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THE REGISTER

North Carolina A&T
State University
www.collegepublisher.com/
atregister

VOLUME 75, NO. 13

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001

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Tear'em down; build'em up

Many gather for the opening of the updated Student Union

By T.J. MOORE
Register Staff Writer

The grand opening of the expansion of the Student Union was in fact a proud day for administration, faculty and students.

On March 22, the official opening began after Chancellor James Renick grabbed a huge pair of wooden scissors to cut through the ceremonial ribbon in a ceremony that lasted about 15 minutes.

After the ribbon-cutting, patrons christened the new ballroom with a continental breakfast. Items served were ham and cheese croissants, various pastries and bagels.

The highlight of the day came two hours later with the opening of the new food court and the unveiling of its new name.

The newly named Aggie Sit-In served samples from its new partners: Pizza Hut, Blimpies and spicy chicken from Tyson's Sunset Strips.

One month ago, there was a "name the new food court" contest. After continuous searching, the winner of the contest was senior broadcasting major Chris Bullard.

Bullard came up with the name by mixing the early-'60s struggle with a touch of common sense.

"I started thinking about the Aggie Den and what you or I do once we go there," said Bullard. "You sit and eat your food."

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Courtney Taylor (2) / Register Staff

A new addition of the Student Union (above) opened to N.C. A&T students on March 22, with food court tenants providing samples of its new food. Below, demolition of the Williams Cafeteria will make way for an \$8.1 million replacement.



New housing will ensure that students have a place to stay

By RANDY ST. CLAIR
Editor-In-Chief

The land has been marked, the buildings are being built and N.C. A&T students will have new student housing for the 2001-2002 school year.

Student housing construction is among the 40 projects university officials have begun since the passing of the state bond issue that gave \$153.8 million to A&T.

David Hoard, vice chancellor, development and relations, said that all those projects including housing should be complete within seven years.

"We project that all student housing as well as all the other projects will be complete within a five- to seven-year period," said Hoard. "If you really look at all the university is doing, that's a pretty short time to get everything done. But we're going to do it."

The university's main priority at this time is student housing, said Hoard.

"When the chancellor came in, that was one of the first things he wanted to address. He wanted students to not just have a place to stay, but a nice place to stay," said Hoard. "With the chancellor's vision and his aggressiveness, things are getting done."

In its entirety, the private housing projects and the renovations to each dorm will cost A&T about \$41 million. Renovations will begin this summer with the tearing down of Haley Hall. The A&T Oaks will no longer be in

Please see **HOUSING**, Page 3

Results are in; Drumwright S.G.A president

By TARAH S. HOLLAND
Register Staff Writer

Students have cast their votes and the new members of the Student Government Association are beginning preparations for their upcoming year in office.

All day Wednesday, March 21, students voted for S.G.A. candidates in the Memorial Student Union, using a computerized voting process.

After 9:15 p.m., the Board of Elections tallied the votes and the results were then announced after 10 the same night.

The new officers include Gregory Drumwright, S.G.A. president; Chester Williams, S.G.A. vice president of external affairs; William Dudley Jr., S.G.A. vice president of internal affairs; Jeanelle Feimster, Miss A&T; Latarsha Casterlow, S.G.A. attorney general; Mia Ross, S.G.A. secretary; and Wanda Hunter, S.G.A. treasurer.

Drumwright, S.G.A. president-elect, was satisfied with the victory.

"I am more than honored to have the opportunity to serve my fellow students and also put into action the vision I have for students of the university," said

Drumwright.

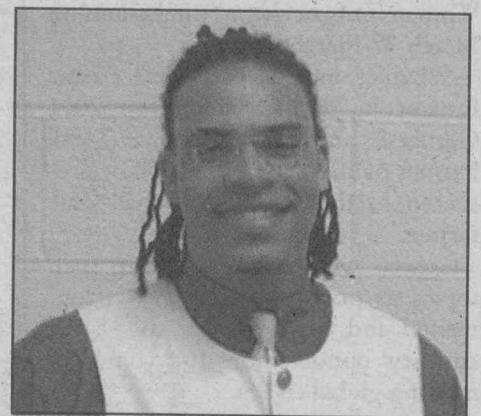
The vision Drumwright speaks of is one he hopes will make leaders out of all Aggies.

"My vision is to reinstate the initiative, fostering future leaders and responsible Aggies," he explained.

Voter turnout was one of the greatest things in this year's election, said Rosalyn Parker, secretary for student activities.

"Voter turnout was excellent. It was also an improvement over past years," she said.

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Randy St. Clair/ Register Staff

Greg Drumwright

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Students honored during annual convocation.
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Students get in shape at the university's Cardio Lab.
Page 7



IN BRIEF

Family weekend set for April 6-8

A&T is preparing for its first Family Weekend April 6-8. The Offices of Alumni Affairs, Admissions and Student Affairs are sponsoring the event. The major corporate sponsor is Black Enterprise.

The theme for the weekend is "Connecting Your Family With Ours." Activities will include a talent and fashion show, dinner theater, outdoor gala and cookout, tickets to Piedmont Jazz Festival and Sunday Brunch. Additionally, there will be messages from the chancellor, alumni, and students.

The weekend's package will cost \$40 for adults and \$10 for children. For information, please call 334-7583.

School of nursing to host grad school fair

A&T's School of Nursing will host a Graduate School Day Fair, Thursday, March 29. The fair will be held 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Dudley Building Multi-purpose Room.

At this time, students and N.C. A&T nursing alumni and nurses in the surrounding area that are interested in pursuing a graduate or professional degree will have the opportunity to speak with participating reps regarding admissions, curricula, financial aid, scholarships, fellowships, etc.

Gen. Proctor speaks at ROTC ceremony

Maj. Gen. Hawthorne L. Proctor will be the keynote speaker at the university's fourth annual ROTC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 10 a.m. Thursday, March 29, in Webb Hall Auditorium.

Inductees for this year are Richard E. Barber, Sampson Buie Jr., Col. Willie L. Gore, Col. (Ret.) John C. Holley, Col. Edgar B. Murphy and Col. James F. Willie.

Proctor received his commission in 1968 as a distinguished military graduate from A&T.

Women in agriculture honored this week

As part of its 2001 Small Farms Week activities, A&T will host the Women in Agriculture Symposium on March 27-March 28.

Activities include the Small Farms Luncheon, during which the 2001 Gilmer L. and Clara Y. Dudley Small Farmer of the Year Award will be presented to the state's top small-scale farmer.

Experts will lead seminars on such topics as policy, leadership, environmental and risk management issues, and new opportunities for women in meeting global issues.

Michelin donates \$300,000 gift

Michelin North America donated \$300,000 to A&T for student scholarships, research opportunities, internships and faculty development.

The gift was presented Feb. 26 to Chancellor James C. Renick.

Looking for help?

Aggie Help Desk gives support for the computer-baffled

By NATASHA EVANS
Register Contributor

If you have been experiencing problems with your Internet access or obtaining your school e-mail account, the Aggie Help Desk, located in the IRC building, can help.

This department provides free Internet access and e-mail accounts, and on/off campus telephone support about computer problems, for all students and faculty members.

Five consultants work at the help desk, which serves well over 5,000 students and faculty.

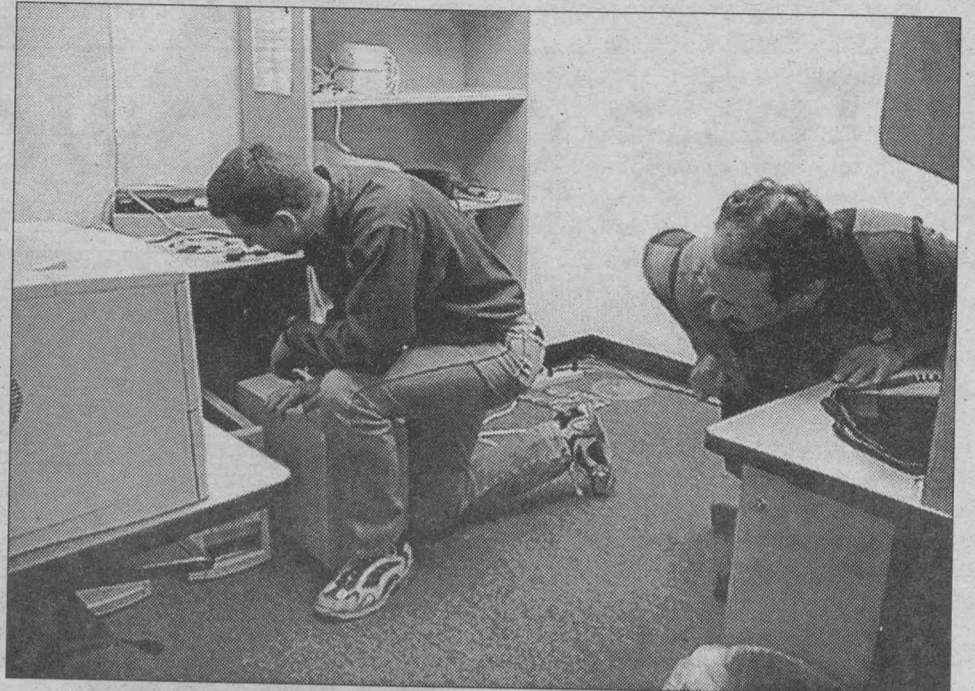
"During the fall semester we received anywhere from a 120-150 calls a day. It has been a challenge being short-staffed in the number of consultants," said manager David Weaver, adding that the Help Desk was hoping to catch up over spring break.

A study was done to find out the number of consultants that the Aggie Help Desk should have, Weaver said. The results found that nine would be the appropriate number.

Despite the small number of employees, the Help Desk still manages to get around to serve everybody.

Weaver believes that good customer service is a must.

Khan Munstair is a part-time consultant who is also enrolled as a full-time student majoring computer science.



Courtney Taylor/Register Staff

David Weaver (right) is the manager for the Help Desk, and works with a staff including Dave Dingess (left) to answer the many calls about computer problems.

Since working at the desk, he has been getting hands-on experience for his major. He helps do configurations for the various computer systems and trouble-shooting.

Munstair also assist students in their computer needs, which sometimes include setting up their own web pages through a free service offered by the

Help Desk.

The Aggie Help Desk is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students and faculty can get help with their computer troubles or needs by visiting the office in the lower level of the IRC building or calling 334-7195.

EYE ON CRIME

The N.C. A&T University Police reported the following incidents from March 15-21.

March 15 Drug Violation

A student was found in possession of marijuana and alcohol. No charges were filed, and the items were seized by university police for evidence.

Vandalism

A student was cited and released for damaging a smoke detector and ceiling tile on the second floor of Scott Hall C. Estimated damages are \$200.

March 16 Larceny

A resident of Curtis Hall reported that while visiting another resident, her credit cards were stolen. There is one suspect in this incident. The case remains open.

March 17 Larceny

A non-student reported that his gym bag was stolen from the bleachers while he was playing basketball in Moore Gym. There are no suspects at this time.

Larceny

A resident of Cooper Hall reported that an acquaintance from Bennett

College entered his room, while his roommate was present, and removed three items of clothing and left the room. The case remains open.

Delinquent Juvenile

The university police department investigated a complaint from a mother who reported that a male student sexually assaulted her 15-year-old daughter in Cooper Hall. According to police reports, further investigation revealed the daughter called the male student and requested him to pick her up and bring her to his residence, which resulted in consensual sexual intercourse. No charges have been filed. This case remains open.

March 18 Larceny

A resident of Morrison Hall reported that someone removed her laptop from her closet. The case remains open.

March 19 Larceny

A female student reported that someone removed her secured laundry from the washing machine. There are no suspects at this time.

Drug Violation

Two male students were found with possession of marijuana and alcohol on

school grounds. They were cited and released.

March 20 Vehicle Accident

DeCarlo Bennett reported that he struck a 1990 Honda while backing his 2001 Toyota from a parking space on Drew Drive. Estimated damages are \$300.

Vehicle Accident

Flinton Newton reported that he struck a 1989 Nissan Stanza while attempting to make a right-hand turn from Laurel Street into Bluford Street in his 1992 Isuzu Rodeo. Estimated damages are \$800.

RESULTS

Continued from page 1

Wanda Hunter, S.G.A. treasurer-elect, agreed with Parker.

"I think the election turnout was wonderful and I feel that student involvement has increased," she said.

Hunter went on to say that she was very excited about the upcoming school

year.

"It is a pleasure to represent A&T and it was a goal of mine," said Hunter. "I am pleased to be able to achieve it."

"I look forward to safeguarding the students' money and seeing that the students get the benefits that they deserve," she continued.

An awards banquet at 5 p.m. on April 1 will be conducted by the S.G.A., and an induction ceremony will follow at a later date.

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HOUSING

Continued from page 1

service to students. University officials decided not to renew the three-year contract due to the new privatized housing provided by the foundation.

The Aggie Suites, which will be able to house up to 804 students, will be available by the beginning of August. The Aggie Inn will remain open until its contract expires in three years, and all dorms will remain open until the summer of 2002 when Scott Hall and Curtis Hall will be renovated completely.

So who is responsible for all the privatized housing being built? They're called the North Carolina A&T Foundation Inc., composed of six university officials who are separate from the university, but are here to support the university.

The foundation is in its 45th year of its existence, and its main objective is to provide the university with support financially or in any other way needed.

Hoard, who is also the executive director of the foundation, said that the foundation is responsible for the new privatized housing on campus. He also says that they are really trying to suit the needs of the students.

"We (the foundation) are here for the students, just as the university is here for the students," said Hoard. "We saw that there was a need for student housing so we decided that we would hire a few private contractors to build what you see behind Holt Hall, Aggie Suites."

The foundation strictly gets its money from donations and investments. No state funds are allocated to the foundation.



Sharonda Eggeleton/Register Staff

The N.C. A&T Foundation is working to improve student housing -- members of the foundation team include (from left) Jacqueline McMillian, Denise Foster, Donna Darden and Orbie Smith.

"We're part of the university but we're separate," said Hoard. "We're here to support them in any way we can."

Hoard and the foundation have more than done that by raising half a million dollars for next summer's project, the renovation of Scott Hall. They have also raised money to build more privatized housing.

"The completion of the housing project will include five new housing units, and renovations of all the dorms on campus," said Hoard. "The special thing about the new privatized housing is that it's not just a place where students will rest until the end of the year, but it's a

place where they can stay their entire four years at A&T.

"They are fully furnished, with a computer lab for everyone, and there are no extra costs. The price to stay in these housing units include phone, cable, free Internet access, utilities -- so students are really getting a bargain and we're making them affordable to any student who wishes to stay in them."

The foundation has also help raise almost \$20 million for university uses other than housing this year -- a number that has almost quadrupled from previous fundraising efforts.

The new projects begun by university

officials and the foundation have students pretty excited about what the university will look like when it's all said and done.

Tyvon Petway, a senior business economics major, says that it's great to see the university evolve into something really great.

"Students should be excited about what's going on, and the fact that what we actually asked for the university is doing," said Petway. "The chancellor has really done what he said he was going to do, and that pleases me as well as students. I wish I could be here to see it all come together, but that's okay I'll see it when I come back a few years later for Homecoming."

Though the university has made moves in revolutionizing the campus, the goal is still far from being reached, said Andrew Perkins, interim vice chancellor for facilities.

"The renovation process of each dorm is going to take some time, but we're going to reach our goal. It's just going to take some patience on everyone's part," said Perkins.

Perkins, who is now in his second year at A&T, said that a main objective for the renovating of campus dorms and buildings is to make the campus pedestrian-friendly.

"We're really trying to get students not to drive so much, but have everything easily available to students," said Perkins. "I also think that the parents of the students would like that so they won't be pressured in buying cars for their children, and when parents learn what the dorms provide for students they'll really be convinced that A&T is working to meet the needs of its students."

OPENING

Continued from page 1

"I remember the struggle of the Greensboro Four and it just came up and made sense...sit-in."

Bullard continued by saying that winning the contest is a gift to him as a graduating senior because he was credited with the naming of something meaningful for years to come.

Bullard received a \$75 certificate for his efforts. To give the sit-in a stylish touch, there is going to be a replica of the famous Woolworth's lunch counter on the back wall.

For four hours on Thursday, patrons came in to the food court to sample the food from the concept brands and drinks from Coca-Cola.

Many students are impressed with the products. "I like Blimpies and Pizza Hut because it gives us variety," said Sherrie Henry.

One student likes the concept of one over the others. "I like Blimpies better because I like the non-fattening, lean and low-in-calories foods," said Mahasan Kearney.

As far as the concepts in the new food court goes, a lot of negotiations are still going on. Once of those concerns Chick-fil-a.

If Chick-fil-a does not extend its services to the Sit-In, Tyson's Sunset Strip will get the nod, authorities said. If Chick-fil-a does extend its services, Sunset Strips is out of the picture.

Greek summit planned

A&T's Division of Student Affairs and the A&T Chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council will hold its 15th Annual Pan Hellenic Summit on March 30-31, in McNair Hall and the Memorial Student Union.

Another important issue is the menu of the concept brands. Pizza Hut will not be serving its entire menu but will provide its Pizza Hut Express menu, which will serve personal pan pizzas and

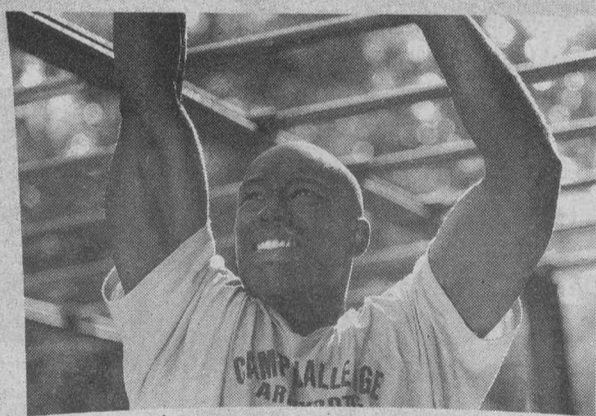
breadsticks, said Langston Adams, director of food services.

However, Blimpies is a different matter.

"Blimpies will feature a diverse menu,"

said Adams. "Ham, turkey, roast beef or any type of sandwich you want."

Adams also said that with the opening of the food court, a few new jobs will be created.



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Editorials reflect the opinions of the A&T Register but not necessarily those of the university. Views in guest commentaries and letters to the editor are those of the writer.

THE A&T REGISTER
Box E-25, 1601 E. Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27411

Never underestimate power of a brother's love

Basketball is something my brother and I love to watch, play and have heated debates about. Who's got the best crossover, who's got the sweetest handles, who's got the best three or quickest release -- even who's got the best dance move after either one of us does somebody in -- are just a few of the things we debate.

These debates, that seem to get worse each time I go home, never really come to any resolution, but we always manage to be at peace and hit up Mickey D's by the end of the night. Only to have the debates refuel by the break of dawn.

It's times like those that make life really worth living.

On the drive back almost three weeks ago, I had a chance to think about what it means to have a brother. Not just any brother but a brother who looks up to you, one who's not afraid or too macho to let you know he loves you, one who's got an amazing amount of wisdom at the age of 15 and one who's got the nastiest crossover I've seen yet.

I think of what he means to me and what he has helped me get through in my college experience and say he's a true brother. I didn't always do him right. Yeah, I was one those brothers that didn't want my younger brother around until I realized the importance of who he was in my life.

No one can be what Brian is. No one can laugh like he laughs, smile like he smiles, dance like he dances. No one's got game like he's got. He's one of a kind.

I've learned that that there's nothing like a brother's love when the times get rough, and no one else seems to understand. A brother proves to be that voice of reason and sense when we aren't always making much sense or using much reason.

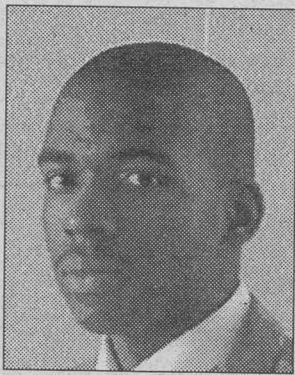
I've learned that a brother isn't necessarily of blood, as a friend can quickly turn into that brother one never had.

A brother does more than mack with you at the mall, or play ball with you. A brother looks out for you, tells you when you're wrong, expresses to you his need for you and keeps you laughing.

I never want to take for granted all the times my brother and I sat up playing Dreamcast till four in the morning, I never want to take for granted all the basketball discussions and female discussions and most importantly I never want to take for granted my brother's love. A love not too many can say they have experienced.

I take a look at the many young black men on A&T's campus and see wonders of works in each and every one of them. I also see how they interact with each other. Though each person's interaction isn't the same as the next, with every embrace or "what's up dogg?" there's an underlying statement being made. That statement is "this is my brother."

We hear all the time how black men are this and are that, and some may be those things. But there's one thing one can say about a black man, and that is, he's got love for his brother.



RANDY ST. CLAIR

AGGIES TALK BACK!!!

Are professors pushing students to work to their potential?



Kedric Simms - senior, broadcast production - "I feel that A&T is a good university, but the professors can do a better job, altogether, of helping students."



Cynthia Lucas - senior, broadcast news - "Yes. Because the communication department professors do their best to prepare us for the world."



Maurice Dixon - junior, broadcast news - "Yes. Especially Mrs. Tonkins because she's always encouraging us to get exposure and providing advice to prepare us for the future."



Michael A. Thomas - senior, broadcast news - "Yes. They realize that we have to work to our potential in order to make a name for ourselves in the media business."



Jaime Brown - sophomore, psychology/broadcast news - "I feel like half of the professors are here for a paycheck, and it's obvious by their actions. On the other hand, there are professors who do care."



Donna Coletrane - junior, public relations - "My experience at A&T has been a great one! I came here to increase my education, so if any of my professors have not pushed me to my potential I haven't noticed. Simply because I've been trying to reach my goals."

Justice wasn't served for Lionel Tate

BY TENISHA BARNES
Guest Commentary

For a society that was founded on the inalienable rights that ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... somewhere we have missed the mark. And, racism has become the malignant cancer that kills us slowly from the inside out.

If the truth be told, racism has become as American as apple pie.

On Friday, March 9, 2001, racism showed up in a Florida courtroom and sentenced Lionel Tate, a 14-year-old African-American male to life in prison

for a child's play that went too far.

Tate was convicted of killing a 6-year-old girl while imitating wrestling moves. The punishment does not fit the crime.

I am led to believe that it is a violation of his constitutional rights and should be deemed "cruel and unusual punishment."

Tate was being kept in a maximum security prison for the duration of his trial as if he were a real "menace to society." The only "menace" to society is society itself.

In the same week of Tate's sentencing,

Charles "Andy" William's, purposely, went on a shooting spree at Santana High School in San Diego, Calif., killing two people and wounding several others. For his crime, he was sent to a juvenile detention center. He will probably use the "insanity plea" and face a light slap on the wrist for his actions.

Two different scenarios, two different outcomes. Justice wasn't served for Tate. Could it be that America still views the African-American male as 3/5 of a man?

There should have been a big indicator

that this sentencing was cruel and unusual punishment when prosecutors joined forces with the defense attorneys to seek clemency on the child's behalf.

The underlying issue is that justice went wrong and instead of being fair and impartial, it was malicious and excessive.

If clemency is not granted by Gov. Jeb Bush, than Tate will be faced with a mandatory life sentence for an innocent mistake. Only God can deliver us from the tactics of our adversary, which is simply divide and conquer.

Convocation honors students, faculty

BY WILLIAM DAVIS II
Register Contributor

An air of excellence filled Harrison Auditorium last Thursday morning, as faculty marched down the aisles wearing academic regalia to open the Honors Day Convocation.

This annual event honors the achievements of students, faculty and staff members.

"Today we pause to recognize and commend all the students who have achieved academic excellence in their academic endeavors," said Chancellor James Renick.

And Honors Day is equally important for faculty and staff, he said. "We are here to honor and pay tribute to a number of faculty members who have made a difference in the lives of our students," Renick continued.

Julius Chambers, chancellor of N.C. Central University, outlined three main points in his keynote address.

First, he said there is a major disparity between the resources at historically black colleges and universities versus those of other institutions of higher education. "I come to A&T and I see the disparity in the facilities," he said, adding that there must be equity between what's available at N.C. State and A&T, between N.C. Central and Chapel Hill.

And more financial support is needed for students.

"Nothing hurts me more," said Chambers, "than to go to HBCUs and see a young student, black student, trying to get an education and then know that the student doesn't have the resources."

In his second point, Chambers noted that A&T and other HBCUs must be prepared for diversity and embrace it, saying the day may come when 30 per-

cent of their student body is not black.

Finally, he said that African American students must do better before college, and that they need the help of the community if they are to succeed academically.

Chambers, who later was to receive a honorary doctorate in humanities, read Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son" and said that every black person can quote from the poem, which begins, "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair," because it speaks to their experience.

The program also featured selections by the university orchestra and choir, and remarks by Ralph Shelton, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Pamela Hunter, who chairs the faculty senate; and Nicole Watlington, Miss A&T.

Students from the various schools and colleges were asked to rise to be honored. The university also recognized outstanding area high school students, and made awards to leading faculty, administrators and researchers.

Faculty and staff say that honoring the students is important to the university.

"I think it's a great idea that we recognize our superior students," says Sandra Williamson, a professor in the Department of History. "We should congratulate the students for the efforts they've made."

"Like we honor athletes, we should honor students that excel academically," said Claude Lamb, chairperson for the Department of Chemistry.

Students also feel that Honors Day is an important time for the university.

"The convocation is definitely a good idea," said Joe Frierson, a junior political science major. "Not only does it continue encouragement for the academic student, but it encourages academic excellence for the university as a whole."

"It makes me feel good that A&T rec-



Sharonda Eggleton/Register Staff

Chancellor James Renick (left) stands with N.C. Central University's chancellor, Julius Chambers, and A&T vice chancellor Carolyn Meyers.

ognizes how hard I've worked," said Nakeisha Watson, a senior industrial engineering major. "Especially being a double major, but not just me, anybody that fits the GPA requirement."

Not only do students and faculty enjoy the ceremony, but parents come a long ways to see their children receive honors.

"They have worked hard and they need some lifting up," said parent, Nannie Ervin.

Bruce and Nannie Ervin drove two hours from Morganton, N.C., to attend the program "for our baby (Martitia Maria Ervin, a senior) that's going to graduate in May," said Nannie Ervin.

"This is the dream of our life because neither one of us went to college," she added.

Many agree that the Honors Day

Convocation is a good idea, but some are displeased with the number of students that attend events like these.

"Where are the students?" Chambers asked during his speech. "We want to bring a message because you want to charge young people who are going to take advantage. We are going to have to go and find them and let them know that we are not going to get anywhere without them involved."

Nakkita Mitchell, outgoing S.G.A. president, has attended the Honors Day each year that she has been at A&T. She said there could be better student turnout.

"I've come all four of my years and I'm disappointed," said Mitchell. "We have a lot of honor students, but I don't think a lot of the student body puts value in this program."

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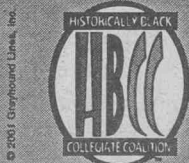
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Jazz fest brings diversity to A&T

BY MIA ROSS
Register Staff Writer

So, you're tired of hearing all the hip-hop and R&B around campus and you want to hear something different. Well, through the efforts of Chancellor James Renick, the first Piedmont Jazz Festival is just around the corner.

Cosponsored with Black Enterprise magazine, this event serves as a host for seminars and jazz sets that are sure to make you appreciate the art form.

"As a native of the area, I am thankful that we, the university, are such a big part of bringing something to the community that helps revitalize the Greensboro area and provide an outlet of family entertainment for all age groups," says S.G.A. President Nikkita Mitchell.

"I am just as proud that Aggies are in

the forefront of these efforts."

Festivities start Wednesday, April 4, with the following:

*10 a.m.: A panel discussion on "The Business of Jazz" in Harrison Auditorium.

*3 p.m.: A Big Band showcase will be in the Student Union Ballroom featuring A&T, UNC-G, and area high school big band performances.

Thursday, April 5

*5:30: The East Market Street Jam session with live music and a DJ.

*10 p.m.: A night jam session featuring local and headlining jazz acts will be at the Alexander Devereux's restaurant. Jam session will continue on Friday, April 6, and Saturday, April 7. Admission is \$5.

Friday, April 6

*10 a.m.: A jazz workshop featuring Grammy nominee Nnenna Freelon at

Winston-Salem State University is scheduled.

*11:30 a.m.: Brown bag lunch at the Greensboro Governmental Plaza while jazz groups perform.

*1:30 p.m.: Jazz workshop discussion on improvisation and technique featuring vocalist Eve Corneliou will take place at Smith High School.

*6 p.m.: A dinner theater is scheduled in the ballroom to watch A&T's own E. Gwynn Dancers.

*7:30 p.m.: Step show at the Carolina Theatre followed by an old school jam outside the theater from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

*7:30 p.m.: "An Evening of Jazz" at the Carolina Theatre featuring saxophonist Kenny Garrett and vocalist Eve Corneliou.

*8 p.m.: International Music Celebration at Winston-Salem's Sawtooth Building. Afro-Cuban and

jazz bands will perform. Admission is \$10; International buffet is \$10.

Saturday, April 7

*9 a.m.: Outdoor Gala and cookout at the Aggie Stadium.

*10 a.m.: Jazz workshop at UNC-G featuring saxophonist Kenny Garrett discussing jazz improvisation and technique.

*Noon: A jazz concert at Oak Hollow Park in High Point. Artists performing include Ravi Coltrane, Pieces of a Dream, Sankofa, Jane Bunnett and the Spirits of Havana and Rachele Ferrell. Admission is \$10.

Sunday, April 8

*1 p.m.: Jazz takes to the streets at the Downtown Street Festival. Local college and high school bands will perform jazz classics by Ellington, Basie, Strayhorn and more. Regional and local jazz bands will perform as well.

Bilal goes awry, Arie shines in debut albums

BY JOSHUA ALSTON
Register Contributor

In America, everything is for sale, and culture has always been a hot commodity. Most people would like to think that they are cultured and refined, no matter how white-bread they actually are, like that guy everyone knows who swears he likes jazz because he has Kenny G's Christmas album buried in a box in the attic.

So it comes with no surprise that profit-hungry record labels are chomping at the bit to sign artists like Bilal and India Arie. Sure, we've seen their type of

Nonetheless, "Your Love Sent to Me," starts promisingly enough, featuring his modest tenor over a pretty keyboard. Soon enough though, he spikes his own punch with a boring hook and a worse guitar solo.

These, of course, are only the ballads. The uptempo tunes are even less fulfilling, like the leaden, funk-rock rave-up "Way Back to You" and the reggae-tinged "Home Is Where I Wanna Be." For those who thought the single "Soul Sista" was to neo-soul as a virgin margarita is to alcohol, I'm sorry to say that's as good as it gets.

India Arie fares much better on her debut, "Acoustic Soul," mostly because her sound is unique and refreshing, but you won't see the sweat on her brow. The lead-off single, "Video," is positively infectious with its simple guitar riff and hand claps, but it's a bit of a Trojan horse. The remainder of "Acoustic Soul" is just as enjoyable, but where "Video" would fit comfortably on most radio playlists, Arie's other songs are the type of rock-soul hybrids that make marketing departments and DJs throw their arms up in frustration.

"Promises" and "Beautiful" are stark, simple guitar gems, reminiscent of Joan Armatrading if she had listened to less Joni Mitchell and more Stax 45s. Arie seems most influenced by Stevie Wonder, even going so far as to dedicate the reverent "Wonderful" to him. "You are the sunshine of my life/ Another Shakespeare of your time," she sings over a propulsive bass line. Elsewhere, on the uplifting "Strength, Courage & Wisdom," she flirts with a chord progression similar to that of Stevie's "Visions."

Just like Stevie, India Arie is just as strong with ballads as she is with uptempo tracks, as evidenced on the heart-wrenching "Ready for Love," a yearning confession that most anyone who listens to it will relate to in some fashion. "Acoustic Soul" is another set of giant steps, and should prove to be one of the most impressive debuts, if not albums, of the year.

"First Born Second" goes awry, but "Acoustic Soul" serves as proof that there is not necessarily anything wrong with buying culture. The key is to be selective about the person in the trench coat you buy it from.

A REVIEW

neo-bohemian before -- Erykah, Amel, D'Angelo and Jill have all trod on this turf. But here are yet another pair of artists offering to condense three or four decades of rock, soul, jazz and Black pride into an hour-long platter, and for a measly 15 bucks, it's tough to resist.

"First Born Second," the long-awaited debut of Bilal Oliver of the tightly knit Soulquarians collective, is an unfortunate case of the whole being less than the sum of its parts. Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson of the Roots and James Poyser, the producers of D'Angelo's ultra-potent "Voodoo," are behind the boards on Bilal's first effort as well, but all their coddling can't seem to help his anemic songwriting. "First Born Second" is packed full of good ideas, but the Berklee-trained Bilal seems to be aiming for angular and hitting scatter-brained instead.

"Sometimes," the worst victim of his short attention span, begins with an ambient, dub-influenced intro that whets the appetite, despite sounding a bit too much like Mos Def's "Umi Said." "This is a song that makes me spill out all my guts," he sings right as the song hits a hard left, veering into the Fender Rhodes neighborhood, a part of town D'Angelo often frequents. Then he spouts off an angry salvo at an ex-lover that sounds almost too personal for mass consumption, but is hardly interesting enough to warrant the song's seven-minute length.

Bilal's lyrics have a tendency to favor candor over poeticism, which causes some occasional awkwardness.



Christina Applegate (right) and Jean Reno (left) star in "Just Visiting," a time-travel fantasy coming soon to local theaters.

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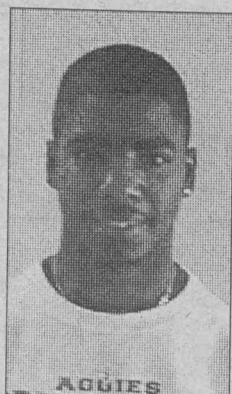
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His Airness back in the NBA?

Another year...another game...more talk. Could Michael Jordan, the world's most celebrated athlete, be making a return to do what he loves the most?

Depending on who you ask, it's very possible as



Chris Wallace

rumors have been surfacing now for several weeks, and Jordan has been seen practicing with the Wizards. Also, it would seem to make a little bit of sense especially since the Wizards are in dire need of help.

Just before the NBA trading deadline approached, Jordan freed up a lot of cap room by unloading underachieving, yet greedy forward Juwan Howard and a few other players. And with the development of guard Richard "RIP" Hamilton, a player whom Jordan says will be great one day, why not put the greatest player ever to play the game beside him to help him mature?

Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly reported that Jordan is about 90 percent committed to making a comeback in a Wizards uniform next season.

He's been working with the Wizards not only in practice but also privately in a gym up to six hours a day to get back into playing shape.

Former Bulls and current Lakers head coach Phil Jackson was quoted as saying this about the rumor: "Michael was a great player and a great psychologist. He knows how to get into your mind, and he's probably using these rumors to motivate his team. He's a competitor and if he does happen to come back, then so be it. More power to him, and he should also know that I have a slot on my roster for him as well."

A return to the NBA by Jordan would probably increase the ratings drastically but would probably hurt his status as a player. When asked about a possible comeback, Jordan said, "I'll never say never 'cause anything is possible."

For most of our lives, Jordan spoiled us because of his greatness. There is definitely no one near his status, and there may never be one.

When Jordan was on the court, we expected the unexpected, accepted the unacceptable and predicted the unpredictable. If he makes a return to the NBA now, all of us, including him, will realize just how much he meant to the league. Sure he has lost a step or two, but as one would say, never underestimate the heart of a champion. But why would Michael Jordan want to return?

When Jordan retired in 1998, he left at the absolute top. No one could even write a movie with an ending as great as that. First, he hits a tough

Please see RETURN, page 8

Baseball team makes good on promise

By CHRIS WALLACE
Register Staff Writer

The N.C. A&T baseball team vowed to have a better season this year and so far, so good.

Their offense has been special this season, and it was no different as they swept a three-game series at War Memorial Stadium over the previous weekend, beating the Spartans of UNCG and Norfolk State.

In game one, the Aggies fell behind 9-0 before scoring 15 runs over the final

three innings in a 15-10 win over Norfolk State.

Eric Jones' grand slam in the bottom of the fifth inning began the triumphant rally.

In the second game, the Aggies' Travis Scott pitched a beautiful complete game shutout, giving up only three hits and striking out 10 in the 1-0 victory over UNCG.

Kevin Allen's sacrifice fly produced the only run in the game, propelling the Aggies to victory.

In the finale of the three-game sweep, Adonis Smith and Austin Love combined to go 5 for 8 to lead the Aggies to an 11-2 victory over conference foe Norfolk State.

"These kids are playing hard and we're trying to improve more daily," said Aggie fifth-year head coach Keith Shumate. "Beating Bruce Miller yesterday was a big deal. We got good pitching this weekend."

The wins improved the Aggies to 11-15 overall and 2-0 in the MEAC.

Cardio lab offers convenience to Aggies

By REGINALD NICHOLLS
Register Contributor

As temperatures begin to rise with the arrival of spring, the need to be physically fit has also become a hot topic in the Moore Gymnasium's Cardio Lab. Open Monday through Friday, the Cardio lab serves N.C. A&T's physical fitness needs with a wide array of state-of-the-art workout equipment.

The Cardio Lab is open to faculty from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for students. During school hours, the lab is used for fitness and weight training classes.

While some students and faculty opt to use the local YMCA for their physical fitness needs, many choose the more economical route and stay on campus. For example, the average cost for membership per semester at YMCA is \$35 for students, while the Cardio Lab on campus is free to students and faculty.

The Cardio Lab is staffed by A&T students Belinda Goodson, Patrice Smith and Fred Sellars. The lab is used



Randy St. Clair/Register Staff

Students work up a sweat in the Cardio Lab.

by an average of 160 people per day, and the numbers can exceed 200 on a busy day. The atmosphere in the lab welcomes the spirit of physical fitness with five televisions that broadcast a national news program and new music videos. The lab comfortably accommodates 25 people at a time, which ensures easy access to all

equipment.

Men and women share the lab, and according to Sellars, there have been no real incidents of harassment of either men or women.

"I feel comfortable working out at the Cardio Lab because I am guaranteed to get a good workout, and I always leave feeling better than when I came," said

A&T student Jose Barros. "I am training for next year's track season, so I'm in here on average of three or four days a week."

Most people that use the facility work out in groups or with partners.

One of the advantages of having three people on staff is someone is always around to offer any assistance that may be needed.

"Whenever needed, our staff is prepared to make a workout schedule that is tailor made for an individual, and if necessary, we will show you how to do a particular exercise," Sellars said.

With all of the improvements taking place around campus, the question of the Cardio Lab's size has also become an important issue. According to the staff, there are plans to turn Holt Hall into a new fitness facility.

With recent improvements and plans for future ones, the lab is the hot spot for all your cardiovascular needs.

"Most people are very friendly, and they enjoy the relaxed atmosphere," Goodson said.

Football players get down to business in spring drills

By MICHAEL TOLIVER
Register Contributor

Last week marked the beginning of spring practice, and the A&T football team looks to take care of the problems that haunted it last year.

With a defense that ranked in the top five in the country, the Aggies' problem seemed to be an offense that had trouble scoring.

But with a wealth of talent returning, the N.C. A&T football team will try to gain the chemistry that will enable them to put up points against teams that are far less talented.

"Talent definitely wasn't the problem," said senior running back Adrian Parks. "We've just got to learn to play together and believe in the system."

The offense will be lead this year by running back Maurice Hicks. Hicks led

Please see SPRING, page 8

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RETURN

Continued from page 7

soaring lay up down the lane to pull the Bulls within one at 86-85 with 25 seconds remaining in the 1998 NBA Finals. Then, comes down court and steals the ball from Karl Malone with 17 seconds remaining to set up the storybook ending.

Instead of calling time out, the Bulls clear out for Jordan. With the clock ticking down, Jordan crossed up Byron Russell and sank the title-clinching shot with 5.2 seconds left in one of the most

memorable moments in NBA history. So why return now after five league MVP titles, six NBA titles, and six NBA Finals MVP's?

Maybe it's just Jordan's competitive nature. It would be to his delight to one day compete again but if he does, there will be one of two things. He'll either be good or mediocre. There's no bad in Jordan's game ...old man or not. He's still the most feared player in the game and he's retired! But in all reality, this is the Wizards and not the Bulls. Scottie, Dennis and Phil have moved on to newer places and Mike really needs "winners" around him. Not "just players."

SPRING

Continued from page 7

the Aggies in rushing last year with 1,400 yards.

He, along with Parks, gives the Aggies a 1-2 punch that opposing defenses have to account for.

With the return of bruising fullback Eric Farmer, who sat out last year due to academic trouble, the Aggies will have one of the most talented backfields in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Qasim Mitchell, who at 350 pounds

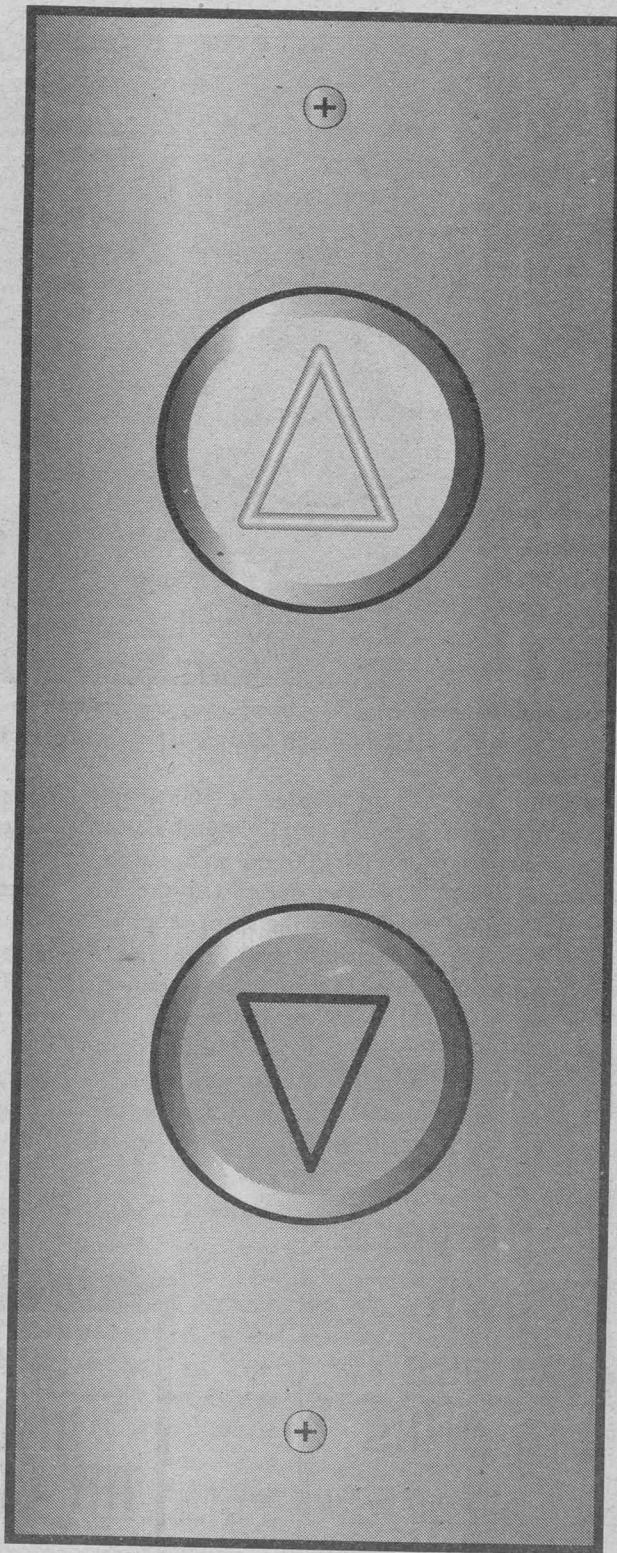
ran a 4.9-second 40 this spring, returns to lead the offensive line.

Steve Shipp and Derrick Becton are just two of the receivers who look to lessen the loss of Chris Caldwell, Ramondo North and Darius Helton.

With last year's starting quarterback Jason Battle helping A&T's baseball team to victory, Keith Matkins looks to be the one to lead the offense during spring drills.

"We have all of the talent, just wait until we gel as a group," says sophomore running back Cornelius Parks.

The fall season is set to open Sept. 2, with the Aggie-Eagle Classic in Raleigh against N.C. Central.



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