

## Editorials

### Homecoming Acts Deserved Respect

We would like to congratulate the Student Government Association for providing the student body with an active and diverse Homecoming week.

We realize what a chore it is to plan activities on this campus and try to satisfy the students.

However, there's a simple, important lesson that some fellow Eagles need to learn. That lesson is respect.

Why is it that some people find it necessary to hiss and boo and every event?

The comedy show Wednesday night and the concert are prime examples.

This is not the Apollo.

This is North Carolina Central University and we should respect others as well as our own.

Why was it necessary for some of fraternities and sororities to disrespect and offend the others during the stepshow?

Besides, these groups should not be judged on their ability to step. These organizations were not founded on that principle.

They can "win" 10 stepshows in a row, but they should be judged on their service projects.

Almost anybody with rhythm can "step," but it takes drive and initiative to perform a service in the community. Fraternities and sororities provide scholarships to young scholars, participate in the Adopt-a-Highway Program, and help feed the homeless. This is what they should be judged on.

We would rather have 10 people attend college and have the opportunity to become successful in the world than have 10 identically dressed people "win" stepshows year after year.

Fraternities and sororities are fine organizations and are able resources on this campus and they should appreciate one another.

### Vietnam Memorial Wall Still A Powerful Symbol

The national Vietnam War Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated 10 years ago.

At the time the wall was the source of much controversy. It was seen by many to be unheroic, defeatist and depressing. In the years since it was built, its critics have won a partial victory, and the wall of names is now flanked by more traditional statuary.

But it is the wall itself that evokes our repressed fear and continues, after a decade, to be a disturbing icon with the power to flash us back to the terrible imagery of Vietnam.

Someone has said that from a distance the wall looks like a tombstone. It makes us think of death.

It is partially buried in the ground, like a blackened shard chipped off the Pentagon. It points into the earth, an inverted Washington Monument. Because it does not celebrate the war it memorializes, it recalls the counter-culture of protest the war engendered.

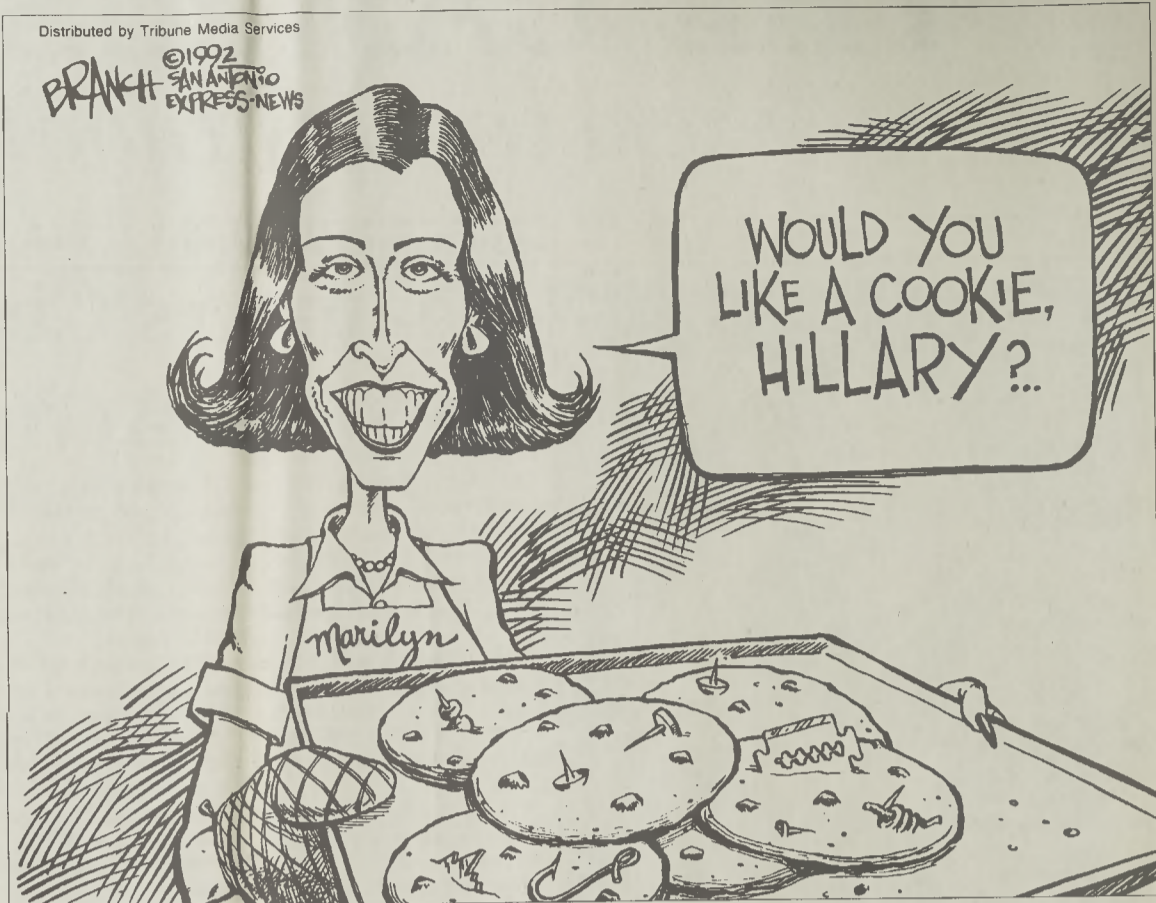
The wall fools the eye. As you approach, it is scarcely visible. You stumble into it, fall into it—as we fell into the war itself.

Like the war, it is at once deeply personal and ominously impersonal. A black granite wall that lists the 57,000 names of the dead, it reminds us how callously we sacrificed so many individual Americans on the pyre of Southeast Asia. Yet the original design of the Memorial contained no human figure with which to empathize. One must search through a list to find the name of a father, a husband, a friend lost. But thousands have made that pilgrimage, that search, and every day leave small, personal mementos—a rose, a campaign ribbon, a child's toy—that the memorial director calls "messages to the dead."

Insofar as the wall makes those final conversations possible and insofar as it raises the question of how we should pay tribute to honorable and innocent men caught up in an ignoble enterprise, the wall has done more than most public monuments or works of art ever do.

The country ought to be grateful for it.

**Tom Evans**  
Echo faculty adviser



## Guest Forum

*Editors' note: The following forum was previously published in the Carib News on Sept. 17, 1991.*

At a time of declining African American and Hispanic enrollment in higher education, the White House has selected scholarships reserved for these groups as the next target in its war on affirmative action. Such scholarships, which are only a fraction of the total financial aid available to college students, have a record of great success in attracting Black and Latino students to historically white institutions. Now the Bush Administration is promoting the idea that the scholarships are unconstitutional form of racial preference.

You will recall that last winter, Michael Williams, the Assistant Secretary of Education in charge of civil rights announced his office's conclusion that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 barred

colleges receiving federal funds from awarding any race-based scholarships. Williams acknowledged having reached that conclusion, which reversed the Education Department's previous position on minority scholarships, without consulting the higher education community.

The announcement caused an uproar. Many people saw, in this attack of a cornerstone of minority access to higher education, further evidence of the Bush Administration's hostility to civil rights and fondness for racial politics. Seeking to quell the controversy, the Education Department announced two weeks later that the new policy would be phased in over a "transition period" of four years during which the Department would "not pursue a broad compliance review with respect to minority scholarships." The new policy, however, would stand.

Congress pressed Lamar

Alexander, at his confirmation hearings to become the new Secretary of Education, to repudiate the new policy. Alexander testified that minority scholarships are an "important signal" to minorities that they are welcome at colleges and universities, and he promised a new review of the issue. He was confirmed.

The new policy review commenced in May with the Education Department's publication in the Federal Register of a questionnaire on minority scholarship programs. One can infer from the questions' spin that the Department will persist in claiming that minority scholarships are a type of illegal quota, and that they should be replaced by race-neutral scholarships based solely of financial need.

#### THE PROBLEM

Minorities, especially African-Americans and Hispanics, are gravely underrepresented on our nation's college campuses. A re-

cent survey determined that only 0.8 percent of recent Black high school graduates were enrolled in college, compared to 38.8 percent of white graduates (more black males are in prison than in college). Hispanic college enrollment is even lower.

But that's only part of the story. Even after they enroll, minority students have a harder time staying in college. More than half of white college students graduate within five years; fewer than one-third of African American and Hispanic students graduate within that time. And the problem is getting worse. Minorities lost ground in the 1980s, as federal financial aid declined. Between 1977 and 1985, the number of African Americans obtaining Master's degrees declined by nearly 40 percent.

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## Letters To The Editor

### Alumna Wants Error-Free Newspaper

Dear Editor:

As an alumna and a current graduate at NCCU, I was disheartened and totally embarrassed to read the article "Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Roland Buchanan Fires Back!" by correspondent Greg Lewis in the Oct. 15 edition of The Campus Echo.

The article was filled with grammatical errors, misspelled words, poor sentence structure, sentences with words omitted (not to mention the lack of punctuation, and the correct use of the apostrophe).

I cannot believe that you allowed this article to be published and circulated with so many obvious errors. I certainly hope you and your staff realize how damaging something like this can be to NCCU's image. I am really angered by this. We cannot afford more bad publicity, especially from something of this nature—it's inexcusable.

May I suggest that you confer with your staff and work towards a product that we can all be proud of. I'm sure you know that this newspaper may be circulated nationwide—I, alone, send it out to two states.

Another note, the SGA presidents name was spelled three different ways in the newspaper—please get the correct spelling; it does make a difference.

I have always enjoyed reading The Campus Echo, and I anxiously await the next issue.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
Vera H. Graham

*Editors' note: We are currently in the process of revamping our production schedule to limit any errors that could occur in The Campus Echo. We have the correct spelling of our SGA president, Phyllis Jeffers, and any spelling errors were not intended to damage Ms. Jeffers or the University. The Campus Echo regrets the errors and thank you for your letter.*

The Campus Echo  
The Student Newspaper of North Carolina Central University

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### Our Policy On Letters

The Campus Echo welcomes letters from students, faculty, administrators and anyone else interested in the North Carolina Central University community. Letters must be no more than 300 words in length. The editors of The Campus Echo reserve the right to edit all letters for correctness and length. Address your letters to The Campus Echo, Department of English, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC 27707.

### How To Publicize Your Club Or Organization In The Echo

The Campus Echo publishes news of campus meetings and events, achievements, honors and activities of students, faculty and staff. If you want your activity or event to be written up in the Echo, just send a news release or fact sheet to The Campus Echo, c/o The Department of English, NCCU. We encourage you to send photographs when they are available. Let us hear from you.