



The Campus Echo

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27707
VOLUME 40-Number 4 "TRUTH AND SERVICE THROUGH INFORMATION"

WHEN DRIVING HOME
FOR SPRING BREAK,
DON'T FLY AS AN
EAGLE!

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1980

NCCU BIOLOGIST RECEIVES GRANT FROM FOREST SER.

A North Carolina Central University biologist has begun a search for a biological control for a disease which has eliminated the American Elm from much of the Midwest and threatens elm trees throughout the nation.

Dr. Elzie Laube, associate professor of biology at NCCU, will look for a microbe which will attack the European Elm Bark beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus*) which carries the Dutch Elm disease. The research is funded by a \$10,000 grant from the United States Forest Service.

Many of the relatively rare American Elms in Durham are infected by Dutch Elm Disease. Chris Boyer, City Arborist for the City of Durham, will assist Dr. Laube in finding the diseased trees in Durham.

The disease itself is caused by a fungus, but the fungus is spread by the adults of the beetle. The beetle lays its eggs beneath the bark of the tree and the larvae which hatch feed beneath the bark, spreading the fungus as they go. Eventually, the fungus, *Ceratocystis*

ulmi, spreads throughout the tree.

If a single tree is infected in a grove of elms, the disease spreads quickly, Dr. Laube said. He said the spreading roots of the elms will meet below the ground, forming root grafts. "The fungal spores move from the roots of one tree into the other tree," Dr. Laube said, thus spreading the disease.

Dr. Laube will raise the beetle larvae in "cultures," beds of bark.

Various microscopic organisms will be added to the bark beds. If any of several organisms expected to attack the larvae actually do cause the death of the larvae, further screening will be conducted to insure that the control agent won't affect other life forms.

Present controls against Dutch Elm Disease are chemical. One involves driving fungicidal chemicals under the bark of the tree. "That method now does almost as much damage to the tree as does the disease," Dr. Laube said.

The only other effective

chemical control known is the spraying of pesticides, usually DDT, to destroy the beetles. Those pesticides however can wipe out the entire population of insects in an area, as well as the birds which feed on those insects.

"DDT will kill the good bugs and the bad bugs, the good birds and the bad birds," Dr. Laube said.

Sanitation, the removal of diseased limbs and trees, has been effective in limited areas.

Dr. Laube will be assisted in his research by Ms. Pamela Webber, an NCCU graduate student from Shelby, N.C. He will work on the project with Dr. H. Allen Thomas of the Southeastern Forest Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service, and with two scientists in the Forest Service's Northeastern division, Dr. Horace Mazzone of Camden, Conn., and Dr. John Peacock of Delaware, Ohio.

Funding was arranged through the Northeastern division of the Forest Station in the Research Triangle Park, Dr. Laube said.



THE CAMPUS ECHO camera caught these happy NCCU Eagles relaxing in the park near Baynes Hall. Besides playing backgammon, the students are also probably thinking about spring break which officially begins tomorrow afternoon. Classes will resume March 24, at 8 a.m.

CBS REPORTER TO SPEAK ON AWARDS DAY

Lee Thornton, White House reporter for CBS Television News, will be North Carolina Central University's Awards Day speaker Friday, April 4th.

Awards Day recognizes student achievement in both academic and extracurricular areas. Ms. Thornton will speak at 11a.m., April 4th, in B.N. Duke Auditorium.

Ms. Thornton is actually Dr. Thornton. She holds a Ph.D. degree in mass communications from Northwestern University, as well as the master of arts degree in speech from Michigan State University and the bachelor of science degree in speech therapy from Washington, D.C. Teachers College.

Ms. Thornton has been assigned to White House re-

porting for CBS since October, 1977. She had previously been a general assignment reporter at the CBS News Washington Bureau. She joined CBS News in 1974 as a reporter-assignment editor, based in New York.

Prior to joining CBS News Ms. Thornton was a reporter, producer, writer and anchor person for WLWT Television in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has also taught at Ohio State University and at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago City College. She was also a teaching assistant at Michigan State University and a speech therapist in the Washington, D.C., public school system.

She is a native of Leesburg, Va., and grew up in Washington.

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR COED WEEK

By **BERNICE JEFFREYS**
Echo Staff Writer

Musical drama, candlelight dinner, guest speakers and cookouts are only a few of the many activities in the planning stage for Coed Week. Coed Week is an annual event held March 29th through April 2nd.

Coed Week serves as a time to bring students together through a variety of activities. It is a student activity sponsored by the Student Steering Committee.

The Student Steering Committee was separate for men and women until 1976. At this time it was combined and now serves as a working unit to ensure a cohesive flow of information between the dormitories. It

is composed of House Council members and presidents of each dormitory.

This year's president of the Student Steering Committee is Jerry Farris and vice-president is Rowena Newton. The Student Steering Committee also sponsors the senior breakfast, the Christmas sing, and is overseer of open visitation. In preparing for Coed Week President Farris stated this year's theme is "Let's Pull Together." He emphasized that he would like to see students take advantage of not only the social and athletic events of Coed Week but also the educational portion.

After giving the little Aggies at A&T State three years to catch up with their famous and traditional losing streak to the mighty Eagles at North Carolina Central, NCCU finally took the driver's seat again and slipped A&T out of the MEAC tournament in the first round. See related story in this issue's sports section.

