

CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

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Scholarship Ball hosted at NCCU by Chancellor

By Geraldine Ndiforchu
Co-editor

"It was a great and wonderful affair. I think it should be repeated," said Don K. Harrison, regional vice president of the Detroit, Mich., Alumni Association.

The Chancellor's Scholarship ball was the first of its kind. It was an attempt to raise money to assist students entering NCCU and to build a stronger bond with the alumni.

The Oct. 15 gala started with the guests socializing and meeting Chancellor Julius Chambers. Then there was a welcome speech by Junelle Gist, Miss NCCU, followed by dancing and a series of raffles.

In his speech, Chambers said, "We compete with top schools like Duke, Harvard, UNC—Chapel Hill and many more, therefore, we have to have scholarship money to attract more students to our university.

"I am grateful to the Alumni Association and the recent graduates who have helped make this occasion happen. An event like this helps build ties with the alumni, since they are here to support the ball."

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Students protest towing after speech

Cars towed during Lyceum speech

By Kenya Fairley
Staff Reporter

During a lecture on Thursday, October 13, the cars of most of the audience were towed. This led to a multitude of students protesting in front of the security office.

The lecture was given by Dr. Na'im Akbar, Ph.D., expert in the field of African American psychology, and was a Lyceum offering of the NCCU Faculty Senate.

Among those present at the protest were SGA President Tonia Hicks, NAACP President Omar Pettis, Miss NCCU Junelle Gist, and a number of freshmen.

This one problem of towing led to the discussion of several other concerns of the students attending. Residents of the second and third floor annex in Chidley complained about dormitory conditions, decals and ticketing in parking lots, and poor campus security.

Mounting tension was felt in the room as more concerns were voiced: financial aid for out-of-state students, ineffective campus security, harassment by security

officers, towing and the new attendance policy.

Senior and finance major Mike Reese said, "The reason I'm here is because I believe in affirmative action. I feel an injustice was done. It's about time students take a stand to let administration know what they want so these incidents won't occur again."

As the crowd grew in size and frustration, Hicks told the group, "The problem is they don't take us seriously. We need to organize and make it more than hype." This brought supportive cheers and clapping from the crowd.

Chancellor Julius Chambers offered to hear their concerns on Friday, Oct. 14, the beginning of fall break, when most of the students would be off campus. The crowd would not accept this date. The rally then continued to B.N. Duke at 12:29 a.m.

As students herded into the auditorium, Hicks suggested that they "close in the ranks and sit together as a united front." Students hurried to fill in the gaps between seats and mesh together.

Chancellor Chambers stated, "I had been protesting for years. What's crucial is that we protest

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Money raised for renovations of Shepard's home

Goal of \$500,000

By Geraldine Ndiforchu
Co-editor

Broken windows, doors and fixtures, broken pipes, paint peeling off walls and walls falling down are just some of the features one would see at the home of late James E. Shepard, founder and first president of N.C. Central University.

A film slide presentation by Dan Kurtz, general contractor with Kurtz Construction Company, at Chancellor Julius Chambers' house showed the house in its current conditions.

A committee met at Chancellor Julius Chamber's house, Monday, Oct. 17, to make plans on how to raise at least half a million dollars to restore and renovate this house.

Kurtz said in their plans, codes concerning fire safety and handicap accessibility must be considered which were not an issue when the house was constructed in 1925.

"There is a lot to do, but it is not out of reach," said Kurtz.

Gloria Haines, of the development office, said Larry Shaw, chairman of the committee, made arrangements for them to meet with departments of Energy, Interior and Transportation to seek assistance.

"There is money available in the department of energy to help but we have to address the project to their interest," said Haines.

Kernegan, an old friend of Shepard, said he was very excited when he was invited to join the planning committee.

He donated \$5,000 towards the achievement of this project.

During the meeting, it was suggested that the committee plan concerts and balls as way of raising money to meet the requirements of this project.

The dinner offered by Mrs. Chambers during the meeting was exceptional.

It was a three-course meal with food ranging from salad to shrimp. Guests made acquaintances, chatted and cracked jokes at the dinner table.



Photo credit: Hiram Abdullah

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REGIONAL ALUMNI COUNCILS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: FRONT ROW, LEFT-TO-RIGHT: MARY HARRISON, PHILADELPHIA; CHARLENE WICKS, BALTIMORE; MABLE STEPHENSON, WINSTON-SALEM. BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: RICHARD SMITH, WASHINGTON, D.C.; WADE JOHNSON, GREENVILLE, NC; CALVIN KEARNEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.; ROGER GREGORY, DURHAM AND PRESIDENT OF NCCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.