

9596

Upcoming Events:

Family weekend

October 6-8, 1995

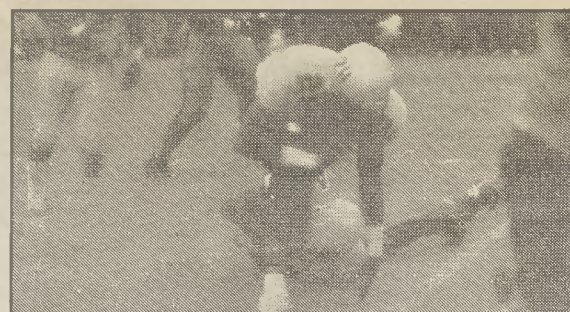
NCCU vs. Fayetteville State

October 7, 1995

7: 00 p.m.

CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE



Eagles make come back, page 4

Issue 51

North Carolina Central University
Durham, NC 27707

October 3, 1995

Students, faculty remember professor

By Lateefah Williams

Dr. Ernest Mason, a beloved English professor, passed away on Monday, September 11, 1995, in his Chapel Hill home.

Mason had a big influence on many people here at Central.

Students and faculty alike were shocked and saddened by his sudden death.

Jamaine Wilson, a junior, said that what she enjoyed most about Dr. Mason was that "he was interesting. You discussed topics in his class that you wouldn't discuss in your normal class."

Joyce Ellis, English instructor, said that "Dr. Mason had an infectious intellectual energy that galvanized both his students and his colleges. He was the quintessential scholar and he used his intellect to bridge people together. I miss him."

Mason was a native of this area. He was born on May 3, 1947 at Lincoln Hospital in Durham, NC. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Chapel Hill.

Nate Todd, a senior, said he "was one of the best teachers I have had at Central."

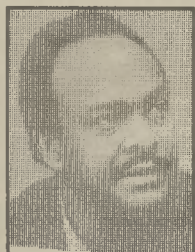
Teacher and friend

"He was more than a teacher, but a friend as well. He didn't place restrictions on what you said in class. Other professors could have learned a lot if they knew him," Todd said.

Farrah Murden, a sophomore, said Dr. Mason was a nurturing teacher. "I learned a lot about myself as a person and about other people as well," Murden said. He made me think about the world in a whole different light."

Dr. Arlene Clift-Pellow, chair of the English Department, said Mason achieved excellence in all areas. "He was also very inspirational as a teacher, judging by the responses of his students."

Surviving him are his parents, David Mason, Sr., and Emma Edwards Mason; his wife, Amanda Gwyn Mason; his son, Byron Douglas Mason and his brothers, David Mason, Jr., Donald Mason, and Daryl Mason.



Mason



Woman at the helm

Peggy Ward was appointed to chair the North Carolina Board of Trustees last week. Ward, a 1974 NCCU graduate, works with New York Life Insurance Co., Charlotte, N.C..

NCCU clears air on deadly bacteria

Library poses no threat to patrons, health officials say

By Christie Stancil

Students are worrying about more than standing in long lines at the Financial Aid Office this semester.

Many fear exposure to a potentially fatal disease recently found on North Carolina Central University's campus.

Since the death of NCCU librarian Patricia Haith over the summer, the University has undergone extensive testing for *Legionella pneumophila*, the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' Disease. Students are apprehensive about going to the library.

Junior Biology major Latanya Staton says, "I don't feel as if the students have been properly informed."

She is not alone. Student Health Services Dr. Lillian Horne says that numerous students have called seeking information about Legionnaire's and expressing fear of contracting the disease.

Horne said no Central student has contracted Legionnaire's Disease on campus. She attributes this to the nature of the disease.

Although the bacteria are widely present in low levels in the environment, only certain conditions cultivate the organism to dangerous levels, said Horne. Warm, stagnant, water provides ideal con-



Officials tested Shepard Library for Legionnaire's disease

ditions for the growth of the bacteria, thus water aerosols in cooling towers, humidifiers, whirlpool baths, and sinks can be contaminated and inhaled by humans.

Specifically, the library cooling tower was discovered to contain a high concentration of the bacteria. However, Horne says, "What was found in the tower was not at a level to cause a healthy person any harm."

This is because the inhaled organism does not always cause the disease. Some people are at a higher risk of developing Legionnaire's Disease than others.

Health officials state that older persons, organ transplant recipients, heavy drinkers and/or smokers, cancer and HIV positive patients, persons with underlying medical problems such as diabetes, and corticosteroid users are more likely to develop the disease.

Despite the uncertainty of the cause of Haith's death, the University has taken great measures to

Trustees cut three majors

UNC system urged review of 27 programs

Campus Echo staff

The Board of Trustees recommended Wednesday that three majors be eliminated and several others be combined.

Bachelor's degrees in philosophy, social science and economics in the business economics track should no longer be offered, trustees said. They reviewed 27 degree-granting programs, recommending that:

Bachelor of science degrees in home economics, clothing and textiles and foods and nutrition be combined to form a single degree program: a bachelor of science in human sciences.

The bachelor's in physical

education and parks and recreation should be combined to form a bachelor of arts in physical education and parks and recreational management.

The individual bachelors of jazz, sacred music, general music and music education be combined into a single bachelor of music degree.

On the graduate level, the board recommended that master's programs in elementary education and middle grades education be combined and continued as one degree with four tracks. The master's of physical education and the master's of parks and recreation management were combined to form one degree with two tracks.

Chambers, the Division of Epidemiology of the State Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources conducted an indoor air quality test in the library. Further tests were done by PathCon Laboratories in August.

The *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria was found in eight of 18 samples taken from the library and the Commerce Building, the library cooling tower being of greatest concern.

As a result of such testing the library's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system has undergone thorough maintenance checks, says Arthur Affleck, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Other measures taken were the installation of new air filters, spraying of the ventilation system duct work to eliminate any additional bacteria, and the construction of crawl space barriers to keep out rodents.

Affleck said that although all campus facilities that are in question will be tested for air quality, dormitories are not likely to pose any concern.

Because the bacteria is only dangerous when contained in aerosols, buildings that have no cooling tower or ventilation system do not pose a threat and neither do fountains or showers.

Dr. Horne says there is no specific test for Legionnaire's Disease.

Most cases of Legionnaires' occur sporadically.

Update

- The North Carolina Division of Epidemiology conducted an indoor air quality test in the library, the Commerce Building and the cooling tower. The *Legionella* bacteria was found in eight of 18 samples.
- New air filters have been installed and the ventilation system duct has been sprayed. Crawl space barriers have been constructed to keep out rodents.
- The library drinking system has been superchlorinated, which rids the water of bacteria.
- The portable water system will be heat-flushed and all carpets steam cleaned.

ensure the safety of students and staff using the library.

Some students like Sophomore Bryan Mills have faith that the University has done just that. Mills, 19, says, "If there was a problem the University would not allow students in those facilities."

According to Chancellor Julius