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Renewal Applications Make Financial Aid More Efficient

By JOHNNIE WHITEHEAD
Associate Editor

Students who applied for financial aid for the 1990-91 school year can now fill out a renewal application, a "much simpler way of applying for aid for the upcoming '92-93 academic year," says the assistant vice chancellor for scholarships and student aid.

Lola McKnight maintains that a new system devised by the federal government's Department of Education improves the financial aid process. "With the old application, students started from scratch where they had to answer every question," she said. "With the new one they only have to update what is new from '90-91."

According to McKnight, the old form took up to four weeks to be processed. The new one takes only 72 hours. "We advertise one week from our transmission of the data to allow us some leeway."

This is more of an advantage to the students, said McKnight, because students do not have to pay the \$7.50 fee every year—this new system is free.

The University bears the transmission cost which could not be released because the office does not have an accurate estimate. "Whatever the cost is," said McKnight, "it is less than we expected."

Computerization is what

prompted this move, says McKnight. "The financial aid world needs a better and faster way to turn around these applications," she said. "Four weeks is a long time. If a student waits until August when he or she decides to come to college, with the new system, before registration is over we can get a record."

The renewal application program was recommended to Herbert

Watkins, vice chancellor of financial affairs, by McKnight. The program was implemented Feb. 1. The updated information is teletransmitted to Iowa City, Iowa, where American College Testing (ACT) forms are normally mailed.

To date, about one-third of the students have picked up the new forms. As for those who do not pick up the applications or meet the priority deadline March 31, McKnight said that the office will do its best to assist them. "We will get them through the system as quickly as possible, but students who are taking advantage are guaranteed that their aid will be ready by the first payment period."

Also, McKnight stresses that the students that file by the priority deadline will be the first in line to get the "free money such as NCCU and Pell Grants."

It is in the best interest of the student to meet the deadline said McKnight. "Students that meet the deadline will have an award letter

before they go home in May. We're trying to get the majority of work done in July rather than August."

As in the past, students must submit their and their parents' tax forms and a verification worksheet.

Students who need financial aid for summer school must register early, from March 21-April 26. Applications will be made available March 18.

Professor and 3 Students Arrested for Soliciting Sex

By KIM THORNTON
Editor

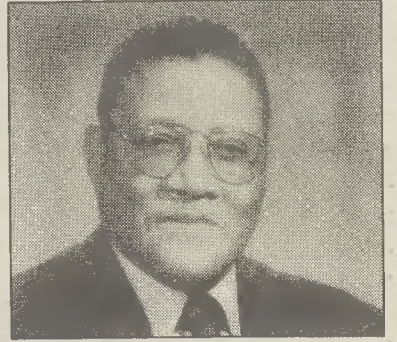
A North Carolina Central University professor was among 24 men arrested on morals charges in Fayetteville during a three-day period.

Dr. Raphael Nash Thompson, 65, assistant dean and lead professor of the School of Business,

was arrested March 4 and charged with crimes against nature, according to the March 7 issue of the *Fayetteville Observer-Times*.

According to police reports, Thompson was among six men picked up around adult book stores on Bragg Blvd. The police report also alleges that Thompson solicited anal sex from a male

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Dr. Raphael N. Thompson

SGA President-Elect Phyllis Jeffers: Ready to Shut 'em Down!

By JOHNNIE WHITEHEAD
Associate Editor

Shut 'em Down...Shut 'em... Shut 'em Down!

With this and other slogans, 20-year-old president-elect Phyllis Jeffers says that she addresses the issues that appeal to and concern the student body. She responded to their "cry for help," she says.

Her plan? Question the system [NCCU administration and the UNC system] and hold them accountable.

Jeffers admits that the students must work with the administration in order to improve campus life. "But what if the administration is the problem?" she asks.

"Once we talk [existing problems such as security], ask questions, and present our list of demands and nothing happens, we will have to march and rally," said Jeffers. "That's the way it was won in the West and in the '60s—by standing up."

The president-elect is disturbed by the passive attitude of students. Jeffers believes that this lack of concern is responsible for the lack of activities and being ignored by the administration. "Students now find themselves comfortable with being second-class citizens," she said. "Something about this generation is lost. We just sit back and let people do whatever the hell

they want to."

But perhaps the overbearing problem with this University is the UNC system itself, said Jeffers, a native of Greensboro. "People don't understand that the UNC system has a lot to do with why we have nothing," she said. "This is a predominantly white system that has the final voice on our Chancellor. They won't put anyone in there who will question them."

Although Jeffers realizes that NCCU receives less funding because the student body is smaller than that of the larger institutions that the system oversees, she maintains that the system "does not take this University seriously."

Another important element of Jeffers' equation to unify the campus is to involve the community. She stresses that the community wants to be involved with this University. However, only a few groups ask for their help she said. "No one wants to ask local black-owned businesses for help. During my campaign "World of Flowers" donated 10 carnations and gave me a discount on balloons for my campaign," said Jeffers. "They were impressed that we had enough interest to ask. The entire business community is for us."

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Phyllis Jeffers: "Something about this generation is lost"

Dean Blames Lack of Student Concern for Low Turnout at SGA Elections

By KIM THORNTON
Editor

Lack of student concern is the cause of low voter turnout in the recent Student Government Association elections, according to assistant vice-chancellor for student affairs, Dr. Roger Bryant.

In the election held March 4, only 962 students voted out of an student population of over 5,000. Bryant said the figure is about the average turnout for SGA elections.

"It's just student apathy," he said. "There were no burning issues in this election."

Moreover, Bryant said that if the students didn't have a cause to fight for, they have no interest in the SGA elections. "If people don't feel the need to rally around [a cause] they are disinterested," Bryant said.

In the past, students complained about the long lines to vote. However, Bryant said that in this recent election the lines were not long.

Bryant believes that this student apathy is representative of the Durham voting community. "Only 30-35 percent voted in the

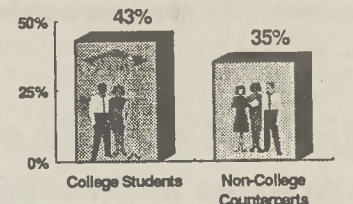
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Alcohol vs. Books



College students spend more money on alcohol than books. Approximately \$5.5 billion is spent annually to purchase 430 gallons of alcoholic beverages. It is estimated that among those currently in college, between 240,000 and 360,000 will eventually lose their lives due to drinking.

*Obtained from the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention.



New Student Art Gallery: Opening the Doors for Expression

By JOHNNIE WHITEHEAD
Associate Editor

The talented art students at North Carolina Central University were frustrated. There was no outlet for them to display their work. They needed a way to express themselves. They needed a Student Art Gallery.

Room for the gallery has always been available, but no one took the initiative to clean up and sacrifice their time. But now, after hours of scrubbing and painting, the gallery finally opened for its first exhibit Feb. 23, with Robin King-Hoard as its curator.

On the first floor of the Music and Fine Arts Building in room 108 is the cube-sized gallery with its exhibition of 17 illustrations, paintings, designs, drawings and printmakings by the University's most gifted artists. "We have so many talented students, and I'm so glad we now have a place where the public and students from other schools can come to see our work," King-Hoard said.

One of the key factors in aiding King-Hoard in her quest is the support the department's faculty has given her. "Teachers motivate you," she said. "They have so much energy."

As a result of this new-found energy, she maintains that students are more motivated. "Before, they

would go to class, put their work in their room and never show it." Just as strong in their support is

the Art Club, which had been inactive since 1988, and its president, Tanneh Al-Amin. "We get money

from them and we try to have fund raisers. This pays for things like mats and frames," said King-

Hoard, a 21-year-old art history major and native of Toledo, Oh. The work to be displayed is

chosen by King-Hoard and six other members of a selection committee: Celeste Bean, Tanneh El-Amin, Pam Ferguson, Josh King, Erica Leathers and Johnie Riddick.

Although the job as curator is tough and very demanding, King-Hoard does not complain. "Hard work motivates me. This is like my baby. I raise and care for it until it's right."

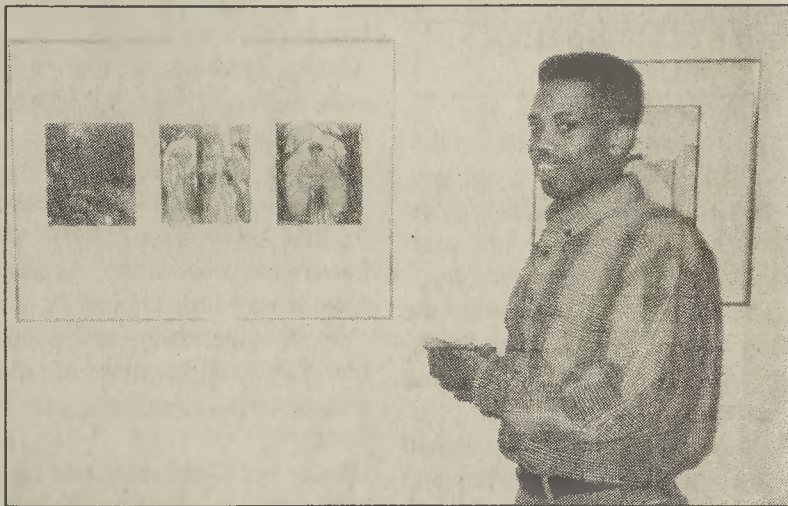
King-Hoard came to North Carolina Central University's art department last semester after transferring from Bennett College. For her, art is "freedom." "Art means go for it, express yourself, and who cares."

Ultimately, she wants to be a curator for a major art gallery; the student gallery is just the "tip of the iceberg." "Hopefully, I can show my teachers, the students and myself that I can do this," King-Hoard said. "On television, being a curator looks easy, but it's not."

She also hopes the gallery will "expand" by adding carpet, installing new lights, and painting the walls once again so it will look "real."

"We want people to walk into this building and know that this is an art department—and a good one."

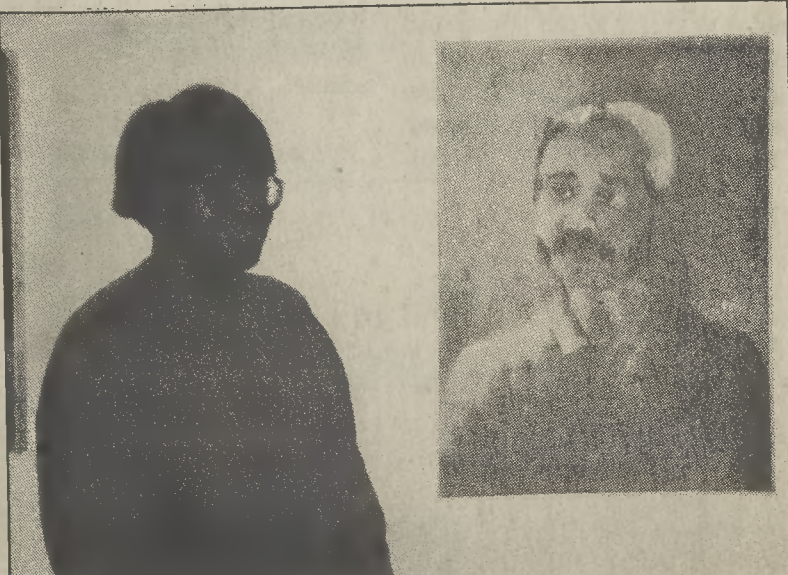
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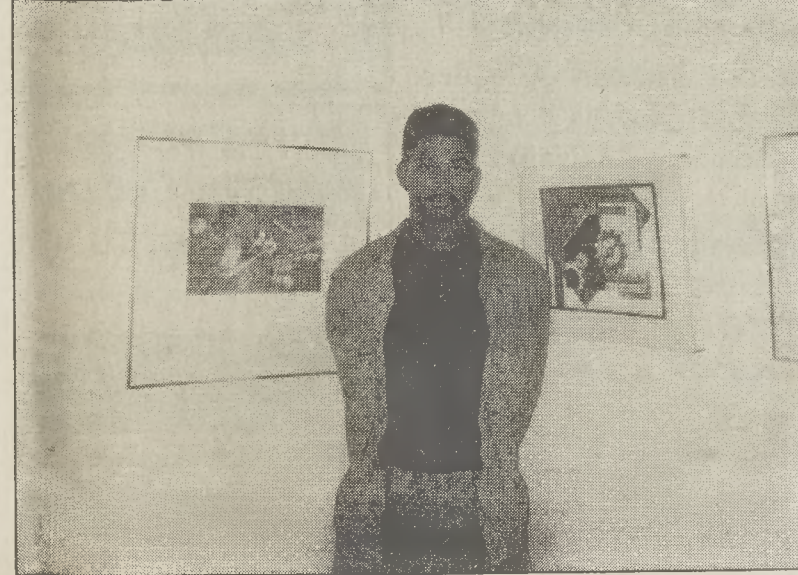
Titus Thomas: "Witch Is Home/Witch Meets Children/Mother in Search of Her Children"



Tanneh El-Amin: "Gregory Grant"



Pamela Ferguson: "Memories II"



Quincy Anderson: (left) Untitled (right) "The Factory"