

# The Campus Echo

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## At Fall Convocation

# Whiting supports decree 'gains,' rebukes re-appointment terms; Massey challenges chancellor 'to speak out' against decree

Supporting the consent decree for its "obvious gains...for the minority institutions" but opposing certain aspects that appear "unsettling, if not threatening," N.C. Central University Chancellor Albert N. Whiting addressed a crowd of 700 faculty, students, staff, and visitors at the annual convocation held in McDougald Gymnasium on Oct. 1.

While Whiting termed the decree "a compromise and therefore not completely satisfactory," he stressed its benefits for the predominantly black schools: additional undergraduate and graduate programs; continued efforts at integration of faculty and staffs and insurance of salary equity at minority institutions; insurance of educational opportunities for black students; increased enrollment of whites at traditionally black schools and increased enrollment of blacks at traditionally white schools; and equitable financial support for black schools.

Vowing to preserve "what is good in the old and to (protect) the faithful servants of this institution who through the years have helped to make it what it is," the chancellor strongly criticized the re-appointment clause of the decree as "troublesome and punitive." He called for change that is "done humanely and with sensitivity to the individual."

### Positive Steps for NCCU

The chancellor mentioned several new plans and programs the university

## Low attendance criticized

# Convocation draws mixed student views

By Leslie Hill

Student reactions were mixed but generally positive concerning the annual convocation.

Graduate student Scherry Williams called Curtis Massey's speech "forceful (with) great impact on the audience." Williams, an instructor/counselor for the College Outreach Computer Consortium, felt Chancellor Albert Whiting's address discussed many relevant issues concerning the campus, including the consent decree and new facilities being built to upgrade the university.

Cynthia Gary, a sophomore biology major from Anderson, S.C., saw Whiting as a "politician" who needs to become more involved with the student body and campus. She praised the speech by chairman of the Board of Trustees, Hiliary Holloway. "You could tell he believed in NCCU and what the institution stands for. He came straight to the point and said what he had to say without dressing it up," she said.

Timmy Jones, a senior Media-Journalism major from Durham, was moved by the chancellor's address. "The speech gave one the motivation to study and become deeply involved with the university, our education and what it will mean in the future," he said.

Valarie Barrett, a junior business major from Aurora, felt that the convocation was successful although the audience was small. "Things were finally brought out into the open such as former Dean James Blue's resignation. I only wish more students were present," she said.

Tina Pinnix, a sophomore biology major from Gibsonville, blamed the poor attendance on "apathy and lack of faith in the administration." She called the chancellor's address "colorful and elaborate." Although Pinnix is glad about the new programs being offered and construction of new buildings, she wonders when a new dorm will be built to accommodate the increasing enrollment at Central.

Vernessa Taylor, a secretary for the COCC program from Durham, said, "Whiting touched upon issues which concerned the entire student body like (the review of the GEP program) and the addition of courses to the curriculum on both the graduate and undergraduate level." Taylor, also concerned about the low attendance, speculated that the "lack of student par-

is undertaking. He spoke of a master's program in criminal justice and public administration and an undergraduate program in computer and information science.

Calling the review of the General Education Program a way to "enhance literacy across the major areas of learning," Whiting spoke of the new program as a means of producing "thinkers and leaders for all realms of life."

Also mentioned were the allocation of over \$10 million for a new physical education complex, the completion of the Health Science Building, the planned construction of the Criminal Justice Building, and renovations either underway or soon to start on campus.

While the chancellor was pleased with the university's positive news, he was concerned over the August fire in the Hoey Administration and the Spring 1981 bomb threats.

### Urging A Recommitment

Disturbed by "the fact that too many Americans, including black Americans, have lost the incentive to take education seriously and responsibly," Whiting called for "an investment of self, a commitment by student and teacher that cannot be manifested in the philosophy of 'Let the good times roll.'"

After stressing the desperate struggle of blacks after the Civil War for

freedom and education, Whiting criticized current values and motivation, asking, "Are we aware that a noble legacy and a worthy posterity require that each generation makes sacrifices for the one to follow?"

He called for students "to renew that part of our legacy in which discipline of the mind was entwined with the development of qualities such as honor and honesty, prudence and perseverance, fortitude and justice, with gentility, culture and humaneness."

### Challenge to the Chancellor

Curtis Massey, SGA president, speaking before the chancellor, challenged Whiting "to speak out" on behalf of black colleges and against the consent decree.

Massey, stressing the need for the campus to "come together as one," questioned how this would be possible in light of the consent decree and the resignation of former dean of student affairs, James F. Blue.

Massey received enthusiastic applause from the small crowd which attended.

# Prospective students to visit campus Oct. 17

By Winfred Cross

N.C. Central will sponsor its second annual High School/Prospective Student Day tomorrow to let visiting students "ask faculty, administrators, and students about Central," according to Nancy Rowland, director of NCCU Admissions.

Ms. Roland said invitations have been sent to every high school, junior, community and technical college and technical institute in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

"The response has been wonderful," she said. "We have students coming from as far as New York."

High schools that will participate include the Durham area schools, Clinton High School, high schools in the Concord area, Bertie County High School, Bevard High and high schools in the Reidsville area. High schools in the Goldsboro and Fairmount areas have given the greatest response with 25 and 55 students attending respectively.

Rowland said she has received full cooperation from the departments on campus through their participation in the program.

"Each high school was asked to send us a list of students names and their interests in order for us to direct them to the proper department," said Rowland. "When they arrive on campus, we'll know exactly where to send them."

The students will be given tours of each department by volunteer students starting at 10:15 a.m. The students will then be entertained by various campus organizations.

"Kappa Alpha Psi was very helpful last year in entertaining the students," she said. "The students really enjoyed the step show they gave last year."

This year other organizations have been asked to participate. They include the SGA, Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Phi Omega, and Delta Sigma Theta.

All students who wish to help with the program may stop by the office of student affairs and talk with Ms. Marion Covington.



## Ruffin speaks

Ben Ruffin, special assistant to the governor, gave a rousing speech to an enthusiastic crowd in the Alfonso Elder Student Union Thursday, Oct. 8, as part of the 10:40 Series. Ruffin, a graduate of NCCU, spoke on the need for students to acquire knowledge and understanding. "Don't forget why you're getting an education and your parents who help to send you to college," he said.

participation (was due) to the fact that students are not made aware of the purpose of convocation."

LaVerne Tripp, a junior nursing major from Edward, was also bothered by the absence of students. "There was no excuse for the gym not to be overflowing with students. When will the student body come together as one?" asked Tripp.

Debra Spencer, a junior business major from Belhaven, called Massey's speech "informative and thought provoking. He was looking for support from the student body on his feelings toward the consent decree and the resignation of former Dean James Blue, and he got it," said Spencer.

# Drama dept. musical comedy rustles up legends of the West

By Thelma C. Henderson

Black cowboys will shoot it out in the University Theatre, when N.C. Central University's Department of Dramatic Art presents "Deadwood Dick, Legend of the West." The musical comedy runs from Oct. 14-18. Show time is 8:15 p.m.

Karen Dacons, an NCCU drama instructor, is directing the play and describes it as "a satire on western movies, specifically from the mid 1940s to '50s."

The star of the show, Deadwood Dick, portrayed by Ivan Dixon Player and former NCCU graduate Victor Lane, is in his mid-twenties and carved from the tall, dark and handsome stereotype. He is shrewd, clever, unbelievably "cool" and always in control.

Ben Hodges, one of Dick's side kicks, is portrayed by Robert Beatty, an NCCU undergraduate. Hodges is a Latin-lover stereotype, but born of Black and Mexican parentage. He is a fast-talking con man. Hodges' power of speech is a cross between Shakespeare and a criminal lawyer.

Hodges' accomplice Cherokee Bill, portrayed by Tonye Torrence, a dramatic arts major from High Point, is a cowboy blend of Michael Jackson, Rick James, and John Travolta.

Spelling trouble through out the play for Bill, Hodges, and Dick is Evil Isom Dart, played by Ivan Dixon Player and NCCU undergraduate Dewaren Moses. Dart is a cruel, black desperado and cattle rustler. He is a cowboy blend of "mean Joe Green" and the Tasmanian Devil.

Even though these characters may seem "out of this world," Dacons points out that Dick, Hodges, and Cherokee Bill were all real black cowboys. "The audience needs to realize this as they laugh," says Dacons. The scenes may be fictitious, but they parallel what these men did in their life times.

Agreeing with Dacons, cast member Tonye Torrence adds, "I didn't know there really were black cowboys, because the only ones I saw as a child on television were white. Even though this play doesn't shove a racial issue down your throat, it educates the audience on the actual existence of black cowboys in history," says Torrence.

"It shows how ridiculous it was just to portray white cowboys as legends and exclude the blacks from western history," says cast member Bernitha Jenkins. "The play also pokes fun at the type of white characters honored over the years," she added. Jenkins, an Ivan Dixon Player and dramatic arts major, portrays Calinda, Dick's girlfriend in the comedy.

The play was written in 1976 by W.B. Burdine Jr. as a two-act musical comedy. Dacons points out that it is not an attempted biography of Deadwood Dick's entire life. "It's just plain fun, entertainment," says Dacons.

Admission for students from any school and children is \$1.50 in advance and \$2 at the door. Admission for adults is \$3.50 in advance and \$4 at the door. Call the drama department for reservations to receive the advance price at 683-6242. Tickets will also be on sale in the campus cafeteria during lunch and dinner hours.

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# Kathy McLaurin winner of Miss Homecoming reelection

By LaWanda F. Hudgins

Naomi "Kathy" McLaurin is Miss Homecoming 1981, but it wasn't easy. The first Miss Homecoming election raised the eyebrows of many students. Due to an error by the election board concerning nominations, a re-election was held Oct. 14.

McLaurin won the re-election with 198 votes out of 800. Marcia Hill, the previous election winner, received 152 votes.

Hill says she will support McLaurin because "she will do a good job in upholding the title."

Hill said she had considered a run-off, but will not put that plan into action because "this year has been filled with many disappointments" (no homecoming show and the loss of her title).

McLaurin said that Hill has coped with the circumstances surrounding the re-election like a "true queen and she will remain the dearest of friends."

Marie Gamble, chairperson of the election board, said that in the beginning she received four nominations, two of which were not eligible for candidacy because "they did not have enough hours to be classified as seniors." The entire nominations were then re-evaluated. Teresa Tate, Marcia Hill, Matrice Wilson and Kathy McLaurin were selected to compete for the title.

Letisa Yates, a nominee of the first list of ineligible candidates, said, "Gamble did not check with the Registrar's Office. She checked with another unofficial source (as to candidates eligibility)."

The Office of the Registrar called Dean Bryant to inform him that Letisa Yates and Jamis Bostick were eligible for candidacy. Bryant called Gamble, but Yates and Bostick were not informed to begin campaigning until the night of the rap session.

The additions of Yates and Bostick increased the number to six candidates competing for the title. This, in fact, was in violation of the SGA constitution.

Dean Bryant, acting vice chancellor of student affairs, said under the circumstance, he could not eliminate Yates and Bostick from the election because they were found eligible for candidacy. On the other hand, he could not eliminate the other nominees who were chosen as candidates on the bases that Yates and Bostick were ineligible. "In the future, I am considering not having a Miss Homecoming and letting Miss NCCU serve as the university's queen for all occasions," added Bryant.