

THE CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

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NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

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NEWS BRIEFS

CLINICAL TRAINING SITE ESTABLISHED

BOBBIE REDDICK
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

To combat the critical problem of a lack of health care providers to rural Americans, especially African-Americans, North Carolina Central University department of nursing collaborated with a community service agency. The North Carolina Student Rural Health Coalition (NCSRHC) plans to offer a monthly nurse-managed health promotion and screening clinic to the rural community of Shiloh.

The clinic represents a rare opportunity for students to study the health care needs of rural individuals and their families and allows the residents of Shiloh to have access to badly needed health, particularly health promotion, maintenance and illness prevention.

The clinic has evolved into a funded project with the goals of establishing a new clinical training site for students in three university departments, nursing, home economics and Health Education, and implementing a collaborative model of health care delivery to rural populations. Students from these departments will have the opportunity to develop skills in community assessment, community health delivery, leadership, planning, client assessment and teaching, and client and community advocacy.

UNIVERSITY PICKS SPORTS OVER EXAMS

(CPS) BOULDER, Colo.

Hundreds of University of Colorado students taking French tests received A's on their final exams because the women's basketball team wouldn't leave the basketball court.

A scheduling mistake Dec. 14 at the university's Coors Event center left more than 500 students and the women's basketball team competing for space on the basketball floor. The foreign language department had reserved space for the French finals at the same time the basketball team had scheduled a practice.

"While officials were trying to sort out the problem, one of the instructors announced to the class that the exam was concluded prematurely and that the students taking the test would receive A's," Arts and Science dean Charles Middleton said.

Some students were angry, saying the decision to allow the basketball players to remain on the floor showed that the university valued athletics over education. Middleton said that the exams should have had priority over the practice.

"We are extremely sorry this happened and will take steps to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said.

The New Black Empowerment: Change Across America's Universities

By Karen Neustadt
College Press Service

College campuses throughout the nation will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Jan. 18, marking the end of a year of unprecedented black empowerment fueled by the fires of Los Angeles and inspired by the film about the life of Malcolm X.

Racial incidents and institutional neglect brought a flurry

of disenchantment with current black leadership.

"People are more aware of their heritage. I think people are finally beginning to recognize we don't have to sit at the back of the bus, that we are a viable presence," said Iyailu Moses, director of the African-American Cultural Center at North Carolina State University

protest its programming policies. The students, who requested

more prime-time hours for African-oriented music, crowded into the broadcast booth and adjoining lobby for about two hours. The demonstration was scheduled after students approached the station's general manager and were told no changes would be made in the music format.

Black students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recently used new-found clout—including a visit from filmmaker Spike Lee, who made movie "Malcolm X"—to convince officials to build a free-standing black cultural center.

"The protest started in 1991. They had given us a renovated snack bar for an office and though they promised us a cultural center, it wasn't going past that," said Tim Smith, a quarterback on the UNC football team and a founding member of the Black Awareness Council, a group of black activist athletes.

While black students debated the wisdom of a separate facility, a consensus was finally reached and Chancellor Paul Hardin endorsed a plan in November for the center, which will include a gallery to display African-American art.

"We take everything from Malcolm X to Martin Luther King ... the Black Panthers and we incorporate it into what we do today. It's a different time, so things may not work for us today," Smith said.

Smith said watching television coverage of the Los Angeles riots last year changed his life. The violence erupted after the acquittal of four white officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King.

"I don't remember this, but my mom said I just sat transfixed, saying over and over, 'I've

just got to do something, I've just got to do something...'"

It is obvious (since the riots) that students have become more aware of their treatment," he added.

Smith noted that the white student population was supportive of the Black Awareness Council efforts, and many joined black students in the demonstrations.

"Once you give people the facts, the truth speaks for itself," he said.

The two North Carolina campuses were not the only ones to confront racism directly.

In early November, 200 black students at the University of Rhode Island demonstrated when they learned that a Malcolm X quotation carved in granite on the front of the school library had been edited to omit a reference to "fighting the white man."

The students were also angered that the quote was paired with one from Thomas Jefferson, a U.S. president who owned slaves.

At Alabama State University at Montgomery, a predominantly black college, thousands of students took part in a demonstration demanding lower parking fees and a vote on the board of trustees. Football players boycotted games, and as many as 1,000 of the 5,500 students filled the hall of the administration building at one point.

Student leaders say black students are searching for their place in history.

"The Malcolm X movie has just come out and a lot of students are trying to find out more about themselves and their history," said Raul Hoxie, chairman of the student-run University of Texas Institute for the Healing of Racism.

"We need to take responsibility for our own racism and hope

that it will be contagious so that others will emulate us," Hoxie said, noting that the Los Angeles riots spurred many students into action on the Austin, Texas campus.

"There have always been black organizations on campus, and they have been doing projects on black issues, but we are now fortifying old values," he said.

Hoxie meets with a group of students each week whose goal is to fight racism on campus. The institute professes that education and communication are the keys to wiping out a generation of racism.

"I joined because I believe in the cause, and wanted to know more about how I could grow and relate to others," Hoxie said.

But institutional racism is only a piece of the equation, say black students who have responded during the fall semester to racial slurs by protesting until a public apology was made.

At the University of California in Los Angeles, 200 black students marched in October to demand that the student government stop giving money to fraternities after media reports focused attention on racist and sexist lyrics in Theta Xi and Sigma Phi fraternity songbooks.

University of Georgia students protested the same month when it became known that a Pi Kappa Phi fraternity handbook included the phrase "no niggers." The president of the fraternity apologized publicly, although the fraternity is appealing the suspension.

Black students at Georgia State University in Atlanta also staged a sit-in October outside

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Denzel Washington and Malcolm X (Ebony photo)

of peaceful protests, sit-ins and demonstrations by mobilized African-American students, some of whom say they have a powerful new sense of identity and purpose.

While King is being honored on most campuses, his message of peace that galvanized the civil rights movement of the 60s' has been modified by the more urgent motto "by any means necessary" adopted by slain black leader Malcolm X.

Some students suggest that resurgent interest in Malcolm X clothing, hats, buttons and T-shirts is connected with feelings

at Raleigh.

"It is empowering," she added.

Moses said that black students at NCSU are learning to "maturely approach" the school's top administration in a way that would not have been possible a decade ago.

"I think that there is a revival in our culture, and it is being translated into students taking more of a responsible role in addressing issues that were incorrect," Moses said.

For example, 65 black students recently staged a sit-in at the college radio station to

campaign promise to scrap the entire current student loan system.

Members of Congress have criticized the current system for being overly complex, a problem that has contributed to defaults. The high costs of administering the Federal Family Educational Loan Program, formerly the Stafford Student Loan Program, have been denounced as well.

"Advocates (of the plan) see direct loans as an opportunity to simplify the loan process and reduce costs by eliminating several financial intermediaries," according to the GAO report, which was released in late 1992. "Direct lending would obviate the need for commercial lenders, guaranty agencies and secondary markets."

Under the direct-loan plan, universities would act as agents for the Department of Education and dole out the loans, while the government would ser-

vice and collect the loans "presumably by contracting with private firms."

"The GAO report found government savings in a number of areas. The Department of Education currently reimburses guaranty agencies for 100 percent of loan default claims. That figure was \$3.2 billion in 1991. The government also subsidizes a portion of students' interest payments while they attend school.

"The expected reductions in these costs would more than compensate for the government's start-up and higher administrative costs associated with direct lending," the report said.

The GAO also employed focus groups of financial aid administrators and business officers to remark on the prospect of a direct loan program.

Some participants said they thought by eliminating the guarantors and commercial lenders, stu-

dents would receive "correct and consistent information about their loan obligations." Students often complain about the conflicting information they get about the loan status, amount and repayment schedule.

Most focus group members, however, said they had little or no confidence that the Department of Education could manage a direct loan program.

"In justifying their negative opinion, many participants cited several problems, including burdensome regulations, unrealistic program goals, broken commitments, unanswered inquiries, unfair program audits, and misinformation," the report said.

In fact, the group contended that poor management of the program could lead to greater loan defaults and possibly eliminate all projected savings of implementing the plan in the first place.

The Consumer Bankers

Direct Loan Program Could Save \$4.8 Billion

BY JEFFREY GOLDFARB

(CPS) - The federal government could save \$4.8 billion over the next five years by providing loans directly to college students if the system were implemented properly, a General Accounting Office report said.

Such a plan could make it easier for students to understand their payment schedules and loan availability by eliminating banks and guarantors like Sallie Mae that act as middle agents for government loans.

However, financial aid officers have said they don't think the Department of Education could effectively manage such a program.

The government implemented a pilot program to test direct lending last June. However, both the GAO study and pilot program could become moot if President-elect Clinton keeps his

"If A Man Hasn't Discovered Something That He Will Die For, He Isn't Fit To Live." -- Martin Luther King Jr.