



**School Days...School Days**

Pictured above are the first students of NCCU's secondary school. (Photo courtesy of B.T. McMillon)

*Musical tribute to Waller*

# 'Ain't Misbehavin' opens with vibrant sounds

By Tammy L. Capehart

The Thomas "Fats" Waller musical tribute, "Ain't Misbehavin," opened with vibrant sounds in the first act and moved to a classy, energetic sequence, highlighted with humor and spirit.

The thrilling musical was the fifth event sponsored by NCCU's Lyceum Program. The drama kicked off at 8:15 p.m. on Thursday night, April 4, in B.N. Duke Auditorium.

The six-person cast dramatized the music, personality, and luxurious living style of one of the 20th Century's most celebrated jazzmen and comedians, Thomas "Fats" Waller.

Act One, set in a Harlem nightclub of the 1930s and '40s, was strengthened by soft, velvet-blue colors—giving a jazzy, romantic feeling.

Ronald Metcalf, the piano man and musical director, sat at the piano, dressed in black from head-to-toe, and leaned from side-to-side as he moved to the groove of his music. He began the show with "Ain't Misbehavin."

Kevin Neil Cheatham, who sang "T Ain't Nobody's Biz-ness If I Do," played a hard-nosed, pushover lover.

LeLand Gantt portrayed a spunky, Sammy Davis Jr.-type, dancing all around the stage and singing his heart out.

Gammy Grant did memorable piece titled "When the Nylons Bloom Again." She added a lot of humor to the show when she sang about stockings blooming after being washed in an audition for a part in Kevin and LeLand's band.

Charonne Cox was your Jennifer Holiday-type, memorable for her soft, serious songs.

Kimberly Harris was the "hot stuff" in the club. She matched the character of Gantt, the pick-up-the-pace person naturally fit for a musical.

In Act Two, the costumes became livelier with added pizzazz, color, and class. The ladies wore furs and minks to accent their pink, lavender, and purple dresses. They also jazzed the outfits up with matching hats, veils and glitter.

The cast was terrific at "milking" the audience, calling for responses to songs and asking the audience to join in.

Other cast members included Robert Durkin, director and choreographer; Bernard L. Tansey, producer and set designer; Eiko Yamaguchi, costume designer; Kim Hanson, lighting designer; Joy Vandervort, stage manager; and Ken Nixon, company manager.

## 47 inducted into hall of fame

NCCU News Bureau

North Carolina Central University inducted 47 former sports stars and patrons of its athletic programs at its second annual Athletic Hall of Fame banquet Saturday, April 20, at the W.G. Pearson Cafeteria.

Included in the inductees were two groups of women; nine classified as pioneers, who competed in the 1930s and 1940s, and the 11 members and coach of the university's first CIAA championship basketball team, the 1983-84 team.

Women pioneers included Marian T. Alston of Hampton, Va; William Mae Bailey, of Durham; Clarissa A Bryant of Beverly, N.J.; Annette L. Bryant of Durham; Mary Jermain Boyd of Norlina; Maggie L. Lee, of Hillsborough; Willie Moore, of Philadelphia, Pa; Louise M. Shipman of Durham; and Thelma Smith of Durham.

Inductees from the 1983-84 championship women's team are Coach Yvonne Edwards, Wanda Bullock of Durham; Mona McLaurin of Durham; Sharon Wheeler of Burlington; Robin Brooks of Durham; Linda Nicholson, of

### Ron's Words

# Excellence: A continuous cycle for NCCU's future

By Ronnie Hopkins

If you've seen the cover of the 1985 GTE telephone directory, I'm sure you recognized the Jordan House, B. N. Duke Auditorium, and the word "Excellence" inscribed on the marquis reading North Carolina Central University.

The fall setting certainly represents N.C. Central's 75th Diamond Anniversary. The picture captures trees and shrubs from the "sloping hills" that express the 75 years of N.C. Central's existence.

The picture also depicts the cycle of N.C. Central University. Imagine the trees and shrubs forming new blossoms; there is a cycle. New blossoms come, they grow, they diminish. The deep blue sky in the background expresses the limit of the "Eagle"—the distance is infinite. The light brown shrubs represent the life in the past. The "Eagle" that has tenured on the "sloping hills" will never diminish.

As the 1984-1985 academic year and the celebration of the 75 years of existence come to a close, many of us may wonder what will become of N.C. Central in the next 75 years?

I hope that the theme "Excellence Without Excuse: A Shared Responsibility," will guide us as we define the goals of our lives educationally, socially, mentally, and physically, and that this same theme will guide those after us.

"Excellence Without Excuse" is merely the beginning of reality at N.C. Central. The torch burns on as the challenge of excellence continues.

Durham; Diedra Solomon of Durham; Terri Abel of Durham; Priscilla Herring of Durham; Jacqueline Pinnix of Burlington; Francis Barnhill of Durham; and Sheryl Cohen of Durham.

Also honored were former track men Richard Hearn; Walter Johnson, Donald Leak, Charles A. McCullough and Vance Robinson.

Former tennis stars Kenneth Handy, Eli Singleton, and Alan Townsend were also inducted.

Football stand outs Louis Breeden, William Hall, Jefferson Inmon, Clarence Lightner, and James Williams; were also inducted.

J. Edmonds, Herman Hines, George K. Lipscomb, William Springfiel, and Andrew

Williams. W.D. Peerman was honored posthumously.

Honored as contributors were Ernie Barnes of Hollywood Cal., the internationally-celebrated artist who was an NCCU football star, and Durham's Edward Boyd.

Honored as pioneers will be William Burgess, Earl Lambeth, and Charles White.

Ted Manning and Carlton Bell (posthumously) were inducted for men's basketball.

Members of a post World War II team which revived briefly intercollegiate baseball competition at what was then North Carolina College were also honored. They were Wille Bradshaw, Harry

## Sigmas place first

The brothers of the Gamma Gamma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. won the state step competition in Raleigh last Friday.

Ten fraternities were originally scheduled, but six actually participated. The competition was held at "The Rink" where fraternities from all over North Carolina participated.

"I've never seen anything like that," said one of the judges, referring to the eight Sigmamen: Aubrey Williams, Derrick "Lollipop" Bryant, Tyrone Johnson, Kevin Holt, Dave Flood, John Wall, Darryl Hopkins, and C.S. Keys.