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Today: Partly cloudy

High: 48
Low: 26

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THE A&T REGISTER

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

N.C. A&T State University

www.ncatregister.org

Volume lxxix, Issue 18

SENIOR LEADERS CALL IT QUILTS



PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE MCCRAY

Many people were saddened to hear that Chancellor James C. Renick will be leaving after the end of this semester. His new position as the senior vice president for programs and research for the American Council on Education will be effective June 1. At left is Renick's wife, Peggy, and at right is Dr. Velma Speight-Buford, chairwoman of the A&T Board of Trustees.

RENICK RESIGNS

Provost accepts position with Norfolk State

BY JAMEYA PORTER
Online Editor

Chancellor James C. Renick announced on Friday the resignation of his position, after seven years of service as chancellor and professor of political science at A&T.

Renick was appointed to the position of senior vice president for programs and research of the American Council on Education (ACE), which will be effective June 1st.

According to SGA Vice President of Internal Affairs, Arnita Floyd-Moody, the announcement came unexpected for many.

"We didn't have any idea that that was the move that he was going to make. At first, I was very concerned about the University, (but) we got a chance to talk to him at the press conference, and it's all about transition. He's moving on to do other things. He's left the University in a great state. I'm just very appreciative," said Floyd-Moody.

According to an A&T press release, the A&T Board of Trustees Chairwoman, Dr. Velma Speight-Buford, said in response to the news, "He has provided exemplary leadership for NC



Renick is leaving A&T for the American Council on Education in Washington.

A&T and will be missed; however, I know this is an excellent opportunity for Chancellor Renick to pursue his dream at a different level in higher education."

Also according to the press release, UNC President Erskine Bowles said, "While part of Jim's legacy will certainly be A&T's transformation to a doctoral research-intensive institution, he also has overseen phenomenal growth in capital construction and fund raising, strengthening relation-

See RENICK, Page 2

ON PAGE 2

View significant events during Renick's tenure.

MORE NEWS, PHOTOS ONLINE

View photos of Renick's press conference and read the press release.

www.ncatregister.org

Curriculum changes cut English staff

University Studies to replace general education requirements, eliminating English 100.

By Chad Roberts
Copy Desk Chief

Editor's note: The quotes from Dr. Joseph Graves were approved by Graves. He requested that The A&T Register allow him to preview the story, but that is against our policy.

"I want our best faculty on the line with freshmen. That's what our students want and what they should demand."

Dr. Joseph Graves,
University Studies dean

A change in A&T's general education requirements will combine many 100-level courses and cut 15-20 teaching jobs in the English department in fall 2006.

University Studies is the new curriculum, and the dean is Dr. Joseph Graves. Graves said Critical Writing, the course replacing English 100 and 101, will be better for students. He said he has heard complaints - that A&T students could not write well - en masse from all around campus. Graves also said he heard reports of English teachers not holding classes on Fridays, and sometimes canceling class altogether.

"The situation was not at the standard that a research-intensive institution should have," Graves said.

Shirley Bell, the English department chairwoman, was out of her office and could not be reached for comment.

In creating the University Studies courses, which Graves said will be interdisciplinary and prepare students to be more competitive in the job hunt, the courses were voted on by faculty. The new courses passed by a majority vote.

Graves called reports of teachers losing their jobs a "misrepresentation" because the classes that they taught, English 100 and 101, would not exist anymore. The teachers affected by the

course change, mostly adjunct and part-time professors, were not terminated, Graves said, but they were told that their contracts would not be renewed.

In the past, the contracts of adjunct and part-time professors were usually renewed each year. The English department faculty is challenging the decision to not renew contracts.

One tenured professor in the English department, who declined to be named because of ongoing negotiations for the teachers' jobs, said, "We're gonna fight this. It's not over."

Graves said some of the teachers had applied to work in University Studies, and their applications are currently being reviewed.

Most of the instructors who teach English 100 and 101 are adjunct professors, meaning they teach only one or a set of courses each semester. Graves said he plans to staff University Studies with a balance of tenure-track faculty, meaning the professors are doing scholarly research, publishing their work in academic journals and bringing money to the school. Graves said there would be some adjunct and part-time professors working in University Studies.

"I want our best faculty on the line with freshmen," Graves said. "That's what our students want and what they should demand."

West tells Think Tank to 'think for yourself'

BY ALEASE ALLEN
Contributor

Cornel West has been described as one of America's more vital and eloquent intellectuals.

He spoke on Feb. 3 at A&T in conjunction with the HBCU Think Tank 2006 and the University Honors Program.

He is taken his struggle for racial equality to the national spotlight, providing a gifted and stimulating voice to the ongoing debate.

West has authored many thought-provoking books that have changed the

See WEST, Page 3

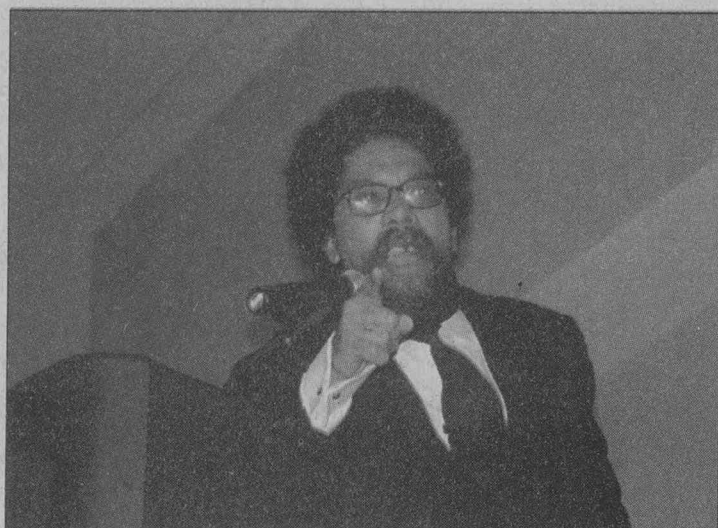


PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE MCCRAY

Cornel West speaks to students on Feb. 3 in conjunction with the HBCU Think Tank at A&T.

CAMPUS EVENTS HONOR A&T FOUR

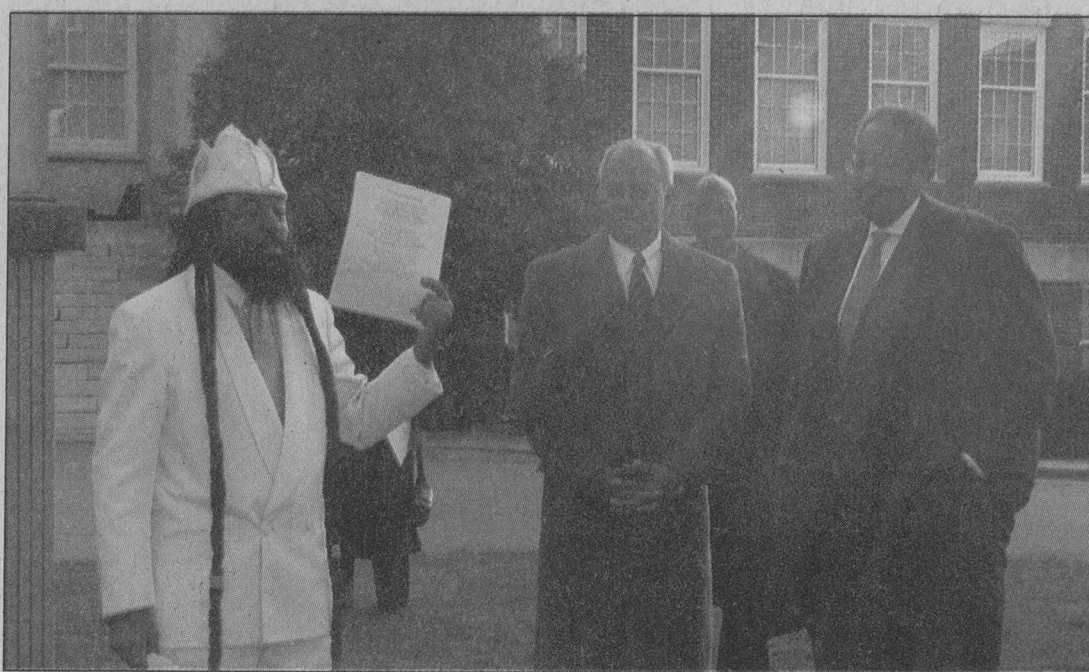


PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE MCCRAY

For a tribute to the A&T Four, please see page 11.

The A&T Register
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Newsroom (336) 334-7700
E-mail: register@ncat.edu
2005

The A&T Register welcomes students attending the
HBCU BCCA National Newspaper Conference

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Campus News

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The A&T Register

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TIMELINE

Some important events in the history of A&T during the tenure of Chancellor James C. Renick

July 1999

Renick appointed as chancellor.

September 2000

Aggie Stadium hosts its first-ever night football game.

November 2000

North Carolina voters pass a higher-education bond referendum, giving A&T \$153 million for new construction on campus.

June 2001

Renick signs a "memorandum of understanding" with County Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston and ex-City Councilman Earl Jones, pledging A&T's support in the museum.

October 2002

A \$100 million fundraising goal is set. According to the university Web site, \$78 million has been raised.

June 2004

Renick leads a group of more than 400 students, faculty and alumni to Raleigh for "Aggie Day" at the state capitol.

October 2004

A&T receives \$10 million from Janice Bryant Howroyd, its largest ever gift from an individual donor.

November 2005

Ground is broken on the Renick School of Education building.

February 2006

Renick announces his resignation.

Renick continued from Page 1

ships and partnerships with area colleges and universities—particularly UNC-Greensboro—and (sharpening) the campus' focus on preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow."

Bowles continued, "In short, he has raised the bar for administrative leadership across this University. This is a loss for A&T and the entire state."

Although there are currently no primary candidates for the position, the A&T Board of Trustees

will soon begin the process of locating a new successor. According to Floyd-Moody, the process will include a committee for the search, which students will be allowed to be a part of.

As for who the SGA hopes will step into the position, Floyd-Moody said, "We want somebody who's student-centered—somebody who is going to walk around campus like (Renick) did and attend our programs."

She also urged students not to compare this to the situation of Bennett College's Johnetta B. Cole, referring to when Cole announced almost a year ago about

her intention to resign from her role as president of the institution, which led to a lot of protesting and petitioning by students and faculty in favor of her staying. Cole stayed, but Floyd-Moody said, "This is not the same thing."

"Everything has its season, and (Renick's) season (with A&T) is just over. This is the decision he's decided to make," she said.

She added, "(Besides,) having somebody in D.C.—(as) senior vice president for ACE—is definitely good for A&T, from the lob-



Provost Carolyn Meyers is leaving A&T for Norfolk State.

bying standpoint."

According to a press release by the ACE, Renick's new position will entail "working with senior program staff to develop an integrated, visionary, and focused program agenda for ACE that reflects the Council's strategic priorities as it works to respond to the changing demands on campus leaders."

Renick said at the press conference, "The last seven years have been the highlight of my professional life. NC A&T is a very

special place in the constellation of American higher education."

Students were given the opportunity to ask any questions and raise any concerns they have about the news at a Chat with the Chancellor session, which took place on Monday at 3 p.m. in the NCB Auditorium.

Also on Friday, it was announced that A&T's Provost, Carolyn Meyers, will become the next president of Norfolk State University.

Meyers has been the provost of A&T since 2001. She has also served as the dean of the College of Engineering.

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Campus News

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

The A&T Register

Page 3

N.Y. pastor speaks at breakfast

BY JEURON DOVE
Contributor

The A&T Four was remembered once again in what has become a staple tradition for the A&T family. Feb. 1 marked the 46th anniversary of the courageous acts that the four A&T students made in 1960 for the advancement of civil rights.

This year's celebration theme was "Reconnecting the Past, Establishing the Present and Shaping the Future." The annual program takes place on or around the first of February in Williams Cafeteria. The event was sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and attracts a large audience every year.

During the breakfast portion of the ceremony, which began at 6:30 a.m., members of the local media, alumni and student body gathered in the cafeteria. The atmosphere was similar to a mini-homecoming.

"I am very happy to be here because there is a lot of history here with this celebration of the sit-in movement," said Rev. Calvin Butts III, the keynote speaker, as he entered the building.

On Feb. 1, 1960, A&T freshmen Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Jibreel Khazan and the late David Richmond staged the first successful sit-in protest at the F.W. Woolworth lunch counter in downtown Greensboro. This was one of the many key events that trailblazed the civil rights movement across America.

Members of the A&T Four had fond memories of that historic day.

"We did not appreciate it at the time, but we were being a part of something much bigger and it has lasted for years," McNeil said.

When McCain was asked about the legacy that he felt his actions made, he humbly



PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE MCCRAY

The Rev. Calvin Butts III speaks at the annual Feb. 1 Breakfast about hardships while being a civil rights advocate. Butts is a pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York.

responded, "I expect the students to take away an awareness that they should always seek change. I would also be lying if I told you that I felt that what we did would still have an affect on the world some 46 years later!"

Some of the highlights of the program included a powerful poetic expression by

Judy Rashid, the vice chancellor for student affairs, and a special tribute to the late Coretta Scott King, given by SGA President Justin Ramey.

A stirring rendition of "Lift Every Voice" was performed by the A&T Gospel Choir.

Perhaps the most surprising moment occurred when Khazan delivered his own

musical tribute to the late Rosa Parks.

After some presentations by the A&T Four and members of both A&T and Bennett College's Student Government Associations, the keynote speaker, Rev. Calvin Butts III, took the stage.

Butts is a pastor of the renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York

MORE ONLINE

Local celebrities turn out for evening gala honoring A&T Four and other civil rights pioneers.

www.ncatregister.org

City and president of SUNY College at Old Westbury. He is also an active member in his local community and has led several boycotts against New York institutions for what he viewed as racist policies and employment discrimination.

Butts delivered a speech centered around the theme of "carrying on the covenant." He illustrated several instances to the audience of some of the hardships that he and others encountered while being advocates for civil rights.

"If we do not find something worth dying for, then we are not fit to live," Butts said.

He encouraged the black race as a whole to never lose the sense of struggle that has got the black race to where it is today. He closed his speech by explaining how those in a struggle can look to the A&T Four and be reminded of their courage and steadfastness while facing adversity.

Butts was presented with a plaque by members of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Chancellor James Renick closed the program and thanked Butts and others for attending.

Matthew Melvin, the president of the Council of Presidents, summed up the general feeling of the occasion.

"It is a good annual event to celebrate these wonderful brothers and I look forward to it every year," he said.

Campus celebration has worldwide flavor

BY JOSH CAPERS
Contributor

A&T's department of foreign language will hold its annual Foreign Language Week in a few weeks.

Events are scheduled to include guest speakers, corps extension, foreign movies and student presentations from foreign language majors.

The week will end with the "Friday Extravaganza" which will feature upper-level student speakers and international food that will be served in the student union.

Upper-level students who have taken at least three 400-level classes and have received a "B" average in those classes are eligible to be in Sigma Delta Pi, the International Honor Society of Spanish students.

Foreign language students will teach as a part of the week. They will handle areas such as drama, dance, speech, literature, clothing and various others.

Speakers come from other schools like Dr. Israel, Vice president of Guilford College, along

Foreign Language Week

Feb. 20 - Guest speaker
Feb. 21 - Student presentations
Feb. 22 - Department awards
Feb. 23 - Foreign film festival
Feb. 24 - Extravaganza in the Student Union

For more information:
FOLA department: 334-7886

with students from surrounding schools like Bennett and UNCG.

When the secretary of the foreign language department, Barbara Greene, was asked how many years has the event been taking place, she said, "Over 15 years and it was started by former chair, Dr. Dewberry."

The chair now is Dr. Carolyn Durham. When Dr. Durham was asked what movies will be shown at the festival, she said, "Foreign films about people in Africa and their effects on the world."

Films that will be shown are films like, "Like Water For Chocolate" and other various African films. The films will not only be African films, but other films that will span the globe.

The foreign language department consists of 18 faculty members and 1,143 students. With 43 major students majoring in foreign language and 50 minoring.

Chrisella Joyner, a junior, journalism and mass communication major, was asked what she thought of the foreign language department at A&T and she said, "they seem pretty strong and have a passion of teaching and inspiring others to pursue a second language, especially studying abroad."

There were 31 A&T students that studied abroad last semester, Dr. Durham told sources. She also said that most of the countries were non-English speaking countries.

There are six languages taught in the department: French, Spanish, German, Russian, Portugese and Japanese.

West continued from Page 1

changed the course of discussion of race, justice and democracy.

He is a graduate of Harvard University, and he received his master's and doctoral degrees at Princeton University.

"My motivation to speak comes from really believing to make the world a better place; lives must be exposed and people given the lives that they deserve; and just speaking the truth," West said.

"Today's HBCU's hail from a tradition of literacy and of foundation of colleges to better equip our people for the struggle for freedom; they have taken the historical movements of the past and intertwined them with the present," West said.

West said that he was blessed to be invited to this year's Think Tank.

"Since this is the second year Think Tank has been held at

MORE ONLINE

Please visit www.cornelwest.com for more information about Cornel West.

NCA&T, I am deeply inspired to come and listen to what these young people have to say; it's a dialogue and I'm blessed to be invited," he said.

West has worked with numerous celebrities and influential figures such as Louis Farrakhan, Russell Simmons and Rev. Al Sharpton.

Justin D. Ramey, the SGA president, said that he was inspired by West.

"The impact Cornel West had on my life confirmed feelings inside and motivated me and also laid down the foundation of not being afraid to stand up for the belief of what was passed down from my ancestors," Ramey said.

"The only way we as African American people will fail in

America is if fail to recognize the wisdom past down from our ancestors," he said.

Arnita Floyd-Moody, the vice president of internal affairs, said, "This is my first time hearing him and I will remember this, it gave me drive to do well in school and help my community to the best of my ability."

"It's beautiful we still have African American males willing to come and make a change, true he's not the average person, yet and still very down to earth and attracts all types of people to his words of wisdom," she said.

West leaves this statement to the students of A&T and surrounding colleges and universities: "Be true to yourself; think for yourself; think critically for yourself and get the courage to keep in mind the courage to struggle for what you believe in."

West is a professor of religion and African American studies at Princeton University.

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What's News—

In Business and Finance

GM Cuts Dividend, Executive Salaries

General Motors, facing mounting cost pressures, said it plans to halve its \$2-a-share yearly dividend and cut executive salaries.

The cut in its dividend will reduce GM's yearly cash payout by about \$565 million. The auto maker also plans to cut health benefits for salaried retirees and evaluate ways to restructure its pension plan for salaried U.S. workers.

In announcing the cuts, GM Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner cited "dramatic change in our industry and in the global competitive environment, and that requires us to look for additional ways to reduce financial risk and improve our competitiveness for the long term."

Last fall, GM announced North American plant closings and the elimination of as many as 30,000 jobs, as part of a broader effort to save the company \$6 billion in structural costs a year. The more recent measures aim to add to those savings.

GM said its senior leadership team will reduce its salaries as follows: 50% for Mr. Wagoner; 30% for three vice chairmen; and 10% for its executive vice president and general counsel.

Software, PC Firms Pressure Microsoft

PC makers are turning their computers into the equivalent of a super-market, capable of stocking products made by many companies—for a price. The process could shift the balance of power in the software world.

The company with the most to lose is Microsoft, which for years has exerted significant control over what appears on PC desktops because it produces the industry's dominant operating system. According to a company report viewed by The Wall Street Journal, Microsoft managers worry that PC makers will demand lower prices as they package software from rivals that duplicate elements of Microsoft's operating systems.

Google, for one, is in serious negotiations to get its software installed on millions of Dell PCs before they are shipped to users, according to people familiar with the matter. Under the deal being discussed, Google could pay Dell fees approaching \$1 billion over three years, these people estimate. Under one scenario, Dell would set up PCs to run a few Google products straight out of the box, including software to search PC hard drives and its toolbar browser.

Next-Best Thing To Home-Cooked?

There's a new niche in the food business: storefront kitchens where customers can quickly prepare meals to take home and serve, or freeze for later. The process saves a lot of time, since there's no shopping, the prep work is already done, and multiple meals can be made.

Dream Dinners Inc. in Snohomish, Wash., is credited with creating the concept in 2002. The trend has grown, and now there are an estimated 217 such companies with around 566 stores in the U.S. and Canada, according to the Easy Meal Press Association, a trade group that has a directory of such stores on its Web site, www.easymealprep.com.

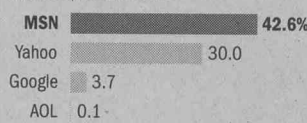
Such services, which charge roughly \$15 to \$25 for a main course that feeds four to six adults, are too pricey to replace home cooking altogether. But they're cheaper than ordering a similar takeout dinner for a whole family, and you have more control over ingredients.

Patrons sign up for a scheduled session and choose meals from a list either online or when they arrive. Stations are set up with recipes and all the prepped ingredients for a particular dish. It's possible to assemble eight dishes in 90 minutes.

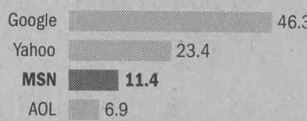
Hide and Seek

Microsoft's search engine is embedded in most U.S. Web browsers even though it's not the most popular search service.

Default search engine in U.S. users' Web browsers, March 2005



Share of U.S. search queries handled, November 2005



Sources: comScore Networks; Nielsen/NetRatings

Xbox Slowdown Hurts Game Maker

Electronic Arts Inc. said its net income for the holiday quarter slumped 31% to \$259 million as the videogames publisher continued to be buffeted by the technological transition to a new generation of game hardware, such as the Xbox 360, the game system Microsoft Corp. introduced Nov. 22. EA's revenue fell 11% to \$1.27 billion from \$1.43 billion.

While the Xbox 360 was one of the most sought-after products of the holidays, Microsoft wasn't able to keep up with demand and recently lowered the number of consoles it expects to sell in the first 90 days of the product's launch to 2.5 million from 2.75 million-3 million.

The Xbox shortage limited the potential audience of gamers who could purchase EA titles for the Xbox 360. At the same time, sales of EA software for the far larger market of older consoles, such as the original Xbox and Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 2, have suffered as well. Many consumers appear to be delaying game purchases in anticipation of getting a new Xbox or a PlayStation 3, due later this year.

New Gear May Help Save Fish Stocks

Researchers led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology say they have developed a more accurate system for counting fish, providing scientists with better data on how rapidly fish populations are shrinking around the world.

The new system, which uses remote sensors, gives researchers a large picture of fish over a 4,000-square-mile area rather than the approximate 120-square-yard snapshots that could be taken before. The preliminary findings could give marine agencies around the world new tools to safeguard fish stocks, which experts say have plummeted over the past century from overfishing.

Some marine scientists worry that the new technology could fall into the hands of poachers. The researchers say that scenario is unlikely, because the equipment is both complex to use and expensive, costing as much as \$1 million. Still, skeptics say, the value of hitting mother lodes of fish would more than offset the expense of the equipment.

Odds & Ends

Toyota Motor Corp. said its third-quarter net profit rose 34% as solid North American sales and a weaker yen helped lift the auto maker's results. Supported by strong profit growth, Toyota is opening up a number of new production facilities across the world, including key plants in the U.S., even as GM and Ford report plant closures and layoffs.

By Jay Hershey

How to contact us: CampusEdition@dowjones.com

AT COLLEGEJOURNAL.COM

• If an employer flies you in for an interview, are you a shoo-in for the job?

• Coaches and recruiters offer tips on handling videoconferences.

• How to ace phone interviews with potential employers.

Survey of Best and Worst Adores the Caveman, Abhors 'the King'

By SUZANNE VRANICA

Celebrities, animals and surprise endings dominated the advertising action during Super Bowl XL, but it was in-your-face humor that proved to be a winning play with many viewers this year.

In a reader poll on The Wall Street Journal Online, the ad scoring highest with respondents was FedEx Corp.'s spot featuring a caveman crushed by a dinosaur after failing to use FedEx. In an interview, Bill Ward, professor of advertising at Michigan State University called it "pre-hysterical."

SprintNextel Corp.'s ad showing a guy demonstrating the "crime deterrent" feature of his cellphone by hurling it at his buddy's face was second in the online poll.

"I loved it. It was so unpredictable," said Tony Smith, a 29-year-old teacher in Denver, of the Sprint spot, crafted by TBWA/Chiat/Day. "They nailed it," said Toby Barlow, executive creative director at JWT. "Superlative, it blew away my expectations."

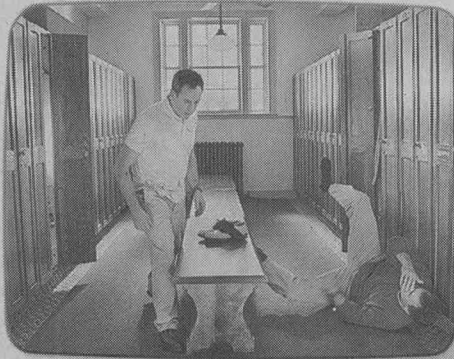
Bow Shot

Anheuser-Busch Cos., which typically dominates the Super Bowl ad action, was also a high scorer with a clever commercial crafted by DDB that showed a group of guys bowing before a "secret" refrigerator they'd discovered that was full of Bud Light.

That ad "broke through and was attention-grabbing," said Emily Raman, a 28-year-old ad student at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, who was watching the game with 35 other students.

Another Bud Light spot, showing husbands pretending to be working on their roofs, also tickled ad executives and consumers interviewed by The Wall Street Journal, as did the Budweiser spot showing a sheep streaking through a football game being played by Clydesdale horses.

Gags Reign in Super Bowl Ads



Played for laughs: A guy hits a friend with his Sprint Nextel cellphone; a "secret" refrigerator has Bud Light.



Ewen Cameron, chief executive at Berlin Cameron United. "The ad didn't try too hard and still worked."

Burned Burger

Not every ad scored well. Burger King Corp.'s much anticipated elaborate song-and-dance numbers featuring the "Whopperettes," created by the hot Miami agency Crispin Porter + Bogusky fell flat. The ad showed a group of women dressed up as lettuce, tomatoes and mayo coming together

to form a Whopper. "Hold the pickles, hold the drama," said Dave Regan, an ad professor at Michigan State University, who was watching the Super Bowl with 30 colleagues from the school. "They should have had it another way." Dave Alldredge, a 45-year-old customer service manager in Seattle, labeled the burger barons ad as "horrible."

Among the other fumbles were expensive pitches for new products from Gillette and Motorola Inc. For its new five-blade razor, Gillette produced a razzle-dazzle ad portraying a scientific experiment with men in white lab coats. But the ad didn't cut it. "Is this a real product?" asked Mr. Feakins at Kirshenbaum. "I was waiting for a spoof. When does the eight-blade razor debut?"

Motorola's ad hyping its new PEBL phone showed a meteor hurtling through space and being battered by the elements until it becomes a pebble. Creative executives gave the spot credit for being "beautifully shot" but some suggested the commercial didn't have enough pizzazz for the big game. "Usually you are making cool ads for boring products, here is a cool product with boring advertising," said Mr. Barlow of JWT. Average consumers were also less than thrilled. "Sort of a boring ad for the Super Bowl," said Luke McPadden, a 32-year-old government consultant in Washington, D.C.

scored a touch down. Unilever's Dove spot featured young girls struggling with self-image issues gave many watchers goose bumps and was a crowd-pleaser.

"A great message for our cynical world," said Rob Feakins, a father of two teenage girls, who serves as executive creative director at Kirshenbaum.

Commercials during last year's game were toned down amid the indecency debate. Consumers, in general, rejected the safe and sweet ads that appeared during last year's big game. Ad executives said many marketers brought back their "A" game last night as ads seemed to be funnier.

The Cinderella story of the night was Ameriquest Mortgage Co., which kept its ad under wraps before the game—unlike many other advertisers who share their spots with the media to generate attention. Ameriquest's tactic paid off. "Hilarious ad, everyone here cracked up laughing," said Matt Bancheck, a 30-year-old public relations executive in St. Clair Shores, Mich., who was hosting a Super Bowl party. "Everyone laughed out loud," said Tony Colella, a 33-year-old who was attending a party in San Francisco.

The spot, from DDB, depicting a mother and daughter in a hospital room had viewers buzzing about the unexpected plot twist. "Tons of impact and very memorable," said

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World News

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

The A&T Register

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Violence in Mexico threatens tourism

BY HUGH DELLIOS
KRT

MEXICO CITY — With spring break coming and college students making plans, tourism officials in Acapulco are worried that the resort city's image may now include bloody shootouts along with the beach, bikinis and beer parties.

In recent days that image includes this: Four drug traffickers lying dead in the street just five

minutes from the hotel zone. Town merchants marching in the streets against drug-related violence. The mayor declaring that he is scared.

President Vicente Fox has sent dozens of federal police agents into Mexico's second-largest tourist resort after a downtown gun battle between police and drug traffickers 10 days ago, as city and state officials have pleaded for help in stopping a turf battle between two violent drug cartels.

Officials warn that the situation could deteriorate to the level of drug violence that has racked Nuevo Laredo and other border towns, even as state officials try to reassure tourists that the violence has not targeted vacationers and their visits will be safe.

"These are lamentable acts that could damage the image of any place," said Agustin Serrano, director general of tourism planning for the state of Guerrero. "These are

isolated incidents, but nevertheless, they are a real concern."

More than 5 million tourists visit Acapulco each year, including nearly 1 million Americans and other foreigners.

But the recent shootout crystallized concerns about drug traffickers in Acapulco and the support they may be getting from corrupt local police. It came as U.S. officials have been more vocal than usual in expressing concerns about

drug violence across Mexico.

John Negroponte, the U.S. director of national intelligence, cited Mexico at a congressional hearing last Thursday among a list of countries in which drug traffickers threaten to undermine the government.

"A vicious cycle can develop in which a weakened government enables criminals to dangerously undercut the state's credibility and authority," Negroponte said.

Mexican officials have defended their actions, emphasizing that the United States also has a role in the battle.

Fox met with his security cabinet and vowed to increase spending in Mexico's battle against narcotics trafficking. About 200 additional federal agents were sent to the resort city as part of Fox's "Safe Mexico" campaign.

Cartoon ignites Muslim protests

BY NADA RAAD AND
HANNAH ALLAM
KRT

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A Muslim protest over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad turned into a rampage that injured at least 30 people in Beirut on Sunday.

Protesters in the Lebanese capital torched the Danish embassy, clashed with police and stoned a church, the most violent reaction yet to 12 cartoons lampooning the prophet that first appeared in a Danish newspaper and were reprinted in other media this month.

Muslims in several cities throughout the Middle East and Europe have stormed foreign embassies, burned Danish flags, staged massive demonstrations and launched a boycott that's costing Danish firms an estimated \$2 million a day.

The fierce reaction to the cartoons reflects not just anger over Europeans poking fun at the revered prophet, but years of pent-up fury by Muslims who feel alienated in the West and oppressed in their home countries, according to Muslims in several nations.

In Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories, the timing and subject matter of the cartoons were just enough to push already volatile populations over the edge.

"There's a widespread feeling of humiliation," said Abdul Sattar Kassem, a specialist in Islamic Studies at a university in Palestinian City of Nablus, where gunmen briefly kidnapped a German in protest of the cartoons. "People think they have been targeted by the West for more than 100 years. The West created Israel and has supported the dictators of the Arab regimes. They have robbed the wealth of the Arabs. That's what people think. That's why they react."

Islam's strict ban on idolatry prohibits any representation of Muhammad or other religious figures. Muslims were outraged not only by Danish cartoonists giving a face to the prophet, but also by the depiction of him as a terrorist. One of the sketches showed the prophet wearing a bomb-shaped turban.

The cartoons caused a minor uproar in Denmark when they were first published in September, but the reprinting of the images this month by French, Norwegian, Austrian and other newspapers quickly fueled the controversy. While European editors cast the debate as free speech versus religious tolerance, many Muslims said the roots of the problem go much deeper.

"People were reacting not only to the Danish newspaper drawings, there is something inside the people," said Marwan Kaban, a political science professor at Damascus University in Syria. "They tried to express their anger against something else, Western double standards in dealing with democracy, the economic situation, and they took it out on the embassies in Damascus."

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National News

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The A&T Register

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Plaque fighting gum recruited to help in war on tooth decay

By M. Daniel Gibbard
KRT

CHICAGO — On patrol in Baghdad, Sgt. Mark Stach always carried a sack of candy to brighten the day of children in the war-torn Iraqi capital.

But Stach, 33, an Illinois National Guardsman from Dixon, Ill., has a confession: "Some of that ended up in my own mouth. If I had had something better for me, it would have been nice."

Now, a group of Army researchers has just the thing. They are developing a plaque-fighting gum that could provide a healthier alternative for soldiers such as Stach and take the place of brushing for personnel stuck in the field for weeks.

"When a soldier's getting shot at, they don't take the time to brush and floss," said Col. Dennis Runyan, commander of the Army Dental and Trauma Research Detachment, located at the Navy's Great Lakes base in Chicago.

Dental emergencies can have a significant effect on combat readiness, Runyan said, and studies show 15 percent to 20 percent of soldiers have one each year.

Conditions in Iraq are not as primitive as in past wars, soldiers say. Most units return nightly to their bases, where there is running water and no problem brushing, but there are exceptions.

"It's very different depending on what job you had," said former Illinois National Guard Sgt. Justin Villanueva, who served eight

months and lost an eye in a mortar attack.

Villanueva's transportation unit once went out on a monthlong field mission where members could not get supplies.

"The water we had in the trucks was the water we had to survive on," said Villanueva, 23, an undergraduate at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill., who is applying to dental school. "(In) situations like that, the gum would probably benefit."

The Army makes sure soldiers who head into front-line units are in good dental shape, but stress and high-sugar foods and drinks quickly take a toll, Runyan said.

"You get soldiers in that environment, their dental health deteriorates very rapidly," Runyan said.

The gum is still several years away from being used, Runyan said. Its active ingredient, a new anti-microbial peptide called KSL, will likely be classified as a drug and thus need approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Kai Leung, a microbiologist at the research center who created KSL, said it will be worth the wait.

"Imagine a soldier out in the desert. They are dead-tired; they might not have time to brush their teeth," Leung said. "We have to help them."

Gum is the best way to deliver the anti-microbial for several reasons, Runyan and Leung said. For one thing, scientists can add other helpful ingredients, such as an abrasive to help scrape away plaque that KSL doesn't prevent. For another,

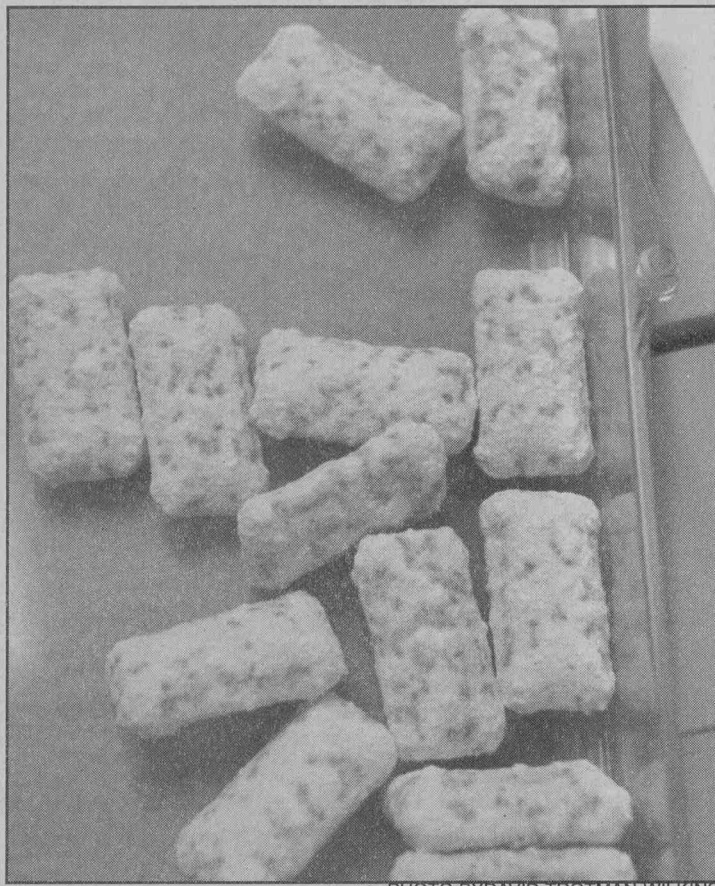


PHOTO BY DAVID TROTMAN-WILKINS

Unfinished samples of KSL gum, a plaque-fighting gum, meant to off-set the difficulties of tooth brushing while in a combat zone for U. S. Soldiers, being developed at The U.S. Army Dental Research Unit, located at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, North Chicago, Illinois.

it's light and easy to carry, unlike mouthwash.

"You don't want soldiers carrying a bottle of Listerine into battle," Runyan said.

But gum presents its own challenges. Because it or its juice can be swallowed, Leung and the other

researchers had to make sure their compound would not harm intestinal bacteria needed for digestion.

And, of course, it has to taste good.

"Flavors are important," said Patrick DeLuca, a pharmaceutical scientist at the University of

Kentucky who is working for the Army on the gum. "We really have to challenge to make sure ... it is at least pleasant for them to chew it."

So far, researchers have experimented with fruit and mint flavors.

Another goal is to get both the flavor and the drug to last at least a half-hour for maximum effect, he said.

Plaque-fighting gum is not the first novel idea to come out of the research center, which moved to Great Lakes from Maryland a decade ago.

Recent successes include a self-contained mobile dental unit the size of a small microwave oven. Weighing less than 50 pounds, the unit has suction, air and water jets, and drill attachments. It uses very little electricity and can be air-dropped in a special padded case, Runyan said.

"It's in Iraq as we speak," said Runyan, showing off similar projects in a room full of lab equipment the facility buys and tears apart to see whether they can make smaller and lighter versions.

Once the KSL gum is ready for action, Runyan would like to see it added to MREs, the ubiquitous meals-ready-to-eat military rations, which already include a gum.

But considering the Pentagon buys 35 million of them a year, "if KSL gum costs a penny more, there's going to be some arm-wrestling," Runyan said.

Racism takes hidden form

By Eun Kyung Kim
KRT

ST. LOUIS — Discrimination based on someone's voice, or linguistic profiling, happens more often than people realize because of its subtle nature.

It only becomes profiling when someone offering products or services denies them to a caller because of that assumption. It could be a restaurant host turning away a caller seeking a dinner reservation despite availability, or a cab dispatcher telling a caller that the company doesn't service the area when it actually does.

Linguistic profiling has been investigated in a variety of fields, including country clubs, insurance, banking and home lending. It is perhaps monitored the most in the housing industry, though.

Voice profiling cases are tough to win because investigators need a preponderance of evidence to back up claims, said Donna Cavitte, executive director of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

"You're looking at a scale, and the scale can't be even. It has to be heavily weighted on the side of the person bringing the complaint, and that's a hard standard to make," she said. "You might get enough to even it out to the point of, who do you believe, but that's not enough to win."

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Arts & Life

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An Evening of Jazz

BY ALEASE ALLAN
Contributor

"Black History is a journey of celebrations, devastations, happiness, sadness, birth, and death. Throughout all of this, the one historical constant is the ability to enjoy and create. In MUSIC celebrating African American History, we include our history in music. From the beat of a drum, to the sound of the saxophone, we acknowledge jazz as a counterpoint melody in the song of our lives" according to the program for that night.

On February 2, The Mondre' Moffett Jazz Ensemble played a selection of tunes in celebration of black history month.

Byrle Henderson Hatch, a sophomore speech communications major, said that he was responsible for planning the event by obtaining a guest list and getting corporate sponsors for the event.

"We set aside seating for sixty-five people and one hundred and five people came, right then I knew this was going to be a great success."

The Mondre' Moffett Jazz Ensemble has been performing in the Dudley building since November 2005 as well as performing all over campus for the past two to three months. The admission was free thanks to business sponsors and patrons of the arts.

All proceeds went toward special programs and new art acquisitions.

Larry Draughn Jr., junior music performance major, said that he has been a musician for Mondre' Moffett for six to seven months now.

"I feel like a better musician working with Mondre' Moffett and plan to gain as much information and knowledge from him as I possibly can."

"In fact, we just got together as a full ensemble only a couple of hours ago," Draughn said.

Mondre' Moffett, a professor at A&T, leader of the ensemble, jazz trumpeter and composer said, "I'm inspired by the great paintings that we have at A&T. The idea for the concert came from an art show this past fall, the idea of art working with music motivated me in that direction."

"I approached Shawnya Harris, the director of the art gallery, with the idea of a series of music and art. We met and decided to put on a performance with music and artwork by Mcmillan," Moffett said.

"The selection of music came from the renaissance period; I only performed original pieces that I personally wrote for this event to accent Mcmillan's artwork," Moffett said.

When asked what his goal was for this performance, Moffett responded, "to be able to perform my music in an environment where it would be received beyond the exterior and to let music do what it is designed to do which is motivate, inspire, and empower people."

Mondre' Moffett is the conductor of four bands- a quintet, a quartet, a sextet and a jazz orchestra.

As for plans for the future, Moffett wants, "to record my music, and to make my music accessible to everybody."

WORD ON THE STREET.....

BY CANDRA WHITLEY
Arts and Life Editor

This week I feel like dedicating a little more space to my column. Because there are a lot of things on my mind this week, and since we're a little short on stories, I have the space to say a little bit more than usual.

Okay, the first thing on my mind is **Ring tones**.. Now, why would I want to talk about these?--Because they are OUT of control!

Yes, music ring tones add a little personality to your phone, but take into consideration who's calling.

When your phone starts playing "I'm in love with a stripper!" and you say, "Hey mom!"--that is somewhat inappropriate, don't you think? Here are a few of the songs that could possibly be considered rude: Miss New Booty - if you know this song, you know why!

Unpredictable - the lyrics of this song...no ma'am and any D4L Song - need I explain?

It only takes a few seconds to go into your phone settings and assign your parents/grandparents a decent and regular ring tone.

Dances. Nowadays there is a dance that seems to go with every song on the radio but, you must always remember that they weren't made for EVERY song, just the ones that warrant it.

Nobody wants to see people doing the peanut butter and jelly to "laffy taffy" or the lean and rock dance to "grillz." Why do I say this, because I've seen it done and frankly I'm tired of seeing it. If the issue is that it is the only dance you know how to do, there are plenty of people on campus that know how to dance. Pull one aside and say, "Hey guy, show me a dance or two!"

Refund checks. Now I am probably a guilty party but not as much as others. When you get your refund check, pay some bills. Eliminate some debt out of your life.

Don't just go out and get the newest, best cell phone, shoes, clothes, etc.. and in two weeks be right back where you were before the check: broke. Smart students pay rent maybe 4 or 5 months at a time, so that's one less bill you have to worry about. Once priorities are taken care of, then you can be free to shop 'til you drop. A wonderful wardrobe means nothing if you're living in your car!

Parties. Over the past few months there have been a surge in entertainment groups who throw parties. You have M.O.S.T. Ent., NXLevel, The Executive Team, CAC Exclusives and the list goes on and on.

Everybody does not have

the ability and following to be considered "good" enough to throw parties and have a good turnout as well as make money. It's always the newest groups who either charge a super low price or a ridiculously high price.

Only the ones who have longevity (meaning: the ability to stay around for a while) can honestly say we throw parties and make a living off of it. The majority of these groups will fade off within a year, maybe a year and a half. That's just honesty...not hating.

Modeling Troupes. Now, this subject is one that I hold dear to my heart. A&T is home to the best two groups along the east coast. And that's just the truth.

But I've noticed that at other schools, they have two or three modeling troupes and for what? One person didn't make the other one, so they decide to go off and

start another group for all the rejects that are terrible. A terrible person over a group of other terrible people spells t-r-a-g-e-d-y.

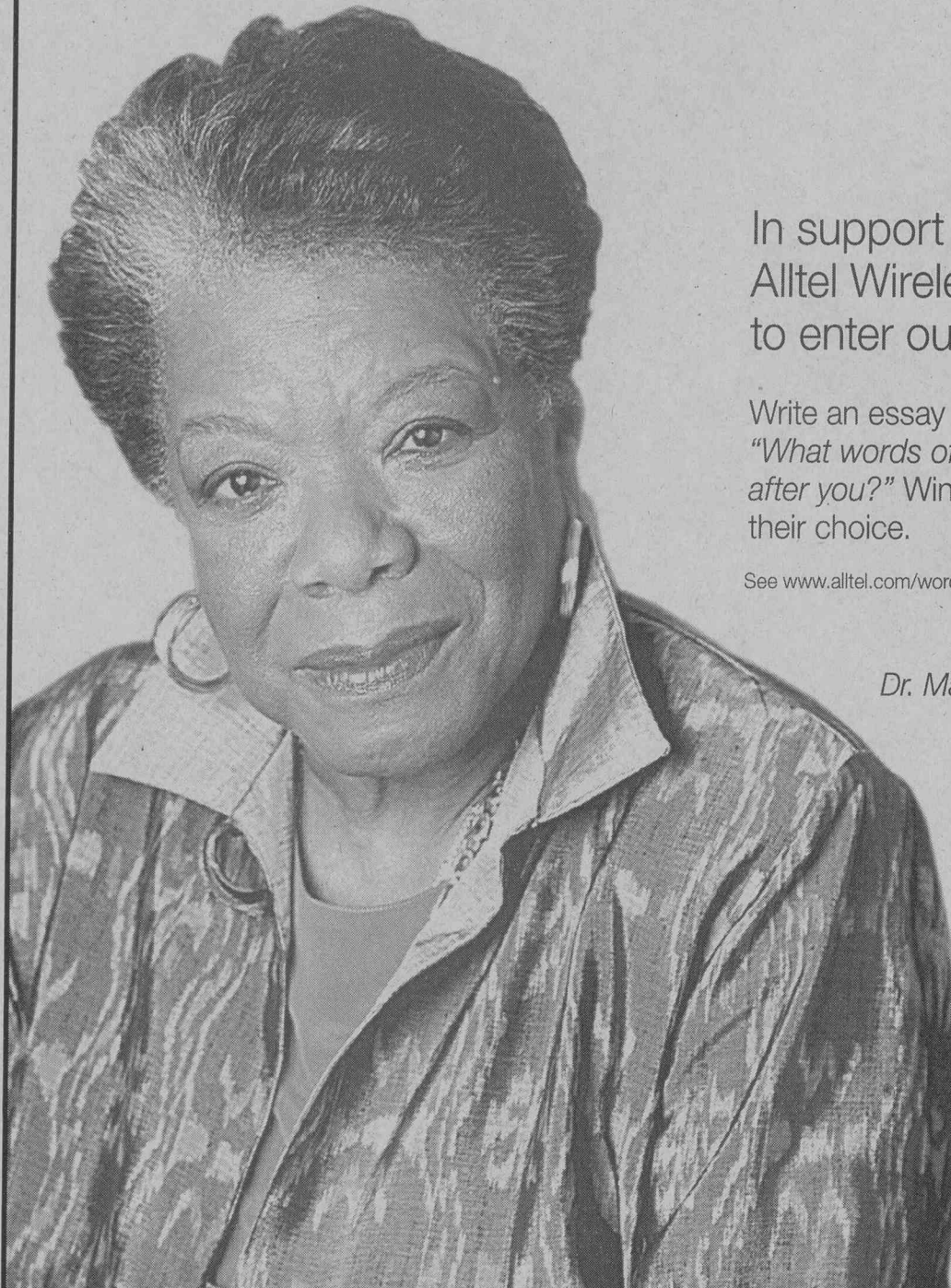
And that will be seen on Feb. 18 @ the Carolina Theatre when Z-Tweezy hosts the 1st Annual America's Next Top Runway Models competition. There will be six schools competing including A&T's very own VERGE.

Come out and support because the other schools will be bringing massive crowd support because they know that they're boots are going to be waxed and that's NO shade!

Hopefully next week I'll be able to devote this much space to my column so we can discuss more topics that are present and need to be discussed, so until then..

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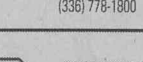
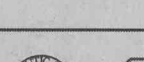
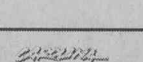
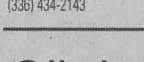
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HBCU News

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The A&T Register

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Students lose ROTC aid

Low GPAs end room and board benefits for 22 at FAMU

BY NEFERTITI WILLIAMS
Black College Wire

Twenty-two Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets at Florida A&M University have had their room and board scholarships withdrawn for not meeting the academic requirement of a 3.0 grade-point average.

In past years, ROTC's Presidential Scholar Award provided students with tuition and fees, including a stipend, and the university gave students a room-and-board scholarship. The students had to maintain a 2.0 GPA.

In 2002, FAMU changed the GPA requirement to 3.0, telling the students of the change in May and saying the new requirement would go into effect the following semester.

The change was being implemented as the university underwent a change of leadership along with financial crises that forced cut-backs in spending.

Maj. Willie A. Jackson, executive officer and a recruiter in the program, said ROTC had long overlooked students' GPAs. But this past August, after noticing that several students were not meeting the academic requirement, FAMU made a final decision to withdraw the housing scholarships of several who did not meet the standards.

"It was sloppily handled," said Peqwita Thornton, 22, a senior criminal justice student from Atlanta and a member of ROTC.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE FAMUAN

FAMU students in ROTC must have a 3.0 GPA to be eligible for room and board scholarships. "It was sloppily handled," says Peqwita Thornton, a senior criminal justice student from Atlanta and ROTC membe. FAMU changed the GPA rule in 2002.

Thornton said she believed that ROTC does a lot for FAMU, but the favor is not returned.

"Students weren't informed in a timely manner," she added.

In September, Thornton, a member of the ROTC program, filed a complaint with the housing department, saying the students were not

given adequate time to make other housing arrangements.

Most were forced to stay on campus because they signed a housing agreement from which the university would not release them.

Thornton went to Castell Bryant, FAMU's interim president, in October. Bryant said the issue

was one for ROTC, Thornton said.

Some ROTC members owe the university for fall-semester housing and have had holds placed on their accounts, preventing them from registering for spring semester classes.

"This whole situation has put a financial burden on not only the students that were affected but their families also," senior Keith Farmer said.

Farmer said he noticed a decrease in the number of cadets showing up for physical training and other events.

"ROTC is suffering severely," Farmer said. "Several cadets had to pick up jobs in order to stay in school, which makes their lives 10 times harder than it was already."

He said many students chose FAMU's program because of the room-and-board deal, and that if students in the program had known what they do now, they would have chosen another school.

Jackson agreed that ROTC did not properly enforce the GPA rule, and said the academic requirement would be enforced from now on.

FAMU formerly offered 68 scholarships but recently reduced the number to 45. Of the 272 ROTC detachments, only 27 offer room and board with their scholarships, Jackson said.

Nefertiti Williams, a student at Florida A&M University, writes for the Famuan. She may be reached at famuanews@hotmail.com

NCCU fights to regain standard

BY JEAN ROGERS
Black College Wire

A month after a deadline misstep cost North Carolina Central University School of Business its accreditation and its dean, the university administration is expecting to be re-accredited sooner than originally thought.

According to Chancellor James H. Ammons, it is expected to take less than a year for the school to renew its accreditation, instead of the 12 to 18 months the school had anticipated.

The school lost its accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs when former dean Benjamin Newhouse failed to apply for re-accreditation on time. The school has started the process of renewing accreditation.

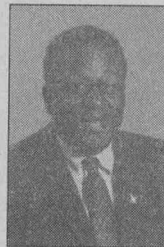
Some students were shocked when they received letters from the university during the Christmas break notifying them about the loss of accreditation.

"My initial reaction was that my degree in business was not going to be as acceptable as other business degrees at other colleges," said Audrey Long, a senior who received her letter Dec. 23.

But Ammons was optimistic about a speedy re-accreditation.

He said the school became a candidate for accreditation in seven days, a process that usually takes three months.

He also said the director of the



Newhouse

accreditation agency had been assigned to mentor interim dean Bijoy Sahoo.

Sahoo is working on the self-study that is expected to be ready for submission to the accrediting group by March.

Once that is submitted, it will be evaluated by the agency, then a committee is

to visit the School of Business before preparing its recommendations.

"We are hoping to have a site visit this spring," Ammons said.

According to Steve Parscale, director for the accrediting group, the self-study is 95 percent complete.

"I would say that the average school takes 18 months to three years" to get accredited, "but since NCCU was previously accredited, they will be able to regain their accreditation much sooner than that," said Parscale.

At a Jan. 10 meeting in the B.N. Duke Auditorium, Ammons, Jones and Sahoo answered students' and parents' questions, with an energetic and soft-spoken Sahoo vowing to save the university from embarrassment.

"We didn't lose our accreditation, we allowed it to expire," Sahoo said.

"We make a commitment today that we will regain accreditation with ACBSP."

Jean Rogers, a student at North Carolina Central University, writes for the Campus Echo.

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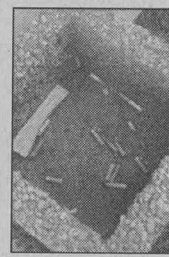
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You should not use me

Hello, my dear friends! I am a new addition to this side of campus, and many of you have not noticed or used me yet. Good for you. Keep it that way.

If I were a vending machine, or perhaps a useful device of some sort, I would certainly urge you to engage me. But, I am an ashtray. You should not use me. Or, to be more exact, you should not be using any products that would instigate an ashen exchange between us.

I am referring to the smoking of tobacco, or any other substance that contributes to the deaths of more than 300,000 people each year from lung ailments. You see, dear friends, I never



CROSBY HALL/NCB ASHTRAY

had a choice. I came into this world as an ashtray. My only purpose is to gather the ashes of the smokers. It is a mundane, thankless job indeed, but more than that, it is a dirty, saddening, heart-wrenching job.

I hope with all my hope that at least one day will go by when none among you drops the blackish-gray flakes of spent tobacco into my sand-filled top. I would be overcome with joy to spend a day doing anything but what I am intended for! But, just as sure as

the sun rises, there is at least one who comes to use me.

Had I wheels like the speedy automobiles that some of you drive, or wings like the noble seagulls that frolic in the sky, I would surely flee my post and all who so recklessly make use of me.

I am not worth even a few minutes of being put into service by you gentlemen. Ladies, a good man has no interest in a woman who always smells like smoke. Please, stay away from me. I should not be used.

Many of my brothers and sisters feel as I do. We often write to each other, in an attempt not only to console ourselves, but to attempt to make sense of self-inflicted pain and suffering that

using us brings.

One of my brothers became so overwhelmed by the grief of doing his job that he tipped himself over and shattered into thousands of pieces. Sometimes, on warm nights when the smokers are many, I contemplate doing what he did... freeing myself from the madness.

Please, please, I beg of you - stay away from me. It's better for everyone if we have no contact at all, whatsoever.

You should not use me. This ashtray can be contacted under the bridge connecting the General Classroom Building and Crosby Hall.

Looking back ...

James Renick helped A&T elevate its standing in the public eye.

The technology still ain't the best. Before this week's edition was completed, one of the main computers in the A&T Register lab went down.

But, we're not going to blame Chancellor Renick for that. In his seven-year run as Chancellor, Renick managed to tackle and tame some of the problems that have dogged other historically black colleges and institutions for years.

One was money. Despite the state's ranking as one of the most-affordable for higher education, funding for universities has not always. One of Renick's first accomplishments, and one of the most important, was establishing a \$100 million fundraising goal.

Another issue was public perception. After state voters approved construction bonds for the 16-campus university system, A&T promptly began to renovate, build, and in some cases, tear down buildings to make the campus look more attractive.

Renick also made his mark in the larger Greensboro community, serving on numerous civic boards, including the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

Perhaps the biggest statement he made, though, was the June 2004 rally at the state capitol building, leading more than 400 students, alumni, faculty and staff to the front doorstep of the state's lawmakers. So, the "party school" Renick inherited in 1999 has grown up, somewhat, to be the 21st century campus where innovators and creators come to prepare for the real world.

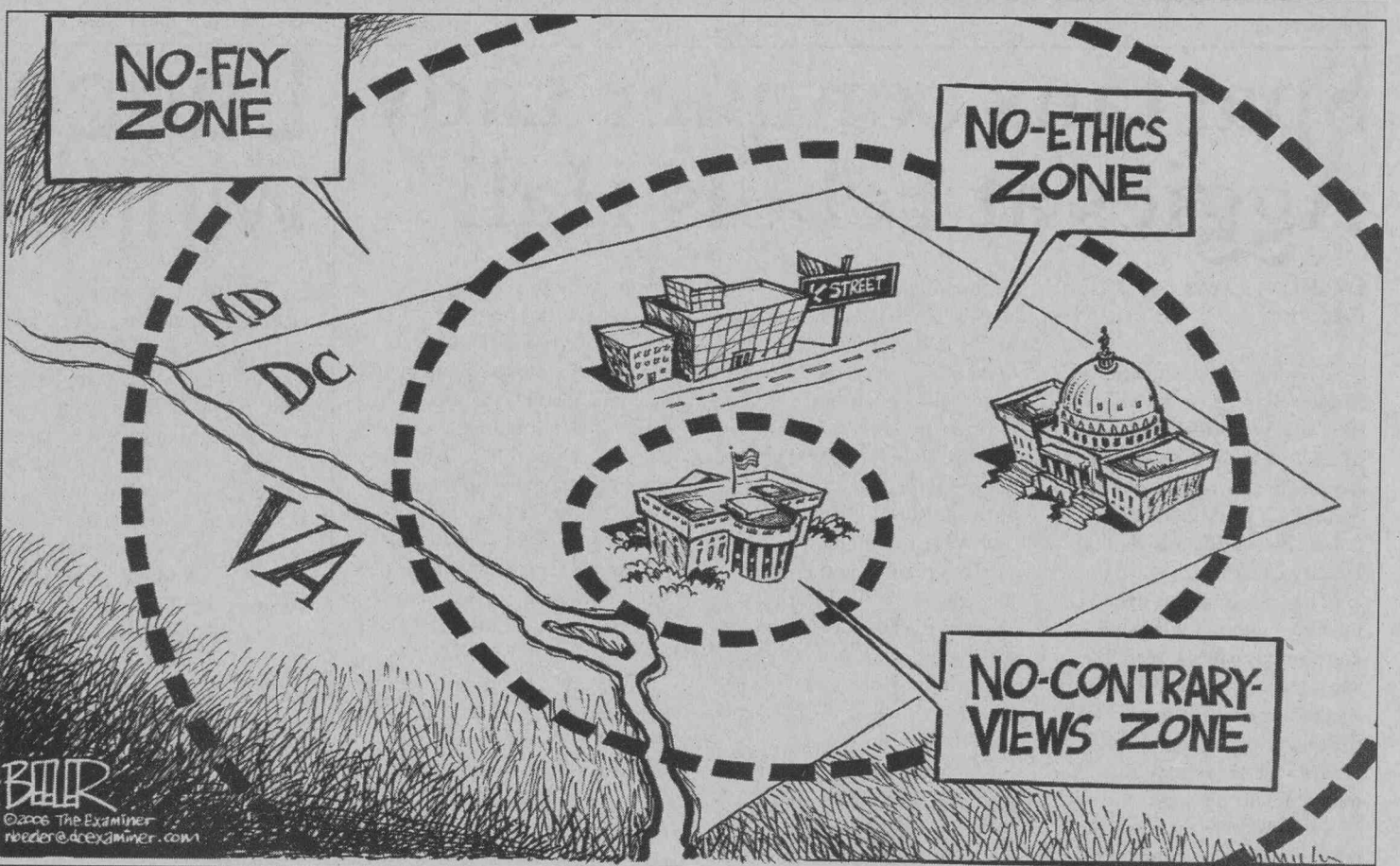
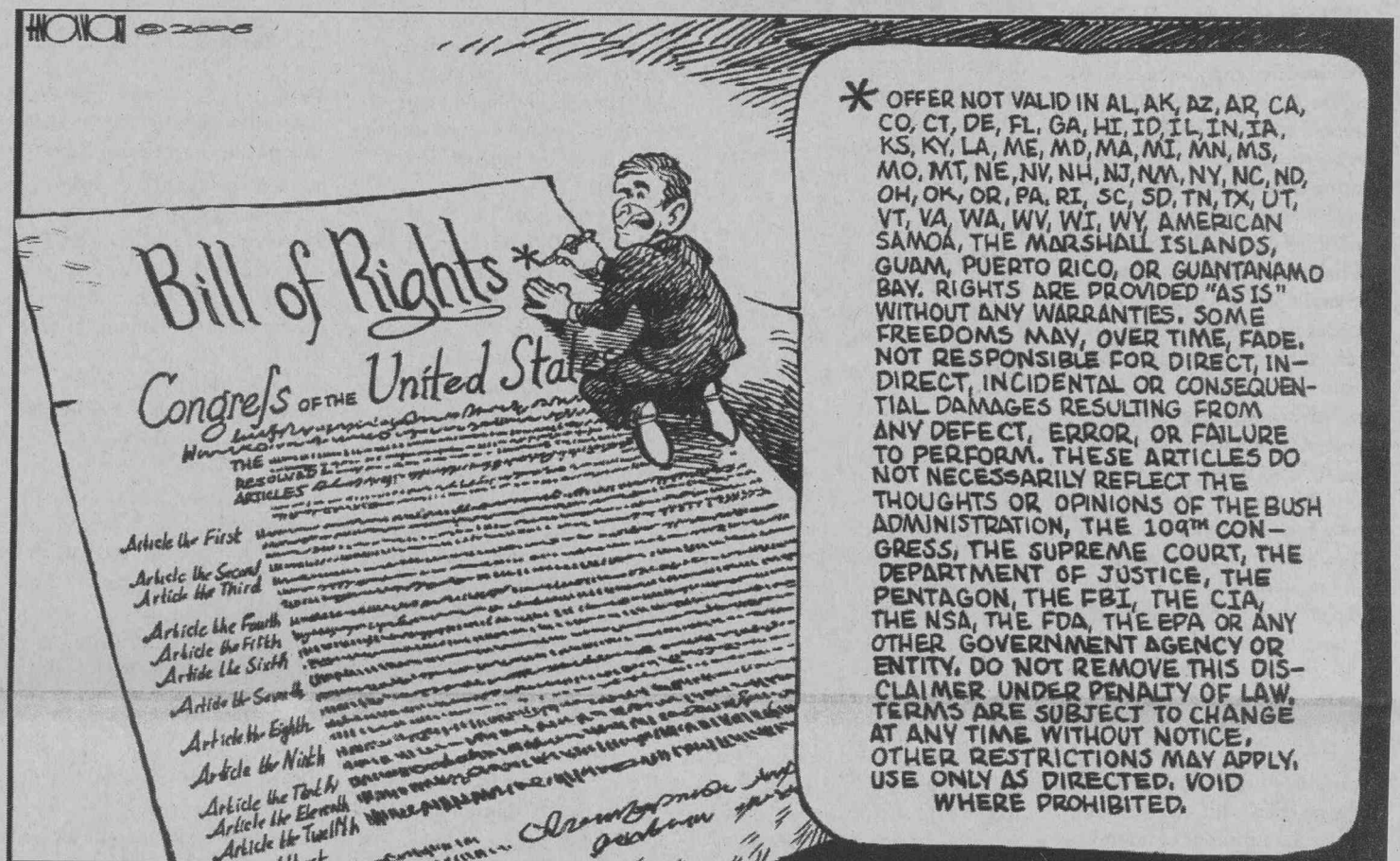
His decision to announce his resignation last Friday double-whammyed the Aggies, who also were informed that Provost Carolyn Meyers would be leaving to take the head position at Norfolk State University.

The capital campaign is more than \$20 million short of the \$100 million goal. The chancellor's FUTURES initiatives, which were to be the blueprint for A&T's future, will have to be reassessed, this time without the architect of the plans. The next chancellor will also have to address an athletic department with a high turnover rate both on and off the field.

All things considered, in the public eye, Renick leaves A&T in a better predicament than the one in which he came.

Editorials in the above column represent the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily represent the views of the students, faculty, staff or administration of North Carolina A&T.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Differences are natural; ignorance is not

Why are Black people so determined to separate themselves? Is it really that hard to unify...to be on one accord...to feel one another in more ways than one?

As a brother named Dr. Ridgely Abdul Mu'min was addressing specific issues, concerns, and solutions in regards to the black community during the closing session of the 5th Annual HBCU Think Tank last week, he happened to speak the words, "All praises due to Allah." Upon hearing this a sister in the audience who, up until that point, was wholeheartedly agreeing with Dr. Mu'min's points and train of thought, whispered, "Okay, he lost me." A little later on during Dr. Mu'min's speech, he referred to "the Honorable Elijah Muhammad," and the same young lady responded with, "Oh, Lord."



JAMEYA PORTER

This wasn't the first time I've ever heard negative reaction to any part of Islam or someone who follows it, but I guess I was a little more disturbed than usual because amidst taking in every aspect of the Think Tank, I was observing how all of the information and speakers were being received, and I thought it was beautiful that up to this point, a nice variety of people my age were actually hearing and even being receptive to unusual truth. So, hearing someone react like that caught me a bit off-guard...and I realized that that moment was quite possibly the most realistic representative of

the barrier which separates blacks from our overall greatest and utmost potential.

After Dr. Mu'min made a few more references to "Allah" and the young lady and her friends were implying in whispers that the reference was like some out-of-this-world, alien or satanic summoning, I felt compelled to turn around and tell them - and did tell them - quickly that "Allah" is simply God.

Ya' know - that highest, most divine being which Christians often turn to. That's it. That's all He is. Move on. Stay focused.

I didn't say this, but I wanted to also tell her that "All praises due to Allah" is basically no more than Christians' "Praise the Lord."

But this really had me wondering. Personally opting to be spiritual in my life, as opposed to

"religious," I have respect for both Islam and Christianity. I know neither in its entirety, but what I do know and understand about them - the true parts, anyway, - I respect. Neither is really rocket science, yet the myth that seems to exist that they are seems to be one of the greatest hindrances which stands between Black people and absolute and indestructible greatness.

Oh, and it doesn't just stop at religion. Also standing in the way of our unity is conflict among political affiliations, problems with our God-given shades and complexions, our backgrounds and financial statuses, our schools, the city and state we grew up in, and the list is endless.

We practically voluntarily hold ourselves back.

Minister Louis Farrakhan has spoken so much unique reality

over the years, yet, many people don't want to listen to him, simply because of his preference of faith, and they end up missing so much. That is, until a Baptist (or otherwise) preacher...or a popular, over-commercialized, mainstream rapper...or Bush...says it - then, it's gold. Crazy.

Granted, there have been certain things the Minister has said which I didn't agree with. There were things that Dr. Mu'min said during that closing session that I didn't agree with...and Michael Eric Dyson, when he came to speak at A&T about two or so weeks ago...and Dr. Cornel West...and there have even been many people who disagree with some of Dr. Martin Luther King's philosophies and Malcolm X's strategies. And we all know Dr. King and Malcolm X didn't completely agree with each other, for

that matter.

But see, it is okay to do that. Opposition is human. It's expected. But just because you don't approve of, agree with, or consent to one percent of a person's being or mind, that doesn't mean you have to completely disregard and ignore the other 99 percent. You don't have to necessarily accept that part of that person...but why let that one little thing hinder you from the rest of her or him?

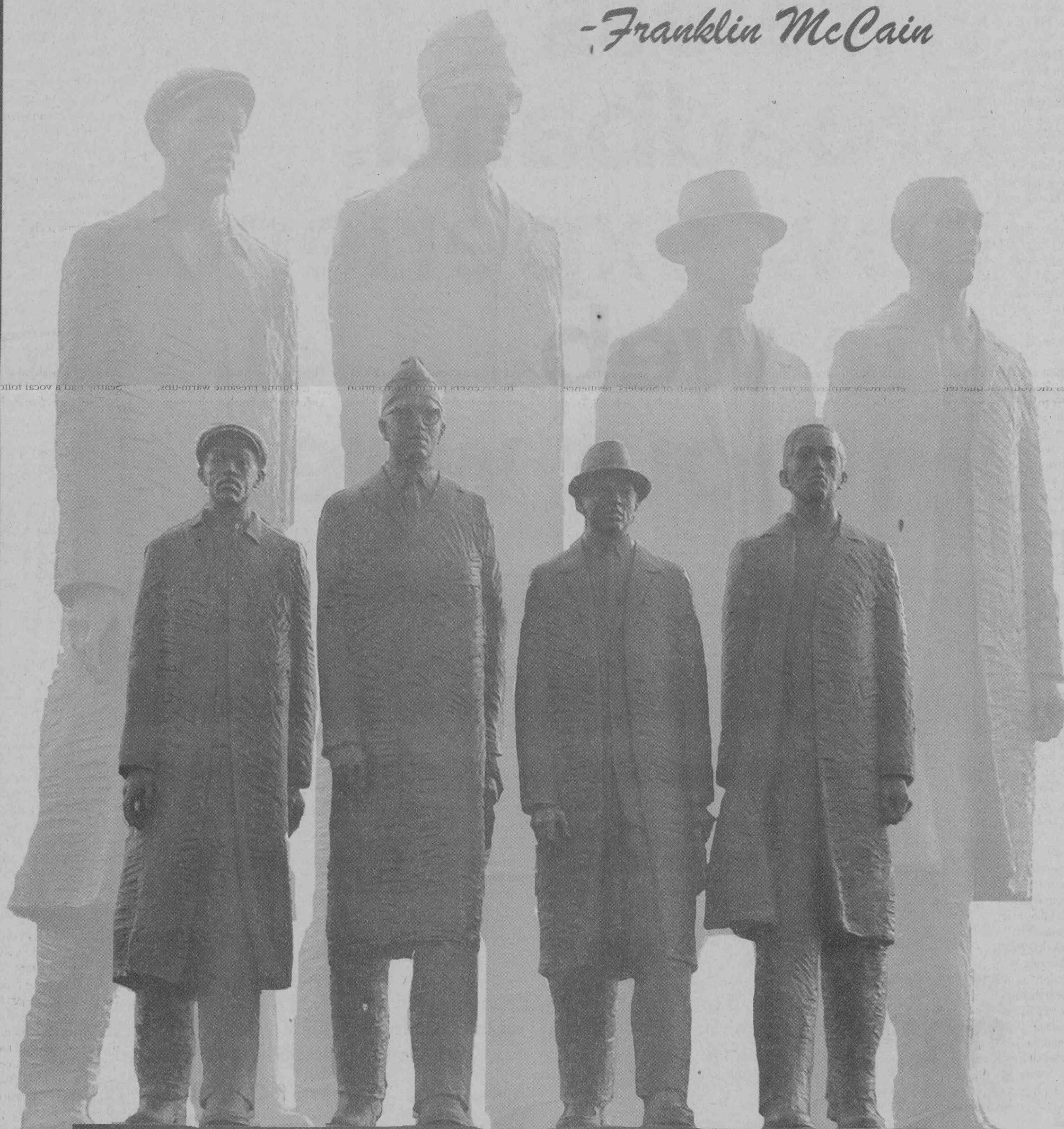
I just ask of black people - my fellow beautiful, powerful, and amazing brothers and sisters...that we get past the trivial, once and for all...so we can open our eyes and minds...stay focused...and do what it has been long time to do. It is 2006...and the change has to begin somewhere. Let it begin with our generation.

Jameya Porter can be reached at jlporter@ncat.edu.

In Tribute

"My soul was rested 30 seconds after I sat on a dumb stool at a stupid lynch counter. I felt as if I was putting a down payment on manhood. On that day, I could have died and life would not have shortchanged me."

-Franklin McCain



David Richmond

Franklin McCain

Ezell Blair, Jr.
(Reverend Khazan)

Joseph McNeil

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