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Students examine '-isms' in education

Campus Echo Staff

North Carolina Central University education students are using video cameras this semester to look at the ways in which cultural and social diversity affect education.

As participants in a 12-college national project, which uses the name "-ism," to reflect its focus on such issues as racism, sexism, and classism, the NCCU students are enrolled in Education 4950, entitled "Using Video to Examine the 'isms.'"

The course is taught by Dr. Fran Jackson, assisted by Everett Harper and videographer Gerald Edwards.

The students will produce two videos: a brief video diary, and a 10-15 minute group video, in which the students will look at their own encounters with adverse responses to the differences between people and groups.

NCCU is the only historically black university involved in the project.

Dr. Beverly Jones, director of the NCCU Institute for the Study of Minority Issues, is the principal investigator for the project and represents the national project on the NCCU campus.

Other colleges participating are California State University at Los Angeles, the Community College of Denver, Loyola University of Chicago, Oregon State University, the University of North Carolina, Pitzer College, Southwest Texas State University, Tulane University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Utah.

The project is the result of encounters between the developers of the effort and teenage students around the country.

Their conclusion: America's youth are deeply concerned about diversity—the differences between individuals and groups—and the painful conflicts which arise from clashes of cultures and social mores.

The videos produced at the 12 campuses will be combined into a nationwide broadcast which the group hopes to air by October, 1996.

The goals of the project are to use video documentary techniques as an approach to diversity issues, to strengthen teaching related to diversity, to help students become more reflective about their own attitudes toward diversity, and to initiate dialogue about diversity issues on college campuses.



Who's in control?

Steve Cokely spoke to NCCU students on Thursday, Feb. 22, 1996 in the Student Union. Sponsored by the Junior Class, he spoke about the effects of secret societies on the new world order. Cokely spoke again Friday night at the Know Book Store on Fayetteville Street.

Durham City Council rich with NCCU ties

City Council has first African-American majority since 1991

By Michael Cromartie
Echo Reporter

It has been nearly three months since Durham welcomed its new city council, which is rich with North Carolina Central University ties. The new class includes recent grads Angela Langley and Ty Cox.

Langley and Cox join NCCU sociology professor and Mayor Pro Tem Isaac Robinson, Diane Wright, Howard Clement, Cynthia Brown, Paul Miller and Floyd McKissick, Jr., to form an 8-5 African-American majority for the first time since 1991.

"I'm looking forward to serving," said Ty Cox of Ward 4. "It's a good opportunity to do something to help people."

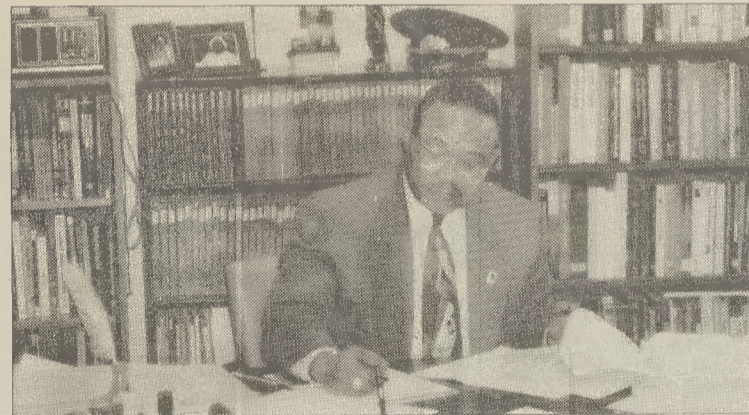
At 24, Cox, a 1994 graduate of NCCU, is the youngest member on the council.

What will the change of tide mean for African-Americans within a city that is predominantly Black?

"I'm just waiting to see," said Durham native Christine Strudwick, vice chairperson of North Carolina's Fair Share Organization.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson can only see positive results from the new majority.

"The conventional thinking of the council is that if you have seven



Mayor Pro Tem Isaac Robinson works at his desk

votes that you can depend on, you have control of the policy making process," he said. "Given that, one would assume that the African-American agenda can now be put forth."

Robinson said that holding on to the gains made by African-Americans in the 1960's and 1970's will be the agenda for Blacks on the local, state and federal levels of government.

"Hanging on to affirmative action and continuing human service programs that impact on poor people and African-Americans definitely heads the agenda," said Robinson.

Other issues of concern include the restoration of some local neighborhoods.

Robinson said, "Being able to pass another bond issue that would allow us to continue our neighborhood revitalizations is also very important."

Not everyone is quick to predict

Trustees OK increase in fees

By Alicia B. Williams
Managing Editor

The North Carolina Central University board of trustees approved a series of fee increases on Wednesday, February 21, 1996 that will amount to an extra \$359 for students living on campus.

Boarding students will pay \$109 more for regular rooms and \$209 extra for air conditioned ones. On-campus housing will be \$1,600 a year.

The increased charges will help repay a \$3 million federal loan used for renovations and a \$5.9 million bond for a new men's dormitory.

In addition to this increase for residential improvement, the education and technology fee will escalate from \$59.50 to \$200 a

year. Both actions will be added to student bills in the fall.

The additional \$560,350 raised from technology fees will be used to open three new computer laboratories.

Computer lab monitor Ulysses Hicks is in support of the fee increase if changes are made immediately.

"When school starts in the fall, I want to see brand new functioning computers in the English Department computer lab," he said. "But if the results can not be seen next year, I don't want them taking my money."

The administration circulated a survey asking students their opinion of the higher technological fee and said that two-thirds approved.

English major Damion Wright said, "I think it is good that some students will benefit from the fee increase, but I also feel it is unfair that upperclassmen probably will not see any change while they are here."

"What they will accomplish remains to be seen," he said. "It depends on how in tune they are with the needs of people, particularly low income people."

Public housing has become a big issue, not only in Durham, but around the country," said Robinson. "What's happening is that we are realizing that building these large housing complexes, of 500 or 600 residents, has been a failure."

According to Robinson, the new council will propose a solution which would decentralize public housing.

The plan is to place smaller, nicely built townhouses around different parts of the city.

The city council calls for more Blacks to become involved in city government.

NCCU Residence director Marshall Thompson feels that minority involvement in local government has traditionally been stable.

"In Durham, African-Americans refuse to be spectators; they are active participants in the political arena," Marshall said.

The terms of four of the eight Blacks on the council end in 1997. That leaves nearly two years before Blacks have to campaign to maintain control of the city council.

While opinions on the council vary, it still remains to be seen how effective the new majority will be.

Alumni

Issac Robinson
Hometown: Durham, NC
Major: Sociology, NCCU, 1962
Ph.D., NCSU, 1979
Mayor Pro-Tem
City-Council at Large

Angela Langley
Ward 2

Ty Cox
Hometown:
Elizabeth City, NC
Major: Accounting,
NCCU 1994
Ward 4

the success of the new council. "At this point, it's questionable," said NCCU community service coordinator Harris Johnson.

Johnson, who unsuccessfully ran for city council 20 years ago, has been a follower of city government.