



Congratulations Class of 1992!!!!

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Chancellor Changes Graduation Ceremony

By KIM THORNTON
Editor

North Carolina Central University's 81st Commencement exercises will be held quite differently this year. Instead of one ceremony where the graduates are recognized and receive their degrees, there will be two ceremonies where each school recognizes its graduates.

This new ceremony was the result of efforts by this year's senior class to get their names read during graduation ceremony.

Earlier this semester the senior class solicited petitions to support reading the names at graduation, and took them to the administration.

The first ceremony begins at 9 a.m. in O'Kelly-Riddick stadium where the graduates will be recognized and Attorney William Gary, graduate of NCCU's School of Law will give the commencement address.

The second ceremony, in which degrees will be presented, begins at 11 a.m. This ceremony will be held in different buildings on campus according to the school. The College of Arts and Sciences will present degrees in McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium, the School of Business in the Miller-Morgan Health Sciences Building; the School of Education in the Taylor Education Building Auditorium; the School of Law in B.N. Duke Auditorium and the School of Library and Information Sciences will present its degrees in the James E. Shepard Library in room 332.

However, some seniors are unhappy with having two separate ceremonies. "Personally, I am not for it," says Student Government Association President Erika Johnson. "This campus is not yet handicap accessible, we do not know whose grandmother, sister or cousin is handicapped."

Adele Williams, a graduating criminal justice major believes

graduation will cause problems for parents. "It's going to be confusing," she says, "It is mid-April and this decision should have been made in August [1991]."

Concern with the heat in May was a factor in having two ceremonies. At the Chancellor's Advisory Council of Elected Student Government Leaders, Chan-

cellor Donna Benson, said it would have taken two and half to three hours to call the names of all graduates. This she said may cause some to dehydrate or faint.

Since NCCU does not have an auditorium that would safely hold the large number of people attending graduation, it is impossible to hold commencement exercises indoors.

According to Benson, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte among other universities, were contacted to find out how they held their graduation ceremonies. She says she wasn't sure if having two ceremonies would work and that the success or failure of this year's commencement exercises would determine what will happen in 1993.

Strong Liberal Arts Program Makes NCCU a 'Legacy'

By JOHNNIE WHITEHEAD
Associate Editor

Number one academically among North Carolina's 11 historically black colleges.

Number nine in the United States for producing students who go on to receive their Ph. D.'s.

These were the results concerning North Carolina Central University, issued by the *The Gourman Report* for 1990-91, which rates over a thousand undergraduate

programs in American and International Universities.

"NCCU is a legacy because of the strong liberal arts program," says Interim Chancellor Donna J. Benson. "This is a legacy for producing intellectuals."

Some of the NCCU alumni who received their Ph. D.'s are Cleon Thompson Jr., chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, Nathan Simms, vice president of student affairs for the UNC system, and Dallas Simmons, president of Virginia Union.

Benson says the effects of NCCU's excellence strong in North Carolina because of the many blacks in leadership positions. Also, she says, this "wave of excellence" is felt nationwide.

However, because of the competitive recruiting, many "gifted" blacks attend predominantly white schools, says Benson. "This use to be a mecca. Now competition is stiff for the best and brightest African Americans."

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Student Art Gallery Opens for 2nd Show



Curator Robin King-Hoard gladly assists Attorney Floyd McKissick and wife as they view student art work.

Approximately 35 guests were in attendance for the art department's opening for the "2nd Show." The gallery is open to the public from Tuesday to Thursday from 3p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 108 of the Fine Arts Building. The show runs through the summer.

ABPsi Shows Community Leadership

By JOHNNIE WHITEHEAD
Associate Editor

The children at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club need help. They need positive role models. They need a student organization from North Carolina Central University to provide them with leadership. The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi) aims to do these things.

"There are a lot of children that need us," says E. Mark Sutton, president of the student chapter. "When Kensey Wright (a member

of ABPsi) went there for field placement, he informed us at one of the meetings about the club, and he could not believe how much we were needed."

Sutton, a native of Detroit, and other members sacrifice their free time to help tutor the children with their studies, play basketball or just talk with them. "Many of these kids are black and come from disadvantaged homes. There aren't enough employees at the club to effectively deal with them."

ABPsi wants to be a link between NCCU and the surrounding community says Sutton. However, a

lack of funding for the organization is one of its major obstacles. "We can reach further into the community with more money. People are more apt to give you a commitment to work with you if you have the money. If not, you get pushed aside."

Sutton, a 22-year-old psychology major, hopes that the administration can offer ABPsi much needed financial support. "Everybody has priorities. What may be important to us may not be to them. But we hope the administration can sympathize with us and what we are trying to do."

Also, Sutton stresses that ABPsi and the psychology department must take some initiative. "We need to tell the administration what we want so they can earmark more money for us."

Presently, most of the money spent by the organization comes from their own treasury. ABPsi, a 14-member organization, was not official until the spring semester of this year.

The purpose of ABPsi is to give psychology students a different perspective of psychology, says Sutton: "Textbooks are written from a Euro-centric point of view. We give them information and literature on prominent Black psychologists in the field, such as Dr. Na'im Akbar and Dr. Wade

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Having a Ball: President E. Mark Sutton shows 8-year-old Deon Burt a few pointers.

Student Seeks Patent for Invention

By JOHNNIE WHITEHEAD
Associate Editor



A North Carolina Central University middle mathematics education major is searching for a patent for his board game invention.

David Shelby, a graduating senior from Raleigh, has an educational game, *Coordinate Gains*, approved by the research department of the National Idea Center [NIC] of Washington, D.C.

It will cost roughly \$3,000 to receive a patent, says Shelby. "The patent process is expensive, and I'm trying to get investors to finance it."

According to Shelby, the Minority Business Information Institute "looked into" his invention in February of this year.

However, he has yet to find an investor. "Someone agreed to invest but they wanted me to put up too much money. Presently, I have some people in Atlanta looking into it."

Coordinate Gains was initially

Inventor: David Shelby

invented in 1990 as a instruction class project says Shelby. But he decided to seek investors and make his product "marketable."

"It's a long process," says Shelby. "I had to get a lawyer to document and protect the rights so no one could steal my idea."

Shelby says his game is designed to "stimulate children's interest in mathematics."

NIC screened Shelby's product in a preliminary evaluation to determine if it is "patentable." They maintain that *Coordinate Gains'* idea is "workable." "The game appears to be a novel response to

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Sigmas Sleep Out for the Homeless

By JASON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

On April 9, the Gamma Gamma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc held its second annual "Sleep-Out for the Homeless" in the library bowl.

The "Sleep-Out" began at 6 p.m. Wednesday night and ended at 8 a.m. Thursday morning.

"We'll stay until 8 a.m and make the sacrifice regardless of the weather," says president of the chapter Keith Sherard. "The homeless do it everyday. Tomorrow we'll all be back in our homes."

Graduate advisor and fraternity member Terry Bethea agrees.

"This is a demonstration," says Bethea, "not a mockery of how society treats people."

"We invited the other fraternities and sororities to join us, says Sherard, "but we received their donations. We want their bodies here."

In a few years, Sherard foresees the annual event growing larger each year with the entire bowl being filled.

Although the event was open to faculty, students, and staff only 35 student participated.

"I'll be here until 8 o'clock," said junior Jamal Henry, "to support the Sigmas who support the homeless. I feel that I should make a stand because there are businessmen, families, and children who are homeless."

The fraternity planned to raise \$5,000 from both individual and corporate sponsors.

Proceeds donated to the fraternity were given to the Alston Avenue Durham Rescue Mission.

Student Ambassadors: A Valuable Resource

By PAULA McDONALD
Staff Writer

Do you desire to be a part of an elite group? Do you feel that you have what it takes to be a leader? Do you possess enormous "Eagle Pride"?

If you answer yes to all of these questions, Leon Rouson wants you to be a student ambassador.

The Student Ambassador Program was organized in the fall of 1991 by Rouson, a recruiter for North Carolina Central University. According to Rouson, there is a definite need for the program because of the 10,000 plus students that tour this campus every year. "This is a training ground to become more positive about yourself and the University," says Rouson.

This year the co-presidents of the program are Isaiah Williams, a rising sophomore from New York City, and Charles Dino, a rising sophomore from Cleveland, Ohio. Both joined the program as a result of an advertisement posted in the cafeteria at the beginning of the 1991-92 school year.

Dino became interested in becoming an ambassador when he first toured NCCU's campus as a high school student.

Williams learned about the program through his good friend, Tyson King-Meadows, who was also an ambassador.

But this upcoming school year,

potential student ambassadors will go through a screening process.

It may appear that being a student ambassador is easy because all one has to do is take high school students for a tour around the campus.

However, ambassadors play important roles in encouraging perspective students to do well in academics, as well as informing them about college life.

In fact, ambassadors are put through a series of training sessions that stress pride in the Uni-

versity, says Rouson. They learn about the University's history, alumni and curriculum, for example.

"As you can see student ambassadors have a very tough job and are very valuable resources to the University," says Rouson

Rouson says contact him at 560-6066 if you want to accept the challenge. Moreover, come by the Undergraduate Admissions Office, located directly in front of McDougald Gymnasium, and express your interest today.



Co-presidents of the Student Ambassador Program: Isaiah Williams (left) and Charles Dino (right). "...Student ambassadors have a tough job and are very valuable resources to this University."