

THE CAMPUS ECHO

Lack of Cashiers Contribute to Long Lines During Registration

by Kimberly Thornton

North Carolina Central University students are used to waiting in line during registration, but this semester the wait was longer than usual. Many students waited at least four to six hours just to pay their bill.

"I got there [the Communications building] at 7:30 a.m. and didn't get in till 9:00 a.m.," said Cassandra Artis a senior from Fayetteville, N.C. "I didn't need a copy of my bill, and I didn't get to pay until 4:00 in the afternoon."

Not enough cashiers contributed to the long lines but, according to University Registrar, James Pierce, students could avoid the long lines during registration if they would pay early.

"We had paying period all through December and financial aid [awards] was posted to the accounts on December 20," he said.

Pre-registered students were sent a memo along with their bill that gave times for the students to come pay their bill by the first initial in their last name. But according to Pierce that rule was more for the benefit of the cashiers. "I don't think they [Financial Area of Cashiers] intended to enforce that [alphabetical rule] at all...because we had so many students who didn't pre-register and so they didn't get that notice."

But Ralph Fennell, head of cashiers said that the alphabetical rule was suppose to be enforced. "Security guards had been given instructions [to enforce the rule] but when they changed shifts the instructions weren't passed on to the other security guards," he said. Also, Fennell said that on the second day of registration, the doors to the communications building were forced open. As a result many students who weren't suppose to pay at that time were in line.

Some students had to wait in line just to get their bill stamped, but Pierce said that is unnecessary. "As long as your bill is paid it doesn't have to be stamped," he said. "That's just a formality that they [cashiers] do when it

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Donna J. Benson: A Mirror of Excellence

by Johnnie Whitehead

For North Carolina Central University's Interim Chancellor, Donna J. Benson, who grew up during the 60s in a time of monumental change in America's social structure, many memories remain. The lessons learned were hard ones, even though the clouds were gray and looming with hopelessness. Perhaps Benson is living proof that we can always find that silver lining.

She witnessed, great, world-renowned civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, with their provocative and overpowering charisma, captivate and change the course of history. They led black people into a new direction by creating change that was inevitable for this nation when they marched on Washington, organized the Montgomery bus boycott, and the Organization of Afro-American Unity.

However, closer to home in

Charlotte, was Julius Chambers, a NCCU alumnus, one of the key leaders who set the pace for integration and busing in Mecklenberg county and the city schools.

At the time students at the predominantly black West Charlotte High School were upset because they saw no advantages in leaving their warm and familiar surround-

ings to enter a bitter and hostile environment that refused to recognize their mere existence as Americans, as citizens and as human beings. Surprisingly, this experience proved to be a healthy one for the city of Charlotte as well as for Benson.

"We didn't know what it would mean," Benson recalls when she learned that she would be bused to Independence, a predominantly white high school. "There were only two blacks in my class with integration but at West Charlotte the entire gifted and talented class was black."

Since busing was inevitable in the near future, a group of dedicated teachers were determined to make the black students abreast and ready to compete with the white students upon integration. "Teachers began to teach," Benson says emphatically. "They would not let us be cut short."

Although the teachers provided the students with the motivation to excel at their soon-to-be new schools, Benson's mother, Lou Emma Pogue Benson, built the strong foundation for her children by earning her graduate degree in guidance and counseling from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1964. "She attended night classes and my brother and I

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Interim Chancellor Donna J. Benson

AIDS: High Risk Sex Behavior of College Students Increases Threat

by Amy Reynolds

(CPS)—Magic Johnson's message has hit home loud and clear—AIDS spares no one. Are college students getting the message?

Researchers at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction at Indiana University recently concluded a 1985 study of students' sexual behavior that they are preparing for publication.

Preliminary findings show that of the 651 undergraduate students surveyed at Indiana University, 81 percent of the men and 75 percent of the women were not virgins and that students spend an average of two nights a week with their sexual partners.

It also found that 50 percent of

the men and 36 percent of the women had sex with someone they just met and that, on average, students had two one-night stands in 1990.

In March 1990, the Kinsey Insti-

tute published the results of a 1988 survey of 809 college students.

"The most important findings from this survey reveal that stu-

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King Candlelight Vigil Provides Positive Outlet for Student Body

by Dezmona Mizelle

The thoughts and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday is national holiday and is being celebrated in many different ways, have sparked a reawakening on the campus of North Carolina Central University. Many NCCU students chose to honor Dr. King and his dream by attending a midnight candlelight vigil sponsored by the Gamma Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Dr. King was a member of this Fraternity, but he was also a member of a larger fraternity: the fraternity of mankind, which he spent his entire life trying to uplift.

The march and vigil proved to be a positive outlet for students to speak their views about where blacks are presently, what black

students are doing to provide support for the community and also what blacks need to do for positive changes in the future. Students also spoke of the ever-standing search for equality, a definite end to racism and the need for the bonding of a straying community. "A lot of people have paved the way for students" said Senior Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity member Fred Click "and it's because of their support that NCCU has pretty good financial standing."

"We need to reevaluate our priorities," said Student Government President Ericka Johnson. "As successful African-Americans we need to go back to the community and help everyone, when you get yours, share."

Other speakers included Graduate Representative and Graduate

Resident Assistant (GRA) at Chidley Hall Michael Harpe, freshman representative Leon Moore and Eric Dozier an Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity member from Duke University.

The march, which was composed of Greeks, cheerleaders, band members, graduate students and other members of the student body began its ceremonial march at Chidley Hall and marched while singing traditional songs to the A.E. Student Union. There the speakers were then heard.

Although the group of marchers was not as large as it could have been, numbering fewer than 100, those that were in attendance were truly fierce in the conveyance of their ideas and remedies for black on black crime, racism, and the

rebuilding of a bond that has been severely severed in the African-American community.

"I feel that we as African-Americans need to recommit ourselves to what Dr. King so desperately fought and died for in his lifetime" said Senior Allen Lee, also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

"If we do that we can only grow stronger." The general feeling of the crowd during and after the vigil was one of true togetherness, all hostility and animosity forgotten as students gathered to renew their dedication to Dr. King's struggle.

This event was one that won't be soon forgotten, for it's impact will live in each of the marchers and hopefully will be passed on to those unable to attend.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity member Nicholas King left the marchers with two powerful quotes from Dr. King: "An injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere, and if not us, who?, and if not now, when?"

The Midnight Vigil is an annual event held every year on the eve of Dr. King's birthday.

Martin Luther King Celebration



Students pay tribute to the slain civil rights leader in B.N. Duke Auditorium

Judge Orders Alabama to Cease Segregation

(CPS)—In what might be a preview of the outcome of a desegregation case now before the U.S. Supreme Court, a federal judge has ruled that Alabama must erase all traces of segregation in its university system.

"This court is obligated to see that vestiges of discrimination are eliminated root and branch and it will brook nothing less," U.S. District Judge Harold Murphy wrote in his Dec. 30 order.

The judge ordered Alabama to:

- *Change the state's funding formula to provide better support for Alabama A&M at Huntsville and Alabama State at Montgomery, two predominantly black schools;
- *Allocate \$10 million each to the two schools forementioned for building improvements over the next three years;
- *Stop program duplication at the two schools and their predominantly white counterparts;
- *Seek more white students to attend Alabama State;
- *Seek more black faculty members at Auburn University, the University of Montevallo and Livingston University;
- *Add more black administrators at Auburn, the University of North Alabama, Troy State University, Calhoun State Community College, the University of Alabama campuses in Tuscaloosa and Huntsville and Jackson State University.

All of the parties involved in the 1981 desegregation suit, including the schools named in the order, Gov. Guy Hunt and the state uni-

versity system, have 90 days to report on their plans to comply with the judge's order.

Murphy's 1,000-page order is a result of a second trial over the case. After the first in 1985 a judge ruled that remnants of segregation did exist in the Alabama system, but he was removed from the case in 1987 by an appellate court because he was involved in segrega-

tion issue as a former state lawmaker.

Attorney Rob Hunter, who represents the governor and state education and finance officials, says the state does not want to appeal Murphy's decision, but state officials are concerned about finding the means to provide the

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North Carolina's Homeless Population: 8,000 Strong and Growing

RALEIGH—Nationally, hundreds of homeless individuals die every year from exposure to the elements, lack of proper medical care, poor nutrition, violence and neglect. National Homeless Memorial Day, recognized December 21 to commemorate the lives of homeless individuals who have died during the past year, focuses attention on this serious problem.

North Carolina has yet to recognize the magnitude of the homelessness and low income housing crisis confronting this state, according to Linda Shaw, Executive Director of the North Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition. "Homelessness is still viewed by many as a minor problem. But as national Homeless Memorial Day shows, it is in fact a life and death situation."

This state has over 8,000 homeless individuals. Families with children continue to be the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. One recent survey by the state Department of Public Instruction revealed that at least 6,166 North Carolina children are

homeless. A Frank porter Graham Child Development Center survey reports that in North Carolina approximately 468 children are found in shelters daily, and most are under the age of 10. Preschoolers between the ages of 3 and 5 are the most frequently served group of children in shelters.

"Unfortunately, the visible

homeless are only the tip of the iceberg," according to Shaw. There are even more "hidden homeless." The hidden homeless include those sleeping on the floors of friends or family—only one argument away from being on the streets, and endangering both households with eviction. others at risk of homelessness include households

paying more than 30 percent of income for housing (84 percent of households with incomes at or below the poverty level experience this housing cost burden). Those persons, who are often one-paycheck away from being homeless, join the thousands of North Carolinians at risk of becoming homeless due to lack of affordable housing, low wages, unemployment, prolonged medical crisis, family violence, and other factors.

"This is an annual event we would prefer to do away with," said Chuck Snyder of Winston-Salem's Homeless but Not Helpless and board member of the National Coalition for the Homeless which sponsors this day. "Unfortunately, until the government and the private sector are willing to put forth the resources to address the overwhelming need for affordable housing for these persons, we will continue to light candles and say prayers for our brothers and sisters who have found permanent places at last."

