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Trustee Member David Stith Blasts the UNC System and the Administration

by Johnnie Whitehead
Trustee David Stith, a Rocky Mount native, came to North Carolina Central University and completed his undergraduate and graduate work as well as attended law school. From 1985-89 he served on the Board of Trustees and was recently reappointed this year after a two-year hiatus. Stith was president of Southeastern College in Durham for 20 years and then worked for the Richard Nixon administration in Washington, D.C., and in Greensboro for the Department of Housing and Urban development until he retired.

elements of control. The Board of Governors have only five or six blacks out of 32. We have one or no blacks on the Board of Trustees at white universities. At black schools there are four or more. Look at the faculty and staff here which is 35 percent white. Then go to Chapel Hill. Let me reiterate that I fought most of my life for integration. But let's put some good black ones there as we have good white ones here. This has become a one way street and it benefits whites and dilutes the power and influence of blacks.

Echo: Has the media coverage of NCCU been fair?

Stith: They talk about misuse of grant money. Duke just had to pay back to Health and Human Services \$81,000 that they supposedly misspent for flowers, wine and travel. The original figure was \$900,000 and they negotiated it down. Carolina (UNC-Chapel Hill) used grant money to send friends of the university to the Gator Bowl. Where's the media? Walter Davis, formerly of the University system's general administration took on President C.D. Spangler in a press conference and resigned for the Board of Governors. Nothing was said by the media about that. Some situations are indefensible (Former Athletic Director Chris Fisher and the athletic department). We make mistakes too and we are sometimes wrong, but their coverage is not fair.

Echo: How do you evaluate Richmond's performance as Chancellor? Was he able to make the tough decisions?

Stith: Richmond is a great person and he was right when he said there have been far more positives than negatives during his tenure. However, I have reservations



Reappointed Trustee Member David Stith

about some of his decisions. He rules too much with his heart instead of his head. He carries too much dead weight. There comes a time when you have to make the hard decisions and he shyed away from those concerning other employees of this institution.

Echo: What is the relationship you have with the Chancellor? Many believe you two are rivals. Is this true?

Stith: Although I have disagreed on certain issues with the Chancellor, I have never publicly or privately attacked him. You can disagree with someone on a professional level and be their friend on a personal one. There has never been any animosity between us. I resent that if someone says otherwise. It is just another tactic to divide and conquer black institutions by pitting us against one another.

This is contrived and it ain't no accident. It's politics and racism at its finest.

Echo: Was Richmond forced out of office?

Stith: It was said, 'It's time for you to go.' Go quietly into the sunset and he would not have been fired. 'There is no way you can make me believe pressure wasn't applied to make him leave. I know for a fact pressure was applied. In view of all the negative publicity he would have not left until this whole mess was over and solved. Then he would have possibly moved out. I know better than this. I know the truth. If the occasion presents itself I can prove it.'

Echo: Was Richmond truthful in the interview concerning his opinions about Spangler and the general administration? Did he and

Spangler have as good a working relationship as he implied?

Stith: He said what he was allowed to. I happen to know of other disagreements and points of contention.

Echo: Why did you not want a white person as chair of the Board of Trustees?

Stith: I didn't support Carl (Stewart) because the timing was all wrong. There was a strong effort to give us a white chairman. We would have had a riot. Carl was a very good candidate with impeccable credentials but it wasn't the right time. He did the gracious thing and withdrew.

Echo: Are there any strong criticisms of the Board of Trustees?

Stith: We have been jerking around. We haven't been doing the best job possible. We have no direction. Some are serving to be reappointed. If they can't serve effectively they need to get the hell off the board.

Echo: You have been called controversial, publicity hound, troublemaker and hypocrite by the media. Is this an accurate description of you? Do you enjoy this attention?

Stith: I don't relish this role but it is the price I pay. They have called me divisive and disruptive. The editorials and columns written after the speech I gave on campus was completely off-base. They said I condoned a professor's (Clarence Brown) behavior. I didn't say that. I meant that there are a lot more worse than he that need to be exposed and that exists. We don't know about them because they're white. There is a nationwide effort to shoot down black leaders and they are trying

to shoot me. This is a conscious effort also. I don't enjoy being controversial but if it's the truth I'm going to say it. If it gets the media so mad that they call me bad names so what. I don't give a damn. This institution and students are what matter. I'm not here to get reappointed after my four-year term is up unlike some.

Echo: What is your purpose as a trustee? What have you done and what will you do to help students?

Stith: I tried for two years to get the past chairman of the Board of Trustees to have open hearings on every aspect of campus life and to let students testify and bring complaints so we can investigate to make sure things are corrected. We are the only university in the system without air-conditioned dormitories. Also, student use of facilities are important. Tell me how in the hell you're going to have a building on this campus and have a building supervisor say, 'It's my building and I don't want students in here.' There should be no building that students can't use. The board passed a resolution five or six years ago because of this. It's ridiculous to have to pass a resolution for this fundamental right students should have. Organizations in the city have access to the physical education complex and students don't. I hope these supervisors change their attitudes by next month because I'm not going to tolerate it. Some people just like to control others and we're going to have to fix that.

Unfortunately, this entire interview was not able to be published due to the lack of space. However, Stith went on to promise that teacher evaluations will be enforced and reviewed; if necessary, immediate action will be taken to remedy and dispose of "unqualified educators."

Professor Elected to Board of Education

by Kimberly Bowman
You may know Beverly Jones as a professor of history here at North Carolina Central University, and chances are that if you have ever spoken with her, you know that she views the education of young people—all young people—as her personal duty. Without a doubt, the voters of Durham recently elected Professor Jones to their Board of Education because of her distinct dedication to education. As a Durham native, Jones was instructed in the Durham City School system before she attended NCCU to obtain both her BA and MA in history. She proceeded to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she earned a doctorate in American History. Because her three children also attend Durham City Schools, Jones says her keen interest in the system is amplified that much more.

"I truly believe that every child has the right to an education that will provide for them [a means for] a productive life," she remarked in a recent interview with the Campus Echo. "Every child who enters the doors of education should graduate, and have a sense of competency."

When she was coming through school, Jones says it was the support of the extended community that gave her the chance to succeed. Because she "stood on the

shoulders" of teachers, church members, and neighbors, she now wants to give back to the community what she has received. She feels all students are obligated to

guidance until the parent came home from work. At HELP, those students find assistance with homework, and guidance with the problems of just growing up.



Newly Elected Board of Education Member Beverly Jones make similar contributions, whether they recognize that obligation or not.

Professor Jones is the chairperson of the Academic HELP Center, a non-profit after-school tutorial available in low-income areas. Because many are from single-parent homes, some students would go home to empty houses with no

"I am deeply involved," Jones explained, "because it goes beyond saying something needs to be done...."

Jones is active the PTA and the Hillside High School Parents' Booster Club, as well as being director of the Institute on Desegregation, which is right here on campus. The Institute was established

in 1972 to study and resolve the problems arising from school desegregation.

As a member of the Board of Education, Jones will participate in assuring the quality of education from a policy-making standpoint, deal with personnel matters, and help make decisions about curriculum. The goals Jones hopes to reach during her term in office include involving local businesses and the community more in education, and guaranteeing equal resources between the individual schools.

The possibility of a merger between Durham City and Durham County school systems has been a controversial subject, hotly debated on the editorial page of the local paper. But Jones thinks the merger will be of good consequence for Durham. With the merger, classrooms will have a more diverse collection of children, from all economic and cultural backgrounds.

"I'm for the multicultural classroom because we live in a multicultural society," was Jones' response to the few schools up North, voluntarily segregated for black males only. "I know the black male faces many tremendous problems [as do black females]... but when you begin to segregate, you are not preparing

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Students Not Pleased With Campus Post Office

by Sha'Ronn Payne
Many students are not pleased with the campus post office because they say its operation is improper and its employees are unprofessional. However, a post office employee disagrees.

One student said she is offended by the behavior of the employees and the recent increase for mailbox fees. Monica Perry, junior class president, said, "I feel like the post office is inefficient, and that the employees are discourteous. I have chosen to receive my mail elsewhere because of the \$15.00 increase from last year. I don't understand why I should have to pay \$20.00 this year when I only had to pay \$3.00 my freshman year, and \$5.00 last year."

Gwen Jackson, a sophomore, also said that the prices are too high and the service is of low quality. "The prices are ridiculous and the office is never open when it is suppose to be," she said. "I don't understand why I didn't get mail over the summer, although I filled out a change of address form."

Robert Thornton, a junior, said the post office is not prompt and hardly ever opens according to schedule, which is has become quite annoying. "I am strongly against the fact that the post office almost always opens at least 20

minutes after posted opening hours," he said. "This inconvenience puts students in a bad situation when they need stamps immediately."

Likewise, Pam Williams, a junior, said, "The post office never opens on time. The employees always take extremely long lunch breaks, and they are not friendly at all."

The campus post office is subpar in comparison with other post offices, said senior Juanita Miller. "The staff in the mailroom has a tendency to take long lunch breaks which interferes with their hours of operation," she said. "The campus post office should run the same way that regular post offices run, which means that they should be open on Saturdays. I would rate our post office a "D" because it is below average."

Although students made mostly negative comments about the post office, an employee of the post office who wishes to remain anonymous, refutes student claims. She said that the hours and days of operation are set by the school and the campus post office employees are employed by the university, not the government.

She also said that the mail is dispersed immediately, and late delivery is not the office's fault.