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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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Network viruses vex A&T

BY TIFFANY S. JONES
North Dakota

Many N.C. A&T students are guilty of waiting until the first week of classes to register and usually, the only problems that arise are the occasional class being closed, which could be solved with a couple of signatures or long lines that simply have to be waited out. This year brought about problems that need far more than a signature to solve them. It was very frustrating because I was unable to drop and register for the classes that I wanted,” said public relations major Tamarra Giles. She is a senior and it was urgent that she got the classes she needed. Due to the problems with the computer system, registration was extended until Aug. 26. A&T is still recovering from the group of worms and viruses that infected the system for the better part of the first two weeks of classes. Freeman Ebene Mitchell said her computer was infected by the virus but it was inconvenient. “I had to wake up early in the mornings to go type stuff in the Gibbs computer lab,” Mitchell said. Students were able to keep up with work by using computers at work.

Please see VIRUSES, Page 3

Dorms pose problems for students

BY KARENA HARDY
North Carolina A&T State University

Can you imagine going to your dorm room and finding that you don’t have a phone line, cable, furniture, air, electricity on one side of your room. For many students on N.C. A&T’s campus, this nightmare is a reality. This year a substantial amount of money was put into renovating the campus dorm to provide students with a better quality of living. However, to some students it seems to be the opposite of that. “If these dorms are renovated, why do we have the same old desks, sinks and closets. To renovate and old dorm but leave the same broken closets and sinks seems a little backwards,” said Brett Harrington of Haley Hall. There have been major problems on campus since the renovations took place. There are reports of phones and cable not working, furniture missing or needing to be replaced and other things that some students feel should have been taken care of before students came to campus this year. “A&T should be trying harder to meet the needs of the students since we are paying for schooling and to stay on campus,” said Greg Bend, resident of Scott A. “I do like they slipped this up year with housing among other things. Things should have been ready for us before we came on campus,” he said. Cooper Hall, the newest renovat-ed dorm, is going through the most hardships along with the problems of not having a phone or cable, in many rooms the building has incurred damage. Two weeks ago the fourth floor of

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North Carolina A&T State University
www.ncatregister.com

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4, 2003

VOLUME 78, NO. 1

Chancellor James C. Renick
Chancellor James C. Renick came to N.C. A&T in July 1999 with various goals in mind for the university including a Masterplan to renovate A&T’s campus with ongoing projects.

Q: How do you feel about A&T’s opening football season?
A: “I am real happy for the players, coaches and our alumni and the secre-

ary. But, I notice it’s the way the ball players handle themselves very professional

and crisp. I don’t believe that we have any personal problems in the game. You can really tell that players are really talented as well as the coaches, so I am

really happy with the way the season has started.”

Q: What phase of campus construction are we in right now and tell me how the master plan is progressing?
A: It’s going incredibly well. We are probably in the middle phase and have

several projects that need to be com-

pleted. We are all progressing really well. Our staff is doing a really good job of

taking projects and making sure that they are on time and within the budget.

Q: Once again, A&T has reached a record for enrollment. What are your feelings on that and were there any of housing concerns?
A: It’s fantastic, more and more students want to take advantage of an A&T education. It says a lot about our faculty, staff and students who are currently here. In addition to getting the word our through marketing approach-

es, media and the word of mouth of students have been a big deal and we want to keep that tradition going. This year we have had spectacular growth with 10,000 students. Housing is always complex when you’re building, renovating and housing students at the same time.

Fortunately, we have a new apartment complex that’s sprung up around the campus and a hotel to help us with our demand. The reason it’s kind of trick, is because more students want to stay on cam-

pus. Cooper was done last year but now it’s back up. We’re going to take the dorm down to refurbish it this semester. We are housing about 3,700 students. We will probably
Kelly appointed chair
Dr. John Carey Kelly Jr. has been appointed chair of the department of electrical and computer engineering at N.C. A&T. Kelly has served as interim chair for three years.
Kelly joined the university in the fall of 1982 as the associate dean for graduate studies and research programs where his primary responsibility was the establishment, management of the first doctoral program at N.C. A&T. In 1997, he was tenured and has been a member of the faculty in both the computer networks, computer architecture and engineering architecture.
He just completed his three-year term as chairman of the board of trustees of Universities Space Research Association, a university research consortium.
Kelly earned his Ph.D. and B.S. degrees in electrical engineering in 1980 and 1982, respectively, from the University of Delaware. Kelly worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories in Allentown, Pa., for five years as a telecommunications integrator.

Career fair to be held Sept. 10
A career awareness seminar will be held Sept. 9 in the General Classroom Building, Auditorium 8:30 a.m. to noon.
Also that day the 29th Annual Career Awareness Banquet will be held at 6:45 p.m. in the Sherman Four Seasons.
The event will wind up with a career fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 10 in Cobbet Sports Center.

N.C. Dance Festival returns
Theatrical style. Colorful costumes that provoke thought. And mountain climbing?
The eclectic North Carolina Dance Festival returns for its 15th year, Sept. 10-13, when eight of the best dance companies from across the state begin their annual tour at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
After the Greensboro opening, the festival will continue on to Boone, Wilmington, Charlotte, Asheville and Raleigh.
Each stop will feature concerts by the touring dancers as well as local artists.
Performers will include the acclaimed dance company (Winston-Salem), Moving Poets Theatre of Dance (Portland, Ore.), Evans Exchange Dance Theatre (Raleigh), Jan Van Dyke Dance Group (Greensboro), Robin Harris (Raleigh), Asheville Contemporary Dance Theatre, Harper Piver (Wilmington) and Youngm ring Kim (Greensboro).
The touring festival benefits audiences as well, giving them the chance to see a variety of talent without leaving the state.
The Greensboro concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the UNCG Dance Theatre in the School of Health and Human Performance on Walker Avenue.
ticket price $12 adults, $9 seniors and students and $6 UNCG students.
Call (336) 334-4849.

Parking woes have students on edge
BY ERIKA GOODRICH
Once again, enrollment at N.C. A&T has reached an all-time high with 2,244 freshmen starting fall.
With the rapid increase of enrollment overall, some students find it hard to see how the school is accommodating this tremendous increase.
The most obvious space constraint is parking. Due to the lack of parking spaces and the university’s policy allowing freshmen to bring their cars, it generates harder every year to find vacant parking spaces.
While most schools have a set strict rule that freshmen aren’t allowed to bring their cars, A&T has yet to impose this restriction.
Parking Control Supervisor Darline Neal said the decision to allow freshmen to bring their cars was made last year by administration because they felt that if privilege was taken away “the new students wouldn’t come and would attend another school.”
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Lee Young said that allowing freshmen to have their cars on campus the first year was the “national norm” among most schools.
“The problem isn’t in additional parking; it’s in preferred parking,” Young said.
Young also said that A&T couldn’t impose this restriction without a few exceptions. Some freshmen have part-time jobs that assist them in paying for school; therefore they would need their cars in order to even attend school. However freshmen with cars aren’t the main source of the parking issue.

Nursing department receives new, donated equipment
BY KARINA HARDY
N.C. A&T’s School of Nursing was recently donated $600 of the art equipment valued at $5,000.
The donation of pulse oximeters and other educational resources were made by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) and the American Organizations of Nurses Executive (AONE) partnered with Nellcor/Tyco healthcare.
The equipment will be used in the clinical skills laboratory.

Q&A
Continued from page 1
have about 4200 students.
Q: Parking seems to always be a concern for students, as A&T looked at the possibility of a parking deck, if so can you explain why and talk about the alternatives?
A: Here is the story on parking. As you drove down Benbow you see the site parking lot open and there is another on the other side with a total of 371 spaces. These spots would have been closed for the fall but the rain slowed down the process. It literally rained almost every day and now we only have half of it done. We have in the master plan, decks. It looks like we are going to have to move the time table up a bit. It’s possible that we will have a deck by next fall because of the demand. There were always decks in the master plan because it was 2004. Some people suggested that freshman should not bring cars on campus. The problem is that a lot of freshman man work and they need their cars to get their work.
Q: Over the summer, there were talks about bringing A&T and UNCG together for a special project, is that still in the works?
A: There has been some talk about downtown development, but we are bound to the mansion downtown. We thought it was a good idea to put some proposals that the patient’s finger or earlobe linked to a computerized unit. The importance of this device to detect hypoxia before a patient becomes clinically cyanosed. Professors of the nursing department feel qualified to appreciate the technology that was donated to the university.
The new technology has boosted the nursing department on top of the $2.3 million grant for health discrepancies that they received this year.
Assistant Dean of Nursing Patricia Schneider said instructions are happy about the new technology and anticipate a positive reaction from students.
“It is important to stay on top with technology in this field. It prepares students with hands on training in the clinical laboratories to be at their best,” Schneider said.
“With the new equipment we can better understand the condition of patients.”

Packaging decal are also photos taken of students. During the first two weeks of the fall semester 3,200 students received permits for their cars. However some students feel that they shouldn’t buy a permit if there is no guarantee that they will find a space.
Young said that there are enough parking spaces available but they may not exactly be preferred parking spaces, referring to the Aggie Stadium and the new parking lots on Benbow Road.
While some students are registering their cars, others that are not the take the chance of being issued a ticket or being towed by parking in any space that is available.
During the first two weeks of school approximately 800 tickets have been issued out in illegal parking violations alone. Some students with unregistered cars feel that if their car isn’t registered then the ticket that they are issued doesn’t count.
However, a new policy in affect this year means that if an unregistered car is ticketed more than three times, the car will be towed at the owner’s expense.

Parking Service Officer Melvin Turner issues a ticket for a car without a permit.

Shanonda Eggert/Photo editor

Packaging Service Office Melvin Turner issues a ticket for a car without a permit.
New building has limited space

By Patrice Wither
Registrar Contributor

Many N.C. A&T students in the College of Arts and Sciences looked forward to having class in the newly constructed classroom building, complete with new computers labs and air conditioning classrooms. Instead, many students found themselves walking in tiny, stuffy hallways around campus to the various and, in some cases, obscure place for classes. According to Associate Dean for Operations and Assessment Claude Barnes, there was no way to avoid a few glitches in scheduling classes.

"The University's scheduler has put together a new program that shows the inventory of classes through a matrix so that when scheduling we can see all buildings on campus," Barton said. "This matrix allows us to know what classes are in what room and at what time."

Barnes also said factors such as A&T's steady enrollment demands entry-level courses such as English, math and history be offered.

With the opening of the New Classroom Building A (NCB-A) many students assumed it would house the majority of their classes in English; foreign languages and journalism and mass communication.

"We beg students to be patient and understanding because it is impossible to avoid conflicts," Barnes said.

"Students can't think of the building as being owned by the department, it is owned by the university. We are now starting to look at the university as a whole in terms of scheduling and students can't think all their classes will be in the same location," Barnes said.

However, the new building actually has less classroom space than Crosby, but provides more office space for the College of Arts and Science's 170 faculty members.

"This is a major advantage for faculty members to be comfortable in their office quarters with new equipment," Barnes said.

This reduction in classroom space also affects efforts to plan around student scheduling demands. Students want classes available during certain time frames which can make planning even more difficult.

"The College of Arts and Sciences has to program and plan for about 950 classes and I have a charge from the chancellor to have these classes available during the times students want," Barnes said.

"There is a high demand for classes between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. since many students have jobs. It is impossible to schedule enough classes in the Humanities and Social Sciences so we have to go outside to provide classes at the time students want them available."

Students feel they have been inconvenienced because their classes are located in several different buildings.

"I feel that if the communications classes have to be moved out of NCB-A they should at least be moved to the quad," Sheriann Lassiter, junior, print journalism major said.

Professors and students seem to be working together to accommodate the new scheduling process, saying in NCB-A has meant that some classes have to start even earlier than anticipated so that other class meeting times won't overlap.

"I was frustrated at first because my classes are spread out across campus and since I am new to the university I really didn't know the layout of the campus," said Kenneth Moore, adjunct assistant professor for the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications.

While some may feel they have been disadvantaged, moving around works out in some professor's favor.

"My last class is held in Webb Hall and at the close of any day, I am able to walk over to the Dowdy Building easily if I need to check on a student's registration or add people into my class," said Jason DeVaux, full-time lecturer for the Department of English. "This luxury advantage may not last forever, I certainly may not have this schedule next semester."

University officials urge students and faculty to be patient with the new scheduling process.

"Problems come along with growth and there will be some inconvenience but we must remember the payoff," Barnes said. "I hope students appreciate the growth here at A&T because without growth we would die."

Crossroads Eggenburger, student editor

Students in the New Classroom Building enjoy the modern computer labs, although classroom space is limited.
Opinion

Welcome back Aggies!

Aren’t you glad to be back at N.C. A&T? Go ahead, admit it. Didn’t you miss driving around for an hour trying to find a parking space just because you don’t want to sweat on your way to class? Don’t tell me you spent all summer not thinking about the problems you were going to have coming back to school trying to register for classes? And for those of you staying on campus, you didn’t dream about that small, cramped up room, with your name on it, but no air conditioning? Yeah, but I know, you’re still glad to be back right?

After problems with unfinished dorms, network virus and parking, life at A&T seems a little harder this semester than in previous semesters. Despite all the problems many of us are finding ourselves in on campus, don’t get too stressed out about it. Try not getting to the point that you lose control. At some point later in life you’ll look back on it and those will be some of the best stories you have to tell. And at least we’re at a university that’s dedicating to improving our campus and academies and that is easily seen by our steady increasing enrollment.

As for incoming freshmen, your years at A&T will definitely continue to get better as more facilities are built and renovated. Enjoy your time in college and make the best out of your short, four year stay at A&T. Then, when it’s all said and done, that’s when you’ll reap the great rewards.

ATTENTION!

Letters to the editor are welcomed by E-mail at register@ncat.edu or by mail to N.C. A&T State University, Box E-25, 1601 E. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27411 Letters must be signed and should include an address and telephone number.

AGGIES TALK BACK!!!

In light of the Kobe Bryant trial, do you feel that with his star status he will get a fair trial?

"Yes, because he can pay for the best lawyers, so they’re not going to let him have the bad end of the stick."  
Edward Dickerson, freshman, broadcast production major

"No, he’s not going to get a fair trial because of his standing. He didn’t have a record before this incident, so I feel as though he’ll just pay the girl off, pay the court fees and go back to his regular life."  
Crystal Hartsfield, junior, biology major

"I don’t think he’s going to get a fair trial because everyone will be gawking for his image. He’s supposed to be Mr. Perfect and now everyone has seen that he’s slipped up so now they’re going to ruin his life."  
Jacob Dodson, freshman, mechanical engineering major

"Kobe Bryant is not going to be given a fair trial, because he’s Kobe Bryant and his status says it all."  
Nikki Gladney, sophomore, electronic media major

BRIEFLY STATED...

So here we stand among thoughts of human unity, even through conquest and slavery; the inferiority of black men, even enforced by fraud; a shriek in the night for the freedom of men who themselves are not yet sure of their right to demand it. This is the tangle of thought and afterthought where in we are called to solve the problem of training men for life.

W.E.B DuBois, Chapter 6 of "The Training Of Black Men"
It's not too late to join The Register

For more information, come to the newsroom in the New Classroom Building A328G.

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MARGARET CHO
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"Brilliant. One of the funniest comedians in America"
- NY Times
E-Vibes

‘Love and Life’ needs resuscitation

A REVIEW BY TIFFANY S. JONES

R&B's dynamic duo Mary J. Blige and Sean "P Diddy" Combs have reunited with Blige's eighth album in 11 years. Blige and Combs discontinued their relationship as artist and producer after the release of her 1994 album, "My Life." The duo teamed up to drop their third album together, "Love and Life" on the newly formed Geffen record label, formerly MCA.

Unfortunately, the much-anticipated album failed to live up to its hype. This is not the old Mary J. Blige. The album lacks the anthem that Blige's fans have grown accustomed to from the songstress. The singer has said in different interviews that she is clean and sober and she is now truly happy. The question is, will her fans be happy with the new Mary?

The album is full of songs that will make people want to dance, like the single featuring Method Man, "Love @ 1st Sight" and the new single, "Ooh." The overall album was not exactly terrible but it was not excellent either. For Mary J. Blige, this is mediocre work and sounded better on the enclosed DVD.

There are however, a few songs such as "When We," and "Ultimate Relationship (In the A.M.)" reminders of fans of the Mary from the "Share My World" album.

Love and Life is not Blige's best work to date, but it is better than most R&B artist. Blige's music is not up to the same caliber to which most fans expect her to perform.

Diddy's production, however, is exactly what fans have come to expect. As expected, Diddy has laced Blige's tracks with samples from artists like Marvin Gaye, Rubis and Chaka Khan, The Jackson 5, A Tribe Called Quest, Atlantic Star, Kool and the Gang among others. In production, Diddy sought the help of Mario "Yellowman" Winans, Stevie J and gospel singer/songwriter Donald Lawrence.

As with many artists lately, Mary has collaborated with 50 Cent in "Let Me Be The 1" that is sure to appeal to the masses.

Among other guest appearances are Five, Method Man, Jay-Z and Diddy. The album is not terrible but it is sure to disappoint Mary's faithful fans.

Recommended reading:
Nathan McCall's
"Makes Me Wanna Holler"

A REVIEW BY CHAD ROBERTS

Originally published nine years ago, Nathan McCall's autobiography remains a relevant literary work pertaining to young black men in America. Signed, Numbered, and Released in 1994, "Makes Me Wanna Holler" has been a New York Times Bestseller and also won the Blackboard Book of the Year Award in 1995.

"Makes Me Wanna Holler" recounts the life of the author, from growing up in an all-black working class neighborhood in Portsmouth, Va., to his career as a journalist for the Washington Post. McCall paints a vivid portrait of life as he knows it.

He recalls being a smart child raised in a protective family, a rebellious teenager and a confused young man struggling to make a way in the white man's world.

Part One tells the story of McCall as a young boy full of promise and potential. He eventually gives way to a rebellious teen with a knack for breaking the law. The story takes place in McCall's old Cavalier Manor neighborhood. In Cavalier Manor, McCall and his buddies learn life, love and family lessons. Later, as his crew starts to come of age, they begin to experience the life of crime, sex, drugs, and violence.

Part Two takes place in various correctional facilities in Virginia, where McCall serves a three-year sentence for armed robbery. It is in prison that he experiences a philosophical and religious rebirth that prepares him for life after incarceration.

The final section features McCall back in the society that he once terrorized. He has a new outlook and opportunity, but he finally initially struggles to find the right path. Realizing that things like racism and discrimination still exist, McCall uses his perseverance (another trait he picked up in prison), to help see him through. He eventually graduates from Norfolk State University with a degree in journalism.

Black or white, male or female, "Makes Me Wanna Holler" is a must-read for anyone hoping to better understand race relations and the experience of a young black man growing up in America.

Dirty South R&B artist Anthony Hamilton visits A&T hoping to gain recognition

BY TRINA LOGAN

When you think of the Dirty South, you think about crunk rap artists, packed clubs, rim spanning and southern hospitality. We surely don't think about an R&B crooner.

Well, newcomer Anthony Hamilton will change the sound of the South with his debut album "Coming From Where I'm From" dropping on Sept. 23.

On Aug. 27, the Student Government Association along with WVMX held a meet and greet with R&B artist Anthony Hamilton in Williams Cafeteria. The Charlotte native is signed to So So Def/ Arista Records and hopes to put North Carolina on the R&B map.

Hamilton signed autographs, passed out his monogrammed shirts and bands that danced a little bit to music played by DJ Unamnous.

I had the chance to catch up with Hamilton and discuss his childhood and a couple of tracks off of the album. Hamilton also turned your average big mamma soul food Sunday dinner into a dedication for that perfect female. "Cornbread, Fish and Collard Greens" is another different track off my album.

"It's like a symbolism for things that complete you," said Hamilton.

"Even if you're mad and you eat a meal of cornbread, fish and collard greens, you don't need nothing else. You'll finally calm down and act like you have a better appetite," he continued.

His sound is not to be categorized as neo soul along with R&B artists such as Musiq, Erykah Bach and Jill Scott. He defines it as "straight classic soul like the throwback Chuck Taylor. I'm just reconnecting from the past, I ain't creating anything new," he said.

Hamilton has only one last thing to say to all of our aggies out there. "I love y'all, and I definitely won't let y'all down as a leader and voice of the Carolinas."
A&T rips Eagles 25-0 in Small's debut

By GREGORY BOND
Reggie Small

On Saturday, the new N.C. A&T head football coach George Smith began his new era on the right foot, leading A&T to a 25-0 victory over Central at the 10th annual Aggie-Eagle Classic.

"It's a great feeling to have that first win under our belt, and we feel like it's a process," said Small. "We worked toward that goal in terms of developing our young football team.

The Aggies (1-0) have won 13 of the last 14 games against the Eagles (0-1) with the only loss coming in last season's opener. A key point return by Curtis Deloatch led A&T deep into Eagles territory early in the first quarter. However, the Eagles were forced to attempt a field goal, and a bad snap led to a botched field goal attempt. The Eagles controlled the game early in the short passing game, but the Aggies quickly caught on.

"We made some quick adjustments, said Deloatch. "I mean, our defense is really fast. Making quick adjustments really helps us out for the better.

In the second half, Eagle quarterback Adrian Warren threw an interception, led to A&T linebacker Joey Lance, and he scampered in from 52 yards out for the touchdown.

"I didn't recognize it until I was up in the air," said Lance. "It was actually instinct because the first pass he threw, I jumped up and got it.

Offensive Most Valuable Player Frank Patterson rushed for 173 yards on 25 carries and scored twice for A&T.

A&T led off the scoring in the second quarter as defensive back Charles Parham forced a fumble on Eagle back Lawrence Fuller and the Aggies took advantage of Patterson's touchdown run, giving them a 7-0 lead.

Aggie quarterback Marshall Glenn, who finished 8 for 20 for 97 yards and a touchdown, led the Aggies to a 17-0 lead as he connected with Eric Arnette on a crossing pattern. The Aggies pushed the score to 23-0 in the fourth quarter by kicking the Eagles in their own end zone for the safety.

"It seems kind of nervous, but they said that's normal for a football player," said Patterson of his touchdown run. "I had butterflies in my stomach.

A&T will travel to face Jackson State in Mississippi on Sept. 6. A&T defeated the Tigers 42-36 in a shootout last year.

A&T looks for return to glory

By CHRISS WALLACE
Reggie Small

After an inauspicious football season, which saw the N.C. A&T Aggies stumble to 4-8, subsequently leading to the firing of its former head football coach, Hayes, new head coach George Smith and his Aggies are looking to rebuild and challenge for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title. However, it'll be a rough road as the Aggies will face its first six opponents away from home and won't play at Aggie Stadium until Oct. 18 against the Florida A&M Rattlers.

The schedule, which features a stop in Las Vegas to play Southern University on Sept. 13, has A&T scheduled to play only four home games in the 12-game schedule, all of which are in the latter part of the season.

"Adversity can go one way or two ways, it can make you or break you. I think in our situation, we'll use it as a positive," said Wheeler Brown, Associate Athletic Director at N.C. A&T. "The first six games are on the road. I'll be time for the team to bond together and by the time they get back here on Oct. 18 for Florida A&M, I think we'll be in pretty good shape.

Earlier this year, A&T threatened a move to Division I-A but returned due to the overwhelming support for the team. However, they will likely earn revenue by playing the early road games, including the Aggie-Eagle Classic, which was won by A&T on Aug. 31 by a score of 28-0 and the Las Vegas Classic Southern University on Sept. 13.

"The Aggie-Eagle game is the way we'll kick off the year so that's nothing different, and the trip to Las Vegas is a classic which certainly earns us money, and

A&T alum makes pro football Hall of Fame

By CHRISS WALLACE
Reggie Small

Former National Football League star Elvin Bethea is a graduate of North Carolina A&T. Bethea has been enshrined in the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, becoming the first A&T alum and the eighth Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference player to achieve this honor.

Others enshrined Aug. 3 were running back Marcus Allen (L.A. Raiders, Kansas City Chiefs), guard Joe DeLamielleure (Buffalo, Bills), Cleveland Browns), wide receiver James Lofton (Green Bay Packers, Buffalo Bills) and Hank Stram, former head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs. Only Bethea was an HBCU graduate.

Bethea, a third-round pick of the Houston Oilers in 1968, played at A&T and spent 16 seasons with the Oilers, from 1968 to 1983. He was originally drafted as an offensive linemen but played defensive end during his NFL career. He had been passed over by the Hall of Fame committee since he became eligible in 1989 and said he was a little nervous, but he had made it on the ballot.

"I was stunned," said Bethea, laughing, when asked about being named on the Hall of Fame list. "My wife was jumping up and down on the bed. I couldn't believe it. I had actually happened because after all the years that I'd been through just watching everyone like Joe Greene, Art Shell and Joe Namath go in, I just wondered if it was going to happen and it's gratifying and unbelievably great," he said.

While the former defensive end earned trips to the NFL Pro Bowl eight times, recorded 105 career sacks, was a four-time First Team All-Pro selection, and wreaked havoc on opposing quarterbacks, Bethea was also durable as he didn't miss a game until Nov. 13, 1977 when he broke his arm against the Oakland Raiders. Bethea, however, never returned the Super Bowl. The closest he and the Oilers came was in 1979, when they made it to the AFC championship game, but lost 31-10 to the Terry Bradshaw-led Pittsburgh Steelers, who went on to win the Super Bowl. The Aggies were in the NFL for four decades and while they were a hotbed for superstar talent, they never had a player named Bethea, let alone perhaps his high point as a player.

"The greatest moment was coming off the field Oct. 3 after a 31-10 win over the Steelers in 1979 although we lost the AFC title to Pittsburgh," said Bethea. After we got off the field, we had 60,000 people waiting for us, and this was after we lost. We look back and say, "If only." But for the Oilers, To Bethea, the Hall of Fame trips the Super Bowl.

"I'm not a very humble guy," he said. "I never got the Super Bowl ring, but now I do have a ring that many people will never have.

When you win a Super Bowl, everyone on the team has a ring, even the ball boy. This is a little different, because there are only 181 of us on that could say the only ones who have this ring, and that's quite an honor.

"I grew up in Accord, Massachusetts."

With the August 6 selections given the Hall of Fame 221 members, 181 of whom are A&T alumni.

vegasfootballclassics.com
Jamal Jones

September 4, 2003
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Pass it on.

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