

## Campus Corner

# UNC-CH, NCCU Could Both Benefit From Exchanging Personnel

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill could both benefit from something that NCCU Chancellor Julius Chambers has proposed.

Under the idea, a small number of NCCU professors would be encouraged to teach in Chapel Hill, and a larger number of UNC-CH faculty would take their instruction to Durham.

"There is a need, in my view, for more cooperation between N.C. Central and the University of North Carolina (at Chapel Hill)," Chambers, a long-time civil rights lawyer and activist, told the UNC Faculty Council.

"We can't afford ... to provide more. You have a wealth of scholarship," Chambers said. "And I don't understand why we can't sit down and map out some kind of exchange that will allow all institutions to grow."

"Wouldn't it be beneficial to both schools' students?" he asked. "I'm not suggesting by any means that it is all a one-way street. We have something to offer, too."

UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin welcomed further talks.

"The proximity between Chapel Hill and Durham makes this possible," he said. "I look forward to continuing the conversation you have begun today."

NCCU would not be the sole benefactor of the idea, according to Chambers.

Despite attempts to recruit and to retain more minority professors, only 49 of about 1,650 tenured and tenure-track faculty at UNC-CH are black. That, said Chambers, must send a curious message to minority students.

"I often ask myself, 'How do my students look at UNC?'" he said. "And I have to wonder also, 'How do your minority students look at Chapel Hill?' I am not suggesting by any means that this exchange is a

one-way street."

The swap, if completed, would be one of only a handful nationwide.

"These agreements are not very common," said Ansley Abraham, a spokesman at the Southern Regional Education Board. "And when they do occur, they are usually informal arrangements between two schools in one area — not unlike UNC and NCCU."

Chambers said the Los Angeles riots led him to reflection on the racial tensions still existing in this country. He has served as the NAACP's legal counsel and worked with the Legal Defense Fund on numerous race discrimination battles.

"I developed an opinion that we really are not doing enough," he said.

Chambers asked what the country's institutions of higher education are doing. "I'm afraid, as I look around this nation, one must answer: not as much as they have to."

One thing that UNC and NCCU administrators can do is try to develop close work

ing relationships between the mostly white Chapel Hill campus and the historically black Durham school, Chambers said.

"We have a number of students there suffering daily," said Chambers, who received his law degree from the UNC School of Law. "There is no basis for excluding, to me, a significant part of this population from the resources."

One simple thing that could be done is to get Central's library on a computer network already linking UNC's library system with those at Duke University and North Carolina State University, Chambers said.

For the long range, UNC and N.C. Central could consider joint research projects into the causes and impacts of segregation, poverty and other racial concerns facing the country, he said.

"I believe that people working together can address properly the problems I've tried to draw out," Chambers said. "That's my plea."

## UT Gives Priority To Minority Students And Faculty

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee's flagship campus, responding to a report on race relations, is committed to increasing minority scholarships and retaining black faculty, chancellor Bill Snyder said last week.

The recommendations from the Commission for Blacks renewed goals outlined five years ago in a task force study prepared after a series of racist incidents on campus.

"I join the commission in working together toward the common goal we all seek of a true multicultural community,"

Snyder said.

"I share the commission's concern about the high turnover rate (of faculty), and that is an issue we will address quickly."

The commission is composed of students, faculty and staff. Dhyana Ziegler, a broadcasting professor, is chairwoman.

"We need to lead by example. We need a commitment from the highest levels of the university," she said.

In the 1989-90 academic year, 65 of 1,095 professors at UT-Knoxville were black. Today, there are 30 fewer professors overall — 15 fewer blacks, according to the

Office of Instructional Research.

The commission said the number of scholarships for black students has increased, despite tougher economic conditions. The university gave 259 scholarships to minority students this year.

But the panel said more financial aid is needed to recruit black students and assure they don't drop out.

Snyder said he has asked each vice chancellor to respond in detail on how the recommendations are being implemented.

Other areas of concern to the commission:

- Increasing the number of black employees in the women's athletic department.

- Improving participation by minority vendors in bidding for contracts.

- Expanding dialogue with community groups on campus race relations.

"There is very little interaction with community leaders," Ms. Ziegler said. "There is a feeling in some parts of the city that UT doesn't nurture its students. Setting up a dialogue is easy to fix."

## Alice Walker's Works Mark Curriculum At Mary Holmes

WEST POINT, Miss. (AP) — Visit the Mary Holmes College campus and you'll find copies of it in book bags and backpacks, topping stacks of textbooks and on professors' desks.

During this semester, "The Color Purple" and some other novels by Alice Walker are required reading throughout the campus.

As part of the latest edition of "Reading, Writing and Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum," all students are reading Walker's works. They will be taught at least one unit on the author and her works in each class, and will take a comprehensive test in March, said Clarence Simmons, coordinator of the program at the West Point junior college campus.

"We want to involve the entire college

in activities that would stimulate students' reading, writing and critical thinking across the curriculum on a selected book," he said.

The program started three years ago with Richard Wright's "Native Son."

Taking one author each semester, the program has gone through Shakespeare's "Hamlet," Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," James Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time," "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, "Jubilee" by Margaret Walker and Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea."

Students tackled John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" last semester.

"This involves all disciplines and classes. All teachers develop a unit. Last semester, with 'The Grapes of Wrath,' science classes studied the conditions of the

Dust Bowl that caused the Joad family to go to California," Simmons said.

"This semester, psychology classes may study the psychological effects of Celie's experiences in 'The Color Purple' and explain why a father would rape his daughter or why a husband would beat his wife."

Religion classes will study how Celie viewed God, how she turned from God and saw him as a "white man's God" and then turned back to the church.

Not only the works but the life, travels and philosophies of Alice Walker will be studied, causing students to see the world through her eyes, the coordinator said.

"I hope students will see her as a writer comparable to many of the great American writers and will see her as a black woman

expressing her views of the world we live in and how she grew from her experiences. Her works are very readable, and I think that everyone will enjoy studying her novels."

There will be essay assignments, panel discussions, screenings of Steven Spielberg's movie adaptation of "The Color Purple" and a convocation this month.

Simmons thinks the novel, along with works like "The Temple of My Familiar," "Possessing the Secret of Joy" and "The Third Life of Grange Copeland" will be discussed over soft drinks in the student union and lunches at the cafeteria by both faculty and students.

"This will give us all something in common," he said.

## Alcorn Alumni Vow To Keep School Open Without Merger

DETROIT (AP) — The alumni of a historically black Mississippi college vowed last week to keep the school independent rather than support a state-proposed merger with a predominantly white college.

The Mississippi state College Board has suggested joining Alcorn State University with Mississippi State University as part of a U.S. Supreme Court order to desegregate public universities.

But the nearly 300 Alcorn alumni, meeting in Detroit last weekend, said their

school would be destroyed under such a plan.

"I couldn't have gone anyplace if it hadn't been for Alcorn," said Rev. Hooker Davis, a retired United Methodist Minister from Keyport, N.J.

Davis said some Alcorn students don't have the academic background needed to be accepted at the larger state schools, but succeed with the personal attention of Alcorn's faculties. He said other students can't afford to attend the larger Mississippi universities.

Alcorn was founded in 1871 and is the nation's oldest land grant college for blacks, who compose 95 percent of the college's student population.

Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Mississippi university system continues to discriminate against blacks. In October, the College Board proposed a restructuring plan which included the Alcorn merger and cuts of \$27 million from the \$186.3 million state allocation to eight public universities.

Last weekend, Alcorn president Walter

Washington urged alumni to fight the merger.

"Every Alcornite across this nation needs to make a contribution to that effort," he said.

Washington said the college has personally contacted each member of the Mississippi legislature, asking that the school remain independent.

"We're the shakers and the movers in our neighborhoods and our communities, in our states and our nation," he told the alumni. "You strengthen the Alcorn legacy."