strengthen their system.” "We (Burger King) are simply streamlining our own base of corporate-owned restaurants to build critical mass and create economies of scale,” stated the press release.

During a phone interview last week, Burger King Media Relations Representative Charles Nicholas stated that all 90 stores were company-owned. The restaurants had been analyzed on a yearly basis, but did not meet the goal.

“The restaurant on East Market Street was closed because of under performance,” Nicholas said. He added that other factors included Burger King restaurants located too close to one another would “out-perform” each other. “One of them would simply have to go,” Nicholas explained. The company felt that such was the case with the East Market Street and Summit Avenue locations.

In addition to East Market St. eat, Burger King’s Randleman Road location was also closed as part of the corporation’s downsizing. The Burger King on East Market’s closing comes several months after the demise of Parker Brothers, a locally owned restaurant that also catered to the students and faculty at A & T.

Comments from the student body varied in regards to the lack of fast-food now available in the area. “That Burger King was the only real source of fast-food for students,” said Schwinda Roundtree, a broadcast news major.

Christie Lyles, a senior at A & T, echoed these sentiments. “For many students, Burger King was readily accessible to get something to eat,” stated the Warner Robbins, GA, native. “For them to up-root and leave was a grave disservice to students on and off campus,” said Lyles, an English major.

But not all students were upset by the fast-food restaurant’s departure from Aggieland. “The food was not good and the service was always slow,” stated Delisha Poles, a freshman from Miami. 

Summer Blount, a junior, felt likewise and even added that she saw rats in and around the restaurant. “Where there are rats, there are roaches,” said the Burlington native.

Senior Lawrence Cole also stated that service at the East Market street store was below par and he was “not surprised about the closing. “It was more like ‘have it their way,’ or go somewhere else,” stated Cole, an English major. “If they were to get your order wrong, you would be afraid to ask them to change it,” he added. “If you go to a fast-food restaurant near UNC-G or anywhere else, they are friendly and don’t have an attitude,” remarked the Kansas City native.

However, Aggies aren’t the only ones affected by the restaurant’s closing. Several area letter carriers for the United States Postal Service patronized the restaurant six days a week. Letter carriers are only given a half-hour for lunch and they must eat within a mile of the last stop on their route.

“I don’t know what I am going to do,” said Richard Graves, who has had the same route for 19 years and had eaten at the Burger King on East Market Street for 17 years. Donald Bembury, also an area letter carrier, expressed how the loss of the restaurant affects him.

“It’s a hassle,” Bembury declared. He stated that the Burger King was very convenient and inexpensive. Bembury and Graves both said that it has been difficult finding another nearby place to eat lunch.

Bembury asserted that he has not been able to “get his money’s worth” at other area fast-food places. Ultimately, Bembury was most disappointed that the letter carriers won’t be able to have lunch together anymore. “It was a central location for all of us. We would always meet there Monday through Saturday,” he said.

Faculty members, some of whom are North Carolina A & T alumni, also voiced their disappointment. Tonya McMann, an instructor with the university television studio, said that this will be a “great loss” for the students. Additionally, McMann, a recent graduate of A & T, questions Burger King’s decision to close the locations in the African-American neighborhood.

Black people are going to eat out,” the Greensboro native said.

Sharon Coins, a member of the English department, felt that the community needs to look at where the Burger King restaurants are being closed. “If they are located within the Black neighborhood, then as a Black community, we should not spend money at any Burger King,” the Atlanta native said.

English professor Jody Martin commented on the economic impact this could have on the community. “It’s a shame,” Martin stated. “This is just another example of this side of town being depeleted of business.”

A graduate of A & T, Martin explained that the restaurant was an honest, decent place for people in the neighborhood to work. “It may have been minimum wage, but it was one less reason for people to kill or steal,” Martin said.

Nicholas gave the assurance that employees from the East Market street store were given the option of working at another company-owned Burger King.
No escaping cellular telephones on campus

By Jamie Wiggins
Register Feature Editor

It’s a typical day, and the professor is lecturing as usual, but a specific subject matter. The classroom is quiet except for the familiar voice of the professor and the scuffle of pens busily taking notes. Suddenly, a loud interruption breaks the normal sounds of the classroom.

“Ring! Ring! Ring!” Thunders the cell phone neatly tucked away in the side pocket of the young woman’s purse. She reaches to pull the phone out of her pocket box. Confidently speaking into the phone she answers, “Hello?” The conversation continues for two to three more minutes, and then the professor suggestsly clears his throat.

Is this a typical scene in your classroom? In the hall? Or on the side walk? If so, then join the crowd, because cell phone usage on college campuses has definitely become widespread and very popular among students.

First Used in Chicago

The popularity of cell phones among the young has increased since their introduction in 1983, by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission). The first practical mobile phone was developed in 1947. However, it was not implemented until 1983 in Chicago.

Chicago was the first city chosen for the first commercial test of the cell phone concept. In 1983, a full cell phone service began there.

Today, young people have shown an increased interest in cell phones since their earlier introduction. A 1993 report from an industry survey showed that 9 percent of the more than 50 million cell phones in use in the U.S. are owned by people less than 24 years old. Some of the reasons cited for this surge of cell phone use by young people include: the reduced size, increased functionality and the reduced cost of the phones.

In contrast to the past heavy and much larger cell phones, today’s phones come in much smaller sizes. Cell phones can be miniature handheld units, or they can be as small as a pack of cigarettes. The smallest cell phone on the market is the Motorola V120. The Motorola V1260 is 3.24 inches and 1.04 inches.

The term “rainbow” would be the appropriate word to use when describing the colors of cell phones. The colors of cell phones range from your basic black and gray to your vibrant blue, red, green and yellow.

The features found on cell phones have increased with the continuous technological advancements made in the cellular industry. Some cell phones have e-mail, fax and Internet services along with telephone, voice mail and paging capabilities from any location. The prices of cell phones have decreased and are more affordable.

Cell phone companies FirstNetcom and AAPT offer the lowest cell phone rates. They offer a plan that is $9 a month, with not set up fee and a handset for $9, reported Phone Choice (www.phonechoice.com.au), an Internet service set up to inform the public on cell phones. American Cellular-Communication INC, a service provider here in Greensboro offers a $15.95 monthly rate for their customers. They always give their customers free Motorola phones with their set-up plans.

Cell phone rates and prices vary depending on the companies, kinds of phones and the number of minutes the phones are used.

Expensive For Some

Although cell phones sound cheap, there are still some who say they cannot afford the cost of a cell phone. K. Barberly Cole, a sophomore from Greensville, said, “I can’t afford one.”

“Too expensive, bills to high,” said Eric Chock, a senior from Raleigh.

Although the cell phones do not cause health problems, however, they have caused some car accidents.

An article from Phone Choice dispelled the myth of cell phones causing health problems.

The modern hand-held phones operate at low power levels. In addition, cell phones adjust their output in order to operate at the minimum power level necessary to work effectively; therefore, they often operate at even lower power levels.

An industry survey on the safety of cell phones in vehicles revealed that cell phones do have an impact on car accidents. NASS, the National Automotive Sampling System takes police crash reports and uses them as a source to identify cell phone use as a pre-crash factor. These studies show that many cellphone use is the most frequently reported cause of accidents.

Also, some drivers, startled by the ring of their phones, run off the road. Other driver factors included driving too fast for conditions or failing to yield.

The overwhelming majority of cell phone users were in the striking vehicles and struck cars or other larger objects that were in clear view of them. Although cell phones have some negative effects, the convenience and social aspect of them have attracted many students. Matt Oestreich, a sales representative for Advanced Business Components said that young people get phones for a variety of reasons, but mostly because "everybody else has one."

People also get them for personal, security, emergency, and business reasons.

Students who own cell phones share the belief that they are convenient and don't have to drive to have a conversation. Chester Williams, a freshman from Enfield said, he uses his cell phone for emergency purposes, for his job, to call his mom and on the road.

'Feel Business-Like'

“It makes me feel business-like,” he said. Williams also gave advice to cell phone users, he said, "individuals who choose to get a phone should adhere to the responsibility of the phone, and not use it just for pleasure purposes."

Don't ask me a junior from Washington, D.C said he has a cell phone because of its “convenience.”

“It saves time, and I don’t have to pull over to use a telephone,” he said.

Sonia Clark, a senior from Brooklyn, N.Y. said, "I unfortunately my lifestyle has changed drastically, and I just can’t do without one.’’

This viewpoint is not universal, some students feel that the use of cell phones is a trend and unnecessary for college students. Natsaya Powell, a junior from Marietta, said: "For some, its a fad; for some a necessity.

The popularity of cell phones whether convenient or a fad, has won many college students over. If you do not need the impact of cell phones on students; look around you, they’re everywhere!
Sony music tour stops at A&T

By Kariston McPherson
Register Staff

The Sony Music Black College Tour kicked off March 17, making its first stop at N.C. A&T's Harrison Auditorium.

The four-day tour, which was sponsored by Sony, Columbia Records, Epic Records and Coca-Cola, also made stops at Tennessee State, South Carolina State and Florida A&M.

The inaugural tour began in 1996 and featured then-rising artists like The Fugees, Maxwell and Groove Theory. This year, the lineup consisted of Kenny Lattimore, Jagged Edge, TQ and new artists such as Trina and Tamara, Fundisha, Jim Crow, Cha Cha and New Direction.

An afternoon panel discussion with Sony representatives, held in the Student Union Ballroom, preceded the concert. Panelists included Isaac Roy, senior director of corporate affairs, Heidi Brown Lewis of product marketing; Diane Stout of tour marketing; Darri Thompson of TIS Management; Colm Gayle of Rhythm/Jazz Management; and Maurice Landry from promotions.

The panelists discussed their educational backgrounds, job descriptions, how they landed with Sony and a typical day at work.

HONORS
From Page One

departments to recruit and retain students, enhancing the university's reputation, and increasing student competitiveness in the job market were among the key reasons cited by Meyers for initiation of the program.

In light of the decrease in enrollment that the university has seen in the past two years, the first reason cited is among its most urgent. The university has and continues to make changes and improvements that will reverse this trend.

In fact, during the summer of 1998, $50,000 was spent on an Internet marketing campaign and CD-ROM, in hopes of attracting high school seniors to the university.

Martin said, "It [the honors program] will assist us in competing with other universities who are beating us to our best students." Meyers agreed that it is necessary to have a program in place that will challenge students who excel. "I have lost students because they said they were bored with the program; they transferred," Meyers said.

It was also announced that three new majors, computer engineering, criminal justice and general studies, will be added. Each of these programs is in demand across the country, and the university hopes that these additions will also attract students. No specific date for the installation of these majors was provided.

Chancellor Fort reported the findings of the Eva Klein Associates Faculty Study, which was a year-long project. The UNC System was mandated to provide information on the equality or lack of equality of each of its 16 universities.

Fort said that most of the time was spent giving a walking tour of Hines Hall. "In order to show the lack of funding at HBCUs, "Hines Hall is the worst building on campus... We need to torch it... Ms. Klein is sure that Hines Hall represents what should not be," Fort said.

Of all the schools in the UNC System, North Carolina A&T's facilities rank next to last relative to modernization, Fort said. UNC-Greensboro has the third worst facilities, while North Carolina Central is the worst of all. The report will be given at the Board of Governors meeting later this month.

Martin reported on the status of the university's long-range plans (from 2000-2015), which were submitted to the president of the UNC System, Molly Corbett Broad, last May. The status of low-producing programs was one of the components that had to be addressed in the report. North Carolina A&T's lowest-producing programs are landscape architecture and biological and agricultural engineering. Martin said that efforts were being made to justify keeping the programs.

COACH
From Page One

Thomas' contract expired at the end of the 1999 season. His players had a 90-percent graduation rate.

Thomas succeeded Jeff Capel, who guided the Aggies to the MEAC title in his first year and only season, 1993-94. Capel left A&T to become head coach at Old Dominion University.

Thomas' first team won the school's ninth MEAC championship before losing to Wake Forest in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

A&T Campus Calendar

April 12-16
Registration for Fall '99

April 23
Domestic Violence Conference
Webb Hall Auditorium, 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

April 30
Classes End

May 1
Reading Day

May 3-7
Final Exams

May 12
Graduation Letters for seniors, 2 p.m.

May 15
Graduation Day

The A&T Register

THE CAMPUS SOURCE.

Psst... Did you know we are hiring people with these skills?

Computer Science
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Systems Engineering
Computer Engineering
Biology
Chemistry

We are currently seeking undergraduate students for co-op and intern assignments, as well as juniors and seniors for entry-level positions. You would be amazed at what we do! If we have piqued your interest, fax your resume to: (703) 615-7884, ATTN: Henry Johnson, or mail to: Henry Johnson, Personnel Representative, PO Box 18767, Dept. RAN01800, Arlington, VA 22206-18767.

We will respond within 45 days if there is further interest. All applicants must successfully complete a thorough medical examination, a polygraph examination, and an extensive background investigation. U.S. citizenship is required.

ATTENTION SCIENTISTS!

Lab Support*, a nationwide assignment service, staffs the best companies in your industry. Forstenson named us "one of the best small companies in America." We have great FULL-TIME opportunities for:

- Lab Techn- degree and non-degree
- BS/MS Chemists
- Microbiologists
- BS/MS Analytical Chemists
- Medical Technologists

Competitive pay and excellent benefits incl. medical/dental. Call now! EOE.

(336) 605-2809
On Assignment

Lab Support*
Scientists/Professionals-On Assignment

Challenges For A Changing World
Please visit our Web site at www.crg.com
An equal opportunity employer and a drug-free work force.
A natural revival

By Jaimee Canty
Register Editor-in-Chief

Ahmad Michael has a thick, fuzzy, string-like mass surrounding his head. The tightly-coiled "strings" are so long that he uses a rubber band to keep them out of his face.

Onlookers wonder why he doesn't chop them off. "I would not cut my hair for anything right now," Michael said. Michael is one of many African-Americans who has decided to wear his hair naturally.

African-Americans have a love/hate relationship with their hair. Most try to keep it low-cut, to have it chemically treated, or to straighten it to make it easier to manage. On the other hand, some African-Americans have learned to love the beauty of their tightly-curled hair and choose to wear it in its natural state.

Likewise, more and more students at North Carolina A&T are opting for the natural look. Each wearer has specific reasons for throwing out the clippers, perms and straightening combs. Ahmad Michael, a freshman mechanical engineering major, said that he wears dreadslocks because of their significance.

"I started looking at the meaning... One of the ways it originated was when African warriors put red clay in their hair and on their bodies to camouflage themselves. It formed locks. It's a symbol of strength; a symbol of a warrior," said Michael, who has worn dreadlocks for the past five years.

According to Nokema Evans, the author of "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Dreadlocks," dreadlocks are a natural and act of rebellion. "Wearing dreadlocks is a character-building, self-affirming step, because it will put you in direct confrontation with the status quo," Evans said in her book.

Evans's book also mentions that African-Americans' obsession with straightening their hair is one of the psychological effects of slavery. Some believe that straightening naturally kinky hair is a form of self-hatred.

Michael said that he has heard many reasons that people choose to wear dreads. "Some people believe that locks are antennas for divine wisdom. Some people will cut off a lock to remember a loved one or save it. For me it was a rite of passage. I came from a very ethnic, pro-black family," he said.

For senior English major Sonia Clark, wearing her hair in its natural state is simply a matter of convenience.

"You can get your hair pressed hard, but you have a little curl, it will just fight out. I just prefer to get it washed and twisted," she said. Clark, who has long hair, twists and combs it for about a year, said that she only straightens her hair for special occasions.

Anita Towns, a junior child care major, said that she likes the natural looks, but she has a problem with some people who wear twists and dreadlocks. "I don't like dreadlocks. To me it's just a fast and a lot of people just do it because it's different. They don't understand the significance behind them," she said.

Shonarae Drayton, the owner of Shonarae's Boutique of Hair Elegance, has noticed that braids, twists, short afros and dreadlocks have become more popular in recent years.

"The range of people over the last two years has changed. Initially, there were mostly younger people, but few professionals getting twists and locks. Now people in all walks of life want them," Drayton said.

Drayton, who has been doing hair for the past six years, said that people used to take out their twists or cut off their locks when they were going to a job interview. (Twists which are allowed to "lock" become dreadlocks. Dreadlocks cannot be combed out of the hair; they must be cut.)

However, natural hair styles are growing in acceptance. Even entertainers, such as Whoopi Goldberg, Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu, are wearing them.

Nancy Vaughn, a senior transportation major, has been wearing braids since she was in high school. "It's easier to maintain. It's also healthier for your hair as opposed to perming all the time. I'll leave them in for about two months at the time and my hair really grows," she said.

(Braids can be taken out. Usually, synthetic hair is braided into the person's own hair. The braid is then burned at the ends to keep it together.)

Vaughn said that she does not mind paying as much as $100 to have her hair braided. "I don't have to worry about the curling iron and wrapping it. I can just get up and go," she said.

Drayton, who usually wears her hair in braids, agreed braids are easier to maintain than perms.

"I wear braids a lot," she said. "Since I'm a hair stylist, people have this stereotype that my hair should always be done."

"With braids, my hair always looks good; even when I am having a bad hair day," she said.
The Unknown

I am in a world,
that has exceeded its limits;
Fear to endanger themselves,
to look at new experiences;
That's why I'm overlooked, underestimated,
not even thought of;
The unknown;
What you now know could hurt you,
that goes for what you don't know;
That's why the world continues to take bruises;
Life is a chance;
The unknown is a risky chance,
but can still educate you.

— Mauricio E. Williams

Faith

Unseen manifestation
that I believe
Although you sometimes elude me
I tightly grab hold
and pull you to me
Faith, must’ve been,
what my ancestors had
when faced with enslavement
they did not completely break
but continued to sing spirituals
to God
in spite of the abuse they were forced
to take
Faith, yeah, it must be what
presses us on when our pockets
are empty and money is gone
Faith, must be what mamas have
when they lose their children
to violence, drugs, jails; while the
devil sits back and laughs
Faith, I believe, is the substance
of all things including the human being
and of course every struggle that has
been fought and won
For what else without faith do we have
to hold on
Faith is the foundation
of every dream
Faith is the building blocks
of our love
Faith is the tie that binds
us to God up above
Faith, unseen manifestation
but I believe, without
faith there could be no
me

— Jamie Wiggins

Heavenly

Angel, ...
None have wings of yet
But they will come.
For every kiss, every touch,
A feather for your wing.
Like those that tickle the bottoms of your feet.
Making you smile gently.
Much like when I tickle you here and there.
Another feather for your wing.
One more as I kiss you ... gently.
Can I touch you, hold you close?
Can I love you, this way and that?
I hear your heart beat inside of you, ... up and down.
More intensely ... harder still.
May I caress you here, ... gently?
May I kiss you there, ... softly.
A trembling breath ... in and out,
As I tickle you there.
And wipe the tears from your thighs.
I kiss your cheek ... gently.
You smile like inside my dreams.
Kissing you here, upon your lips ... softly.
My Angel, ...
Take me there.

— S. K. Moore

Traffic Light

Life is a traffic light;
The light will be green,
To chase opportunities;
Be prepared for danger so proceed with caution;
If you cannot control the situation, stop!
If you run through a red light,
You are in a danger zone.
Other lives can be harmed even your own.

— Mauricio E. Williams
Staffer pens new romance

Marrissa Dick: office assistant by day, novelist by night.

By Ronnie Jeffries
Register Staff

N.C. A&T is graced with the presence of a multi-talented staff member. By day, Marrissa R. Dick is an office assistant in Crosby Hall for the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts. But Dick has a special secret: She is a published novelist.

Meeting and knowing Dick lessens the surprise. You can sense the presence of something very special. She is flavorful and this flavor is carried over into her writing.

Dick was chiefly inspired by a difficult divorce. In this time of angst, she turned to a keyboard. “I was told to write down my feelings,” Dick said. “When I began to write I couldn’t stop. The next thing I knew, I had written a book. This act of expression took my mind off of what was going on in a hard time in my life.”

Dick’s four novels were written to inspire and encourage not just women but everyone, and their ultimate message is simple: Dreams can really come true.

Dick’s novels touch on topics that everyone can relate to — love and relationships. Christianity in the characters’ lives gives an underlying sense of morality. It is romance, but it’s tastefully written.

If Dick’s novels are captivating, it should come as no surprise. She is animated in person, and paints a vivid picture of her work.

To hear her synopsis of her writing is to become entangled with her characters, and to come away, even as a male, with a woman’s perspective. A good man is hard to find, and the absence of one leaves desires unfulfilled. This theme permeates Dick’s work, and it’s available at www.nubianromance.com.

Dick’s plots offer something for all interests. There’s Deja Vu Desires, where passions soar and dreams come true. If you pray for love, then Cousins is the book for you. Prayers are answered but love is threatened.

If ghosts intrigue you, then Letters will satisfy your curiosity — as well as caress your emotions. And if a choice between lovers has your heart torn, then read Them’s Eve’s Daughters, where forbidden love reunites, threatening the future.

ELECTION DAY

Students vote during student elections, which were held March 24. Kendra Hill was selected as Student Government Association president. Gabrielle Hurtle was elected Miss A&T for 1999-2000. Other winners include Stephanie Pugh, attorney general; Felicia Felton, vice president of external affairs; Adriene Shepard, treasurer.