

# Haley To Speak At MC Commencement

Alex Haley, author of *Roots* and currently researching his third book in Norris, will be the keynote speaker at Morristown College's 103rd annual Commencement at 3 p.m. Sunday in the college gym.

He will address the college's graduating class. More than 800 persons are expected at the Commencement exercise.

Haley's first book, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, was published in 1965 and was selected among the "Ten Best American Books of the 1960s Decade," is now required reading in many U.S. high schools and colleges.

Haley's *Roots* became the biggest best-seller in U.S. publishing history. Published nationwide in 37 language translations, it has sold over six million hardcover copies.

A further phenomenon occurred when *Roots* was filmed into a 12-hour television mini-series. Its seven-night run during January, 1977, drew over 130 million viewers, the greatest program audience in television history.

Haley's writing has won him America's two topmost writing awards: the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Colleges and universities have awarded him 17 honorary academic doctorate degrees, while from other sources he has received over 300 special recognitions. Time magazine has labeled Haley "a folk hero," and his book, *Roots*, "a cultural landmark."

Haley is also expected to offer pointers to a group of state-funded researchers who are in the process of writing a book about the historically black, private, two-year church-supported college.

Morristown College, founded in 1881 to educate the children of newly freed slaves in East Tennessee, is the only historically black, junior college in the Appalachian region. The college awards the Associate of Arts, Science and terminal degrees.

Student enrollment has increased dramatically this year with students coming



HALEY

from 17 different states, the District of Columbia and seven foreign nations.

The weekend schedule is as follows:

■ Friday

Reception and dance for graduates, parents and friends, 8-11 p.m. in the college center.

■ Saturday

Coffee Hour, 9 a.m. in the library.

Annual Alumni Meeting, 10 a.m. in the library.

Lunch, noon in the cafeteria.

Alumni Banquet with Mrs. Marjorie Boyd Debnam speaking, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Dance, 10 p.m. in the college center.

■ Sunday

Baccalaureate Services at 10 a.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church.

Press Conference for Haley at noon in the college library.

Lunch at noon on the college lawn.

Commencement, 3 p.m. in the gym.

Reception at 4:30 p.m. in the library.