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Questions surface over WTVD protest by NCCU students, black affairs group

A News Analysis
By Helen Eagleson

Often students become involved in causes without knowing all the facts.

An incident of this kind occurred Dec. 2 when an undisclosed number of NCCU students—along with members of The Durham Committee for the Affairs of Black People—picketed WTVD in an effort to increase black personnel at the station and secure more funds for black programming.

Many students went with the belief that anchorwoman Beverly Burke had been released from the station, when in fact she had received a better offer from another station in Baltimore.

As to an increase in black personnel, WTVD has black personnel both behind the camera and on camera. Miriam Thomas anchors the twelve o'clock news and occasionally sits in on the six o'clock edition. There are field reporters such as Janice Crump, a Central graduate, and Keith Whitney, who often does on-the-spot reporting at both six and eleven.

Other students went with the notion that black technical staffers had been dismissed. The Echo was unable to contact the WTVD general manager for an answer to this question.

However, it is known that WTVD is interviewing Central graduates for prospective jobs and opening the doors for other university students to accept internships at the station in both anchor and technical positions.

Other protesters went seeking funds for more black programming. But let's not forget that WTVD has two black television shows that air weekly—"Reel Perspectives" produced by Ervin Hester and "Reflections" produced by Cathy Stowe.

Students should get involved in community affairs but facts are important and students who participate in protests should examine the story with a fine tooth comb before getting involved.

Two important questions remain unanswered: Were the emotions of students rallied to picket for a cause they didn't understand? Or did the students have the facts in hand, rallying for a cause they believed in?

At the time of the writing of this article, the Echo was unable to interview any of the students involved in the protest.

We hope they will come forward and respond to this article.



WTVD Protest

NCCU students and members of The Durham Committee for the Affairs of Black People picket outside WTVD for more black-funded television programs and the hiring of more black personnel.

High school students begin computer training aided by NCCU interns

By Gilbert Faison

Ten high school students (four seniors and six juniors) have begun computer classes this week at N.C. Central University's School of Business.

The Management Information Processing Project (MIPP), funded by \$225,000 over a three year period for the School of Business, is designed to provide instruction to disadvantaged public school students, especially minority youth from the Durham City Schools.

The work with computers and information systems will provide real-world business applications. For university students enrolled in the School of Business, the program will provide internships.

Dr. Tyrone Richmond, dean of the business school, said, "The high school students will be undergoing a fast, quick, yet indepth study of computers in a business environment."

Although the program involves high school students and NCCU resources, there are those behind the scenes who are just as important. High school teachers and the city school director of instruction, Cleopatra Lawton, will be involved in curriculum planning.

Parents of the students selected to participate

in the program from area high schools will also play a vital role, encouraging motivation and participation from their children. University professors will present the instruction, and special guest speakers will provide selected topics.

Courtney S. Ferguson, coordinator of the program for the School of Business, said, "The high school students will be combined into teams with NCCU students who are computer information systems majors."

She added, "The high school students will be doing the leg work for the team which consists of drawing forms and layouts, keying in computer codes, preparing various graphs of designs, and collecting information."

The results of the project will be presented both in writing and orally to Aetna, The Durham City School system, and NCCU officials.

The program will meet on Saturdays and continue until May 5. The high school students may possibly earn six credit hours and \$100 a month while they are learning. University students who participate will earn \$100 a month. Dean Richmond calls it "the earn while you learn project."

Juniors make Thanksgiving bright for needy Durham family

On Monday, Nov. 21, the junior class presented Thanksgiving food to a needy family in the Durham community.

In just a week's time, the junior class collected over \$50 to purchase a turkey, dressing, and a considerable amount of canned goods. The food was delivered by Steven McClure, class president, Kimberly Horne, vice-president, and Lynelle Wright, Miss Junior.

The recipients were a Durham family whose members include an elderly grandmother, her three sons, one daughter, and four grandchildren. One member, recovering from a kidney operation, was overwhelmed by the donation and expressed her gratitude toward the class and the university.

The family's name was submitted to the junior class from the Department of Social Services.

"I am pleased with the efforts of our class because we've made Thanksgiving a wonderful holiday for a deserving family," said Wright.

McClure commended the junior class and asked other organizations to lend a hand in service to the black community.

"I was proud that the class accepted the idea of sponsoring a family for Thanksgiving and was overwhelmed by their response," he said.