

Winter celebrations around the Triangle and the world.  
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C A M P U S

# ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

Year's best and worst by Malcolm  
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Issue 43

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
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## Trustees OK physics program

Derrick L. Armstead  
Staff Reporter

Several high profile individuals were on hand at a recent Board of Trustees meeting. Nearly 35 people attended the Nov. 30 meeting to hear about topics ranging from community service to building renovations.

Chairman Carl J. Stewart Jr. called the meeting to order by delivering a very graceful invocation. Stewart's message contained an excerpt from the song *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

One of the first orders of business was the Pan-Hellenic Council's donation of \$3,000 to Chancellor Chambers. The Pan-Hellenic council is comprised of various campus Greek organizations.

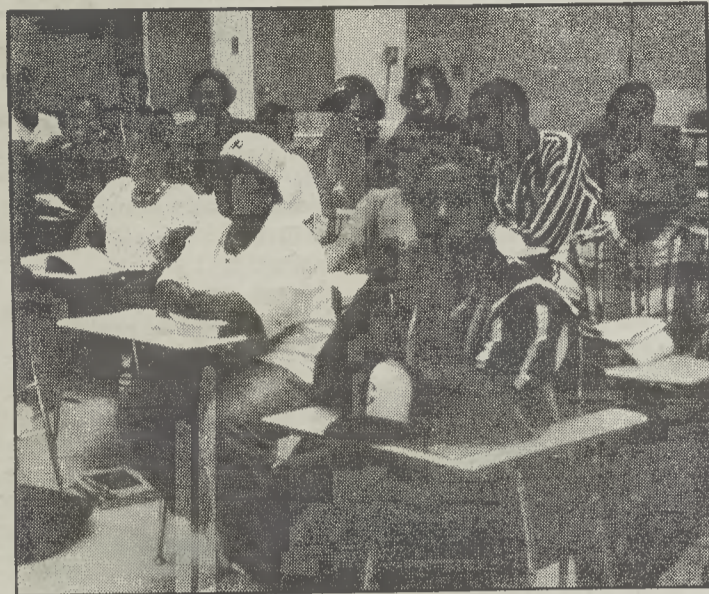
The board briefly discussed the endowment fund of North Carolina Central University. An additional \$200,000 was added on Nov. 30 and the current total is over \$4 million.

Members of the Educational Committee proposed renaming the home economics department to the department of human services. N. C. Central was previously qualified to give out B.S. in Physics Secondary Education, but the accreditation committee revoked that privilege because of no graduates from the program in the last five years. However, several students who are near graduation have expressed an interest to be certified in that particular program.

Chancellor Chambers stated, "it is absolutely essential to have properly trained and accredited secu-

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Students review for finals in an English class.

## Internal conflict rips at Source magazine staff

Associate Editor  
Shawnee Smith gives  
account of dissension at  
the magazine of Hip-Hop  
music, culture and politics

By Robert B. Thornton  
Entertainment Editor

Friday, Oct. 21 was the second day of Howard University's Annual Communications Job Fair. Shawnee Smith was on a panel discussing "Music, Movers and Shakers", and the other panelists were jokingly yet warmly referring to her as the "former" associate editor for *The Source - The Magazine of Hip Hop Music, Culture and Politics*. Through all of the smiles and laughter, I realized the possibility of that nomenclature being dead serious; approximately a month and a half earlier, I was handed some of the most shocking news dealing with Hip-Hop I had ever heard:

"*The Source* may be going out of business," said Dave Tompkins.

Dave, a regular contributor to several Triangle area magazines as well as a contributor to some nationally known magazines as *The Source*, *Rap Pages*, *Urb*, *The Bomb* and others; is pretty much on top of breaking news.

He was holding a copy of a five-page letter signed by James Bernard, co-editor-in-chief and co-owner of *The Source*. The letter called for David Mays' (also co-owner) resignation as publisher due to a conflict of interest. Mays allegedly printed an article covering the rap group *The Almighty R.S.O.* even after the group had made threats to members of the staff. Shawnee Smith expounded on this matter in this exclusive interview.

**Echo:** Shawnee, could you give a basic run-down of what you saw happening as this story was breaking at *The Source*?

Shawnee Smith: The publisher Dave Mays was supposedly friends with the rap group *The Almighty*

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## Kwanzaa stresses unity, family

Valerie Bracy  
Correspondent

Once again it's the holiday season. Time to pull out decorations, shop 'til you drop and eat as much as your belly can hold.

This time of year most African-Americans are getting ready for Christmas. But a growing number of the race will also celebrate Kwanzaa, which runs from December 26 to New Year's Day.

NC. Central student Ayinde Hurrey says he has celebrated Kwanzaa with his family for about ten years.

"It's family oriented. It's real spiritual. Kwanzaa is not materialistic. You don't go to the mall to buy presents. The gifts you give are things you make yourself," said Hurrey.

In 1966, Maulana (Ron) Karenga, who is currently chairman of black studies at California State University, created Kwanzaa. The purpose behind his creation was to have a time to focus on Africa and African-inspired culture, and to reinforce a value system that goes back for generations.

Each day of the seven day celebration recognizes a different prin-

ciple. The first day is called Umoja (Unity).

"On this day you might do something with your family, or anybody. Just something to promote unity amongst African-Americans," said Hurrey.

The next six days concentrate on other positive principles aimed at promoting family growth in the African-American community.

On the seventh day of Kwanzaa there is a grand celebration which

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## 107 to graduate but fall ceremony still an option

By Geraldine Ndiforchu  
Co-editor

North Carolina Central University will graduate approximately 150 students at its first December commencement exercises in the B.N. Duke Auditorium.

In order to qualify for December graduation, a student must have completed all requirements.

In the previous years, students who completed their requirements for graduation in December had to wait until May to graduate, said Marvin E. Duncan, chairperson for the commencement planning committee and director of the learning resources center.

Under the old policy, students who were one to four hours short of being eligible for May graduation, or who finished their requirements in summer school, had to wait almost a year before having the opportunity to graduate, Duncan said.

"I think it is a wonderful idea, especially for those students who don't live here. They would not have to come back after five months just to participate in a graduation," said Carol Weiner, an education major.

"The December graduation will be held in the B.N. Duke Auditorium, which can seat about 900. According to figures from the registrar's office on Dec. 2, 131 students have registered to graduate, but we are expecting about 150," Duncan said.

This ceremony will not be a

"scaled down" version of the May exercise, he said. It will be given the same amount of careful planning and ceremony as past graduations.

Because the exercises will be held in B.N. Duke, not the McDougald-McClendon Gymnasium, and because there will be a few graduates, the event will be more cost effective than the May event, he said. However, the reception following this graduation will cost as much as that for the May exercise, he added.

To satisfy students who wanted to wait until May, Chancellor Chambers has waived the requirement that students participate in the first ceremony for which they are eligible, said Duncan.

This means that students can finish their requirements in December and elect to participate in the May commencement.

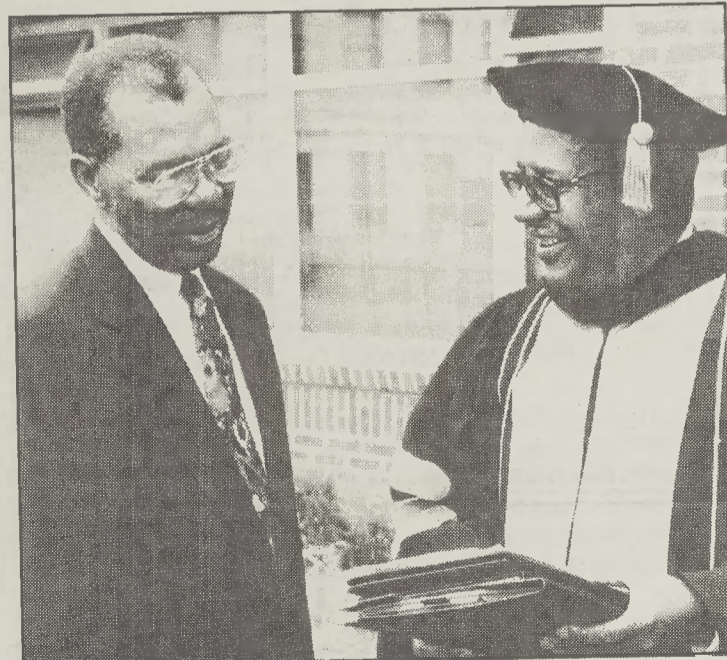
"Anyway, I think it is worth it, and very kind and considerate of the chancellor to realize this opportunity—to give students an opportunity to graduate as soon as they complete their requirements instead of finishing and having to wait for about a year," Duncan said.

The speaker for the occasion will be Mary Townes, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Townes, who retired in July,

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Last year's graduation ceremony. From left, Marvin Duncan and Walter Brown.