

CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

North Carolina Central University
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Eagles in flight

Editor's note: The Campus Echo will publish in this column brief news items on current and former members of the NCCU community. Our goal is to let you know about significant and interesting achievements of the university's students, faculty, staff and alumni. We will publish news of awards and honors, internships, full-time jobs, graduate study, significant out-of-state travel and other information that will show the full range of activities by the Eagle family. If you have something you would like to be included in Eagles in Flight, please call us (560-6504) or drop by our newsroom in 319 Farrison-Newton Communications Building. We prefer to have submissions in writing, and you must include your name and local telephone number so that we can verify information.

Students

Shanitra J. McNealy, Tisha Jones, Linda Hall, DeJuan Suggs, and Sharifa Anderson, Rebecca Freeman members of NCCU's women's bowling team, placed third at the Sunshine Classic held in Altamonte Springs, Fla. Jan. 17-18. **Deris Pennington, Dennis Porch, Maurice Murray, Marques Rogers, James Battes, and Nilous Hodge**, members of NCCU's men's bowling team, placed tenth....

Faculty

Charles George (biology department), **Saundra de Lauder** (chemistry department) and **Veronica Nwosu** (Biology department) attended the Strategic Planning Meetings for the HBCU Research and Development Consortium in Washington, D.C. last October and in Atlanta, Ga. last November. The Consortium is developing an HBCU alliance to pursue contracts for cancer research projects...**Vinston Goldman** (psychology department) and **Nan Broussard** (Office of Sponsored Research) attended the Annual Meeting of the Applied Research Ethics National Association (ARENA) and Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research in Boston, Mass. on Dec. 7 through Dec. 9....



Alumni

Dr. Barbara Corbett Howard, (M.S. 'xx), assistant division chair for business management, marketing, finance and real estate at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, recently presented a paper at the 14th International Conference on Technology and Education (ICTE) in Oslo, Norway. The paper, "Making Sense Out of Implementing Collaborative Learning in the Classroom with the Use of Distance Learning Software at the Post-secondary Level," focused on the benefits of computer conferencing for faculty and students.

Colanda Barnes, '95, is a substitute teacher in Prince William County, Md....**Andrew Sherman**, '94, teaches English at Jordan High School in Durham....**Wallace Sellers**, '94, teaches at Rogers-Herr Middle School in Durham....

MLK Jr. holiday observed with vigil, speeches, and film

by **Lateefah Williams**
Staff Writer

On Jan. 19, millions of people across the nation joined to honor the life and legacy of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The North Carolina Central University community, however, decided to do it a little earlier.

Events were held between Jan. 12 and Jan. 15.

In the past, campus events have been held on the Martin Luther King holiday, which meant that students who went home for a long weekend could not be present, said Dr. Angela Terry, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Terry said that holding the events a week early is good for the students. "It is important to make it a celebration that students participate in," Terry said.

The celebration kicked off Jan. 12 with a candlelight vigil. Dozens of students and faculty members marched from the A.E. Student Union to the B.N. Duke Auditorium holding candles while singing "We Shall Overcome."

The procession made way for civil rights attorney Thomas N. Todd of Chicago who spoke to the crowd at the half-full B.N. Duke Auditorium.

Todd addressed many issues ranging from appropriate interview attire to the true legacy of King. Todd challenged students with questions such as "Why should you go to an interview dressed in a nose ring?"

Todd's told the audience that the best way to honor King is to be a role model and project oneself a certain way. He also stressed civic responsibility. "If you want to be like Dr. King, you have to vote," Todd said.

Events continued the next day with a seminar held in the Student Union. At the seminar, 18 minutes of the 90-minute documentary film "Black Is, Black Ain't" were shown. The film deals with issues of identity within the black community: complexion, "good and bad hair," and origins of surnames.

Marlon Riggs, the film's developer, producer and commentator, also challenged racism and homophobia with his film. Riggs died of AIDS during the making of the film in 1994.

A discussion followed the film. The entire 90-minute documentary was shown repeatedly throughout the rest of the day in the student union.

Richard Mizelle, a senior history major from Raleigh and facilitator of the discussion, said "We [black people] value naming ourselves because we've been named by others for so many years." Many blacks chose surnames that

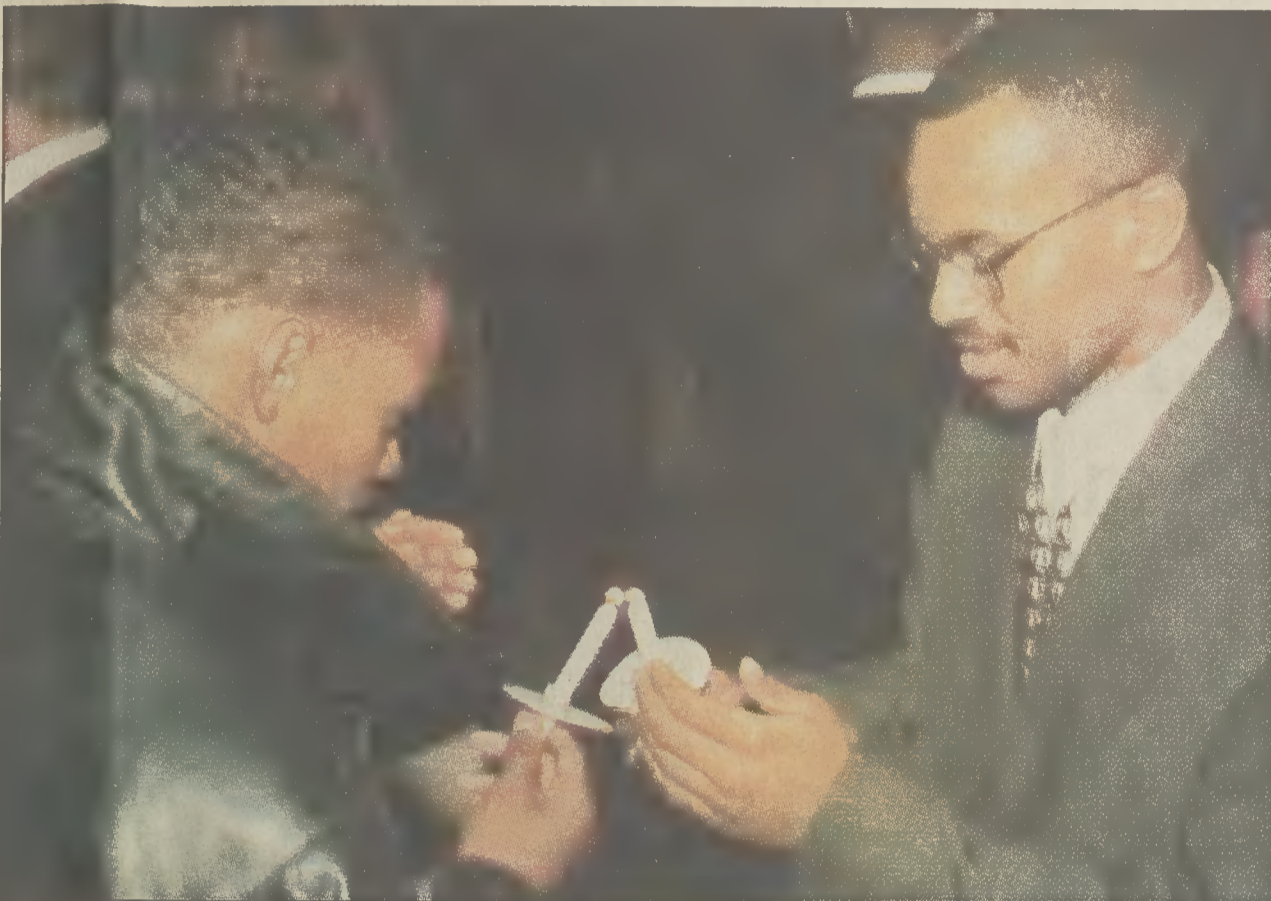
reflected their occupations\ (such as Fisher, Gardner and Carpenter) in order to create their own names, Mizelle said.

Complexion was also a hot issue of the discussion. During the discussion, more than half the audience raised their hands when asked, "Have people told you you're cute to be dark skinned?" Many in the audience voiced agreement that complexion is still a big problem within the black community.

Dr. Roger Bryant, dean of students, disagreed, however. "[Whether complexion matters] depends on the situation and environment you are in," Bryant said. "It was true in the past, but not as much so now."

Paul Fauntleroy, a sophomore English major from Raleigh, said black people are more critical than white people about other black people's appearance. Fauntleroy, who has an afro, said "White people don't even ask me about my hair." He said on the other hand, black people make comments such as "How did you get a job with that hair?"

Jan. 14, a Martin Luther King Jr. pre-birthday dinner celebration was held in the W.G. Pearson



(Above) Sophomore Durant McGrathen (left) and junior Ansel Brown (right) light their candles during NCCU's candlelight vigil held Jan. 12 in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

(Right) Washington Post columnist Dorothy Butler Gilliam, one of the few African American journalists to cover the civil rights movement during the 1960s, urged NCCU to continue King's legacy during her speech on campus Jan. 15.



Cafeteria.

The culminating event occurred Jan. 15, King's birthday, when Dorothy Butler Gilliam, one of the few black journalists to cover the civil rights movement during the 1960s, delivered the keynote address. Gilliam is also a columnist for the *Washington Post*, and president of the National Association of Black Journalists.

"If we are interested in how to get more African-American men and women in positions of leadership, we must be prepared," Gilliam said.

"What the Republican Congress has in mind for you may not be what you have in mind for yourself," she said. "I heard some congressmen refer to welfare people as 'animals' and 'wolves.' This is a time both of opportunity and of peril," she said.

Gilliam also urged NCCU students to honor King's legacy by promoting economic development for their communities. "You are the inheritors of the dream, but if you don't embrace the dream you haven't inherited it," Gilliam said.

Women basketball players may face charges in brawl

by **Joe Wright**
Staff Writer

A former North Carolina Central University student claims members of the women's basketball team assaulted him earlier this month.

Shawn A. Wallace claims he suffered a black eye and must now see an ophthalmologist after being hit by several female basketball players in McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium on Jan. 6, according to his attorney, Larry D. Hall.

Wallace graduated from NCCU in December with a degree in criminal justice.

According to NCCU police, the fight was triggered when Wallace allegedly sat on the foot of Lady Eagles center Danya Nelson's mother.

Nelson is a freshman from Charlotte. NCCU police say Nelson and Wallace began exchanging words, and soon, an unspecified number of other members joined the argument.

Moments later a fight broke out. Hall, in an interview with the Durham

Herald-Sun, characterized the incident as "gang assault" by the Lady Eagles.

According to reports in the *Raleigh News & Observer*, Wallace suffered a dislocated shoulder and a black eye.

Campus police reported that two campus officers were slightly injured during the fight.

Five players, including freshman Crystal Cosby, have been suspended pending the university's announcement of a decision.

At press time, the university had not announced what actions it would take in the matter.

"The administrative judicial board was focusing more on the facts, more than trying to find someone guilty," Hall said.

"The panel did not specify all the charges," he added.

Wallace said he will wait for the university's ruling before deciding whether to press criminal charges.

"Assault and battery are charges some players could face," Hall said.

Law professor arrested for guns, cocaine in Georgia

by **Shelvia Dancy & Danny Hooley**
Editor-in-Chief, A&E editor

A tenured criminal law professor at North Carolina Central University has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation of charges that he was caught by Georgia police with cocaine and a concealed weapon.

Although reports in *The News & Observer* and the Durham *Herald-Sun*, reported Fred Williams, 46, had been suspended with pay (according to the Durham *Herald-Sun*) and without pay (according to *The News & Observer*), Ronald S. Douglas, assistant dean of NCCU's School of Law, said that is not the case.

"I have seen a letter written to Professor Williams from the Chancellor stating he had been placed on administrative leave," said Douglas. "Suspension, as I understand it, implies guilt. Administrative leave means he's been excused pending an investigation."

The investigation will be conducted by the chancellor, said Kaye Webb, assistant to the chancellor for legal affairs.

She did not say when the investigation would begin or what it would entail.

According to the *The News & Observer*, Williams, who has taught at the NCCU School of Law for 18 years, was arrested in the parking lot of Dad's restaurant in Hart County, Ga after two sheriff's deputies observed him lying on the floor of his 1991 bronze Acura Legend with the passenger door open.

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