



Good luck
on finals
Eagles!



Happy
Holidays



Issue 54

North Carolina Central University
Durham, NC 27707

Tuesday, December 5 1995

Minority enrollment increases

By Christopher Richburg,
Staff Reporter

Although North Carolina Central University began the 20th century as an institution to serve black students, its student body is becoming more diverse.

"Yes, we are actively recruiting white students, black students, Native Americans, Hispanics and Asians," said Chancellor Julius Chambers.

Of a total student population of 5,500, statistics show that white students account for 7.3 percent of the freshman class, as opposed to 91.2 percent for blacks.

However, the number decreases for sophomores, only 2.8 percent are white, and 95.9 percent are black.

Brian Wurtzel, a minority freshman, was encouraged to come to NCCU because of the reputation of its law program.

"A lot of people back home did not think I could survive at a predominantly black university. Basically, I came here to prove them wrong, test myself, and just see if I could do it and so far it's going well," he said.

Wurtzel is part of a growing nationwide trend, the "desegregation" of predominantly black schools.

NCCU assistant director of Admissions Robbie Schultz said the hardest part of recruiting is convincing minority students to fight peer pressure.

"Over the years, a lot of students who were quite interested in coming to NCCU were excited about it, but then when crunch time hit they backed away," he said.

Marty Houglan, a third-year minority law student, is quick to advise potential minority students to disregard negative advice about



Diversity: Students listen attentively at this English Club meeting.

NCCU they receive from friends or others.

He finds the university to be more practical, diverse and politically liberal, which is a plus in his eyes.

The Consent Decree of 1980 was a mandate by the University of North Carolina educational system. It stipulated that predominantly white and black colleges had to have a 15 percent student population rate of the opposite race.

According to Dr. Fuller, director of Student Affairs, NCCU has been able to comply with, and even exceed that stated mandate.

Chambers said that integration is vital to the survival of the university.

"I know that world is changing. I know the world requires that we appreciate and respect people of different races, colors and preferences. It is imperative that we operate a higher education system to provide that kind of accommodation. Otherwise, you aren't going to be here," he said.

Fuller agreed. "To keep pace in the modern world of higher education, we must attempt, not only accommodate diversity, but to

tion.

"We have included all other groups besides African Americans, that includes Hispanics, Asian Americans and (Native Americans). We have representatives from all these groups," said Vicki Fuller.

Reaction to increasing minority presence has been mixed.

NCCU English professor, Dr. Floyd Ferebee said that increased integration will not destroy the university's emphasis on African American culture.

"I am highly in favor of increasing minority enrollment at NCCU," said Ferebee.

Ferebee also said there are disadvantages in separation, in terms of resources.

"The more diverse the student population, the better the chances of the university of receiving financial support from outside sources."

Dr. Pamela George, an Education professor, said that the increased enrollment of minority students is exactly why she came to NCCU.

"I really wanted to come to a place where ethnic groups and gender groups can come together and talk about what it is like to work in public schools in North Carolina or public schools in the South," she said.

"NCCU is a wonderful place to have that conversation. I chose to be here 18 years ago and I choose to be here for that very reason today," she concluded.

Freshman Alicia Wilson said that she doesn't have a problem with NCCU's changing face.

"We need integration because you can't know about your own culture unless you know about other cultures also," said Wilson.

"You go to school to learn. It

shouldn't matter what color you are as long as you're here to get an education. What does it matter if you're white or black?"

One employee who did not want to disclose his name told the *Campus Echo* that there are those who feel integration is a scheme to prepare for the coming of the university's first white chancellor.

He added, "I am trying to be broad minded about the situation, because if you know from whence you came, then you know where you are going".

"African-American students should never let it be forgotten who established the school and the reason why it is here."

Although Whren finds the increasing minority presence to be okay, he does advise some caution.

"I feel that a white person is here for the same purpose as me, to get a degree," he said. "I am all for anybody of any race going to school."

But he feels that politically, integration could be wrong for the survival of the university.

Based on an incident in Oxford, Mississippi, his concern isn't completely unrealistic.

A U.S. District Court Judge ruled that Mississippi could not close two of its predominantly black public universities as part of an effort to desegregate its eight-institution higher education system.

"If we have a steady increase, in ten years NCCU could be predominantly white, acquire a new name and not be our school any more. It's the big white college buying out the predominantly black school, squeezing the life out of the black heritage," said Whren.

(Derrick Armstead and Victor Blue contributed to this report.)

"The world requires that we appreciate and respect people of different races, colors and preferences."

Julius Chambers,
Chancellor

welcome it as a critical part of learning."

Herbert Whren, a junior Education major, feels that the key issue is one of economics, not race.

"It has nothing to do with race, it's money. What do you expect. Either white people come to our school or our school is closed," said Whren.

"What can we (the students) do to preserve our school. Where is our input?," he asked.

The UNC General Administration defines minority presence as a black student at a predominantly white institution or a white student at a predominantly black institu-



(Left to right) Nefertari Benton strolls the campus with Dr. Kenneth Edelin, Dr. Charles George and Dr. John Myers.

NCCU forms medical partnership

Echo Staff

Dr. Kenneth Edelin, of the Boston University School of Medicine, recently visited North Carolina Central University to speak to freshmen and sophomores about the Early Medical School Selection Program.

Directed by Edelin, the program is designed to provide a gradual transition into the medical school curriculum through provisional acceptance into medical school at the completion of two-years of undergraduate study.

This program has been in

operation at BYU since 1982.

The EMSSP integrates undergraduate college and medical school courses to form a modular curriculum implemented in the junior and senior years of college and the first two years of medical school.

Early admissions programs provide first- and second-year college students with a strong incentive to commit to medicine early in their educational careers.

Partnerships are formalized with designated universities through articulation agreements.

An agreement was signed between the Boston University School of Medicine and NCCU in 1994. The agreement is coordinated through the North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (NC-HCAP) at NCCU.

Nefertari Benton, a junior biology major from Charlotte, NC was the first NCCU student to be accepted into the program.

A Glaxo Scholar and 1994 participant in the HC-HCAP Clinical Work-Study Summer Health Program, Benton attended a six-week course at BYU this past summer.