

THE CAMPUS ECHO

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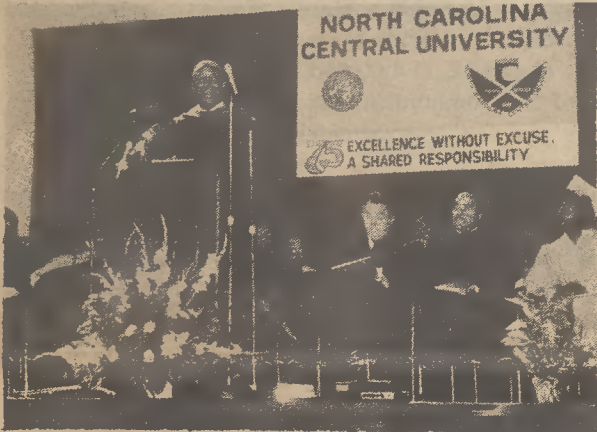
Friday, Oct. 5, 1984

Walker speech stresses the quest for excellence

By Valerie C. Skinner

Reach higher levels of motivation, prepare new programs so NCCU students can compete with graduates from all other universities, and avoid the pitfalls of computer-technostress, said Chancellor LeRoy T. Walker at the annual fall convocation in McDougald gymnasium Thursday, Oct. 4.

Some 1300 students, faculty, staff, and guests gathered to hear Walker's speech, "NCCU: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," which was filled with respect for his predecessors and NCCU's rich heritage; pride in the status that NCCU has achieved;



Chancellor Walker addresses crowd at the convocation. Pictured from left to right: the Rev. William Easley; Ben Ruffin, assistant to the governor; Walker; Roland Buchannan, vice-chancellor for Student Affairs; Waltz Maynor, director of Summer School; William Friday, president of the UNC system; George Thorne, director of financial affairs (partially shown); attorney Asa T. Spaulding; Tyronda Richmond, dean of the School of Business; and Danise Baynes, Miss NCCU. (Photo by Melvin Walker.)

and determination to see NCCU a part of the education mainstream.

"As we build on the NCCU of yesterday," Walker said, "we acknowledge that our rich history only proves that our present is secure and that we deserve a future."

During his speech, Walker urged faculty and students to step toward higher levels of motivation, saying, "I urge you to plan your future—carefully write your plans, set your target, decide your plan of attack, state what you are willing to give up to achieve your goal, visualize your action, see it happening and make it happen."

Walker noted that NCCU is now on a course of action which will allow less well-prepared students to graduate with the ability to meet "the rigorous standards imposed by a society which has little compassion for mediocrity."

He added that the decision to select 25 percent of the newly enrolled freshmen from the top 10 percent of their graduating class was designed to improve the academic standards of this university. However, he maintained, the procedure did not prevent entry for disadvantaged students, "for there is a distinct difference between underprepared and disadvantaged."

Walker outlined several points which would lead NCCU into a more successful academic future.

For faculty, he called for an updating of teaching material to be consistent with the demands of society and an implementation of assignments that would require greater use of libraries, laboratories and other resources of the university.

For students, he urged a greater utilization of writ-

ten and verbal skills; the development of a greater appreciation of excellence; the ability to do creative thinking; and more support for university programs.

Walker stated that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will be focusing more attention on the results of education as a means of improving education programs and services. Therefore, he called on members of the faculty to improve the level of teaching excellence and to demand more of students.

Walker added, "North Carolina must come to grips with its ability to provide support for the sixteen units of the University System and at the same time respond to the persistent demands of the 38 independent colleges and universities for a larger piece of the pie to educate North Carolina citizens enrolled in those institutions."

Walker also stated that NCCU's future must respond to the mandate of the Consent Decree, which suggests that our future is tied to its ability to accommodate all citizens of the state with its offerings and resources.

Walker warned against the pitfalls of computer-technostress, saying that despite the value of computers, they can cause "a loss of capacity to feel and relate to others."

Walker noted that despite his confidence in the security of NCCU as a part of the Durham community, he is less confident about "the extent to which our university personnel and especially our students will become a significant contributing part of the human resource pool" if they are not significantly motivated.

Default rate goes down; direct loans to students to begin again in spring

By Darryl E. Williams

The National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) will be available for students beginning second semester, the Financial Aid Office reported Thursday.

Students need to sign up in the Financial Aid Office on Oct. 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. according to Lola McKnight, financial director.

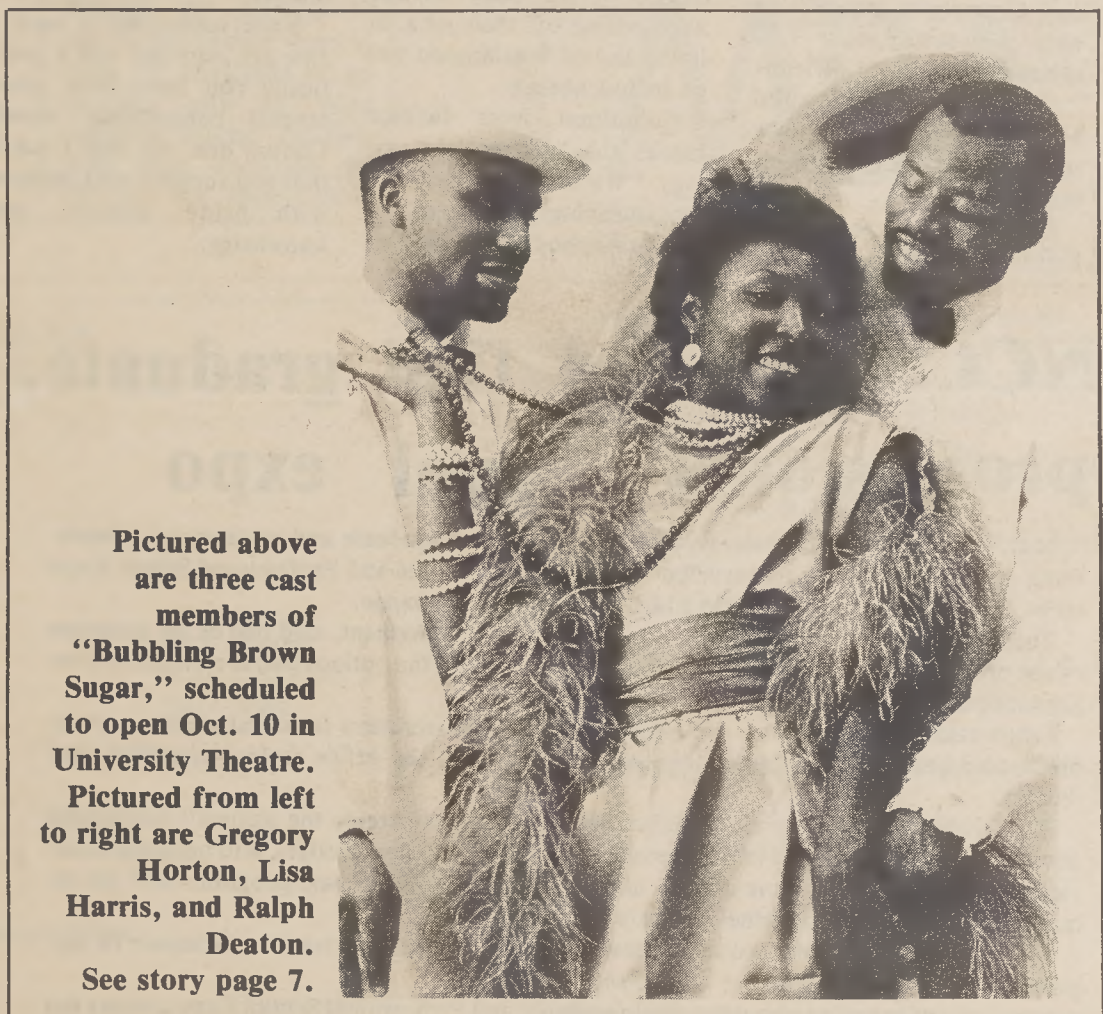
They need to have Need Analysis form on file from the American College Testing Service (ACT) or College Scholarship Service (CSS).

Of the students now enrolled at NCCU, 90 percent are on financial aid.

The NDSL loan has been in existence in the past," said McKnight, "but due to the high default rate caused by graduates not repaying their debts, the government discontinued the loan."

Students who are granted NDSL loans must begin payment six months after they graduate, leave school, or drop below part-time status. One is allowed up to 10 years to repay the loan. A minimum of \$30 a month is the standard payment. However, there are exceptions made in situations which involve illness or unemployment over a long period of time.

For further information, contact Lola McKnight in the Financial Aid Office.



Pictured above are three cast members of "Bubbling Brown Sugar," scheduled to open Oct. 10 in University Theatre. Pictured from left to right are Gregory Horton, Lisa Harris, and Ralph Deaton. See story page 7.