

THE CAMPUS ECHO

Issue 6

North Carolina Central University

February 12, 1992

Grade Changing Policy Under Intense Investigation

by Kimberly Thornton

North Carolina Central University's policy concerning the procedures affecting the changing or adding of grades is under investigation.

As a result of the investigation, a memorandum was released by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Registrar's Office February 4th. The memorandum lists the procedures to be followed when changing or adding grades.

According to Dr. Mary M. Townes, dean of the college of arts and sciences, the memorandum released is designed to "reinforce the current policy." Also, Townes said that the policy was under investigation by the state auditor.

Bruce Thomas of the state auditor's office said that the University was investigating the policy and could not comment on the details.

James Pierce, university registrar could not comment on the details of the investigation, but said they would be released in the state auditor's report Saturday, February 15.

For the past three weeks, Dr. Mickey Burnim, vice-chancellor for academic affairs, has been conducting an investigation on any possible abuse of the policy. "I'm trying to determine if any grade changes were inappropriately given or if any permanent grades were inappropriately changed."

Furthermore, added Burnim, if any misconduct has been found, there could be reprimands on the parties involved, including expulsion or dismissal from the University.

Dr. Burnim did stress that his investigation is not looking at just the grade change policy, but "a lot of different things." The findings in his investigation will be given to the Interim Chancellor Donna Benson.

As for the auditor's report, Dr. Burnim could not confirm when it would be released to the public.

Grants Program Under Audit for Possible Fraud

by Johnnie Whitehead

North Carolina Central University is being audited by the state regarding potential "fraudulent, wastefulness and abuse" in the administration of various grants.

"We're doing a more in-depth review of the grants than we would ordinarily do," said Bruce Thomas, deputy state auditor. "This is more detailed because it deals with the compliance of rules and regulations."

The decision to audit the university is based on information received through the state auditor's hotline concerning misappropriations said Thomas.

"Indirectly," adds Thomas, "grants administered by the public administration department [Clarence Brown] are related in this probe." Dr. Joseph Aicher, chairman of the political science department and supervisor of the public administration department, could not be reached for comment.

NCCU must provide documentation to prove exactly where grants are going Thomas explains. "We can't satisfy ourselves based on oral representation."

Although Thomas cannot provide any specifics concerning the findings until the end of this month, he maintains that if any problems are

found, his office will make recommendations to university management on how they can improve the process.

"The field work is in the process of being completed," he said of the audit which has been going on for several months. "It has been a long process, but the management has been very cooperative."

In addition, next month a complete financial audit of NCCU's financial statements will begin. "During a financial audit we'll look at how grants and financial records relate to financial statements as a whole," said Thomas, a state auditor for the past two years.

Magic on Tour: Visits North Carolina to Educate Blacks

by Russ Robinson

He was not Earvin "Magic" Johnson, basketball superstar. He was Earvin Johnson, educator. On February 5th, he made his first stop on his "Wellness Tour" and emphasizes the importance of the AIDS epidemic, education and black entrepreneurship at Saint Augustine College in Raleigh.

Forced to retire after contracting the HIV virus, Johnson said he now has a new focus in life. "When I was on the basketball court I was doing my work, but now I'm doing the Lord's work."

He also managed to stymie the audience with the dreadful statistics about AIDS. For instance, 75 percent of the cases are heterosexual, 53 percent come from the black community and perhaps the most horrid, the virus is the number one killer of black women in the states of New York and New Jersey.

According to Johnson, denial is

the major reason why the AIDS epidemic has not been recognized as a threat by the black community. "Blacks still have not come to the conclusion that AIDS is an equal opportunity killer."

In addition, Johnson believes that blacks have a passive attitude in regard to AIDS because they are misinformed. "Some blacks are still under the impression that you can get AIDS from shaking hands or kissing someone with AIDS."

To date, researchers have concluded that the virus can only be contracted from sharing needles, through blood transfusions and sexual contact.

Furthermore, education is most important said Johnson. "Education is the key to everything. If blacks are going to put a dent in society, it must be in education."

Being a former professional athlete

See page 4/Magic Educates

New President of the Association of Black Psychologists

by Dezmona Mizelle

Putting his efforts into uplifting the black community educationally, Dr. Les Brinson, president-elect of the Association of Black Psychologists, has an important agenda for black students.

The ABPsi wants to set up training and information centers and groups in such a way that they will urge people to be informed, he maintains.

Also, he wants to focus on doing what is necessary to ensure every student takes a psychology course and that the course includes responsible coverage of black psychologists; "so students will know of their importance in relation to psychology and behavioral sciences."

In addition, Brinson is presently head of the department of psychol-

ogy here at North Carolina Central University [for over a decade] and chairman of the NCCU Athletic Council.

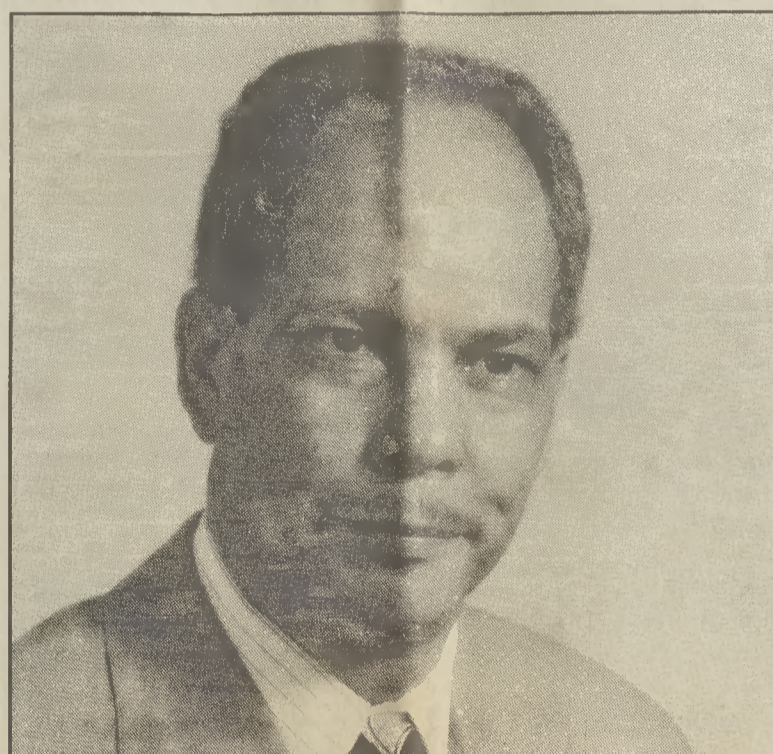
Brinson completed his undergraduate studies at NCCU and his graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

During his tenure at NCCU, Brinson has chartered chapter of Psi Chi, a national honor society for psychology students.

"I had to work hard for what I have gained," he said, "and I am proud of that."

Brinson has fond memories as he recalls the sacrifices his peers made while growing up in Kinston. "I remember some extremely articulate and bright young people who began to shift academic pur-

See page 4/Brinson



Psychology Department Chairman: Dr. Les Brinson

Yearbook Editor Forced to Resign

by Paula McDonald

North Carolina Central University's yearbook editor, Randy Johnson, has resigned at the request of Curtis Daye, yearbook advisor.

In asking for Johnson's resignation, Daye pointed out that only a fifth of the necessary work to get the yearbook out on time has been done to date. "There has been regression rather than progress this year," Daye said.

Prior to his resignation Wednesday, February 5th, Johnson expressed his frustration with his position. "This is a thankless job," he said. "I gave people too much rope."

Daye maintains that a change was desperately needed. "We're not where we should be in regards to the yearbook."

Daye hopes to complete the remaining 240-pages of the yearbook within the next 42 working days. This averages out to about 6-pages per day. However, Daye and his staff cannot complete this "Herculean" task without the much needed help of students and faculty. "We need students that are willing to work to come out," he said. Although no one will be named to replace Johnson, the yearbook staff's goal is to have the upcoming yearbook completed by dead week, and ready to go to the printer

by May 20th. "One of my primary responsibilities is to ensure that students receive a suitable yearbook within a reasonable time frame," said Daye.

Furthermore, Daye contends that the reason for the fall delivery date is to include the graduation of that year's senior class; and that it takes roughly 12-weeks to print a yearbook. "The goal is to move to a more professional-looking yearbook," he said.

For Johnson, the job is far too stressful. "You have to be literally crazy to be editor," he said.

Teaching Fellow Wins School of Education Contest

(NCCU)-Sharlene Parker, a senior Teaching Fellow student and English major, is the winner of an art contest sponsored by the North Carolina Central University's School of Education.

Parker, of Elm City, won a cash award for her artistic rendition of the Schools Knowledge Base Theme: "Educators for Diverse Cultural Contexts."

"When I thought about the theme," said Parker, "I envisioned a group of people who were very different—culturally diverse—yet very much alike in that they were all headed in the same direction and bound together by a common goal—a quest for knowledge and sharing of knowledge."

Parker's artwork features eight individuals—men and women—who differ in terms of facial features and headdress. While they all wear graduation robes, each carries a different educational symbol—such as a diploma, an apple or a textbook.

Emanating from the top of each figure is a beam of bright color which converges to form a pyramid. Parker said she wanted to convey "a coalescence of brilliance made up of distinctly different

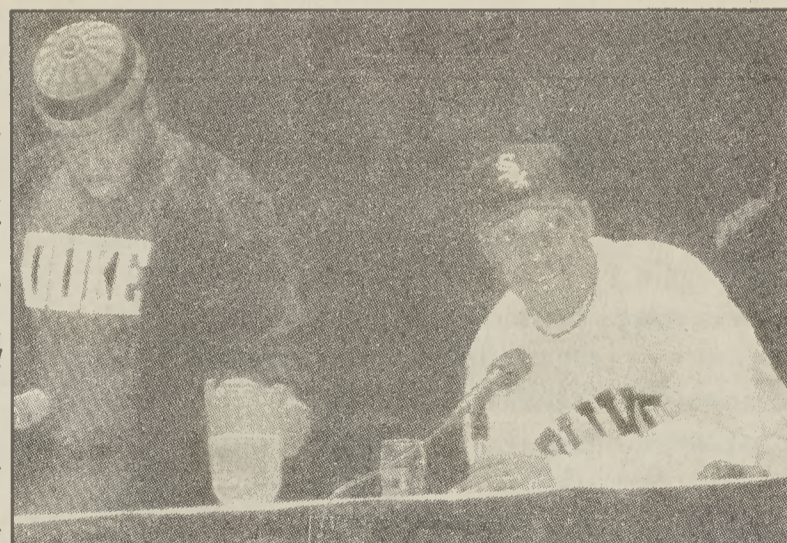
place where kids grew up, hung out, and ultimately found trouble.

By no coincidence the drug trade began and Carlton was bused to a white high school. He wanted to be an architect so he left the 9th grade and went to Clark, another all white school in Westbury.

"They were culture shocked," Carlton recalls. "I thought you guys were all like J.J. on *Good Times*." Growing up all we had was white TV. The only brothers I were pimps like Huggy Bear on *Starsky and Hutch*.

Communication is the key—

See page 3/Racism



Public Enemy: Harry Allen (left) and Chuck D

parts." The spectrum color, she added, reinforces the idea of a spectrum of cultures, and the point of the pyramid leads the viewer's eyes to the theme at the top of the work.

What will she do with the prize money? "I'll be student teaching very soon," said Parker with a shy smile, "so I'll probably buy an outfit that looks very professional."

Dr. Walter M. Brown, dean of

Sharlene's work. "Occasionally we see students whose performance suggests that they are on a path that will lead to a successful career and personal fulfillment," he said. "Sharlene Parker is definitely on such a path. It will be interesting to see how far Sharlene's talents and personal discipline take her."

The theme—which evolves from the University's mission of stimulating student intellectual growth; enhancing academic and professional skills; instilling a sense of pride, dignity and discipline; and promoting a local, national and global consciousness and dedication to social responsibility—acts as the spiritual and theoretical foundation for the School of Education and its Teacher Education Program.

"We are fortunate to have a diverse faculty of varied backgrounds and talents. Our curriculum is concerned with diversity and communication among diverse groups. Our Teacher Education students work directly with the diverse populations which com-

Chidley: The Dorm's Most Hypest Rooms

by Jason Williams

After a week of anticipation, Chidley Hall's student and graduate resident assistants discovered the "hypest rooms" in Chidley.

"The Hypest Room" contest was held January 30th, and 29 residents accepted the challenge.

"The contest," said SRA Vance Meaders, "is an effort to promote cleanliness and creativity in the rooms."

"It really looked like he took care of his room...It was comfortable like I could live there."

"Also, it's not to say that the residents don't keep their rooms clean," said SRA Rodney Hopkins. "It's an incentive to reward those students who do. It's a home. A place where you live, eat and sleep."

Jayne Tomilinson, acting coordinator of residence operations, Miss

See page 4/Rooms



Teaching Fellow: Sharlene Parker

Have Questions about The Campus Echo?

HERE'S WHERE TO CALL

WANT ADS: 560-6504 OR 6221 NEWS: 560-6504

See page 5/Teaching Fellow