

## FEATURES

# Black Coalition fails in attempt to halt vet school

By DAVID SQUIRES  
EDDIE MARKS  
Staff Writers

Despite threatened legal action to force construction of a proposed school of veterinary medicine at predominantly black N.C. A&T State University, final approval has been given to place the school at N.C. State University.

The North Carolina Alumni and Friends Coalition, a group founded in 1973 to strengthen historically black universities, has filed suit in the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals seeking a restraining order to prevent construction of the school at N.C. State.

"We're asking the court to have the vet school constructed at A&T," said Lawrence Cooper of Durham, chairman of the coalition. "We feel that putting the school at A&T would give them a major program. N. C. State doesn't need it because they're already established."

The suit has been turned down once in a lower court, Cooper said. Although the appeals court has made no official decision, he said the chances are not good for a favorable ruling.

"I understand the judge is going to turn it down," Cooper said. "The only

recourse would be to appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. We don't have the time or the money to do that."

The UNC Board of Governors Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs gave final approval to the N.C. State site at its meeting Sept. 23. Committee member John Sanders said the full board probably will give official approval to the project at its Oct. 13 meeting.

"A vote by the full board is just a formality," Sanders said. "The board already has \$9 million in the budget for the school. All they have to do now is ask the legislature for another \$22 million to complete the project."

Construction of the school should begin at N.C. State in February, Sanders said. The first students would be admitted in 1981.

The vet school site has been debated since 1974. The Board of Governors has been under pressure from officials of A&T and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to locate the school on the A&T campus to promote desegregation of the state university system.

In November, 1974 A&T Chancellor Lewis Dowdy told the board that racial considerations should be a factor in locating the school.

"By locating the vet school at

A&T," Dowdy said, "we are confident that more white students and faculty would be attracted to our campus."

Burleigh Webb, dean of the A&T School of Agriculture, also was instrumental in making the school's proposal in 1974. After last month's decision to place the vet school at N.C. State, Webb said he is disappointed but will accept the committee's action.

"We made our pitch and we lost," Webb said. "Whatever we think of the decision at this point in time is a moot question because we are still part of the university system."

"It's very disappointing but there's no use crying over it now. If there's a system that affects me because I'm black I can't be talking about the system unless I get out of it or correct it from the outside."

Webb said he does not think HEW will pressure UNC further over the vet school decision.

"I've seen communications to the effect that HEW doesn't intend to use this issue as a prime argument. Both schools were asked to submit a racial impact statement as part of their proposal and both schools did."

Desegregation was not a significant factor in the comparisons between the two schools, Webb said.

"Even at capacity the proposed school would have only 320 students," he said. "That wouldn't significantly change the racial balance at A&T."

A vet school would make A&T more attractive to white students, Webb said.

"One of the problems black schools have in attracting whites is in the strength of their programs," he said. "The school could have put A&T in a position to make a different kind of contribution to the state."

"If you only had one vet school in the state, anyone wanting to major in veterinary medicine would have to go to that school or go out of state. A good example of that is Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. That school is also predominantly black. But a good proportion of the students at the vet school there is white."

"A vet school would definitely help A&T more than it would N.C. State."

Cooper said commitments made by UNC to HEW last spring to implement a desegregation plan for the statewide university system will probably not apply to the vet school situation.

The desegregation plan agreed upon by UNC and HEW called for strengthening of the programs at the five traditionally black state-supported schools in the system so enrollment would begin to be based on non-racial reasons.

The plan also called for giving priority to traditionally black schools when deciding where to place new degree programs.

"HEW will not hold UNC to those agreements in this case," Cooper said, "because the decision to have the vet school at N.C. State was made before the HEW plan was accepted."

Selection of the N.C. State site was based on a report commissioned by the Board of Governors in 1974. The study rated both A&T and N.C. State on a point system, giving 499 points to A&T and 1050.76 points to N.C. State.

One of the most important reasons given for favoring N.C. State was the availability of land for the vet school. A&T would have only 300 acres available for the school and no land for a research farm, the report said. N.C. State has 1800 acres available for the school and a 220-acre research farm.

## Second production emphasizes Black Art

By JOYCE BASS  
Staff Writer

For those who were fortunate enough to see the drama production "Down Home," that enjoyment will be equaled or intensified this year by a second production under the direction of Lee Greene, Assistant Professor of the UNC English Department.

This year, the drama production will concentrate on the 1925 era and follow American life as it affected Black American art. At the same time the play will emphasize how European immigrants influenced Black culture.

"The production will show how this culture emerged as a unique way of life," said Greene.

Greene said that the idea for the production stemmed from the English 84 classes on Black American Literature. He said that the script, props and music are all original and were designed especially for the production.

"Basically we will look at the history and art of this period in regards to changing Black American musical forms," said Greene. "We also intend to include some aspects of the Marcus Garvey Movement and how it influenced that period."

Although the basic ideas behind last year's production, "Down Home," and the upcoming production are the same, there is a significant difference.

"The difference between last year's production and this year's production is that this production will concentrate on one aspect of American Life and it will use one group to illustrate life in that period," said

Greene.

Drama productions are not one-man shows. In order to convey the type of life-styles that were led during this period, a cast is needed. And Greene says these cast persons are not solely from English 84 classes.

"The actors, actresses and dancers come from outside the Humanities Division. At present we have cast members from all areas of student classification. We have several freshmen who are playing leading roles in the production. This year we will have a fuller orchestra, which will make it more of a full-scale production than before. There is no competition for parts. Everyone makes a contribution," Greene said.

He added that although casting is complete to a certain point, there is still a need for singers in a group scene, and for persons who have artistic abilities to build sets. Costume designing is also an area where help is needed. The costumes for the period will include the popular "zoot suits" and "flapper" style evening wear for the ladies.

With the completion of sets, rehearsals will follow so that the November 11 stage debut can be met. "The only thing that will postpone the opening night is some unforeseen tragedy," said Greene.

The cast members include "stars" from last year's production in addition to many new faces. Some of the returning cast are Skip Harker, Roz Fuse, Gary Griggs and Ada Cherry. Writers assisting with the production are Edna Brown and Stanley Brooks, while music will be directed by Sharon Wellington.

The final weeks of preparation will begin soon and the curtain will rise for the second time on a Lee Greene production. Will there be others?

"Last year was the first time we attempted a production of this sort. Hopefully, this one will be produced more than once. There have been discussions on the possibilities of a TV airing and the possibility of taking it on the road. Mind you, these are all possibilities," said Greene smiling.

Meanwhile, the cast is working hard to polish their parts and the orchestra is rehearsing to finalize tempos. The production will take place in Memorial Hall and admission will be free. Parents, students and faculty are all invited to enjoy an evening with Lee Greene and company.

### MAHOGANY FLORIST

(delivers daily)

### BOUTIQUE JEWELRY CARDS and GIFTS

(Imports from Africa, India, Caribbean,  
and South America)

Specializing in Black greeting cards, Afro Jewelry, and Art

967-6887

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
400 W. Rosemary St.

Sunday 1-6 p.m.  
Chapel Hill (Across from Dips Country Kitchen)