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NEWS BRIEFS

Pizza Hut Management Apologizes

By MAURICE CROCKER
NEWS EDITOR

The regional vice president of Pizza Hut Corporation apologized Feb. 16 to NCCU students for the behavior of the manager of the store on Highway 55 in a Feb. 10 altercation at the store.

In the incident, three members of The Campus Echo staff—Maurice Crocker, Tracey Marbury, and Ronda Robinson—and the Pizza Hut manager Ann Grabbs exchanged insults in an argument over the price of pizzas ordered by telephone.

Huffman met with the three students involved; Jason Williams, the editor of The Campus Echo; and Charles G. Spellman, a journalism professor from the English department and assured them that Pizza Hut did not sanction the use of racial epithets by its employees and that the manager had been reprimanded.

Huffman pledged to review the company's customer relations policy and all other policies related to college students.

Huffman also said he would review Pizza Hut's delivery policy. Pizza Hut does not deliver to NCCU, even though the campus is within the delivery area.

"We tried delivering here for three months," Huffman said, "and within those three months six drivers were robbed and one seriously injured."

Huffman said that the African-American community accounts for 20 percent of Pizza Hut's business in the Research Triangle. Huffman oversees 40 stores and 12,000 employees in the area.

A second meeting between Huffman, students, faculty and the Durham human relations Commission is planned today.

Former NCCU Dean Died Saturday

Dr. Joseph Avery Pittman, dean of the Graduate School at North Carolina Central University from 1971 to 1979; died Saturday in Durham Reginal Hospital. He was 79.

Mr. Pittman joined the faculty at NCCU in 1947, and before his appointment as dean of the Graduate School, had served as chairman of the department of education and a Undergraduate School dean.

He was a professor in the department of education and wrote numerous monographs and papers on educational research.

He held a bachelor's degree from Talladega College, a master's degree in mathematics from New York University, a doctorate in education from Columbia University. He also studied at Rutgers University and Iowa State University.

Before joining the NCCU faculty, he had taught mathematics at Delaware State College, West Virginia College and Bennett College.

Students Request Action Concerning Government's GPA Requirements To Hold Offices Next Year

By JASON WILLIAMS
EDITOR

Last night student government officials met with students petitioning against the 3.0 GPA required to hold office next fall and agreed after an hour of discussion to meet with Vice Chancellor Buchanan today to discuss the matter further.

Forty students, including 13 members of Congress, attended.

Some students are petitioning the current 3.0 GPA cumulative

to hold the offices of student body president, vice president, and Miss NCCU, and editors of *The Campus Echo*, *The Eagle Yearbook*, and *Ex-Umbra*.

"The changes are a result of a Nov. 15, 1990, meeting," said Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Roger Bryant, who was also at the meeting.

Bryant took his information from a letter addressed to then Chancellor T. R. Richmond dated Feb. 13, 1991.

Before 1991, candidates qualified with a 2.5 GPA.

According to the letter, the GPA requirement was raised to a 2.7 in the fall semester of 1991 and then raised to a 3.0 to be effective in the fall semester of 1992.

Bryant also said that the Board of Trustees approved

the changes Feb. 20, 1991.

Some students who don't have the GPA requirements are petitioning the issue and are attempting to get on the ballot.

Due to the controversy, the Miss NCCU pageant has been temporarily postponed and the planned activities for election week are clouded by student concern, according to Lucky Adkins, a candidate for Miss NCCU who successfully petitioned last week to get on the ballot with less than 90 hours.

"One reason for the changes," Bryant said, was the quality of the persons running. Many of the SGA presidents didn't graduate on time and had mediocre grade point averages."

Over the last four years, only one president, Ericka Johnson, has graduated in four years.

Bryant insists that the change was gradual and that people had the opportunity to make changes. Bryant says that changing the requirement would suggest "that we couldn't find people to fill the requirement."

Vice President

"This elitist mentality bothers me," said Tonia Hicks, who's petitioning to run for vice president. Hicks, who has a 2.8 GPA, questions the use of a GPA as a qualification for candidates.

Hicks cites her roles as a member of Junior Congress and as culture chairperson for student government as aspects of her leadership skills more important than the GPA.

"You can't tell me I need a 3.0 or better," Hicks said. "I'm an active member in SGA, and I didn't know anything about the rule."

Currently, there's only one person on the ballot for vice president—Bob Hanson.

Hanson, who qualified with a 3.5 GPA, has raised a few eyebrows among students.

"I want to give the authority back to the people,"

ber of student government.

Cox claims he wasn't aware of the change until last week.

But according to the minutes from the Nov. meeting, Cox seconded the motion to vote on the change.

Miss NCCU

April McClemmy has a 2.9 GPA.

"Such a high GPA requirement would make student government an honor society," she said "and elections shouldn't be an honor society. That's not a representation of the student body."

McClemmy claims that 80 percent of the student population doesn't have a 3.0. "I've

Lucky Adkins did successfully petition to get on the ballot.

Officials had told her that she needed a 90 hours to campaign for Miss NCCU.

Adkins said that according to the material she has read in the handbook, a candidate only needs 80 hours to run.

Adkins wrote a letter to the University attorney, A.C. Ward, and the petition was granted by the Student Affairs Office.

According to reliable sources there are at least two other students who cannot compete for Miss NCCU because of the GPA requirement.

"We need another interest meeting and elections need to be expanded," Adkins said.

Adkins stressed the importance of not rushing her campaign. Although she has the GPA requirements, she believes that the rule "is prejudiced and neglects the student body and students who wish to be involved."

SGA Officials

"This is unfortunate and untimely," said election board co-chairman Charles Feamster.

"We need to know what the legal ramifications will be from either decision," said student body President Phyllis Jeffers. If the measure is changed, the qualified persons' legal rights may be violated, Jeffers said.

Jeffers and Brown planned to meet with Vice Chancellor Buchanan today at 8 a.m. to discuss the matter further. There will also be a meeting tonight at 6 at the Student Union.

This elitist mentality bothers me.— Tonia Hicks

Hanson said. "I'm not going to take it [the position] because I'm unopposed."

Hanson says that if he doesn't receive a certain number of votes, he will decline the position. Hanson declined comment on the number until Monday.

According to Bryant the measure raising the GPA requirement to 3.0 was unanimously passed by 34 members of Congress during the Nov. meeting.

However, former Congress members Ginja Massey and Doris Goins both claim they don't remember SGA ever voting on the issue.

"We never changed it," says Tyrone Cox, a former mem-

ber of student government.

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ber of student government.

Chambers Calls For 'Sweeping Reforms' In First State Of The University Address

By ERNIE SUGGS
Herald-Sun Special

In what amounted to his first state of the university message, N.C. Central Chancellor Julius Chambers bluntly told trustees that the school is failing in many areas, and called for sweeping reforms.

"I'm disturbed about a lot of things I've found at Central," Chambers said Wednesday in his first address to the board of trustees. "I was talking to some of my former colleagues and I told them that I didn't know that so many problems could exist in one place."

Speaking in the quiet, measured tones for which he has become known, Chambers said he was unable to present a clear vision for the future of the university as he had planned. Instead, he focused on areas that needed to be drastically improved for the university to compete and become a

"topnotch liberal arts institution."

"In order to get to that point, we have to make some changes," he said.

Chambers' long laundry list of problem areas spanned many facets of university life, including student performance, admissions, financial aid and curriculum.

NCCU education students scored considerably lower on the National Training Exam and the General Knowledge exam than their counterparts, he said.

"This meant that we are not doing what we should to prepare our students."

Chambers said he was equally shocked when he looked at the grade point averages of athletes.

"We are not working with our athletes," Chambers said. "We can't bring a student here and not make sure that student graduates."

Having said that, he added a kicker: Despite their problems,

athletes graduate at a higher rate than other students.

"If we are not doing it with our athletes, we're certainly not doing it with our regular students," Chambers said. "The overall GPA [grade point average] is low, the SAT scores are low and a disproportionate number of students are being assigned to remedial programs."

A whopping 71 percent of incoming freshman have to take remedial courses, he said.

"Maybe we are doing something wrong in admissions," Chambers said. "The board will have to consider what our admission standards will be."

Chambers also said that several offices on campus are not doing their jobs. He singled out financial aid.

"I still can't tell you what we can offer a prospective student in terms of aid," Chambers said. "And because of that, we are losing in the competition for students."

Shifting to the positive momentarily, Chambers said he was impressed with the work that the home economics, biology, chemistry and music departments have done.

But he charged other departments to work for improvement.

"We must insist on the accreditation of our business school. Graduate and undergraduate," Chambers said. "There is no excuse for operating a non-accredited department."

The school of education recently passed accreditation, while the business and law schools are seeking accreditation. The nursing school should strive for excellence, he said.

"We don't just want to meet the requirements. We want to be a top-notch nursing school—not a department."

One of Chambers' other targets was the lack of long-range plans.

"All of us should be under

review," Chambers said. "I was shocked that we do not have longrange plans for development. We must develop long-range plans."

He said a study will be conducted to chart the course of the university. And at the end of the month, a committee will present Chambers a report of the top six university priorities.

Among them could be improving the student union, renovating or building a new women's gym, expanding the library, building a parking deck and greenhouse and expanding McLendon McDougald Gymnasium.

"The dreams we have for NCCU can't be funded by the state. We have to expand our private support," Chambers said.

In closing his first address to the board as chancellor, Chambers said it is instructive to look at events in Mississippi and Louisiana.

"The toes you step on today may be connected to the ass you have to kiss tomorrow."

—seen on an office door near RTP