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Hunt for area rapist continues

By Brooks Newkirk
Managing Editor

A serial rapist has been on the loose in the UNCG area for nearly four months and police have only a sketchy description of the attacker, described as a light-skinned black male in his 20s, approximately 5'10" with a medium build, according to UNCG's campus police.

Many students also remain on edge. "I use to go outside before it got dark, but after the attacks, I don't do that anymore. Everything I need to do like eat dinner or get to the library, I try to do before it gets too late," said UNCG student Kershia Johnson.

On UNCG's campus, there's a lot of debate as to whether or not campus police did their job alerting students in a timely fashion, but since the attacks didn't take place on school grounds, the case technically is not a UNCG police problem, but a Greensboro police problem.

According to Michelle Williams, a UNCG student, if students were notified earlier, maybe some of the attacks would have been prevented.

"I really feel the school and campus police should have alerted us earlier. This stuff has been going on since December and many students didn't even know. It doesn't even feel like they're trying to protect us because if they were they would have let us know a lot earlier," Williams said.

Sgt. David Combs of the UNCG Campus Police Department says that they are taking extra steps to make sure students are safe.

"There have been no attacks on the campus, only the surrounding areas. I believe only one or two [of the victims] were UNCG students. We are taking some special precautions to try to catch this guy and keep our students safe," Combs said.

According to a 2001 National Institute of Justice report, about 3 percent of college women experience a completed or attempted rape during a typical college year. In addition, it is reported that one out of every six

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Visual arts student receives award

Senior graphics communications and visual arts major Joe McCall is the winner of the organ donation art contest. His illustration will appear on historically black colleges and universities throughout North Carolina.

By Karina Hardy
News Reporter/Online Editor

Artist Joe McCall was announced the winner of the organ donation art contest held by the HBCU Health Promotion Alliance and Telos (Student Nurses Association) and funded by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Resources.

McCall's original 11-by-19 illustration was of two hands cradling the earth and holding a heart centered on the contest theme "Giving the Gift of Life" to illustrate what individuals should know about the importance of organ donation.

For his award McCall received a first-place engraved plaque, a certificate for 20 percent off at the A&T bookstore and his design will be on the back of A&T's winter 2003 schedule catalog.

McCall was very excited about winning the contest. "I felt excited and proud when I found out that I won," said McCall, senior graphics communications and visual arts major. He plans to graduate this May and go into computer animations.

Organizers of the contest were very meticulous in choosing the winner. "There were two judges that picked the winner which came from the art department and the graphic design department," said Donna Richardson of the visual arts department.

"Creativity played a large part in determining who the winner would be. He sent a message in his illustration that clearly depicted the meaning of the project," McCall has other artwork displayed in the student art exhibit room in the Dudley Building until May 8.

A&T professor awarded

By Karina Hardy
News Reporter/Online Editor

Dr. Joyce G. Dickerson, an associate professor in the sociology department, was recently awarded the Fruit of Her Hands, Academic and Community Alliance Award by the Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute (BCDVI). BCDVI is a national organization based in Atlanta that works to develop partnerships with governments, churches and law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Dickerson was one of eight recipients from across the country to be recognized by the BCDVI at the fifth annual "This Far by Faith Conference" in Atlanta. The Fruit of Her Hands Award recipients are recognized for their justice seeking, determination, courage and faith as they organize their communities to address domestic violence.

The Academic and Community Alliance Award is given to an individual who has a campus-based training program that encourages and establishes professionals to train alongside undergraduate and graduate students.

"This was my first time receiving this award. It was received from the work I have been doing with a campus-based program," Dickerson said.

Dickerson was recognized for her innovative and dedicated work as a local domestic violence activist. She is director of the N.C. A&T University Domestic Violence program and has created a Domestic

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Earls to speak at commencement

Dr. Julian M. Earls, deputy director for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Glenn Research Center, will be the keynote speaker at N.C. A&T’s Annual Spring Convocation. The ceremony will be held Saturday, May 10, in the Greensboro Coliseum. The lineup will begin at 9 a.m., the procession at 9:30 a.m. and the ceremony at 10 a.m. Approximately 1000 students will receive degrees.

Earls shares with the center director the responsibility of accomplishing the mission assigned to the center. GRC is engaged in research, technology and systems development programs in aeronautical propulsion, space propulsion, space power, space communications and microgravity sciences.

O’Neill to speak at A&T

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication with the Division of Speech will host its Third Annual Senior Awards Banquet, 6 p.m. Saturday, April 26, in the Memorial Union - Sailings Ballroom. The program will honor students for academic achievements and outstanding service to the department.

The keynote speaker will be Rita Little O’Neill, general manager of WSCC-TV in Charleston, S.C.

A native of High Point, O’Neill’s career in the broadcasting field began in 1978 with WGHF-TV in Greensboro/High Point as a researcher/sales trainee. O’Neill has held various positions in television sales including positions with WJW in Cleveland, with Cap Cities/ABC National Sales in Chicago and with WBTV as local and national sales manager in Charlotte.

Lyceum Series continues

N.C. A&T’s Lyceum Series presents “Jazzin’ with Pops,” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in Harrison Auditorium.

This entertaining and inspiring musical play features the incredible lives and melodies of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

For additional information, call 334-7802.

A&T sponsors summer institute

The Transportation Institute at N.C. A&T will sponsor a summer study and career awareness program in transportation for high school students June 25-Aug. 1. The program is designed to expose students to academic and career possibilities in the transportation industry.

Participants will discover the world of air, land and water transportation, meet professionals in the transportation field, take field trips and enroll in a college course.

The institute is funded by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Free tuition and student stipends will be available for a limited number of students. For information and an application call Vanessa Phifer at 334-7745. The deadline to apply is April 25.

EYE ON CRIME

The victim filed her report with the Greensboro Police Department.

Drug Violation

Scott Hall A

Two students were arrested on several drug charges after UPD officers discovered marijuana and drug paraphernalia in their room. The two students were placed under a secured bond.

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Anonymous Vehicle Theft

A non-student reported that some unknown person(s) broke into their vehicles and attempted to hotwire them. Estimate damage to one vehicle is $500, and the other $500 for broken window. There are no suspects.

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RAPIST
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women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

Also, with an attacker on the loose within two miles of UNCG’s campus, which is right around the corner from NC A&T, many A&T students are also taking precautions to lower their risks of being a victim of sexual assault.

“I just try to walk with a group of friends at night. Sometimes I see girls walking by themselves and I’m like, ‘Are you crazy?’ It’s too dangerous to be walking alone anywhere by yourself at night,” said freshmen business major April Odion.

Senior public relations major Chasidy Phelps believes that the best way to stay safe is to be cautious.

“I’m a cautious person, but most of the time I don’t think about being attacked. Anytime something serious happens it makes me more aware. I always lock my doors and try to make sure someone is walking with me at night, but I think to a certain degree there’s not but too much you can do,” Phelps said.

According to www.surviverape.org, there are several techniques women and men can use to lower the risk of being sexually assaulted. Those techniques include:

*Making sure the doors and windows of your car and house are locked at all times.*
*Staying in well-traveled, well-lighted areas.*
*If anyone in a car asks you for directions, answer and keep your distance from their car.*
*Before you reach your home, car, office, etc., have your key ready.*
*If you think you are being followed, change directions and head for open stores, restaurants, lighted houses, etc.*
*Check around your car and in the back seat before you get in.*
*Do not allow yourself to be isolated with someone you do not know or trust.*
*If your car breaks down, lock the hood, lock the doors and turn on your flashers. If someone stops, roll your window down slightly and ask the person to call the police or tow service.*

According to A&T’s Annual Security Report, the University Police Department requests that you do the following if you are attacked on campus:

*Call the campus police immediately and give as much detail as possible concerning your location, injuries and suspect information.*
*Remain dressed in the same clothing. Important evidence linking the suspect to the crime may be found on your clothes.*
*Do not take a shower or destroy any evidence.*

*When possible, secure the area (your dorm room, car, etc.) and do not let anyone mess with the evidence.*

If you or someone you know is sexually assaulted, seek professional help immediately.

DICKERSON
Continued from page 1
Violence Resource Center, where she trains undergraduate and graduate social work students to work in the field of domestic violence. She also supervises students’ field placement in domestic violence agencies throughout North Carolina.

“It is an awareness program to help those students who are in domestic violence situations and alert them of the warning signs in relationships,” Dickerson said.

“It is an educational program for students, faculty and staff to learn the signs of domestic violence and how to deal with it and how to receive help.”

She added that “many times college students, faculty and staff do not recognize the fact they may be in a domestic violence situation.” Additionally, Dickerson has been recognized for involving the BCVDI in her Fifth Annual Conference on Domestic Violence and Underserved Populations on the campus of A&T.

Dickerson is humble yet satisfied with her award.

“I have a passion for this work. I do not expect awards; I do this because this is what I like to do. I don’t look for something in return,” Dickerson said.

“I am glad to be recognized with this award and I am thankful for the opportunity to help others,” said Dickerson.

For more information on domestic violence issues, contact the student counseling services at 354-7727.

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**Are rap videos getting a bad rap?**

A recent study released by The American Journal of Public Health suggests a link between rap videos and bad behavior in adolescent African American females. The study was conducted by researchers and doctors from Georgia and Alabama in an attempt to determine eligibility for participation in an HIV prevention program.

The girls were eligible to participate if they were African American, between the ages of 14 and 18, had been sexually active in the past six months, and had written consent from their parents. But the study took a sudden turn when researchers realized that a large majority of the girls who participated were behaving badly and the common factor was overexposure to rap videos.

The study found that black teen girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who watched more than the average of 14 hours of rap videos per week were more likely to have problems with the law, abuse drugs and contract a sexually transmitted disease. It also found that these girls were three times more likely to hit a teacher, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested and almost two times more likely to have multiple sexual partners than girls who watched as or below the average amount of rap videos per week.

These are pretty alarming facts, but there are a few flaws in the researchers' study that could be a main difference between rap videos being a major factor in black teen girls behaving badly or another case of rap getting a bad rap. All of the 322 girls who participated in the study from December 1996 through April 1999 lived in rural, poor neighborhoods. So could it be possible that these girls' bad behavior had less to do with the amount of rap videos they watched and more to do with their environment? Or lack of parental guidance? Or even lack of education? And what about young black females who live in the middle of America, whose parents are car pooling, PTA-attending lawyers and doctors, are rap videos causing them to behave badly as well?

It's these holes in the study that make the study lose some of its validity, but regardless of this the researchers' stand by their work and their theory that rap videos cause bad behavior in adolescent African American females.

Gina Wingood, one of the researchers, admits that she doesn't know if overexposure to rap videos caused the girls studied to behave badly or if the study only reflected interests they already had, but one thing that she makes clear is that there is definitely a connection.

But in order for the study to be taken seriously, more research is needed to change the current findings and the researchers know this, otherwise, the idea that rap videos cause black teen girls to behave badly is a pretty big pill to swallow.
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Look beyond the numbers.
Rapper Killer Mike tells it all

A Look at the Stars by Trina Logan

It’s amazing how you can call yourself “KILLER” nationally and not have FRI agents come after you. I’m not talking about your boy that rocks the color pink as a fashion statement. I’m speaking of that serial sex destroyer and rap artist Killer Mike.

“I got the name Killer Mike by battles seven dudes and at the end, everyone was like this guy’s a killer,” said Killer Mike. “You may remember Killer Mike on the last verse of the ‘Whole World’ track from the outrageous rap duo Outkast. In fact, he was actually discovered by Big Boi’s brother. Georgia-born hip-hop artist Killer Mike is trying to crush all competition with his title track and debut album, ‘Monster.’ “A skelton Remix” and “A.D.I.D.A.S.” are some of the songs receiving constant airplay and music video rotations. You can also find him leading his lyrical skills to Bonecrusher’s latest single, “Never Scared.”

Killer Mike describes the title “Monster” as feelings of hurt, anger and passion that you go through in life.

For those of you wondering why “New, New” is shouted on the majority of his songs, it’s simple. “New, new means the newest of the new, not refurbished or something innovated, like the old Jordans when they first dropped,” said Killer Mike.

Killer Mike also stressed that he wanted to make this album affordable so that his fans can grasp his music. “I want my fans to appreciate the music so that’s why I dropped the price,” said Killer Mike. “You can buy my album for $6.99 at Target and $5.99 at Best Buy.”

Killer Mike grew up in a metro part of Atlanta called Adamsville. His favorite down-home dishes are corn bread, collard greens, okra and rice. But food isn’t the only thing being served in the heart of Georgia. He learned at an early age about some of the harsh realities of the streets.

“I knew what crack was in ’84,” said Killer Mike. “In ’86, ’87 and ’88, my boys were selling 25s, going to Jefferson Park fighting, ring fighting and then running errands for pimps.”

On his latest track “A.D.I.D.A.S.,” Killer Mike spikes the controversial verse, “Plus, we don’t need no DNA mixin’ between us. We just need to keep this thing friendly and hush hush, on the down low, like R. Kelly and younger, but over eighteen only cause baby I’m no perve.”

When asked about the verse during a phone interview, Killer Mike didn’t hesitate to answer. “I have five sisters, an aunt and a little girl. On my block if you messed with a little girl you get looked at funny and handled,” he said.

He also spoke highly of his grandfather, who seemed to be quite the play instructor for Killer Mike growing up. “My grandfather used to say old phrases all the time,” said Killer Mike. “He was a slick old school G and a player back in the day.”

The Columbia records recording artist is no stranger to finding true friendships in the music business. Killer Mike hung out with many of the Dirty South artists in Buckhead and other areas in Atlanta.

“It was nice seeing people like Bonecrusher and TLP representing the best guys from those neighborhoods. Bonecrusher provided the scene for us and it’s good knowing you got a friend from the block,” said Killer Mike. “I’m going to make money and it’s either do it or die. You have to keep up a piece of your humanity to become a bigger star.”

Killer Mike is just one of many new rap artists who hopes to delight his audience with his lyrics and send his messages loud and clear.

Paul Robeson Theatre hosts step show production

By Lea J. Ray

The Paul Robeson Theatre will present, Steppin’ Percussion, Rhythm and Soul Review, starting April 24, which will feature some of the award-winning Richard B. Harrison Players. Amazed by the performances of local fraternities and sororities, A&T professor Miller Lurry felt it was about time to showcase a rich history that comes from the experience of attending a black school.

“Steppin will showcase the heartbeat and pulse of A&T,” said Lucky, who created and directed this production.

Senior theater major and “Steppin” cast member Leshere Thompson expressed in a past interview with the Register that after graduating from high school, he wanted to attend a historically black college so he could experience things that go on at an HBCU such as the marching bands, fraternities, homecoming and step shows.

Guest performer and percussionist extraordinare Alejandra King will accompany the players, as well as invited fraternities, sororities and drill teams. Come out to see history in the making when theater and step show meet in an explosive collision.

Vocal artist to visit Triad

By Rhonda Crowder

Male vocal artist Smokie Norful will make a visit to the Triad on April 21. Norful took home two Stellar Awards for New Artist and Male Vocalist in 2003. Sitting behind the grand piano, he silenced the crowd with his smashing number one hit “I Need to know now.”

Norful gets personal with the Lord as he ministers to people all over the world. His music is soothing and puts you in a worship zone in reverence to the Lord, which he says is a melody from the skies.

Norful grew up in Pine Bluff, Ark., and decided to pursue history as a freshman at the University of Arkansas. After graduating he spent four years teaching junior and senior high school history. He then became an ordained minister at the A.M.E. church.

Norful will be the guest Psalmist for Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church in Winston-Salem on April 23 at the Coliseum Annex. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and service will begin at 10 a.m. For more information call: 661-6226.
Track teams poised for title run

By Chris Wallace

Often in sports, teams have seasons to remember and some are meant to be forgotten. For this team, last year was definitely one to remember and this one won’t be far behind.

For head coach Roy Spencer, Thompson and his N.C. A&T track team, they are no longer the team from the HBCU in North Carolina that is just competing. They are no longer a team fighting for respect. They aren’t even overconfident in their abilities, and for most sports fans, this shouldn’t be the toughest thing to accept about this squad—they just set records and win.

In a sport where a hefty tort and court cases aren’t imposed for speeding, these fairly young Aggies are often running and jumping past opponents while walking down a record list. That’s a scary thought for the rest of the nation.

“We have a young team, and they’re all going to be back next year,” said coach Spencer. “And I’d also like to point out that some of the young men and women we have are also studious. A lot of them are self-motivated and our assistants are doing an excellent job of recruiting them. As a coach, you know you can’t coach desire, and we train in world class facilities. We don’t train to get by. We train to be the best.”

While Thompson and company have earned respect over the past few seasons, they remain content, and he expects his team to win big this year.

In the recent United States of America Track and Field (USATF) Nationals, the Aggies set a school record for running five athletes, including Sean White in the long jump, Everett Bruce in the triple jump, Tavern Norman in the long jump for women and Latonia Collins in the 200-meter dash for women.

Tim Walls, who ranked sixth in the nation in the 60-meter dash and received a provisional invite to nationals, took ligaments in his groin area and withdrew from competition. Walls was also part of a 2005 4x100 relay team and despite the injury, Thompson remains optimistic of his team’s future.

“Somebody else has to step up and that’s what has happened,” said Thompson. “He (Walls) will get a chance to rest and heal and run in the Olympic year.”

Thompson also knows that he has the depth this season, something which was lacking.

“Last year, we didn’t have as much depth as we do now. Now we have more quality depth than we did last year. We want to prove to the MEAC that we are one of the best in the nation and a force to be reckoned with,” he said.

If the indoor track season, which was arguably one of the most successful in school history, is any indication of what this team can do in its plans, then the rest of the nation may as well pack its bags and leave.

Freshman Courtney Collins, who set the new 400-meter record with a time of 55.49 and sprints demolition LaSonya Collins, who ran the fastest 200-meter with a time of 24.39, took the talent base for the young Aggies on the women’s side. With veteran Norman, the 2003 MEAC long jump champion and record holder, and Purham, the 2003 MEAC indoor triple jump champion, the ladies look poised for a run at the outdoor championships.

This year’s indoor team will be without star sprinter Walls, but will rely on the leadership of veterans Bruce, the MEAC indoor triple jump champion, and Purham, who finished second in the long jump at the MEAC Championships in February.

“We’re training as hard as we can to get ready for outdoors,” said White, in an interview earlier in the year.

Thompson also commented on his team’s plans for the outdoor season.

“I expect that when nationals arrive, we’ll be there,” said Thompson. “We work hard here and we have a young team.”

As Thompson continues to lay the foundation in hopes of building a dynasty, he and everyone else will always be welcomed to the N.C. A&T track team, “Where Speeding Is Legal.”

Softball team places second in invitational

By Chad Roberts

The Lady Aggies’ first-pitch softball team hosted the N.C. A&T Invitational tournament on April 4-5, but the Lady Camels of Campbell won the tournament title, going 3-0 on the weekend and holding all opponents scoreless.

Campbell’s Holly Harris was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament. In the first game of the tournament, Campbell University beat Morgan State 8-0 in a game that was stopped early due to the eight-run rule. By the time the game was called in the sixth inning, Lady Camel pitcher Lisa Myers had struck out eight batters.

In the second game of the day, A&T faced Morgan State. Lady Bear pitcher Janell Taylor gave up a two-run blast to Lorraine Geiger in the first inning, and the Lady Aggies held on for a 2-1 win. Cheretta Stevenson’s home run against Kam/K, earned her sixth win of the year and Laronda Anderson (3 IP, 5 K) picked up the first save of her collegiate career.

In Friday’s third and final game, tournament Most Outstanding Player Harris pitched a one-hitter and struck out five over seven innings as Campbell defeated A&T 2-0 to earn a spot in Saturday’s championship game. Laronda Anderson took the loss to fall to 10-9 on the year. Freshman Christin Brown was able to advance to the seventh inning and recorded the sole hit for the Lady Aggies.

“Tami had a pretty good size ball, but she wasn’t that tough,” said Brock.

“Even though I stopped the no-hitter, I don’t feel like a hero because we still didn’t win.”

Tournament action was briefly delayed on Saturday due to rain. When play was resumed, A&T and Morgan State squared off again for a chance to play Campbell in the championship. Once again, A&T came out on top by a score of 6-2. Stevenson pitched a complete game, striking out eight batters over seven innings while going 4-4 with an RBI as well. The win improved her record to 7-8 and setup a rematch with Campbell for the tournament championship.

In the title game, Campbell University’s Harris once again turned in a dominating performance, walking one and striking out six batters over seven innings while giving up five hits. When A&T loaded the bases in the third inning, Harris ended the threat by striking out Shemaria Murphy. The Lady Aggies had the rying run at the plate in the seventh inning, but Victoria Jackson hit into a double play that ended the game.

The 2-0 victory completed three games and 19 innings of shutdown ball for the Lady Camels and earned them the tournament championship. N.C. A&T placed three players on the all-tournament team: pitcher Laronda Anderson, first baseman Lorraine Geiger, and pitcher/shortstop Cheretta Stevenson. After the tournament, the Lady Aggies record is 19-19 overall and 7-4 in the conference.
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