

The Campus Echo

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Blackwell: "...no aid for summer school." Financial aid future bleak

By Teresa A. Burke

No financial aid for NCCU summer school students is the latest Reagan budget cutting measure to hit the Central campus.

In addition, says Wallace Blackwell, director of Student Financial Aid, the National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) for 1981-82 has been suspended until the 58 percent default rate has been reduced by 25 percent.

Recently University of North Carolina President William Friday appeared before the joint House and Senate Base Budget Sub-committee on Education, which has asked for proposals to cut six percent from the 16-campus system's operating budget.

Friday protested to legislators that the proposed cuts "would cripple the university system immediately."

According to George Thorne, chief budget officer for NCCU, the proposal to cut \$32 million for 1981-82 and \$33 million for 1982-83 "has not been finalized."

At this time, the areas "to be cut have not been identified," said Thorne.

Varied Reactions and Reality

For some, financial aid is manna from heaven, the only means of getting out of a perpetuating cycle of ignorance and poverty. For others, student aid is costly, counterproductive, and often fraudulent.

"If aid is cut, then I'm cut. This is the only means I have at getting an education and bettering myself," said Rebecca Jeffries, a 19 year-old sophomore from Orlando, Fla.

"I made it without any kind of financial assistance. Times were harder 20 years ago when I was in college; I had to really scrape and sacrifice semester to semester. Kids today need a good kick in the ass to make them appreciate educational opportunities," said an administrator at a North Carolina black college.

Despite the differing opinions, the reality of educational cutbacks is here. The Reagan administration proposes to amend three federal student aid programs and phase out the Social Security Student Benefit program in order to achieve costs savings, to "restore" the focus of Federal student aid to the "truly needy," and to emphasize the traditional role of the student and the family in meeting the costs of higher education.

The Reagan Proposals

To achieve these goals the Administration proposes to amend the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program by

- providing students GSLs only for remaining need after other sources of Federal student aid and family contributions have been counted. Student loans will be limited to the amount of need for educational cost remaining after deducting all other aid and an expected family contribution. A needs test will be administered to see if a student qualifies; most affected will be lower-middle income students;

- eliminating the in-school interest subsidy (the Federal Government currently pays to lenders the interest on a loan while the student is in school). Instead of receiving a federal subsidy while the student is in school, or a deferment or grace period, the lender will be allowed to add student borrower's accruing interest to the principal amount;

- eliminating the federal special allowance payment to lenders of parent loans;

- allowing lenders to set the interest rate of parent loans at the prevailing market rate rather than at the current authorized rate of nine percent.

Another program affected is the Pell Grants or BEOGs which would be amended by

- increasing the amount of discretionary income that a student's family must contribute; and

- requiring an annual self-help contribution of \$750 from students except where extreme financial need is concerned. According to Blackwell, 50 percent of Central's students now receiving financial aid would not be able to come up with the \$750 self-help contribution.

The Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae) which buys student promissory notes from institutions (instead of repaying the institution, the student repays the government) would be prohibited from borrowing from the Federal Government.

To control GSL costs the Administration proposes to eliminate the student in-school interest subsidy, thus limiting borrowing to remaining need as determined by a financial needs test and raising the interest rate on loans to offset all federal costs.

The phase-out of educational Social Security benefits for students between the ages of 18-22 will impact significantly upon schools. Currently about \$1.7 billion is expended yearly to these recipients. The administration's plan would stop the benefit for all new students who enroll after August 1, 1981. Currently over 800,000 students receive these benefits with an average payment of \$225 per month. If the program is eliminated, the Office of Management and Budget estimates that approximately 250,000 students would become newly eligible for Pell Grants and that other students might need campus-based and GSL funding.

"Hell hath no fury..."

'Medea' to open tonight

By Emma Deese

Euripides' *Medea*, a classical Greek tragedy written in the 5th century B.C., about the revenge of a princess and sorceress against her unfaithful husband, still maintains its social relevance and entertainment power today.

Such is the feeling of Karen Dacons, director of the NCCU's new drama production, *Medea*, which will be presented April 8-11 at 8:15 p.m. and April 12 at 3:15 p.m. in the University Theatre.

The universality of the plot of *Medea* transcends time to relate to familiar issues voiced through the contemporary feminist movement. Women will empathize with *Medea* even though her revenge will far exceed what is socially and spiritually acceptable.

Director Karen Dacons has allowed her creative instincts to adventure beyond the traditional script. She will augment the emotional and mystical energies in the script through a total theatre approach. Artful coordination of music, dance, creative lighting, and film will elaborate upon the beauty of the poetic language, action, and provocative subject matter.

The play's leading lady is Ardicha Swanson, last seen in the NCCU production of *For Colored Girls*. Jason, the unfaithful husband, is being portrayed by Roosevelt Wiggins, last seen as God in the NCCU production of *Everyman*.

The women who will perform as the chorus are Tammie Wiggins, Denise Coleman, Emma Deese, Shamia Truitt.

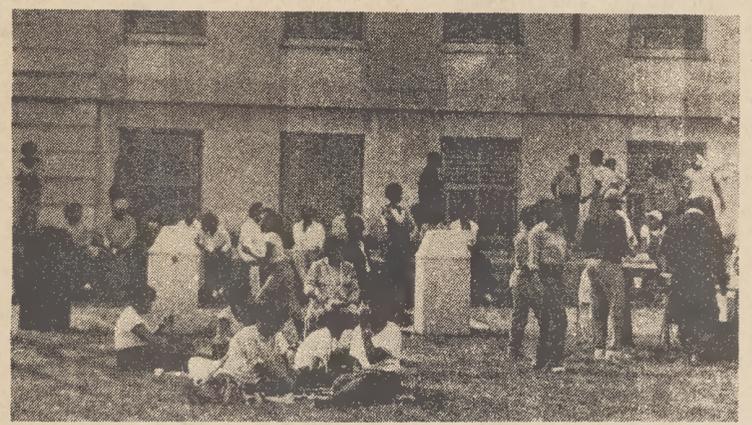
Other cast members include Raphael Thompson as Kreon, Herbert Eley as Aigeus, Hilda McCoy as Tutor, Anthony Moody as the messenger, and Trudy Burris as the nurse.

Medea and Jason's children are being portrayed by Roosevelt Arthur Wiggins, III and Humphrey Truitt.

The choreography is being done by Marian Turner, an outstanding dance talent in the Triangle Area, who was once the artistic director of the New Performing Dance Company of Durham. She is presently teaching dance at UNC-Chapel Hill.

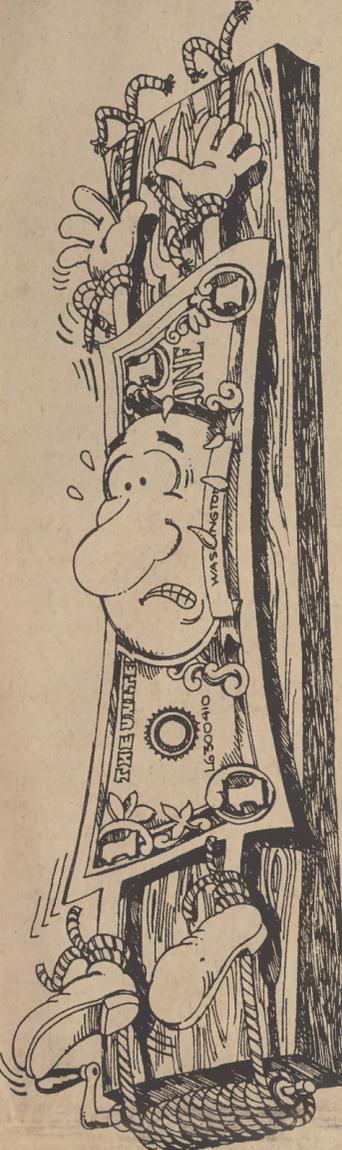
During the performance, Michael King and Darryl Hylton will be playing tympani, bells, marimbas, and other musical instruments.

For reservations or more information, please call 683-6242 between 9-5 Monday-Friday, April 6-10, or come by room 106 of the Communications Building, NCCU, for tickets.



Hi, mom!

Out of an effort to show parents how we really live and that we do, on occasion, partake of the bounties of spring, Parent's Weekend was created. Many moms and dads enjoyed the fine cafeteria cuisine sans the cafeteria and the mental rigors of backgammon during Parent's Weekend.



Chancellor's Award goes to music student

By Vicky L. Wiggins

Ruth Eileen Koger, a music major, won the Chancellor's Award, given to the senior with the highest cumulative average, at NCCU's 32nd Annual Awards Day program on April 3 for a crowd of approximately 600 students, parents, and faculty members in the B.N. Duke Auditorium.

Classes were cancelled from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m. to honor those who have achieved academic excellence and rendered outstanding service to the school.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Brigadier General Frank E. Peterson, the only black general in the Marine Corps. Dressed in a dark blue, immaculate Marine Corps uniform, Peterson told students they were entering an unfriendly and competitive world, "a world where losers are soon forgotten."

Peterson added that life wouldn't be all bad, "but it damn sure won't be all good."

He referred to the aggressiveness and competitiveness in the Marine Corps and the working world throughout his 20-minute speech, noting that students need to be competitive if they want to be successful and warning that the careers they chose would be limited.

General Peterson ended his speech with questions from the

floor. When asked if there was racism in the Marine Corps, Peterson responded, "Racism still exists . . . You can mandate laws against racism but you cannot change the minds of those who are racist . . . You cannot legislate against racism."

Among those receiving awards was Thurman Prescott Jr. who received the University Relations Achievement Award for his 15 years of distinguished service and leadership as student union director.

"I was surprised and thrilled at being selected. It was an honor," said Prescott.

Following the speech, Dr. Albert N. Whiting, Dr. Walter H. Pattillo Jr., and Dr. James F. Blue acknowledged those persons receiving awards by having them stand as their names were called.

Other Special Awards

By Frieda M. Jordan

The 32nd Awards Day program, whose theme was "The Vigor of Expectation," honored approximately 300 students. Some of the highlights were:

- The Ruth Edwards Memorial Award (to the outstanding senior music major)—Arnold R. Mercer
- The James M. Hubbard, Sr. Memorial Award (to the outstanding senior chemistry major)—Tammy Cromartie
- The Louise M. Latham Memorial Award (to the outstanding woman student)—Tina L. Pennix
- The Ray Thompson Memorial Service Award (for student service to the university community)—Jerry Kelly
- The Theodore Speigner Scholarship Award (for excellence in geography)—Alfred A. McCormick
- The Eugene McManus Young Award (for excellence in reading)—Martha Schuler
- The Duckwilder Memorial Award (to the outstanding junior woman student)—Ardicha H. Swanson
- The Ete Phi Beta Scholarship Award (to the outstanding senior in special education)—Wanda G. Little
- The John Stuart Memorial Scholarship (to the outstanding science major who exhibits leadership and humanitarian principles)—Michael F. Johnson

Awards were given for excellence in each academic department and the various divisions of student affairs.

Students were also recognized for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Who's Who Honorable Mention, The Alphonso Elder Student Union Awards, Dean's list, Alpha Kappa Mu, and graduating as seniors with cumulative averages of 3.00 or above.

Jimi Awards cancelled

By Calvin Lee Williams

The Jimi Awards, designed to honor students who have exhibited outstanding personal traits and service to the university, will not be held this semester, according to Kenneth Foushee, director of Student Life-Men and originator of the awards.

"The awards were scheduled for this semester, but due to the lack of participation from the chartered organizations on campus and with Spring Festival, Co-ed Week, Greek Week, and other springtime programs, the ceremony will not be held," said Foushee.

Foushee saw the need for recognition of students who have displayed good moral and social character beyond the field of academic endeavor.

"The award was named in honor of NCCU's founder, Dr. James E. Shepard, who dedicated his life to developing a college to enhance the mental and moral fiber of young black men and women," said Foushee. "We will try early next Fall to make the program a part of the Coed Week activities."