

Campus Echo

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Breaking in line spurs cafeteria brawl

6 suspended pending hearing; football player arrested for weapons violation

By DANISA BAKER AND DANNY HOOLEY
ECHO STAFF WRITERS

Six N. C. Central University students, including two members of the football team—one of whom was arrested for possession of a firearm—have been suspended pending a decision by the university regarding a fight that erupted in the cafeteria Nov. 3.

According to campus police reports, the incident occurred at approximately 1:45 p.m., after one of the students cut in line.

One eyewitness, who asked that her

name not be used in this article, said that the student who cut in line was one of the football players.

She also said that Mike Royals, an ex-member of the team, started the fight when he pushed one of the other students during a verbal confrontation over the player who cut in line.

According to this witness and others, other players immediately joined in the fight, which resulted in overturned tables, chairs and food strewn about.

However, despite the uneven odds—four against two, according to most witnesses—there were no serious injuries.

Royals and five other students—

Clarence Tillman, Eric Puryear, Morgan Hunter, Levon Gorham and Nicholas Obayuwana—were handed interim suspensions until a Nov. 16 hearing on the matter.

One of the players, Puryear, 20, was charged with felony weapon possession for leaving the cafeteria to allegedly get a pistol out of his car.

According to witnesses, Puryear was restrained by friends from re-entering the cafeteria.

Puryear was arrested two days later. His bond was set at \$5,000.

Dean of Student Affairs Angela Terry, who is involved in the discipli-

nary actions regarding the incident, cautions against viewing the incident as team-related.

"We're not dealing with a team here," said Terry. "We're dealing with individuals."

Still, the incident has sparked campus-wide discussions about commonplace bullying tactics that occur in the cafeteria. These include cutting in line and claiming territory, both of which athletes, in particular, are notorious for.

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Louis Velez said he wants to dispel any notions that the football players will receive preferential treatment in this

case.

"Safety on this campus is a very important issue to us, and this sort of behavior will not be tolerated," Velez said. "These folks are students, and they're going to be dealt with the same way as any other students in this situation."

Terry agreed that disciplinary measures regarding this incident are being handled appropriately by the student conduct board.

"Interim suspensions are rarely given by myself or my designee," Terry said. "We regard this as a very serious matter."

'UNITE TOWARD A NEW DAY IN Y2K!'



WILLIAM WATERS/Staff Photographer
Top left and right: Marchers in the 2000 Youth March display banners to demonstrate their sense of unity and seriousness of purpose. Over 200 people participated in the Durham march.



Hundreds march for unity, justice

By EBONY EAST AND MANDISA HOLDER
ECHO STAFF WRITERS

"What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" chanted the participants at the NAACP 2,000 Youth March on Nov. 13.

"Unite toward a new day in Y2K" "We are coming together to show the community that we are in support of the youth and to raise a consciousness about what is going on with our youth," said Timothy Peterkin, president of NCCU's chapter of the NAACP.

The "Strength and Unity for the 21st Century" march kicked off at McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium

with a participant sign-up. The group marched on Lawson Street, McDougald Terrace, Linwood Avenue, and Alston Avenue. Some organizations held banners promoting the mission of the march.

During the march, curious residents came from within their homes to see what was going on. Some joined in. Drivers also showed their support by honking their horns and waving their hands at marchers.

"It's not a Central thing, it's a justice thing," said Minister Waldo Rogers of Greater Emanuel Church. "The fight is for justice."

"I think the march was very

uplifting. I hope to see more events like this in the near future," said Sabrina Clark, junior sociology major.

After the march, NAACP chapter presidents and vice presidents addressed the marchers.

"We are going to reclaim the community," said moderator Amy Freeman, youth coordinator of the UNC-CH chapter of the NAACP. "We are and we can be positive. The struggle is still here,"

Shaneka Douglas, vice president of the North Carolina Central University chapter of the NAACP, spoke to the youth about the importance of furthering their education.

She discussed the underlying issues concerning HBCUs, including minority scholarship cuts.

Damisha Hill, Elon College chapter NAACP president, spoke about the misconceptions of generation X.

"I will not be known as a casualty of the 20th century," Hill said. "What someone calls you has no reflection on who you are or what you can do."

"The march was productive and I was very happy to see so many students get involved," said Douglas.

An estimated 200 hundred people attended the march.

Faculty gathers to reclaim voice

Seventy-five department chairs and faculty members gathered last week to discuss ongoing problems at the school.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

"Our house is on fire we cannot proceed as we have," said Harvey McMurray, associate professor of criminal justice at a faculty meeting, Friday, Nov. 12 in the Walker Complex Auditorium.

"This has been coming for a long time," said George Wilson, professor and chair of the criminal justice department. "I don't complain because I hate NCCU, I complain because I love NCCU," he added.

Seventy-five NCCU department chairs and faculty members gathered to express their growing

alarm at the diminished role of faculty in governance and at diminished funding of academics. The meeting was called by the College Council, the body representing department chairs.

The group complained that they are being left out of the process.

One faculty chairperson after another outlined issue after issue relating to institutional inefficiency. They complained of department resource shortages, filthy buildings, purchasing delays, lack of support for faculty and student development, telecommunications problems, a deteriorating image of the institution, photocopying problems, late educational technology fees, problems with internal fund transfers, and more.

"I'm being asked to make brick without the straw," said Wendell Wilkerson, chemistry chair, to a round of applause.

History department chair Freddie L. Parker opened the meeting. He said he was there to "to carry forward James E. Shepard's dream."

"Students come in the door of 'I-don't-know-and-uncertainty,' and we as professors should be able

Somebody is playing shell games with academic funds.

—WENDELL WILKERSON
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHEMISTRY CHAIR

NCCU Foundation director, 56, dies of cancer

Sylvia Sharpe was active in the NCCU community since the early 1960s.

By CHRISTINE NEWMAN
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Sylvia Sharpe, executive director of the NCCU Foundation died Nov. 4 at Duke Hospital, from what university officials said were complications related to cancer. Sharpe was 56.

The Foundation raises money for

the university and student scholarships. In three years, Sharpe more than doubled the foundation's assets from \$2.2-5.5 million in three years, according to foundation officials.

"She was goodness to everybody ... a heart of gold," said NCCU Director of Major Gifts Al Richardson, recalling that last Christmas he saw a pen and ink sketch in Sharpe's office and told her he admired it. To his surprise, Sharpe later sent the sketch to him in the mail, wrapped with a bow on top.

Sharpe was born in Statesville, N.C. She graduated cum laude from NCCU in 1965 with a chemistry

degree. An active participant in the Eagle community, Sharpe was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha in her sophomore year and the Pan-Hellenic Council in her junior year. She was also in the Chemistry Club and the Wesley Foundation to the Women's Steering Committee, which helped plan activities for the women's student body.

After graduating from NCCU she earned an MBA in administration and finance at Pace University, graduating number one in her class.

Sharpe then became a senior manager for IBM. In 1994, on loan from IBM, she returned to NCCU to work in the Office of Development,

where she worked on special fundraising projects.

Sharpe retired in 1996 after 25 years of as a research chemist and financial planner. She was known for her creativity and hard work. That year she became the executive director of the N.C. Central Foundation.

"To me, Sylvia Sharpe was a loved and highly respected professional, who contributed much this university," said Carmelita Spicer, director of public relations and a sorority sister of Sharpe. "She loved the university and the foundation

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