

THE CAMPUS ECHO

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Student morale high on Nov. 6

By Ronnie Hopkins

Over 200 N.C. Central students marched from campus to vote last Tuesday, Nov. 6.

"Today is not an end, but a beginning to insure justice and equality," said William Barber, SGA president.

Barber along with Danise Baines, Miss NCCU; Michael Mattocks, SGA vice-president; and other students ignited student interest as they marched around campus chanting "Vote, vote, the Democratic Way."

LaTonya Isley, coordinator of the NCCU Voter Participation Drive, commented that the high student morale was responsible for the vast student participation.

The rally started at the Alfonso A. Elder Student Union at 10:40 a.m. The group grew as it made its way through the campus and proceeded on to James E. Shepard Middle School.

"Our job is not complete until every registered student on this campus has voted," remarked Barber.

"I've done my duty, regardless of the outcome of this election," said Pat Anderson, a public administration major from Silver Spring, Md.

Despite the efforts of the SGA and students, there were mixed feelings regarding the outcome of the election.

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North Carolina's Prince Hall Masons have given \$1,000 to N.C. Central University for celebration of the Diamond Anniversary Year, marking the university's 75th year of service. The presentation was made on Founder's Day, Nov. 2, honoring the memory of Dr. James E. Shepard, founder of NCCU and for many years the Grand Master of the Masonic group. Shown, from left, are Edward B. Milliken Jr. of Siler City, the NCCU student who holds the \$1,000 North Carolina Prince Hall Masonic Scholarship; Chancellor LeRoy T. Walker; William A. Clement, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Jurisdiction of North Carolina; and R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the order.

Goodbye tobacco?

Bio profs research new crop for area

By Valerie C. Skinner

Research being conducted by Drs. John Ruffin and Umesh Banerjee of the N.C. Central University biology department could mean a new cash crop for North Carolina.

Ruffin and Banerjee are researching guayule, a latex-producing plant which grows wild in the western United States. This plant produces natural rubber which is superior to synthetic rubber and in some applications irreplaceable. At present the United States imports over \$500 million worth of natural rubber.

Guayule has the potential to be a cash crop in North Carolina because of its habitability to hot, dry weather. Ruffin and Banerjee are try-

ing to determine whether the plant will survive in less arid regions than its native southwest.

The research has been made possible under a \$30,000 grant to NCCU from the Department of Agriculture, sponsored under the Critical Agricultural Materials Act which authorized \$50 million in federal money to be spent for research and development projects involving guayule.

Ruffin said that the farmers in this region are excited about the rubber plant because it may be an alternative cash crop to tobacco and it may also reduce the frustrations of many farmers whose crops are damaged due to the humid weather during summer months.

Panel analyzes election results

By Helen Eagleson

"It is clear that a Republican wave is sweeping the country...with an undying support for Reagan," said Dr. Jeffery Elliot, associate professor of the political science department, at a symposium sponsored by the political science department, "Election '84: Analysis and Prognosis," Nov. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alfonso Elder Student Union.

The symposium, which featured members of the political science department, state representatives, and the chairman of the Black Committee for Republicans, was moderated by WTVD noon anchor Miriam Thomas. It examined the impact of the election in North Carolina and the nation.

Had Reagan received a landslide victory and the necessary mandate many television commentators had acknowledged?

Political science chairman Dr. Joseph Aicher said Reagan did receive a landslide but questioned the term mandate. "Reagan did receive 525 electoral votes, but the Reagan coat tails did not take many in with him with the exception of North Carolina," said Aicher.

Aicher noted that the Republicans gained one governor; final breakdown: 33 Democratic governors and 17 Republican governors.

In the senate, the Republicans lost two representatives, leaving a total of 53 Democrats and 47 Republicans.

Although the Republicans gained between 12-14 seats in the

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Speakers Forum lacks '84 budget, seeks increase in '85

By C.S. Keys

The Speakers Forum has yet to schedule any speakers for the 1984-'85 school term because no budget has been issued.

For the past five years the Speakers Forum's funding has remained the same, \$3,200, thus prompting Eugene A. Eaves, head of the program, to request a raise in the budget to \$10,000. Eaves said that "\$7,000 of the new budget would be used for speakers and travel; the remainder would provide for receptions, publicity, supplies, and materials and video-tapes."

The Speakers Forum, also known as the Forum Lectures Program, has the responsibility to inform students. "The responsibility to bring speakers that can bring pertinent and contemporary information to an otherwise uninformed student body and community," is a main function of the program.

Eaves said the forum must have adequate funding to bring the "big name" speakers in. An average speaker can cost anywhere from \$400 to \$1,000. The big name speakers can cost \$2,500 to \$6,000 and up. With prices like these, Eaves feels that his small budget forces him to be a "magician" in trying to get good speakers to the NCCU campus. The increase in the budget will permit Eaves to do his job with better flexibility and to entertain various requests from the many departments on campus.

In a letter sent to Dr. Leroy T. Walker, chancellor of NCCU, on July 30, 1984, requesting a budget increase, Eaves set up the format for the Speakers Forum for the '84-'85 school year. In the memorandum, Eaves said, "the university should be prepared to receive at least two big name speakers — one each semester. Lesser known speakers, but equally authoritative, could be utilized to forecast each of these events." This would mean that four speakers, i.e., two each semester, would be scheduled. That would result in a total of six speakers for the entire year.

Some have speculated that Walker may try to combine the

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