

# Editorial

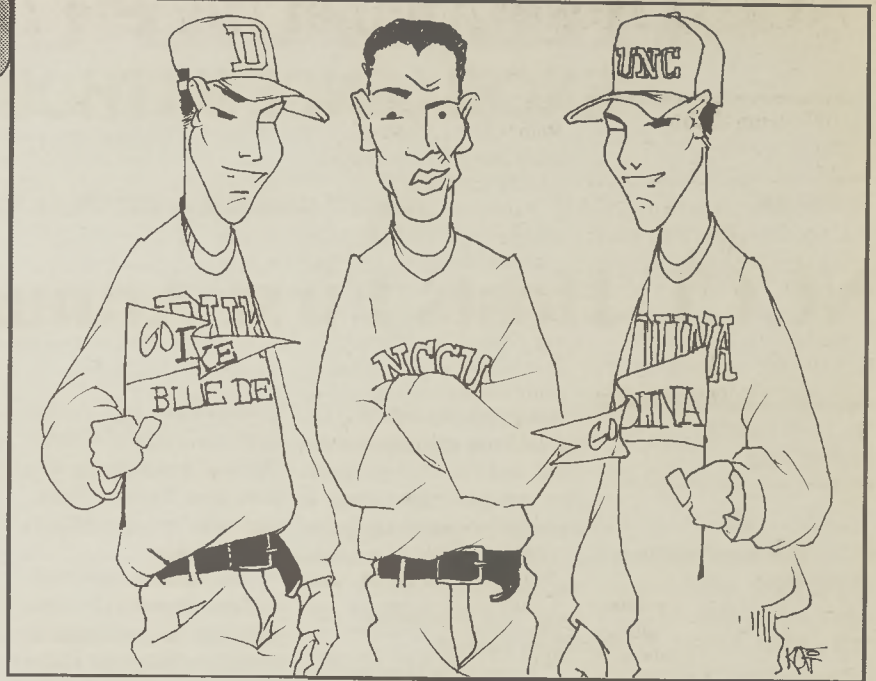
## The Eagle Train

What is wrong with our school spirit? Why is our morale disappearing? The Aggies have their pride and we the Eagles have our funk, and lately that's just what the morale and unity of this campus has become--a stench or funk. The students in the last few years have abandoned pride in themselves and in dear old NCCU. Why is that? Students no longer think that NCCU is the great school of old. Most come to Central with the expectations of a school where the students participate as a whole in almost every activity dealing with the campus. However, all I've seen lately is a bunch of Greek fraternities and sororities disliking each other and people in their organizations, and students hating each other and the administrators on campus, and some administrators not really caring for the students or their coworkers. Granted, I understand that there are over 5,000 different attitudes on this campus and not all are made for each other, but our students take this problem to a whole new level. How are we going to care or feel good about our school if we don't give a damn about ourselves or the people that surround us on campus? This is one of the many reasons that NCCU alumni support is so low--below 3 percent. This results from morale of the school when students were here; evidently they had horrible experiences when they were here or they just all left and couldn't find a job to send support back to their alma mater. Now, this article was not written to bring the morale down even lower than it is, but to make the students, faculty, and administrators aware of the problem our school is facing. Instead of wondering where that next stop is on the Eagle Train, sit back and enjoy the ride, and to the passenger next to you give him a "what's up" from me!

By Mike Fanning

### The Campus Echo

Co-Editors - Maurice Crocker and Dezmona Mizelle  
 Associate Editor - Reginald Jones  
 Business Manager - Kipchoge Ryan  
 Entertainment Editor - Tracey Marbury  
 News Editor - Ronda Robinson  
 Photographer - Nancia Odum  
 Layout - Truitt O Neal  
 Reporters - Geraldine Ndiforchu, Terri Boykin, Truitt O Neal, Robert Thornton, Bianca Barnes, Greg Lewis, Donna Lee, Llaakwitedide Adkins



## Student Forum- Patricia Harris

### Honesty Is The Best Policy

Lavonda Burnette may be receiving unnecessary attention about her seat on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, but when someone lies about her credentials for a public position, she should be prepared for the inevitable backlash. As an educated Black woman, I am offended by Burnette, who has embarrassed herself and all Blacks by using false claims to attain a prestigious position. Because other Blacks are legitimately qualified to serve on the Board of Education, Ms. Burnette's actions are all the more reprehensible. The media often portrays Blacks negatively; thus, Burnette's proven false claims give the media plenty of ammunition.

Whether or not Burnette has obtained a college education is not the issue. I do not think Board of Education members need a college degree in order to serve the community effectively. The problem is Burnette knowingly misled the voters by falsifying her credentials. According to Karen Lange's recent article in The Herald-Sun ("Burnette Takes Time to Decide Strategy"), fellow board member Ruth Royster finds it difficult to overlook the obvious

lies: "It does not matter to me whether you, LaVonda, have ever attended a college course in your life, but it bothers me that you sat in my office, looked directly at me, and said you were taking courses in English and planned to go on to law school." Burnette claimed to be a Chapel Hill High School graduate and a part-time student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Actually, Burnette did not graduate from Chapel Hill High, but received her equivalency diploma from Durham Technical Community College. In addition, UNC has no record of Ms. Burnette ever enrolling or auditing classes. What is Burnette's defense to this allegation? According to Lange's article, Burnette insists that she audited African-American studies, history, and women's studies courses, but she will name neither the classes nor the instructors. If Ms. Burnette were wrongly persecuted, she would surely leap at the chance to validate her statements.

Burnette seems primarily concerned with

her own personal well-being rather than that of the community which is supposed to serve. Instead of allowing the Board of Education to target its time and energy towards making positive advances for the school system, Burnette has engaged the board in a time-consuming battle. In a recent Herald-Sun article ("School Panel Asks Burnette to Quit"), Burnette reportedly told the board that she had made mistakes and shown poor judgement, but that her commitment to serving the children of the school district remains. Ironically, in another Herald-Sun article ("UNC to Vote if Burnette Should Quit"), Jackie Hershkowitz quoted Burnette as saying: "Students have the right to do whatever they want, but I don't feel they played a significant part in the election and just don't have much of a say." To me, these two quotes show an obvious disparity in Burnette's view of the students whom she has sworn to serve. If Burnette is indeed committed to serving the children of the school district, then she should certainly have their best

See Honesty, page 3