

# Editorials and Comments

## THE TRUTH FINALLY COMES TO LIGHT

By LARRY D. REVELLE  
Editor-In-Chief

True or false: The sit-ins began in Greensboro on February 1, 1960 when four freshmen at A&T State moved against segregation at dime-store lunch counters.

**FALSE!**

Even though you've probably heard that all your life and even though some authorities support it, recent investigations show that the first sit-in actually began in Durham with students from this University: North Carolina Central.

That's right. Let's get the facts straight and give credit where credit is due!

The strong rivalry between Central and A&T and Durham and Greensboro was reawakened recently when approval was about to

be given for a historical marker in Greensboro saying that the nation-wide sit-in movement began in a dime-store there.

After much confusion, it was decided that the historical marker to be erected in Greensboro will read: "Sit-ins. Launched nationwide drive for integrated lunch counters, Feb. 1, 1960, in Woolworths Store. Two blocks south." The word launched was used instead of started.

Although a group of A&T students did have a sit-in in 1960, records show the students at NCCU were far ahead of them. Two and a half years before the Greensboro incident, seven Blacks from NCCU intentionally sat down in the white section of a dairy bar

in Durham known as the Royal Ice Cream Company.

So why has the credit for sit-ins always gone to Greensboro and A&T students? The Greensboro papers must have had a slow day on February 1, 1960 because they decided to make a big to-do over the sit-in there as if it were the country's first. They called the story in to other papers and word soon permeated the country.

They totally forgot to mention Durham's sit-in at Royal Ice Cream Company in June, 1957 with students from NCCU.

But Durham and NCCU can go a step further than Greensboro and put "icing on the cake."

In 1933, Thomas Hocutt, a student at NCCU, sued

UNC-CH for denying him admission. Official documents show that this was the first suit in the United States by a Black man seeking to be admitted to an all-white state university. Obviously it was the backbone and forerunner of many other cases.

Civil rights in North Carolina began at Durham and NCCU was a vital and integral part of that prolific struggle. Durham has always had a large, organized, feared and respected Black community.

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People is noted throughout the city and state for its power and remarkable influ-

ence. It's no wonder that all the political candidates always seek the committee's endorsement.

Durham continues as an ongoing symbol of Black pride. There is North Carolina Mutual, the country's largest, Black-owned insurance company. There is North Carolina Central University, the country's first Black state-supported liberal arts university. And there is *THE CAROLINA TIMES*, the state's oldest Black newspaper.

There's no doubt about it! The country's first civil rights sit-ins commenced in Durham with NCCU students. Thank God the truth finally came to light.

## WRESTLERS GIVEN NO ECHO COVERAGE

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading the last issue of *The Campus Echo*, I became extremely annoyed. As a wrestler here at NCCU, I feel that we have been neglected. I'm not saying that it was intentional, for it is only the second time it has occurred, but I cannot seem to find another explanation. What was so important that the football team received an entire page in the last issue? If you don't realize it, the football season is over. I'm not writing this article to offend the football team, but to brighten the eyes of *The Campus Echo*.

Wrestling is a sport here on campus also. I realize also, that to some it may not be interesting, but we still deserve some kind of publicity. As I noticed, you printed the other sports' schedules in a previous paper, but failed to print ours. I feel that we (the wrestlers) deserve just as much publicity as the other sports, if not more. I mean we wrestle hard for the Eagles' name and we still can't get one section of *The Campus Echo*. Many students wouldn't realize that our season was here, if we didn't publicize it ourselves. All we ask for is a fair share of the pie. I'm not saying that our lack of publicity is all your fault, but you are

part of the blame. This may be one of the reasons why the school spirit is dead; everytime someone reads an article, it's dealing with an event that has passed. No one wants to "dwell on spilled milk."

The football, basketball, and bowling teams are really the only sports teams that you recognize in the *Echo*. I wonder why? Is it because we are the only sport that ends up with a winning record, or is it that you want the student body to think and believe that the Eagles are losers in every sport? If those sports cannot bring fame and glory to the school, you could give us a shot at it. I feel that with a little publicity from *The Campus Echo* and more publicity from the student body and faculty members, we can do it. Besides, whatever happened to the saying, "Together we can make the struggle complete." Publicity is all that we ask for. Not only for wrestling, but full coverage of all events coming. If you can't provide us with this, then you don't serve your purpose.

Please do not omit or change any part of this editorial.

MELVIN DAVIS  
CLASS OF '82  
NCCU WRESTLING TEAM

*Mr. Davis' letter begs a reply. THE CAMPUS ECHO is cognizant of the success of our wrestling team and the skill required to play the sport.*

*Since the wrestling team had only played two games at the date of our last paper, Mr. Davis' comment may have been premature.*

*THE ECHO did not intentionally omit covering the wrestling team. We've attempted several times to run a picture of the team along with a story but haven't been able to do so until this paper.*

*We remind our readers that our staff is limited and that our reporters have homework and exams too.*

*Those students who feel their organization, sport, or team is not adequately covered in THE ECHO are requested to appoint an organization reporter who will be responsible for submitting the organization's news to THE ECHO. This way one can be assured of coverage.*

*As for Mr. Davis' comment about the ECHO always printing old stories, I'll let the paper speak for itself.*

THE EDITOR

**LOVE  
THOSE  
EAGLES!**

## THE CAMPUS ECHO

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