

## NCCU Students Stage Boycott

By Jackie Stewart

North Carolina Central University students staged a one-day class boycott on February 17 to show their support as a body for the necessity of having more student input in the decision-making process that affects student life.

One issue of concern was having only one student representative on the search committee for the new chancellor. Central's SGA president, Curtis Massey, recently told *The Voice* that they felt it would "be difficult for one person to represent 4,500 students." Politically speaking, Massey felt that "one voice out of eleven (members of the committee) could be virtually ignored."

Another issue involved was the acquisition of a commencement speaker. The administration picked Dr. Bernard Watson, President of the William Penn Foundation, while senior class representatives were "sent out on a wild goose chase" and had made contact with Maynard Jackson, formerly Mayor of Atlanta. As a result, the contacting of two speakers caused some confusion.

Massey said that in spite of some faculty members scheduling "pop quizzes" in an effort to keep people in classes, many students did boycott classes. However, only about 300 actually participated in the demonstration itself. Mr. Massey, expressing a feeling that is echoed throughout the



**FOUNDATION RECEIVES DONATION**--Mr. Albert L. Morris, Vice President/Corporate Communications presents a \$10,000 donation from Carolina Power and Light Company to Chancellor Charles A. Lyons. Also pictured are Mr. Felton Capel, (L) Chairman of FSU's Board of Trustees and Mr. Thomas A. Warren (R), Area Manager for CP&L.

nations campuses, said "Some students just don't give a damn."

As for the actual results of the boycott, Massey said, "We felt we made progress in the area of gaining respect from them (the administration)."

## Senate Discusses Student Rights

By Cheryl McCalop

The Senate held an important Student Body Meeting on February 16. The purpose of that meeting was to bring constitutional awareness to the students of FSU.

The Constitution, which is part of the Student Handbook, was given out at the meeting and student rights were discussed. SGA President Everett Johnson was asked about the pay of the resigned Business Manager, Mr. Bobby Mahdi. Since Mr. Johnson is now doing the work of the Business Manager, the students wanted to know if he was getting paid for that position also. Mr. Johnson said that he was not getting the pay and that he plans to appoint someone to that position on February 24. (The Business Manager is paid \$50.00 per month).

Mr. Nero Coleman, senator from the Pep Club, argued that because the students do not know their constitutional rights, they allow things to happen to them when they are protected against such things by the constitution. He said his comments were prompted by an incident that happened

to Mr. John McNeill, president of the Freshman Class. Mr. McNeill is accused of breaking out a window in the gym, and the school is forcing him to pay for it. Mr. Coleman feels that Mr. McNeill's rights were violated and that it should have been reviewed by the Student Court, before any punishment was levied. It is incidents like that, says Mr. Coleman, which make it so important that students know their constitutional rights.

The Senate also discussed the lack of Senator participation in meeting. According to Senate Vice-President Roy Davenport, it is hard to function or carry out the needs of the students when student representatives do not come to meetings or let the needs of the students be known.

The Senate will be asking students to attend the Board of Trustees Meeting, scheduled for April 1. The Senate urges all interested students and senators to attend the regular senate meetings.

(On-campus students may pick up handbooks at their residences, and off-campus students can get them from Mr. Veazie in the student center.)

## Rental Book Problems

By Willie Smith

It has come to the attention of the bookstore staff that some students are signing up for classes, acquiring the needed text for these classes, dropping the classes and failing to return the text to the bookstore. This causes a problem as it creates a deficiency of available books, which in turn causes the bookstore to have to order more books from the factory. The new books are obviously more expensive.

The bookstore staff is asking that any students who rent books from the bookstore, please return them upon termination of the class for which the book was needed.

## From The Grassroots

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public that executions would save taxpayers money over incarcerating prisoners for life terms. Convicted murderers were, as a group, dangerously antisocial individuals who would undoubtedly kill innocent people again once released. Evangelical white ministers even quoted Exodus 21: 23-25 to justify capital punishment: You shall give "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

The solid evidence against all these pro-death viewpoints is simple enough. In the mid 1970s a group of influential econometricians examined Ehrlich's research and declared that it was "fatally flawed with numerous methodological errors." Neither Hoover nor any social scientist has ever proven a direct relationship between capital punishment and crime deterrence. The public was told repeatedly that capital punishment is more costly to the state than life imprisonment. In 1971, for example, it was estimated that the commutation of death sentences of 15 Arkansas prisoners saved the state an estimated \$1.5 million. The former assistant warden of Illinois's Cook County Jail noted that "on the average, a capital case, from the time of first commitment to the jail until the body is disposed of after an execution, costs about 25 percent more than the price of 30 years of imprisonment which, on the average, was the normal life expectancy at the age of conviction of capital cases. Capital punishment is by no means 'cheaper' than life imprisonment, and the jurisdiction that maintains it pays dearly in both money and human costs." Black and progressive white clergy observed correctly that the Bible also sanctions capital punishment "in cases of adultery (Lev. 20:10), blasphemy (Lev. 24:15), working on the sabbath (Ex. 35:2), refusing to obey a priest or judge (Deut. 17:12), disobedient children (Deut. 21:18), fornication (Deut. 22:23) and sixteen other offenses. Death penalty advocates who prided themselves on their Christianity conveniently forgot that

Christ told his followers, "You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' but I say unto you, Do not resist one who is evil." (Matthew 5:38-39) The apostle Paul wrote in the New Testament, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'" (Romans 12:19)

White America continued to be unconvinced: the passions of the mob drowned out the exhortations of a Christ. By 1978, almost 70 percent of all white Americans favored capital punishment. After ending the death penalty in 1967, the Supreme Court reversed itself a decade later. By June, 1981, 827 men and women were on death row, the largest number in U.S. history and probably the largest in the world. Since 1972, 62 percent of the prisoners sentenced to die "were unskilled, service, or domestic workers; 60 percent were unemployed at the time of their crimes." Capital punishment has again become a pivotal element in maintaining white supremacy. According to the Institute of Southern Studies, in Georgia, between 1973 and 1977, over three times as many convicted defendants who had killed white victims received a death sentence as did those who had killed black victims. Three fourths of the prisoners condemned were in the South, and almost half were black. Blacks in the U.S. account for over half (54 percent) of all murder victims and homicide is now the leading cause of death for black people between the age of 25 to 34. Only 13 percent of all prisoners now on death row had black victims. Legal activist Clare Jupiter has clearly linked racism, lynchings and the current use of capital punishment: "lynch mobs were ostensibly illegal, but the actions of juries are legally recognized as the will of the community. By their deliberations and selection of the proper victims for official murder, modern juries--especially Southern juries--echo a familiar message: white skin and wealth are still the best tools for beating the death penalty."

## Collegiate Briefs

CH-The Oklahoma State University Board of Student Publications recently approved a \$100,000 loan to the student newspaper for the purchase of new computer typesetting equipment. The loan will come from the student yearbook reserve account. The equipment could cost up to \$400,000, but the School of Journalism and the University are also expected to aid in the purchase.\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*The Idaho State U. student newspaper staff reinstated a 40-year tradition by renaming the paper the *Bengal*. The ISU paper was known as the *Advocate* from 1976 until now, as the *Speculum* from 1970 to 1976. But, as the newspaper noted in announcing the new name, it was called the *Bengal* for the 40 years prior to that. The current editors say they want to give the paper a new look along with a new (old) name.\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*A Florida judge recently ordered U. of Florida administrators to pay \$15,000 in legal fees for the plaintiffs in a successful lawsuit to open dean search committee. The plaintiffs included Campus Communications Inc., publishers of the student newspaper, and a former law school student. The original decision is still under appeal and the UF administration has indicated it may appeal the legal fee award as well.

## North Carolina Briefs

A 51-year-old Raleigh man is being held in Wake County jail on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm. Wilbert Dew was captured early today after holding off police for an hour. The incident reportedly began when he cut his roommate, Ella Mae Williams, on the arm. The woman called authorities. Shortly after they arrived, officers said Dew pulled out a semi-automatic rifle.

State officials say North Carolina's unemployment rate last month reached the highest peak since April of 1975. The employment security commission says jobless rate in January was 9.1 percent. The national unemployment rate was 9.4 percent, only three tenths of a percent higher than North Carolina's rate. Nearly 264,000 people were out of work last month compared to nearly 131,000 the previous year.