

# THE CAMPUS ECHO

## EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

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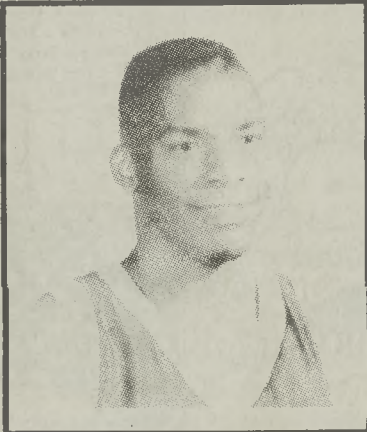
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 15, 1992

### Birchette Remembered

## Service Stirs Eagle Hearts

By ERNIE SUGGS  
Herald-Sun Special



Steven Birchette  
1973-1992

N.C. Central University stood silent Monday, paying tribute to a fallen classmate who was described as a role model both in the classroom and on the basketball court.

In an emotional service, about 900 members of the student body, faculty, staff and community filled B.N. Duke Auditorium to honor the memory of Steven Eugene Birchette.

Birchette, a 19-year-old sophomore from Virginia, died Thursday after suffering an asthma attack.

Across the campus on Monday, the mood was solemn. The flag in the front of the administration building waved slowly at half mast. Students

who didn't have time to change clothes after class paid their tributes in jeans and sweat suits.

"He was a colleague to some, a teammate to others and a friend to all," said the Rev. Roland Cunningham.

Throughout the memorial service, people talked more about

Birchette the person than Birchette the basketball player.

"He was such a role model," said Birchette's teammate and roommate Lorenzo Wilkins. "I'm dedicating the rest of my basketball career to him."

Said head basketball coach Gregory Jackson: "He was more concerned about obtaining an education. He knew that one day the basketball was going to stop dribbling."

Sports Information Director Mike Wilson said that the basketball team will wear uniforms embossed with a "30" patch this fall. This weekend the football and cross country teams wore black on their uniforms in honor of Birchette.

Birchette was Jackson's first recruit and projected starter on this year's team. He tried to fight back tears as he paid tribute to him.

## Black College Day A Success

By DEZMONA MIZELLE  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Over 500 students, teachers and concerned citizens gathered in Raleigh at the State Capital Grounds for Black College Day on October 1.

The overall purpose of Black College Day was to bring students from Black Colleges together to interact and bond by being motivated by representatives from each college. It also gave students an opportunity to interact with elected officials, and those running for positions.

Among those who spoke, were the Campus Queens from North Carolina Central University, North Carolina A&T State University, Winston-Salem State University, Johnson C. Smith University, and St. Augustine's College, Bennett College and Shaw University.

Also speaking were the Student Government Association presidents.

Selena Slade from Johnson C. Smith noted problems in South Africa and Somalia. "We are a people of endurance," she said. "We are also a people of survival, rich in heritage, the sons and daughters of Neferititi. We don't die we multiply."

Kim Harper from Bennett talked about the pleasure of being strong and black. She also urged students to vote.

Ericka Smith from North Carolina A&T State University talked about the best of times and the worst of times in life. "Black Students don't need to be on a paper chase," she said. "Material wealth is not that important, we need to vote, for that is the only venue for the oppressed to express themselves."

William Carter from Winston-Salem State University talked about the need for black colleges to rise to the occasion and remember their heritages. "We are in a state of emergency, black males, black females," said Carter. "Respect yourself, and like the Winans said 'millions didn't make it, but I was one of the ones who did.'"

Victor Finchor from Shaw University encouraged his audience to stop individualizing, and Shaun Mack from St. Augustine's College quoted "invictus" William Ernest Henley's hymn to individualism: "I am the master of my Fate; I am the captain of my soul."

The final SGA president to speak was Phyllis Jeffers, who talked about standing up for what you believe in, and coming together as African-American brothers and sisters.

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## Vice-Chancellor For Student Affairs Dr. Roland Buchanan Fires Back!

Refutes Jeffers claim that "he's not been at home when things got crazy around here."

By GREG LEWIS  
CORRESPONDENT

Atlanta?

Buchanan: That's not true. Kia did not have to pay for her ticket. It was my understanding that the development affairs office took care of it. Kia will tell you leading up to the time to go, I approached her and said, "Well, what about your ticket and gown?" The gown was purchased and whatever else she needed was purchased, at the time, and we were going to get her ticket,

board, tuition, and fees. Last year we didn't have room, board and tuition because Kia is a teaching fellow and the state will not pay it twice. We also proposes that if Miss NCCU is on scholarship that we give her a monthly stipend.

Echo: What about the allegations you misused funds?

Buchanan: I know the allegations are not true. When people say, "Dr. Buchanan has \$45,000 dollars in the student account," That's true. Then ask the next question. How is it used? See, I have been here for 11 years and the auditors every years have checked our records and have given us a clean slate. There is no way that I can use student activity money for my personal gain.

Echo: Do you think the Student Government has enough money to properly maintain activities on campus?

Buchanan No, I will be the first one to tell you that it is not enough. Last year, the Student Services Committee purposed a \$25 fee increase because it was passed by every group or organization, including our board of trustees. The board of governors decided that they were going to raise tuition, so they could not raise fees.

Echo: What did you purpose for the SGA?

Buchanan What I purposed last year was that the SGA get \$30,000 of that money which would have made their entertainment budget \$70,000. To be honest, I feel SGA needed more money for entertainment.

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Dr. Roland Buchanan

Sept. 25. One of the demands asked for the removal of Dr. Roland Buchanan, vice-chancellor for student affairs. In a candid interview with Buchanan he defends himself against the alleged charges against him. Buchanan attended undergraduate school at Jackson State in Jackson, MI. He received his master's degree from Indiana University in Counseling and Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in Educational Administration and American Studies.

Echo: What's your response to the allegations that Miss NCCU, Kia Hardy, had to pay her own to a beauty pageant in

but she told me she already had one. Miss NCCU serves as an ambassador to the University. Wherever we send her, it should be first class.

Echo: Does Miss NCCU have a budget?

Buchanan: Well, she does have a budget but is not in the student queen budget, per se. My first proposal was to give Miss NCU room, board, tuition and fees in addition to gown and all accessories. Last year we spent over \$8,000 on Miss NCCU (Alicia Broadway). I guarantee we will be more than \$8,000 this years because prices go up. In a couple of years we will be looking at \$10,000 plus room,



Student government member Jim Harper, NCCU student body President and Miss NCCU Kia Hardy unite during the Oct. 5 boycott

Dissatisfied With The Administration's Oct. 2 Reponse To Concerns

## SGA Holds Late Hour Study-in In Shepard Library, Boycotts Classes, and Speaks To The Press

By JASON WILLIAMS  
EDITOR

### 250 Student Sit-in

Last night SGA leaders led a study-in at Shepard Library where 250 students stayed in the library studying after the 11 p.m. closing time.

"The point is to study," said SGA Vice-President Derek Brown; "that's what I'm doing." Brown said they would leave at 1 a.m.

"The purpose of the protest is to let them know that we are serious about our concerns. We are also concerned about our academic resources," said student body President Phyllis Jeffers.

Although the library usually stops checking out books at 10:45 p.m. serial librarian Barbara Best-Nichols was still checking out books at 11.

However, Nichols had earlier said that the staff still planned to

get off at 11.

That's what one male employee, who could not be identified, did.

At promptly 11 he turned off a computer and began to walk out the door, saying the research area was closed.

However, the student stayed. "We are not going to throw them out," said university police lieutenant Renee Lynch. Lynch said that she was there to quiet down the noise.

Two weeks ago Interim Chancellor Donna J. Benson and top administrators met with student body President Phyllis Jeffers and SGA leaders for almost two hours at the Walker Complex Oct. 2 to discuss a three-page list of student concerns. The 5 p.m. meeting met the deadline given by SGA officials who said "appropriate mea-

sures would be taken by the student body" if a response wasn't given.

The administration spoke to SGA officials and to the 200 students in attendance and issued a 14-page response to their concerns.

Two of the most highly debated issues were the \$20,000 SGA leaders want allocated for Homecoming and perform of the Financial Aid Office. SGA leaders argued that the vice chancellor of student affairs, Dr. Roland Buchanan, should allocate the money.

Buchanan supervises the allocation of \$45,000 to student organizations.

The request for the funds was denied. Such a measure would cut the budget by 44 percent and some student organizations,

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**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."-- Martin Luther King, Jr.**