

# Checking The Problem Out (WAFR)

WAFR off the air? That is correct. WAFR with Mr. Robert Spruill is one of the few Black owned radio stations in the country and has gone off the air due to a lack of funds.

Started in 1970, WAFR, a non-commercial, uncensored radio station, has provided the community with many services which cost over \$18,000 a year. Such services have included

religious programming, news on the community level, Muhammad Speaks, and the Children's Program.

The Children's Program sponsored by WAFR received the highest program award in the nation. This program dealt with teaching Black children their history. They took children's songs, poems, and nursery rhymes and allowed

the children to make something from them. This permitted the children to relate with their African heritage. This program was commented on in an article in *Negro Education Magazine*.

WAFR also previously taught communication skills to students from NCCU.

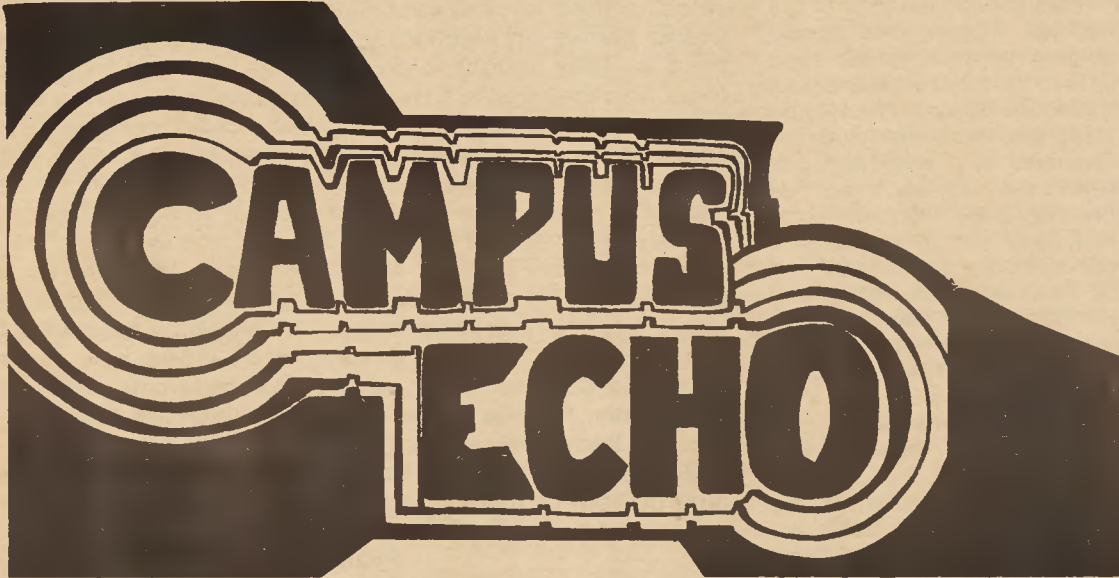
So what has happened to a station that has served the

community so well? Previously funds come from the government, private contributions, and the community. But now funds shall have to come from the community. The Health, Education, and Welfare gave WAFR an award for equipment, but not enough to cover operating expenses. The objective of WAFR is to continue broadcasting with the support of NCCU and the community.

Therefore, WAFR has a drive going to raise the money here on NCCU's campus and in the community. They are involved

in a fifteen-day plan (April 10-25) involving all the dormitories and organizations who are working to raise money for the cause. The administration of NCCU has also endorsed and approved this drive, along with some financial commitments.

Mr. Spruill, the president of WAFR, said the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity have been particularly responsive to the drive. Many of the dormitories and organizations are also sponsoring activities from car washes to dances in order to help this worthy cause.



Vol I, No VIII North Carolina Central University Durham, N.C.

## Robert Ouko "Abandoned" by NCCU

By Jacqueline Marshall

"I have been happy here and I have been getting along well with the students" is what Robert Ouko says as he speaks of his concern about his suspension.

As Ouko discusses his relationship with Jermundson as it began, the track star says Jermundson was a friend before he became coach. Robert says when he was in Africa, he "had nothing to do with white people. I did not know black and white and that white is supposed to be superior." He and Jermundson discussed this idea occasionally and even at times exchanged gifts. Also, the coach taught Ouko about "nigger talk" which was to mean talking and meaning nothing. In their many discussions, Jermundson also told Ouko that "blacks are disorganized and could not run athletic programs." Still, Robert considered him a friend.

What happened after Jermundson became track coach? He "wanted to make the program business — like with new rules." One rule was in running two races, no player could participate in the second race unless he had run in race one. A second rule was that all used books must be returned before one was allowed to get new ones. Robert is supposedly on a scholarship and he has not received books yet. He has even written to the Embassy in Washington trying to get money. Robert can not get money from home. He is 10,000 miles from home. He does not have money to pay his rent. He is not welcomed in the cafeteria. Where can he go?

There was an indoor track meet at Greensboro. Jermundson told Ouko to run two races. When Robert told the coach that he (Robert) was not physically in shape to run two races, but he would run one. Jermundson told Ouko that if he did not run two races, Robert would be dismissed from the team.

When Ouko went to Jermundson's office to find out why he was not to run that night, he noticed a change in the relationship they once shared. Upon Robert's entering the office, Jermundson asked, "What do you want, can I help you?" Ouko thought this strange since they were friends. Although Jermundson told Ouko he was not to run, Ouko did run the one-mile relay. Robert attributed the change in Jermundson's attitude to "his wanting power and publicity. He once said he would be glad to say he worked with great athletes. He wants to see his name as coaching the track team at NCCU. He is power hungry. I may be wrong."

Ouko was getting money for living expenses, one hundred dollars a month for food and rent. The morning he went to Jermundson's office to pick up his money, he was told there was no money because Robert refused to run two races; he had been dropped from the team. When Ouko asked him if there had been a hearing, the coach said he was the track coach and he had taken the action. Jermundson then called him a "black bitch" and said, "go back to Africa where you're from if you are not satisfied." He also said "get your black hands away from

me."

In Africa, Robert is trained to be a gentleman, so Robert simply asked the coach why he called him the name. Jermundson added that he would deny saying everything and asked Ouko "what are you going to do?" Robert decided that he would not leave the office until he had a witness to the incident. Robert called the security officers and they suggested that he file a complaint to the Administration because no physical violence occurred.

He requested and received a conference with Chancellor Whiting the following Wednesday at 12:00. Robert simply wanted to sit down and discuss the matter. It seemed that his views on the matter were being disregarded. When he arrived at the Chancellor's office, Chancellor Whiting was not alone. The Undergraduate Dean, Mr. Simmons, Coach Jermundson and Dr. Young were among the people there. Ouko had requested a private conference. Ouko did not know what to say. He was not contacted of any hearing although they said it was one. Ouko had no one there to represent him and he said, "Do what you want." Robert listened as the Chancellor said he was satisfied with what the coach did. Chancellor Whiting also informed Robert he had been dropped from the team. Ouko said the Chancellor also told him that he had come "to school here to study and return home, not to cause problems."

Debra Swann was not there. Ouko said there was a lack of student body participation in decisions. He was not represented by anyone on his

## Students Recognized in Awards Day

Over one hundred students were honored at the twenty-six annual Awards Day program on the first Friday of this month. Dr. Leonard H. Robinson presided over the occasion.

Attorney James E. Ferguson, II was guest speaker. He is an alumnus of the University and a member of the law firm of Chambers, Ferguson, Lanning and Stein of Charlotte, North Carolina. The touring choir presented two selections for the audience's pleasure.

The Chancellor's Award to the senior with the highest cumulative average was presented to two young ladies, Joan E. Parks and Theresa L. Little, both having a 3.8-average. The C. Ruth Edwards Memorial Award to the most outstanding senior music major was presented to Paula D. Harrell. Memorial

Awards were presented to the families of Gregory Bradsher, Hollis Hawes, and Alan Johnson. Awards were presented to the outstanding students by each department. Recipients of awards were honored with a luncheon immediately following the program in H.G. Pearson Cafeteria.

Forty-eight seniors were acknowledged as Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Also fourteen juniors received honorable mentions. Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Phi Alpha carried away the cups to the sorority and fraternity having the highest average over two semesters.

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Robert Ouko

side. Debra Swann, president of the student body, was to contact Robert later, but she had not done so. Robert feels "if she is to represent the people, she should take up the matter. She has not gotten in touch with me yet." Robert also thinks the Administration here does not consider the students to be anybody. Robert can not understand how the Chancellor made the decision without talking to Dr. Walker.

This is not the first time problems have occurred. Sometimes the athletes never get books because by the time the process of acquisition is completed, the books have been sold from the Union Book Store. Also, the track members are frequently in class for three days and on the track the rest of the week. No arrangements were made with the professors for tests. After returning to class, the athletes have to scramble

The reasons for the money-cut were given as inadequate funds, and Robert's refusal to run. Whatever the reasons, Robert does not consider himself dismissed from the team until a hearing is held. He is very proud of the NCCU track team. "The members have worked hard and we have not lost any big races." Ouko has agreed to run if his two demands are met. He wants the books and money which were cut, and a public apology from Jermundson whereby the coach admits a misunderstanding.

Ouko does not want to be singled out as an African causing problems in America. "I probably did mistakes too; maybe I should have run two races. I've wanted a consultation to solve the problem; what else can I do? If you don't make it better for me, then for those coming in after me."