

Anniversary Of America's 200th Birthday May Have Mediocre Meaning To Campus

by Cheryl E. Johnson

A majority of those persons polled on campus last week said they felt that America's bicentennial was an occasion not worth their celebrating, since blacks initially entered this country as slaves and that too much money and emphasis were being placed on the celebration.

Fran Franklin from Ocean City, Maryland, said she's "just sick of it." She added "I'm not for it at all because they have just carried this celebration a little too far." Franklin feels the finances being used to promote 200 years of U.S.A. might better be used to eradicate poverty and other U.S. social ills.

Student Government President Thorna Humphries also thinks too much money is going into this celebration. She said "It has been said that blacks don't have anything to celebrate. At least," she continued, "we can go into a cafeteria, sit down and eat there without having to carry our food out. And we don't have to ride in the back of a bus, anymore, unless we want to. We don't have total freedom, but we have gained some things." About the monies being spent she said "They are spending quite a bit of money and going far out for the bicentennial," but conceded "I guess some people have something to celebrate."

Basketball team member Debbie Moser thinks she might be more excited about 1976 if she were a senior in high school or college, but since she is a freshman she has no special feelings.



Moser



Duckett



Baly



Jessup



Stokes



Roebuck

She also said "Whites may have more to celebrate than blacks since black people have not been free ever since they came to America."

But Jeannie Duckett a member of the class of 1976 and a native of the nation's capitol thinks the occasion "is a bunch of bs" and says of the celebration that she "wasn't invited to the party." Duckett ask the question "What am I supposed to do, get in my car, drive to Philadelphia and ring the Liberty Bell?" She admitted that she wouldn't feel any different this July 4th just like she feels no special feelings on the anniversary of Martin Luther King's birth or Christmas. She did concede that she felt closer to the anniversary of King's birth than other special dates.

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## Bookkeeping Office Is Broken Into

by Cheryl E. Johnson

The bookkeeping office was broken into through an east window of the Race Hall Administration Building sometime during the night of January 19 and the motive was not money as "it was apparent they were looking for records," according to comptroller, Franklin Bailey.

He said the intruders "jumbled up the files and tampered with a cabinet that contained certain records, and it is apparent they were look-

ing for records," because there were other items of value "they could have taken but they did not."

Bailey said the two-room bookkeeping office set-up was "Just disrupted," and that in checking the premises the morning following the break-in he found "nothing missing" that he could see.

Police have completed a preliminary check, he said, but the incident is still under investigation. Bailey said he has no idea who broke in.

## Students Are Hauling To Class

### Dean Says Reinstated Class Attendance Policy Will Continue

by Cheryl E. Johnson

The class attendance policy that was reinstated last semester has resulted in "the best class attendance there has been in recent years," Dr. Chelsea Tipton, dean of the college, said. And he emphasized that "the course cut policy will continue."

Mrs. Linda Addo, an assistant professor of history, who was the chairwoman of the Committee on Class Attendance says she had only one of 55 freshmen dropped from her classes and no upper-

classmen at all. In her opinion, which is based on the students and classes she has, "the policy has worked well," she said.

"Several years ago," she said "I chaired the committee that drew up the non-compulsory attendance policy, the idea behind this proposal being that after a certain number of years if statistics indicated the policy was not working it would be studied again."

At the end of the experimental time period for the non-compulsory policy the statistics showed a

drop in student grades and a decline in class attendance. Since the committee felt that there was a definite connection between how often a student attended class and how well a student performed academically the committee drew up a mandatory class attendance policy which was modification of a previous policy, that was put into effect the fall of 1975.

Tipton said he was "certain that grades have improved a great deal." However, he added, "Indications I have from faculty members is that it is too early to determine the specific effects the policy has had on grade reports."

According to the dean's official tally of the number of students who were dropped from classes as a result of over cutting, 30 students were dropped from 40 courses. The sophomore class had the highest percentage of students dropped with 11 of the total 30. The freshman and senior classes followed with eight and seven, respectively, while the juniors had the smallest number of four.

Tipton said he was "sure we have had fewer freshman who have failed," this semester (fall '75) than in previous semesters when class attendance was left to the student's discretion.

"In the past," Addo said "I have never had much trouble with upper-classmen." It was on the freshman level, that she had difficulties with students demonstrating mature prudence by attending class and therefore, maintaining their best grades.

When asked the reason upper-classmen were subjected to the policy when evidence pointed to freshman being more lax in coming to class she said "In some instances there were a lot of upper-classmen who were not showing maturity," by attending class.

the white folks have. The 1960's was the first time a black mass stood together and came together for dignity and freedom. But a lot of people had to die so that we could walk and ride with pride."

On January 10, 1966, King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. At an ear-

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## 4'10" Frosh Choreographer Mental Giant

by Robyn-Denise Berryhill

Gradual silence slipped over the audience as the spotlights stripped the darkness from the stage. Faint sounds of Ramsey Lewis's "Sun Goddess" could be heard as dancers, already positioned on stage, began to move about. Suddenly one dancer dressed in white breaks away from the group and begins to execute steps with the agility and grace of a dove in flight.

She is sixteen year old Stephanie Mapp, the choreographer of the dance and a freshman English major.



photo by Cheryl E. Johnson  
Freshman Choreographer From Bermuda

Later, in her Jones Hall room, Stephanie, reflected on her background; interest in dance; and, her decision to come to Bennett: "My mother sent me to a ballet school when I was ten and at first I didn't like it very much. When I went to high school dance was a compulsory subject during the first two years. My mother is a dancer and founder of her own dance company, The Fiery Limbo Dancers. They dance on top of glass and stuff like that."

Stephanie added that at one time she was reluctant to pursue an interest in dance because "People would think I was following in my mother's footsteps."

Born June 4, 1959 in Bermuda, she is a graduate of Warwick Secondary School. During her sophomore year of high school she took the SAT "just to see how I would do," she explained. Stephanie did well on that exam, and as a result was offered early admission to Bennett thus skipping her senior year of high school by graduating early.

Her cousin Bobbie Durden, a sophomore and cartoonist for the BANNER influenced her decision to come to Bennett, greatly, with

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## Williams Climaxes King Commemoration

by Joyce Bass

A lecture by the Rev. Hosea Williams, former top assistant to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., climaxed the Martin Luther King Memorial program on Thursday, January 15, at 8:30 p.m. in Harrison Auditorium on the campus of A&T State University.

The program was organized to commemorate the birthday of Dr. King and was sponsored by the Student Government Association of A&T.

The ceremony, with the theme, "Walking With the King," was presided over by Ted Mangum, president of the A&T Student Government Association. After the invocation, music was rendered by the Scott Hall Group, followed by several modern dance presentations performed by local youth groups. Leonard Frye, a member of the A&T SGA then introduced the speaker.

Mr. Williams was a civil rights leader during the 1960's and served as special director of projects for Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Mr. Williams, a native of Bainbridge, Ga., worked with Dr. King for more than eight years. Since King's death, he has been actively engaged in politics, winning a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives in 1973.

Mr. Williams feels the black youth of today hold the key to tomorrow. He said, "Black people will never mess up America like