Leading means learning at A&T

BY RANDY ST.-CLAIR

Remembering Yesterday, Utilizing Today, Planning for Tomorrow was the theme for this year’s fifth annual Student Leadership Conference. Students and faculty were on hand to participate in this event, which focused on African-American leadership and ways African Americans can become leaders.

The topics ranged from Epically Speaking to the Golden Rule, and HBUC enrollment to Political Issues in 2000.

Dr. Claude Barnes Jr. spoke of Reconstructionist politics in the African American society, saying there are free political issues that need to be dealt with among the African American community.

Barnes reserved his strongest comments for one issue: Black political disengagement.

"It's time for black Americans to stop backing away from the political realm and start becoming and playing a vital part in politics," said Barnes.

Barnes, a political science professor at N.C. A&T, has turned his passion for the topic into a textbook, which is used at A&T and features his view of reevaluating the role of blacks in politics.

"Reconstructionist politics is just what it is, a resurgence of blacks in politics," said Barnes.

Each of the conference panelists — Joyce Edwards, Rev. Conrad Pridgen, Dr. Claude Barnes and Morell Weston — attended an HBUC at some point in their education. Each panelist also emphasized the importance of knowing when to step up and be a leader.

A&T students played a vital part at the conference, with a series of questions about leadership opportunities in their everyday lives. What can they do as students to get other students to back up what they stand for, they asked, or how can they make a difference on campus?

Barnes fielded most of the questions. It isn't necessary, he said, for students to revolt to take a stand on what they believe. Students also do not need faculty support, he said, noting the Greensboro Four didn't have faculty support.

See LEADERS on Page 2

Family sees no justice in system

BY KARISTON MCPHERSON

With hurt, tired, and determined faces, William and Odessa Smith spoke passionately about their daughter, Kendra. Kendra is currently serving a 24-year sentence for conspiracy, money laundering, and making false statements to federal agents.

Her troubles began with her romantic involvement with Peter Michael Hall, a man she met while attending Hampton University. Their relationship was also abusive.

Hall was the kingpin of a $4 million crack cocaine operation that spanned from Florida to New York. Kendra had little involvement in this drug conspiracy, and her abusive boyfriend coerced any involvement Kendra did have, according to her parents.

Kendra pled guilty, they said, in fear of her family's life. Authorities could not arrest Hall because an unknown suspect killed him. Kendra was given the harsh sentence despite the fact that she didn't have a prior record and her involvement was minimal.

See AT-RISK on Page 6

N.J. fire sparks sprinkler concerns

Most A&T dormitories are not equipped with sprinklers

BY LATOYA BEST

A deadly firestorm at New Jersey's Seton Hall University has rekindled interest in fire safety at N.C. A&T, where most residence halls still do not have sprinkler systems.

"Certainly, we've been talking about it," said Eugenia Buchanan, A&T's assistant vice chancellor for facilities. "Obviously, we've been forewarned by this happening again."

The dorm had no sprinklers, and there had been a string of false alarms in the days leading up to the fire in the six-story residence hall.

Some A&T students have doubts when it comes to their safety.

"I feel safe and then I don't," said LaShawn Moulson, a freshman visual arts major from Lumberton. "The dorms are made out of strong materials like brick, but the dorms are very old."

"I don't feel safe," said Latoya L. Brown, a freshman elementary education major from Greenville. "A lot of fires have been going on lately (at other universities) and what would we do if we did have a fire?"

Only two of A&T's 18 residence facilities have sprinkler systems. Holland and Curtis Halls had them installed this past summer. Two more dorms, Hall and Cooper Halls, are scheduled to get systems when they are renovated. Work on Hall will begin late this summer, followed by Cooper next year. After Cooper is completed, Barber is next.

"Our commitment is to put fire sprinklers in all the dorms," said Harlin Carter, A&T's director of safety and health.

How long it takes to install sprinklers depends on available funds and the size of a dorm. The larger the dorm, the longer it takes Holland and Curtis Halls were easy dorms taking the course of two summers to complete.

See FIRE on Page 2
Financial aid applications due

Now is the time to apply for financial aid for the 2000-2001 academic year. Students can apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by mailing the FAFSA form to the processor. N.C. A&T's priority deadline is March 15.

Additional information about financial aid can be viewed at the university Web site www.ncat.edu.

Research deadline soon

The deadline for students to apply for the CIC Summer Research Opportunity Program is Feb. 23. The program is designed for undergraduate minority students to enhance their preparation for graduate study.

Applications are available to eligible juniors and seniors at the CIC homepage at www.cicance.org.

Oh la la! Entries needed for language journal

The Department of Foreign Languages is now accepting entries for its first issue of a Departmental Journal in Foreign Languages. All entries must be written in a language other than English and approximately five pages long.

They must also be saved on a disk (Microsoft Word program). Send all entries to the Department of Foreign Languages, Crosby Hall Room 104.

For additional information and criteria, please contact Dr. Nita M. Descarry or Dr. Jose A. Bravo de Roda at 334-7866.

Princeville trip Saturday

Students and faculty members of Princeville are boarding a 6:30 a.m. Saturday from A&T's Student Union. All volunteers are welcome to help load the victim's Hurricane Floyd. For more information, call the Student Government Association at 334-7820.

To volunteer, sign up in the SGA office in the Student Union, room 213.

ROTC opportunities

If you are going to be a junior with good grades by August, receive $700, and qualify for a two-year $32,000 scholarship with a $200 stipend if you participate in the five-week Army ROTC Camp Challenge.

If you are a current junior or sophomore at North Carolina A&T and are earning good grades, you may qualify for an Army ROTC scholarship. These scholarships will pay your tuition, most books and fees, and $200 for every month that you are in school.

Visit the ROTC department in the campus or call Major Davis or Lieutenant Peale at 334-7552 for more information.

A&T: Dorm sprinklers on the way

From FIRE on Page 1

Another important factor is whether the dorms need extensive repairs.

Haley Hall was selected to be the next dorm renovated because of more pressing factors in addition to adding sprinklers.

Haley Hall, for example, will probably take much longer to complete because of problems such as a failing heating system, an electrical system that causes problems during falls and summers, and architectural problems such as doors and windows.

The tallest residence hall at A&T, Barber Hall, does not have sprinklers and is a six-story dorm like the site of the disaster at Seron Hall. Backmon, however, said there is a major difference between the two.

"There is a basement, a fire alarm system, a sprinkler system that is above the floor where the hall is," he said.

Backmon said that students are less at risk for smoke inhalation because they would have fire air from the open space in Barber. Backmon also added that the ability to have safe dorms for fire protection is not tied solely to the availability of sprinklers.

"There are other systems in the dorms that make major contributions to the safety of people who live in the dorms," he said.

"They include, among others, smoke detectors, fire alarm systems, which ring. Also in the physical plant, illuminated exit signs, fire extinguishers, and administrative procedures twice a year to have evacuation drills."

The Door-to-Dorm Mall

www.donzierdt.com

Shop at some of these retailers:
American Eagle, Disney Store, ESPRIT, i-Tv, Borders, TSI Soccer, Colombian Outpost, J. Crew, CD Universe, and more!
Employment, travel, cont. education, text books and more!

Our poetry will make you swoon.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.

Romance...

In The Register.

Aggies get their groove on

BY WILLIAM CHARLES DAVIS II

The video show entitled Aggie Groove has emerged with the help of students and staff in the Department of Speech, Communications and Theatre Arts.

The show features a blend of Rap and R&B music, plus following segments on music news and fashion.

Aggie Groove will also provide a showcase for up and coming local talent. Eboni Davis, Charles Davis, Rosey Blockley, Darrell Harmon, Jubi Gorham, Yusuf Pridgen and Thomas Bobett are among the students who have dedicated their time and efforts in the video show.

Davis, a freshman majoring in broadcast news, provided the inspiration and vision for the video show and will serve as its host.

"I wanted to begin working to gain experience in my field as a freshman," Davis said. "I wanted to air a video show because I knew it would appeal to North Carolina A&T students. It was also an innovative way to combine the radio and television stations."

Davis' efforts began with a proposal. She also wrote letters to record labels requesting videos for the show. Faculty members Mark Stephens, promotions manager of the television studio, and D. Chevis' Lofton, program director for WNNA, followed up with the necessary phone calls to representatives of Columbia, Tommy Boy, ARISTA, La Face and other record labels.

After the videos arrived, the filming of Aggie Groove was the next step.

The purpose of Aggie Groove was to allow students to manage all aspects of the show from concept to finished product. Stephens wanted to follow a model where responsibilities were placed in the hands of the students.

"I have challenged students to come up with an idea," said Stephens. "They followed the proper procedures and I believe the show will succeed because of the work that has been put into it."

Aggie Groove has provided a training ground for students in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

"A success is students learning how to put on a successful show. If that's accomplished my job is done," said Stephens.

The video show could serve as a model for future shows.

"When students start seeing something on the channel they can relate to, more people will come up with ideas for others shows," said Stephens.

Jason Peele, a senior broadcast production major and emerging artist in the music industry, was the first local talent to appear on Aggie Groove. The show, Peele said, could help him take the next step in his music career.

"In anything you do it takes preparation and practice," said Peele. "This video show is a small scale of what I'm going to do in the future. Starting out with this will prepare me for the BETs and MTVs.

The first episode will be aired within the next week. Stay tuned to channel 55 for more details.

22nd Annual Black College Radio Convention
April 21-22, 2000 at the Renaissance Hotel Downtown Atlanta

If you have an interest in the fascinating fields of Radio, Television, Cable, Internet Broadcasting or Digital Satellite Radio, this is the people broadcasting convention especially designed for African Americans that you should attend.

(22nd of publication is a public service to the communities)
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True love lasts past February 14

BY KAIRSTON MCPHERSON

What is love? Does anyone know? Of course, everyone has his or her own definitions. With Valentine’s Day come and gone, that question comes to mind.

There are different kinds of love: love for your fellow man, love for your family or friends. Here is my definition of love: Sit down and think of anyone you know. If you can’t even imagine living your life without that person, that is love. Love isn’t always a lustful, sexual feeling.

Think about your parents or your siblings. If they were taken away from you this very second, what would you do? What about your best friend, the person you share your deepest, darkest secrets with? What if you could never see that person again?

Today we are so quick to say that we are in love with someone, yet so many couples break up for idiotic reasons:

“He didn’t buy me the bracelet I wanted!”
“She wouldn’t give me none!”

Ladies! Fellas! Get a grip! We are adults now! Think like one! Act like one! We are old enough to know that true love is not how much money he or she has or how good he or she is in bed. Material possessions can easily fade away but true love is everlasting. So if Valentine’s Day your loved one has a legitimate reason for not getting you something, stop and think: If they have been loving and faithful all year-round, don’t get upset. If you truly love that person, having them in your life should be enough. Now, if your boo only shows love on Valentine’s Day, that is when you should worry.

Kairston McPherson is news editor for The Register.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

To our readers:

Do you have problems that you want solved? Such as your boyfriend tripping again or Financial Aid is messing you up for classes? Well, now you can write to us at The Register and we will run your letters and hopefully find some answers.

Just e-mail us at Editor_notes@yahoo.com

We’ve got your Aggie Pride right here, every week.

The Register.

If love is a battleground, then sex is a weapon

By Kairston McPherson

We as women often give ourselves physically to please others. Some of us have been brought consistently to have sex, and then some of us just get caught up in the moment and lose all concepts of self-control and consequences.

Some of us offer ourselves putting up no fuss or fight because we either want to make the guy want us more, or we are more based on the fact that we really like him.

Others of us offer ourselves because we think that the temporary thrill is the answer to whatever problems we are experiencing, or maybe we really need a hug or encouraging word but settled for sex because we knew that it was what he wanted.

Then some of us do it because we think the guy is cute, but he does not think we are so having sex with him is the only way we can have him around and close by.

For whatever reasons we have sex before marriage, the bottom line is that it produces a temporary joy for some, but when it is quiet and we are alone we cry because we know that we shouldn’t have done it. If we were to go through the list of men that we have done it with there would undoubtedly be a sense of shame and regret of ever doing it.

Think about it, you ended breaking up and in retrospect saw that having sex was the only thing he wanted from you. Then that leaves you with the baggage that accumulates with having sex such as getting burned by your partners, getting pregnant, or just the inability to look in the mirror and be proud of what you see.

Next time after having undressed sex and your body is gone, take the time to think about what has just happened.

You should feel a difference in your body, which goes to show that there are additional emotional and spiritual affects that go along with that initial physical pleasure.

Be warned, these feelings are difficult to “deal with and heal with.” Some symptoms of this war being waged inside of you are the following:

• Low self-esteem
• Not wanting to be around people in your own religion because of regret and shame
• Having a false definition of showing love to a man
• Becoming jealous about things that we never thought would be jealous of

So, I urge you as the student body president, a woman, and a 21-year-old senior in college, to resist with all your soul all temptations that lead to giving up your beautiful self outside the realm of marriage. Because every time we do, we are left with the deposit of a man which make it harder to resist him the next time or to eat him off if you know he is no good.

Besides if he really cares for you, he will fight his urges as well, and resist.

Even though they say they have to have it, it does not kill them if they don’t get it.

God loves us if that is what we are seeking for. God will encourage us if that is what we need. God will preserve us if we feel all used up.

God will give us escape routes every time we are faced with the decision to have sex, and every time we escape, we are drawn closer to God’s purpose and will for our lives.

Kendra Hill is president of the N.C. A&T Student Government Association. Her column appears here regularly.
Ross reveals Black Greek history

By LATOYA WILSON
Professor Staff Writer

Lawrence Ross Jr., a newspaper journalist and author, opened an on-campus speech February 8 with the remark that he is "incredibly impressed with A&T."

A&T, apparently, is equally impressed with Ross. Ross was on hand to promote and explain his book, "The Divine Nine," which explores the history of African American sororities and fraternities.

"As a regular student, I found the history of sororities and fraternities quite educational," said Rebha Patterson, a junior public relations major from Red Springs.

"I think that Black sororities and fraternities will always have an impact on the lives of Black children," said Shakesera North, a senior computer science major from Orange, N.C., "I thought it was helpful in helping one understand what sororities and fraternities are about. He kept it real with his information."

"I keep it real about all nine African American Greek organizations," Ross had to forget — rather than remember — his own roots. "I had to compile information from many sources," said Ross, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

"I looked through closets of photos, archives, had to call national directors of these organizations and scoured libraries," Ross said.

"I had to wash myself metaphorically of being an Alpha." The nine African American Greek organizations — each with chapters all over the world — were formed at the turn of the century, Ross said, and their purpose was to assist African Americans with economics, education and other facets of life.

The early history of these organizations showed how they had to face many obstacles. At White and Black institutions, they were disliked because of the secrecy and hazing, and many became isolated from campus life at White institutions.

And there is a difference, Ross said, between White and Black Greek Organizations.

"White sororities and fraternities involvement is for housing and social acceptance," he said. "African American organizations involvement is centered around helping the community and his and her acceptance."

"Organizations such as Kappa Alpha Psi were responsible for creating the "Kappa League," and helps young Black men. Sigma Gamma Rho, is responsible for the "Big Book Bag," which provides books for needy kids. Delta Sigma Theta sponsors "Shower of Love," which is geared toward senior citizens. Ross encouraged Greeks to take a closer look at their organizations and self-involvement in their organizations. He stressed that brotherhood and sisterhood is not created by pledging. It is a short-term solution to a long-term investment," said Ross.

Everyone who is a member of a sorority or fraternity must take pride in a grand legacy and should not have false pride, he said. "Your organization attracts those that reflect your organization" Ross began his career in the catering business, moved from there to Internet provider RBG (Red, Black, and Green) and is now a reporter with the Los Angeles Independent Newspapers.

ATTENTION ALL GREEK ORGANIZATIONS

We, The Register, are opening a section to GREEK letter organizations. If you have any upcoming events you would like to have posted or an event that you want covered, submit them to us at g_line00@hotmail.com

For more info, call 706-5565

IOTA PHI THETA NEWS

In order to accommodate students wishing to root the Aggies on to victory over Howard, The Brothers of Iota Phi Theta have postponed their first Sony PlayStation Madden 2000 single elimination tournament. On Saturday, February 26th — your are invited to come flex your skills and compete for the chance to be crowned A&T's Madden King. A trophy will be awarded to the winner. Sign up now at the Memorial Union info desk. Participation is limited. All are invited. Refreshments will be served. Tournament begins at 12 noon SHARP. For more info call 378-9378 or e-mail:IOTABNCR@EDU

Bringing you Aggie news in Y2K.

The REGISTER.
Amel Larrieux
Infinite Possibilities
Epic/Sony Music

The lead singer of Groove Theory has gone solo. Amel Larrieux who some of us can remember from "Tell Me" the single that rocketed up the bill board charts with the group Groove Theory has taken her classic sound to a project all her own in the CD entitled Infinite Possibilities.

She enables this attempt with a mess of sounds that allow her to please the ears of all who are willing to listen. Through her words you hear the sound of almost x self spirituality that makes you check your inner soul for peace, wholesomeness, and love.

Amel experiences all of these in her CD with songs entitled "Sweet Misery," "Searching for My Soul" and "Make Me Whole." Her single "Get Up" has already hit the stores. It changes people to get up and take change in their lives. Sista has her own thing that makes everyone literally wants to make better decisions about their lives, where they are going, and what road you are going to take to get there.

J-Shin
My Soul, My Life
Atlantic Records

New R&B singer J-Shin has found out that she may not have the plan to do. With his single "One Night Stand" featuring Jarocha Scott (formerly of Xscape) he discusses how a one-night stand led to a pregnancy. J-Shin (pronounced Jay-shin) opens the eyes to many as they realize what can happen to someone after unprotected sex.

J-Shin has done some protected sex commercials and has greatly set the pathway for many R&B listeners to take responsibility for their actions. He said that "Sex is Not" the only thing on his mind, and that he is just keeping it red by talking about real things that goes on in everyday life.

I'm not the first thing that J-Shin has realized wasn't part of the plan for him. He is the only R&B singer on his newly developed Slip and Slide label under Atlantic Records. He started out writing and singing a chorus on a Trick Daddy Track. The Miami native then saw this as his shot to show off his talents to the labels' producer Funk Boogie. It wasn't planned for him to be signed that very night after the executives heard his music.

J-Shin is also helping to fill the void for male R&B singers for Atlantic Records. Atlantic prides itself on having had such outstanding female R&B singers as Brandy and Aaliyah, but took note that J-Shin was helping to bridge the gap for male singers.

95 South
Tightwork 3002
RCA/BMG Entertainment

They put the Smooth on the map with "Who's There?" and "You and I." New, AB and Carlos — known collectively as 95 South — are back on the set with possibilities. A&T

Kemba Smith's parents strike chord at A&T

From AT-RBK on Page 1

Kemba was 23-years-old and pregnant at the time. She is currently serving time in the Federal Prison in Danbury, Conn.

Kemba's case has been heard nationwide and has accumulated celebrity supporters such as Chico DeBarge, Jada Pinkett Smith, Missy Elliott and Sisahl Souphil. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund has taken over the case.

"Kemba was abused by Peter Hall," Odessa said tearfully as her hands trembled when she held the microphone. "She is also being abused by the justice system."

The Smiths were the keynote speakers at the Youth at Risk Tour that took place at North Carolina A&T's Memorial Ballroom on Feb. 9. William, an accountant, and Odessa, a high school teacher, are the founding members of the Kemba Smith Youth Foundation. They are currently raising Kemba and Peter's 5-year-old son, Armau.

With A&T staff as well as local high school students in attendance, the Smiths criticized harsh mandatory drug sentencing and how it can affect youth. They also addressed the symptoms, statistics and solutions to an abusive relationship and peer pressure.

William Smith also offered his words of advice for anyone who may be in a situation similar to theirs and Kemba's. "Seek counseling whether it's with a school counselor or a pastor," he said. "And just pray."

"I had heard that service saves lives, but I didn't expect it to be so literal."

After finishing school in California, Sean Whitten joined AmeriCorps to do something different and to learn more about himself. He built houses, taught kids—and even saved a life. While on assignment in the Smoky Mountains, Sean rescued a hiker who had been lost for four days in below-freezing weather. "Through AmeriCorps, I learned it's impossible to help others without realizing the impact it makes on you."

AmeriCorps: Are you up to the challenge?
1-800-942-2677 www.americorps.org
Attitude

The attitude you take at the start of the day will determine the rewards that come your way. Whether it is positive or negative depends on the method that you use to live. One cannot exist without the other. You must decide which one to cover. Take advantage of the choice you have. The vibe you give radiates from the pores. Analyze situations from a different perspective. You do not have to be a private detective. But in a sense this is what you become. Checking yourself from the toes to the thumbs. Attitude sustains your course of direction. It is contagious like many infections. It is the one thing we control on our own. Carries the mood and sets the tone. Attitude will predict the height of your ride. Attitude and altitude go side by side. Attitude is more influential than pride. Because your attitude is something you just can’t hide.

— Troy Whitehurst

Yes, you see it in my eyes

May I love you if I may
So my feelings for you will never go away
And sometimes your fear of love just hides your heart.
My love for you was strong from the start
Yes, you see it in my eyes
Though the beauty of your skin is like a rose
To be sweet as you are, one can never strike a pose.
I handle your love, taking it a day at a time.
As others put anger and sorrow in your mind.
Yes, you see it in my eyes
Most nights when I’m asleep, alone in my bed,
Still having thoughts of your feelings rolling round in my head.
Perhaps I love you too much.
But not loving you is a feeling I could never touch.
Yes, you see it in my eyes.

— Tyvon Petway

How can I show I’ve changed

So many mistakes I’ve made not knowing the price I’d have to pay.
Not seeking your face only brought me disgrace.
How can I show them that I’ve changed?
So much joy installed within, no weapon formed will win.
I have the power over all things that come my way
How can I show them that I’ve changed?
When the devil at my throat feeling as if I have no where to go
Claming this mountain I’ve reached an all-time low.
How can I show them that I’ve changed?
My situations are deep, never to keep me from praising his name
How can I show them that I’ve changed?
I’m living my life according to his will I have no problems for he pays my bills.
Talking incessantly, letting me see, by faith I can do all things.
My relationships, I place in his hands knowing he’ll never lead me astray
How can I show them that I’ve changed?
You know my old man true indeed, I hope you believe he’s no longer me.
My heart has been made pure I’ve been given the patience and strength to endure (Colossians 1:11)
How can I show them that I’ve changed?
I am not looking for your acceptance that I don’t need.
For I’ve been accepted by the king.
My apologies to all those I’ve hurt.
I haven’t given up I’m still going to make it work.
My words come from my heart.
Something God has filled and will never depart.
If you ever get tired of running just call on his name.
Romans 10:8-13 and your life will be changed.
Continuous reading from the book that is true (the Bible)
You don’t have to show them that you’ve changed.
For God has already done that for you.

— Randy St. Clair

Twenty Questions

1. Did you spend Valentine’s Day with someone else other than your significant other?
2. Why is it that the person you love is usually in love with someone else?
3. Did you hook back up with an old boyfriend or girlfriend just because it was Valentine’s Day?
4. Don’t we all remember those little Valentines we used to buy and take to school back in the day?
5. Why do some people act brand new when they get a man or girl?
6. Were you up all night listening to the “Quiet Storm” just so you could have a tight slow jam tape for Valentine’s Day?
7. Did you have to literally pay your roommate to leave the room?
8. Did you have to remind your boyfriend or girlfriend that it was Valentine’s Day?
9. Did you buy your mama and your girlfriend the same thing for Valentine’s Day?
10. Are you still upset about a tacky gift you received last year?
11. Why do some people wait until the day of Valentine’s to buy their gifts and can’t we tell the ones who did?
12. How do “players” not get caught on Valentine’s Day?
13. Is it because they’re “true players”?
14. Do the employees of Howard Johnson, Super Eight, And The Holiday Inn all know you on a first name basis?
15. Did you get a discount this time?
16. Did you break up with your boyfriend or girlfriend right before Valentine’s Day just to keep from spending money?
17. Did you get your feelings hurt for being so cheap?
18. Did you finally get up the nerve to call your “secret crush” only to hang up when they answered?
19. Were you embarrassed when they star 03 you right back?
20. Which of the following excuses have you used to break up with someone or even had used on you?
   1. “I think we just need some time apart”
   2. “It’s not you, it’s me”
   3. “Things are moving too fast”
   4. “I just need some space”
   5. “You deserve so much better than me”
   6. “It’s the new millennium”

Got a suggestion for the next Twenty Questions? Send it to M@tRo@e @Hotma@.com or drop them by room 309 in Crosby.
Lady Aggies living with best, worst

BY CHRIS WALLACE

The N.C. A&T ladies basketball team has hit rock bottom this season. The Aggies are a lowly 1-20 and have showed some signs of promise this season but not much consistency. Despite their low points, they have probably the best player in the MEAC. She is a 6’3” center by the name of Melvetta Johnson. This junior is ranked in the top five in the MEAC in scoring, first in rebounding, and first in shot blocking. She also leads the nation in rebounding.

“Melvetta is a very good player and leader for this team,” says Coach Karen Hall. “We just need to be more consistent.”

Johnson’s numbers alone are not enough as the lady Aggies have fallen and fallen hard. The lady Aggies only have four seniors on their roster and look for a brighter future.

“Melvetta is a very good player and leader for this team. We just need to be more consistent.”

COACH KAREN HALL

Freshman guard Anne Bondon has shown signs has shown signs of promise this season as she is ranked second on the team in scoring behind Johnson. Although the lady Aggies have looked good at times, they haven’t played with much consistency at all and seem to lose concentration and far fast. Turnovers have been the most staggering number this year for the lady Aggies. They are averaging more than 20 per game this season.

“Melvetta Johnson is the best player in the conference but the lady Aggies are the worst team in the conference,” stated a scout.

Former N.C. A&T star Troy Pelshak takes the field for an Aggie game in 1998.

Former Aggie hits big time with Super Bowl champion St. Louis Rams

BY ALISHA TOLSON

Tell anyone who will listen. One of ours has hit the heights and earned a ring as a rookie for the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXIV.

The Rams didn’t risk a draft pick on Troy Pelshak, signing him as a free agent instead — and it paid off. A defensive end and alternate outside linebacker in his first year as a Ram, Pelshak played in nine games and made the Super Bowl trip — and will wear the accompanying ring.

Pelshak started his football career at Garringer High School in Charlotte. He achieved many things while at Garringer, not only athletically but also academically. Playing football at Garringer opened doors for him, and the first one was to A&T.

Pelshak says his success has not spoiled him. That he has a level head, and that hasn’t changed. He’s neither conceited nor snobbish, he says, and he remembers where he came from.

He remembers the people at A&T who coached him and played by his side.

“It feels good being where I am, because I am representing my boys and the people that helped me get to the level that I am today as a professional football player,” he said.

Darius Helton, Pelshak’s former teammate and neighbor from Charlotte, shared the joy in Pelshak’s achievement — as a fellow Aggie and as a friend.

“Troy was another in a long line of great Charlotte football players,” Helton said. “I was surprised that his team made it to the Super Bowl, but proud to say that I have a fellow Aggie in a successful position in life.”

Pelshak speaks on when the Rams clinched the Super Bowl berth with a win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

“This was something words can’t describe,” he said. “It felt good to be in that situation. It felt like I was on top of the world.”

One week later, on the sidelines for the Super Bowl in Atlanta, he rose even higher.

“Standing there on the sidelines, I looked back on all the years I played football,” Pelshak said. “I felt my dreams had come true.”

After three quarters of St. Louis dominance, the big game went to be worth watching. In the end, one yard was all that separated the Rams and the Tennessee Titans from going to overtime.

“When the clock ran out it was a euphoria of accomplishment,” Pelshak said. “I had to save the moment for only that moment. It made me hungry, because I know I have to make it back again.”

Pelshak’s formula for success is simple: Hard work, long hours — and good friends.

“I still feel that all those years paid off,” he said. “I thank Steve (A&T track coach “Space” Thompson) for helping all those football players who came to A&T, such as myself, with ambitions and dreams to make it to the NFL.”

“I want to thank (former A&T player) Toran James for taking his time out and sharing his dreams and helping me achieve my dreams.”

Pelshak’s family was also involved in his dreams.

“I thank my mother and father for being supportive to me, even the times I was being a knucklehead,” he said.

“My quote for life is, ‘These are the fruits of your labor.’ I worked hard for it.”

Aggie nine improved

Despite opening loss, baseball team looks forward to better year

BY CHRIS WALLACE

The N.C. A&T Aggies vs baseball team opened their 1999-2000 baseball season last week against the UNC-G Spartans.

Although the Aggies lost the game 6-3, they looked impressive especially after a nightmare season a year ago.

Last season, the Aggies finished last in the MEAC and had a dismal overall record of 11-4. They look to do a lot of improvement this season.

The Aggies are a very young team and seem to have depth at the most important position on the field, pitcher. Although they look to be pitching rich, their soft spot may be hitting. In order for the Aggies to contend, they must pitch and hit.

“The Aggies are a young team looking to gain respect,” stated a scout. They are hoping to get an early jump on the season and open up some eyes.

No one has more Aggie Pride than us.