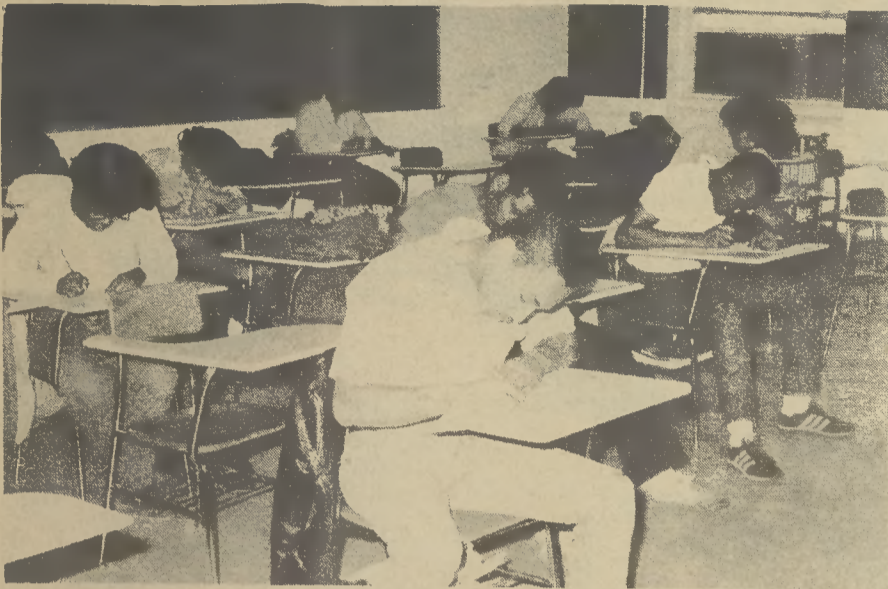


# THE CAMPUS ECHO

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## Back to the books

It's back to the old grind as classes get underway for the fall semester. Just think, there's not another vacation until October. Good Luck!

## Student boycott brings unity, strength, results

By Helen Eagleson

On Monday, August, 27 about 200 students gathered outside the Administration Building with signs and banners demanding an education.

"We want to go to school," read on sign held by a student in the crowd.

The boycott was prompted when registration faculty and staff closed all registration lines a three o'clock turning away students who hundreds of students who had not begun registration and others who had not finished.

But that wasn't the only complaint that prompted the protest.

(1) Insensitive and unprofessional attitudes directed towards parents and students during registration.

(2) Student packets secured by students only a week prior to registration and in

many instances not secured by students until arrival on campus.

(3) Limited positive efforts made to correct confusion generated by late processing of award letters.

(4) Information concerning new payment plans extremely vague and not properly communicated to the student body.

(5) Significant number of students forced to discontinue their educational pursuits because of badly orchestrated registration procedures.

Of all the reasons stated, the financial aid situation created the most problems for the most students.

With the majority of students on this campus receiving some type of aid to continue their education, the new

See **BOYCOTT**, p.4

## Financial Aid Office snafus affect many

By C.S. Keys

If education is a dance, the Financial Aid Office is the place many Central students go to find the pittance to pay the piper. This year, the pittance was especially hard to find, and quite a few have found themselves coming late to the dance.

Crystal Frazier, a junior, was one of many students who found herself waiting outside the dancehall without the wherewithal to call the tune.

Coming to campus, she was unsure if she had been awarded any financial assistance, because she had not received a letter confirming the award. She hoped that the aid had been granted and that the Financial Aid Office was only late in mailing out the letters.

Her assumption was correct.

Dianna Blackley, Financial Aid Counselor at NCCU, said that one reason many students didn't receive letters of award

was because of a "very hectic" schedule in the Financial Aid Office.

Babies were part of the problem. Just before the semester began, two Aid Office employees went on pregnancy leave, and their replacements were faced with learning a new job as the fall rush began.

So the letters didn't go out, and the beleaguered Aid Office decided to wait until the students returned to campus to pass them out.

For Frazier, the delay was more than a little inconvenient. Because there was no record showing that she had received any aid, she was unable to get a postponement on her bill. The academic piper was demanding immediate payment for the tune he was about to play and she didn't have the loot.

For five days her academic career went on hold. Eventually, her award letter was found, and the news was

good. With promise of payment in right hand, the University's left hand told her her education could continue.

Blackley said that mistakes are made, that everyone is human, and that when the Aid Office does make mistakes it tries to correct them.

Pamela L. Wilson of Philadelphia ran afoul of one such mistake. The Financial Aid Office accidentally confused the name Pamela L. Wilson for Pamela K. Wilson. The change of initial meant that Pamela L. was labeled an in-state student and was thus unable to receive an out-of-state loan. Once again the piper was insistent that the educational tune should not start until he had money in the hat.

Once again, getting the money in the hat took awhile.

It took a week for Pamela L. to get her initial back and get her loan, and it took effort. "If I had not been persis-

tent at the beginning of registration, it probably would have taken forever," she said.

However, Lola McKnight, director of financial aid, points out that mistakes in the Aid Office are not the only reason students have trouble.

Students are human too. In fact, they probably make as many mistakes as the Aid Office.

Students, for instance, seem to have difficulty signing their names. They are mysteriously omitted from vouchers where they should appear.

Sometimes they are not notarized when they should be.

If they have trouble with their names, students have even more difficulty with the other information Aid Office requires, especially if it means they have to read. Even though Aid Office personnel

See **AID**, p. 4

## Foushee contract not to be renewed

By Lisa O. Smallwood

As of Sept. 29, Kenneth Foushee will no longer be director of Student Life for Men.

No reason has been cited for the decision not to renew his contract, and Foushee has declined to comment on the situation.

Foushee's position at the University probably would have been more stable "had he gotten his doctorate, as I encourage all my people to do," said Dr. Roland Buchanan, vice chancellor of Student Affairs.

Buchanan said, however, that he was not at liberty to discuss the situation further, since it dealt with a personnel matter.

Foushee's office enforces the attendance policy and handles student withdrawals.

Foushee is also responsible for providing counseling and direction to the young men (and women) of NCCU and assisting with their adjustment to campus life.

According to one campus official who asked to remain anonymous, Foushee has handled his student cases "quite well," and the official was surprised to learn of Foushee's nonrenewal.

Several students were surprised as well. Lucius Smith, a Kinston native, said "He is one of the few people here who will take time to really help students."



It's not uncommon to find long lines on this campus in the cafe or at a home football game, but in this case it's the registration line. I'm sure you remember that one.