

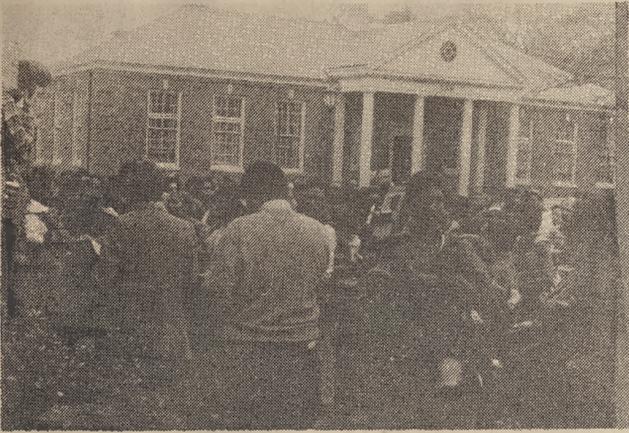
# The Campus Echo

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Students and cameraman listen to SGA president Curtis Massey in front of the Hoey Administration Building. (Photo by Jeffrey Campbell)

NAACP officer warns of 'constitutional crisis'

## Voting rights forum urges blacks to vote

By Alvis Tinnin

"There is a well coordinated attempt to change the philosophy of this country to say if you aren't rich you don't count. We live in a period of heightened racism," said Ms. Althea T.L. Simmons, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, to approximately 300 people at a voting rights forum at White Rock Baptist Church on Sunday, Feb. 14.

"A Senate subcommittee (including Sen. East R-N.C.) is trying to limit the power of the federal courts, although our founding fathers realized the necessity of checks and balances. We are coming close to a constitutional crisis," she declared.

Simmons described the time as one in which "black Americans must give their all to protect the rights that many suffered to attain."

Ms. Simmons stressed the importance of the extension of the Voting Rights Act. She called on black Americans to "exercise a franchise unlike ever before."

Ms. Simmons urged all concerned Americans to urge their congressmen and women to support an extension of the Voting Rights Act. "All we need is for the laws to be enforced, not new laws. The Voting Rights Act must be extended because it is the only way that you (blacks) can have a say in what happens to your communities," said Ms. Simmons.

Simmons went on to urge North Carolinians to put on the biggest voter registration drive ever and promote a new deal in the United States for all Americans. "We have a right to believe in and participate in the American dream," she added.

## Trouble Funk to top bill at mini-concert

By Calvin Lee Williams

"Drop the Bomb," "E U Freeze," and "Pump It Up" will be three of the songs featured by Trouble Funk, a Washington, D.C. based band, who will be the feature group during N.C. Central University's mini-concert on Friday, March 5, in McDougald Gymnasium, according to Curtis Massey, SGA president.

Massey said that the mini-concert would be a warm-up for the annual spring concert which is tentatively scheduled for April 2.

"Our purpose for having a mini-concert is to raise money for the spring concert, because we lost \$6,000 on the Homecoming Cabaret," said Massey.

"The reason for the loss was due to poor attendance by the students. We only sold 1500 tickets to students," said Massey.

Massey said the Homecoming cabaret cost around \$12,000 and the SGA only collected \$5,000. They were only allotted \$15,000 for Homecoming and Spring Festival shows.

"The mini-concert will cost \$10,000. If the show is a sell out, we will make \$8,000, and we will have enough money to have a Spring Festival show. But if students don't purchase tickets then their may not be a spring show," said Massey.

Tickets for the mini-concert are now on sale at \$3 (limited advance) for students, \$4.50 general admission, and \$6 on the day of the show. Tickets may be purchased in the Student Union, The Chicken Hut on Fayetteville Street and Burton's Gulf on Alston Avenue, all which are in Durham.

## Organizations question Najla Rashad 'lay off'

By Alvis Tinnin

Community concern is mounting over WDUR's recent decision to lay off Najla Rashad, former commentator for the stations "Up Front" program which used to address issues of concern to the black community.

A committee of several organizations has recently addressed the issue in a flyer which read: "What is the truth about WDUR's lay off of Najla Rashad? A voice that spoke to black issues silenced. Let your voice be heard. Join members of the NAACP, NBIPP (National Black Independent Political Party), Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, The Ministerial Alliance, N.C. Association of Black Social Workers, NCCU's SGA, N.C. Association of Educators, and The Durham Senior Citizens Council (in seeking an answer to this question)."

The flyers were distributed by members of the above organizations to UNC-Chapel Hill, NCCU and the Durham community.

Ms. Rashad, responding to the organizations' support, said, "I want to thank all who have been in support of this effort. This concern is not primarily individual. In these troubled times there is a great need for the community to be informed of issues which could impact on their lives."

'...we'd like to have some input...'

## Massey leads student boycott

By Calvin Lee Williams

"We urged students to boycott their classes not as a threat to the administration, but as a form of unity in support of having student input taken in a more serious manner by the administration," said Curtis Massey, SGA president at N.C. Central University, during the Feb. 17 boycott of classes held in front of the Hoey Administration Building on NCCU's campus.

An estimated crowd of 300 students gathered at the administration building at 11 a.m. to show their support for the boycott of classes organized by the SGA.

Massey said that the boycott of classes was only one of the issues which was to be addressed. He said the purpose of the rally was to allow students to accept or reject the five issues which were discussed during a special meeting with the administration and student leaders. The issues were:

- An increase in the number of student representatives on the search committee for the new chancellor.
- An assurance that the Student Drop List—Final Examinations for the Spring Semester '82 is released at least two weeks prior to exams.
- That recommendations for a commencement speaker by Senior class representatives be accepted by the chancellor instead of him acting without student input.
- The retirement of Dr. Cecil L. Patterson, vice-chancellor of academic affairs, as of June 30, 1982.
- A promise to students by the administration that the administration will be more sensitive to student concerns at official meetings so that actions, like a boycott of classes, will not be necessary.

As a result of the meeting, the Final Examination drop list was to be released prior to exams and a special committee has been appointed by the administrative council to determine how early.

The meeting consisted of Chancellor Albert N. Whiting; Vice-chancellor of University Relations Dr. Tyrone Baines; Vice-chancellor of Financial Affairs George Throne; Hilary Holloway, chairman of the NCCU board of trustees; Massey; Donna Peerman, editor of the Eagle Yearbook; Darryl E. Hylton, editor of Ex Umbra; Leon Rouson, SGA vice president; student Congress members Orlanda Sample, George Jackson, Ozella Hudson; and Marie Gamble, SRA president; James Webb, sophomore class president; William Barber, freshman class president; and Barry Hamilton, senior class vice president.

Patterson, it had been thought, was supposed to retire at the end of this year. That was incorrect according to a recent state law.

The other three points were rejected.

Massey called the boycott "a beginning," although he was bothered by the lack of student unity. "Students demonstrated how easily they can be intimidated by faculty who choose to give pop quizzes and tests," he said.

He noted that student support in the rally was small, but he felt that some progress was made.

"I was disappointed with the turnout at the rally compared to that of Monday's meeting. I am even more upset with those students who attended classes and will reap the benefits from those students who decided to deal with the consequences of missing class," said Massey.

Massey was also disappointed in lack of women who participated since they make up two-thirds of the student population and should have been upset over the new policy which states that females would need to have a notarized excuse from their parents if the reason for missing a class or test was not a medical or business excuse.

The policy, which came from Mrs. Mildred Trent, director of Student Life-Women, went into effect on Feb. 16, and, as of now, only affects the female population.

"This policy serves as a prime example of why we were boycotting classes to meet with various administrators to have input on the discussions affect-

## McKissick pushes to honor Shepard

## Students object to NCCU name change

Compiled by Media-Journalism 3100  
With Background Information by Leslie Hill

In a Nov. 23, 1981 letter to NCCU Alumni Director William P. Evans, attorney Floyd B. McKissick announced "the creation of a major drive to change the name of North Carolina Central University to the JAMES E. SHEPARD UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA."

McKissick went on to list seven reasons for the name change, focusing largely on the need to "permanently" honor a man of Shepard's talents and accomplishments.

But in a recent random poll of 126 NCCU students, 96 were against changing the university's name; 28 were in favor of a change to James E. Shepard University; and 2 were undecided.

Those against the name change cited several reasons, principally the fact that NCCU is already an established name among universities and a name change would be confusing to students and the public. To change the name, reasoned junior public administration major Vanessa Ballard, would mean "once again rebuilding the image of (NCCU)."

Several students reasoned that if Dr. Shepard had wanted the university named after him, he would have done it. Senior data processing major Pamela Parker noted that Shepard is already honored with Founder's Day and the James E. Shepard Library.

Kimberly Coles, a freshman drama major, felt it was important to learn about the founder but that didn't necessitate changing the school's name.

But other students agreed with freshman math major Lemeuel Shelley. "Changing the name (of NCCU) now would be making up for not doing it a long time ago. As many names as this university has had, James E. Shepard University should have been in existence long ago."

NCCU has indeed had several name changes. Founded in 1910 by Dr.

ting student life. The policy was not directed to the students, passed by the Student Congress, Student Welfare Committee or the SGA, and to the best of my knowledge didn't go through the office of Student Affairs, but the women still accepted it," said Massey.

Massey is concerned that "within the next year we will have four top positions—the vice-chancellors of University Relations, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, the registrar, and a new chancellor—filled with new people.

"Faculty, staff, administrators and students need to make sure that the persons who fill these positions will have three qualities: they must know and understand the mission of NCCU; they must know and understand the people that it serves; and they must know and understand the views of the NCCU community in the future," he said.

"We, the students, do not wish to run the university, but we'd like to have some input in the decision making process on the higher levels that will ultimately affect the life of students," Massey commented.

He was referring to the Whiting's comment on WTVD's 11 o'clock news Wednesday night: "Students must realize they do not run the university. That's not what they came here for."

## Massey explains boycott in cafeteria speech

By Veronica M. Cogdell

"We want fair representation in both number and input," said SGA president Curtis Massey to a group of over 500 students in W.G. Pearson Cafeteria Monday night, Feb. 15. "During (administrative) meetings our opinions are heard, but not acted upon."

Massey's purpose for calling the meeting was to state a list of grievances against the administration and urge the student body to unite in a boycott of classes.

"They (the administration) don't believe we can unite," he said, adding that the impression he got from some administrators was that "students will only get together for a dance or to smoke pot."

Massey charged that he sent a letter to the administration concerning the chaos that existed during final examination period. He said that students were embarrassed and late for exams, causing instructors to reschedule them. Many students were unaware of their names appearing on the unpaid bills list, said Massey, who complained that the response of Dr. Lafayette Lipscomb, assistant to the chancellor, was to stop granting postponements on paying bills.

Another concern was the fact that there was only one student representative on the chancellor search committee. Massey mentioned that he read a newspaper article that mentioned Cleon Thompson as a leading candidate for chancellor. Rather than comment directly, Massey just shook his head from side to side.

He complained that the senior class had "been sent on a wild goose chase" in trying to select a commencement speaker. He noted that the chancellor had selected someone and "we don't even know who that person is."

Since then, Massey has learned that Maynard Jackson—an alumnus of NCCU's law school and the former mayor of Atlanta—had accepted the senior class invitation.

Additional comments in support of the boycott were made by several students and a special challenge to boycott classes was given to the freshman class by their president.

Massey announced three proposals that he hoped to put into effect before he graduated: an annual Parents' Day that is placed on the university calendar, a fall break, and starting and ending dates that allow students a better chance to obtain summer jobs. But he reminded students that he needed their help in achieving these goals.

"If we cannot get things done in the proper manner, then we will resort to other methods. The administration needs to know that we can come together as one," he said.

Shepard, it was originally a center for religious training—The National Religious Training School and Chataqua. Later it was named the National Training School. In 1923 the N.C. General Assembly gave its support and the name changed to Durham State Normal School. In 1925 the institution became North Carolina College for Negroes. In 1947 the name became North Carolina College at Durham. The 1969 General Assembly made the institution one of the state's regional universities and changed the name to North Carolina Central University.

McKissick stated in his letter: "Having the University named after James E. Shepard would be an inspiration to other Blacks who know so little about our past; what price our ancestors paid; how they endured and how the school finally arrived in its present glory. No white man gave us (NCCU). It was one Black man named James E. Shepard, who gave it to us, with help from white friends, after having fought for it and maneuvered to get it, in spite of severe racism and unjust criticism."

Several students supported this point. Tom Purvis, a junior business administration major, felt the name change would establish "cultural identity" at a time when "NCCU is in danger of losing its identity as a black-founded institution."

Graduate student Herman Saunders said the name change would convey "historical significance" to the university.

Tonya Hurdle, a sophomore business administration major, felt the name change was important since "few black colleges are named after their founders."

This article was the work of the following reporters: Joe Bailey, Veronica Cogdell, Theresa Dantzler, Daryl Goodman, E. Bernard Hansley, Thelma Henderson, Leslie Hill, Jim Jarvis, Paschelle Mitchell, Tony Moody, Kim Slade, and Alvis Tinnin.