

87-88

the C.A.M.P.U.S echo

North Carolina Central University

Durham, North Carolina

February - '88

Nursing school placed on conditional approval

By Terry Alston
Campus Editor

North Carolina Central University's nursing program has been in existence since 1948, but how long will it last?

The State Board of Nursing has placed the nursing school on conditional approval after a three-member panel found 11 deficiencies in the program, according to David Witherspoon, director of the NCCU News Bureau.

Some of the deficiencies are failure to produce an on-going plan for curriculum evaluation, failure to develop and produce

policies to make sure that the library has up-to-date and adequate materials, and failure to submit correct and complete records and reports to the State Board of Nursing.

Another deficiency was the extremely low passing rates on the state nursing exam. Last year, 46 percent of the NCCU students taking the test passed.

Earlier this month the University of North Carolina's Board of Governors decided to give the program until the end of 1988 to meet certain standards. If those standards are not met, the board will

again review the program to decide if another class should be admitted.

The standards the school has to meet were not known when the Campus Echo went to print.

Dr. Johnea Kelley, chairperson of the nursing school, said the school had already begun improving its curriculum before the board stepped in.

Kelley said the school has always had review sessions every week of the spring semester. "Students and staff meet for question and answer sessions to (work on)

weaknesses." The sessions include updating and improving test taking/test making skills.

Kelley said the school has also brought in experts to help students improve testing skills and to help the administration evaluate and refine the curriculum.

Kelley said the students take the NLN Achievement Test which prepares them for the N-CLEX (National Counsel Licensing Exam). Students take the NLN two times before they take the N-CLEX. Kelley contributes money to the board which pays for students

taking the exam for the first time; the second time the students pay, she said.

Kelley said the students are weak in various areas (such as math and verbal skills) when they come into the nursing school. "In essence we teach more than nursing," said Kelley. "We work extremely hard. It is not rewarding to know that we put out so much energy and effort and students don't do well on the test. It's demoralizing."

Teaching Fellows to aid prospective teachers

By Terry Alston
Campus Editor

Juniors and seniors who wish to pursue teaching careers in what Dr. Janice Harper of the education department calls "hard-to-find" areas—including mathematics, foreign languages, education, chemistry, computer education, economics, political science and physics—are eligible for a \$4,000 a-year grant.

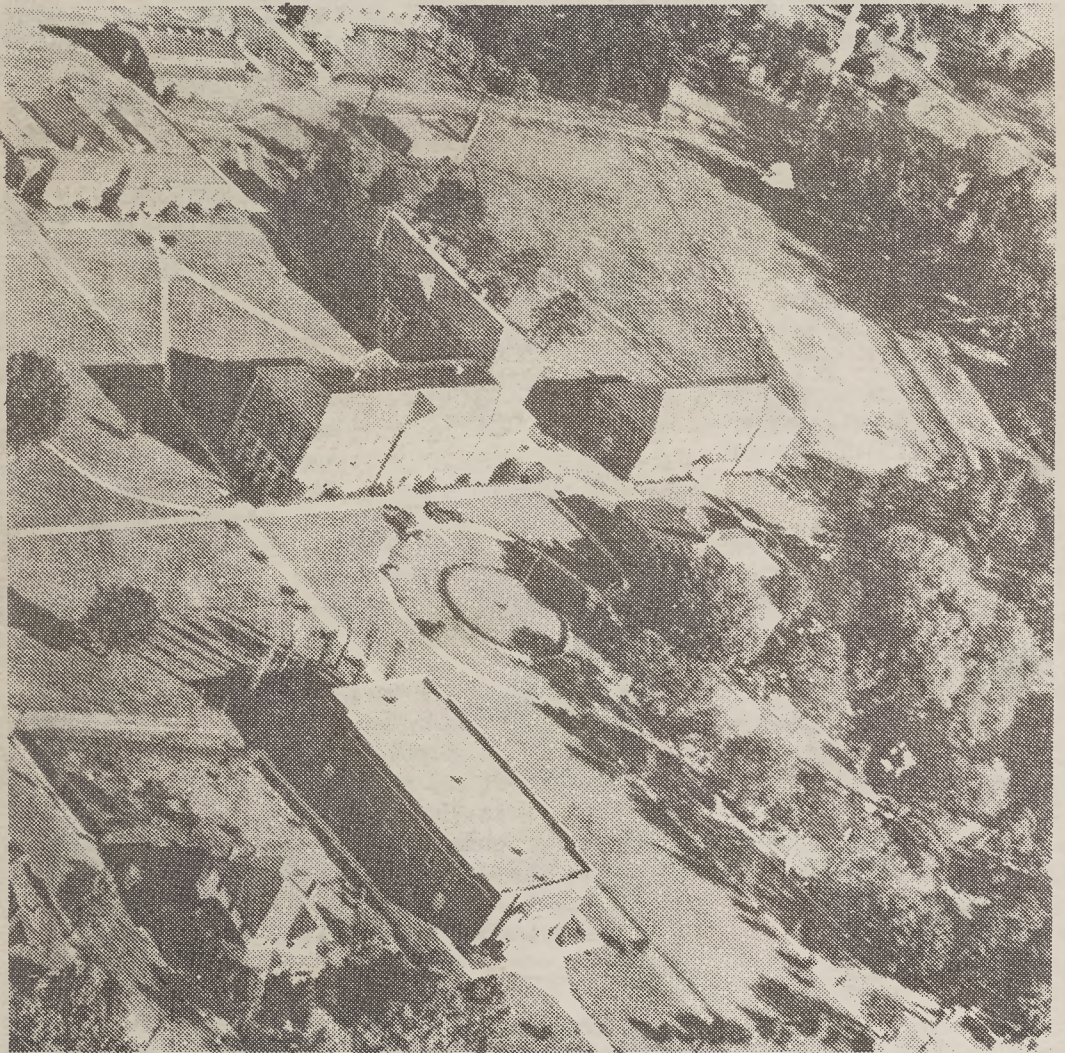
The grant, offered by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission established by the the General Assembly in 1987, offers upcoming freshman \$5,000 a year and juniors and seniors \$4,000 a year towards tuition and fees at one of 44 colleges in North Carolina.

There are some strings attached, however. Students must maintain a 2.5 grade point average in a subject area that is in high demand; and they have to agree to teach in North Carolina for three years after graduation. Students interested in applying for the fellowship in the fall don't have much time, since the deadline for applications is early in February, Harper said.

Three North Carolina Central University students have already received the fellowships: Cathy Hazelton, an education major; Cynthia Abbott, an English major; and Debra Dickerson, a history major.

The teaching fellows are planning a tour from the mountains to the coast, Harper said. "We will look at the very poor areas and the very rich areas of the state to give the students an idea of what various North Carolina cultures are like. Possibly the tour will give some students a chance to consider a place to teach."

Some students don't consider teaching careers because of the low salaries, Harper said. "We want to increase the salary of beginning teachers and make it more competitive. Teachers are one of the most important assets in our society, and we want the best and the brightest teachers." The teaching fellowship program is one step in that direction, she said.



What's wrong with this picture? Nothing. It's North Carolina Central University in 1939 when it was called North Carolina College for Negroes. For a look back at Central turn to page 7.

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Dr. Martin Luther King-Ernest Suggs pays a special tribute to a great man, page 4.

Kick-Rock band INXS nas hit it big with their latest album, page 6.