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Three speakers explore the African-American experience

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Charmelle Smith heads downtown to capture its revitalization

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Sports
Our 4th annual CIAA preview is here. Games begin on Feb. 28

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Campus Echo



Betty Graham (Lauren Turner) nurses her husband Ozelle Graham (JuQuarry Armstrong) as Wesley Green (Brandon McEachern) makes a point.

CARLA AARON-LOPEZ/Staff Photographer

'THE WISE ONES'

Play showcases experience of two black families during the 1960s

By JULIUS JONES
ECHO STAFF WRITER

When Ruth Jackson is mourning the death of her husband, the lustful, racist — and white — Sheriff Bixby starts groping her.

"Let me go check on my baby. She's been sick," said Ruth.

She then goes into another room and comes back with a revolver and shoots the sheriff dead.

Relax. It's only a play in the N.C. Central University Theatre — Howard Craft's "The Wise Ones."

The play, presented by the NCCU theatre department from Feb. 11-13, is a vivid exploration of the complex consequences for two families during the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee's education and voter reg-



Ruth Jackson (Pamela McGill) and Sheriff Bixby (Daniel Neil)

CARLA AARON-LOPEZ/Staff Photographer

istration drive in the 1960s.

"The Wise Ones," a New Play

Project winner set in the fictional town of Hicksville, Ala. in 1965, showcases two families.

One family believes in the cause and aids those fighting for the cause.

The other family believes that the voter drive will be the death knell for the black community.

"Craft did it again," said Gil Faison, who plays the role of Silas Jackson. "This play really captured the times."

The Graham family, made up of Ozelle Graham, played by JuQuarry Armstrong, and Betty Graham, played by Lauren Turner, houses and

Limited faculty affects studies

Teacher shortage in NCCU's nursing program linked to Ph.D. requirement, nurses opting to teach at retirement

By STEPHANIE CARR
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Like most nursing programs across the nation, N.C. Central University's department of nursing is facing a crisis — there are not enough nursing teachers to go around.

This spring, over 200 juniors and seniors applied to the program, but only 40 will be admitted.

"It's most unfortunate, but it happens all over," said Fannie July, interim chair of the nursing department. "We're doing the best with what we have."

Only juniors and seniors with a 2.5 GPA or higher can apply to the program. The North Carolina Board of Nursing has set a cap at 125 students for NCCU's nursing program, based on faculty and program size. Students can only apply in the spring.

Nationally, over 25,000 nursing applications have been denied due to university faculty and resource constraints, according to a study from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The U.S. is likely to have a shortage of 800,000 nurses by 2020, the study reports.

According to July, the nursing faculty shortage is linked to teachers joining the faculty close to retirement. The average age of the nursing faculty is between 50 and 52.

July said the shortage also is related to the requirements for becoming an instructor. NCCU requires that all nursing faculty have a Ph.D., while the minimum requirement to teach is a master's degree. She also said with increased funds the department would be able to assist potential faculty with sabbaticals and scholarships to help them earn a Ph.D.

Some students say that the teacher shortage causes them to graduate late, change their majors or transfer to other schools. Other students say the teacher shortage

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\$300 hike likely for out-of-staters

By DENEESHA EDWARDS
ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There may not be a tuition increase for in-state students after the University of North Carolina Board of Governors froze increases for next year.

But there is likely to be a \$300 hike in out-of-state and graduate tuition next school year.

N.C. Central University vice chancellor for student affairs Roland Gaines confirmed the freezing of in-

state tuition and also explained the need to increase tuition at a Feb. 11 student forum hosted by the SGA in the Alfonso Student Union at 7 p.m.

UNC institutions made presentations to the Board of Governors Feb. 10 and NCCU asked the board to increase yearly tuition for the 2005-2006 school year by \$225 for in-state undergraduates and \$300 for out-of-state students.

NCCU in-state tuition for this year is \$3,891, while out-of-state is \$15,751.

Gaines said he understands that students have financial difficulties, but there is need for a tuition increase to enable the University to retain and

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NCCU hosts musicians

IMA brings schools together to enhance music performance

By EDGAR GAISIE
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Workshops, performance clinics and concerts were featured at the 45th Annual Conference for the Intercollegiate Music Association at N.C. Central University's Feb. 10-12 at B.N. Duke Auditorium.

This year's conference was hosted by NCCU and Benedict College.

The IMA, which was formed in 1962 at Elizabeth City State University, brings together 13 universities to enhance music performance and education among regional black colleges and universities.

"The purpose of this program is to give students

in the band a chance to rub elbows with musicians who match their caliber and talent," said Timothy Holley, an assistant professor in NCCU's music department.

"It gives the students a chance to meet other students and faculty members they wouldn't normally have the chance to meet." Holly said the conference is dedicated to making great music and celebrating African American history.

Saxophonist Charles Franklin II, a computer science junior, has enjoyed the event. "It's a good opportunity to see and learn," he said.

In all 171 students attended the conference.



Darryl Dillard leads the IMA Concert Choir during the 45th annual conference in B.N. Duke Auditorium.

AARON DAYE/Echo Photo Editor