

## Editorials

### Who Makes It Happen At NCCU?

There are three types of people in the world: those who make it happen, those who don't make it happen; and those who wonder what the hell happened.

Unfortunately, our campus has all three.

We are dismayed at the lack of participation in campus activities and the apathy of the student body.

Those who try to give the student body something to do often try in vain because students don't show up.

The Echo is a prime example.

As a student newspaper, we cannot function without the student body.

It is true that students read the paper.

We produce 3,000 copies of each edition and are pleased they tend to disappear rapidly, but we need more feedback on what you think of the paper and what you think about the issues we report.

We have only received a handful of letters to the editor this semester and our guest forum, open to anyone, is hard to fill.

We need more staff as well — reporters, artists, photographers, salespersons and a distribution team.

Thus, we are soliciting more student support.

We are currently in the process of buying more equipment to print national and state news and provide more insight into world views. Soon it could be possible to produce a weekly edition of *The Campus Echo*, but we can't do it without help from you.

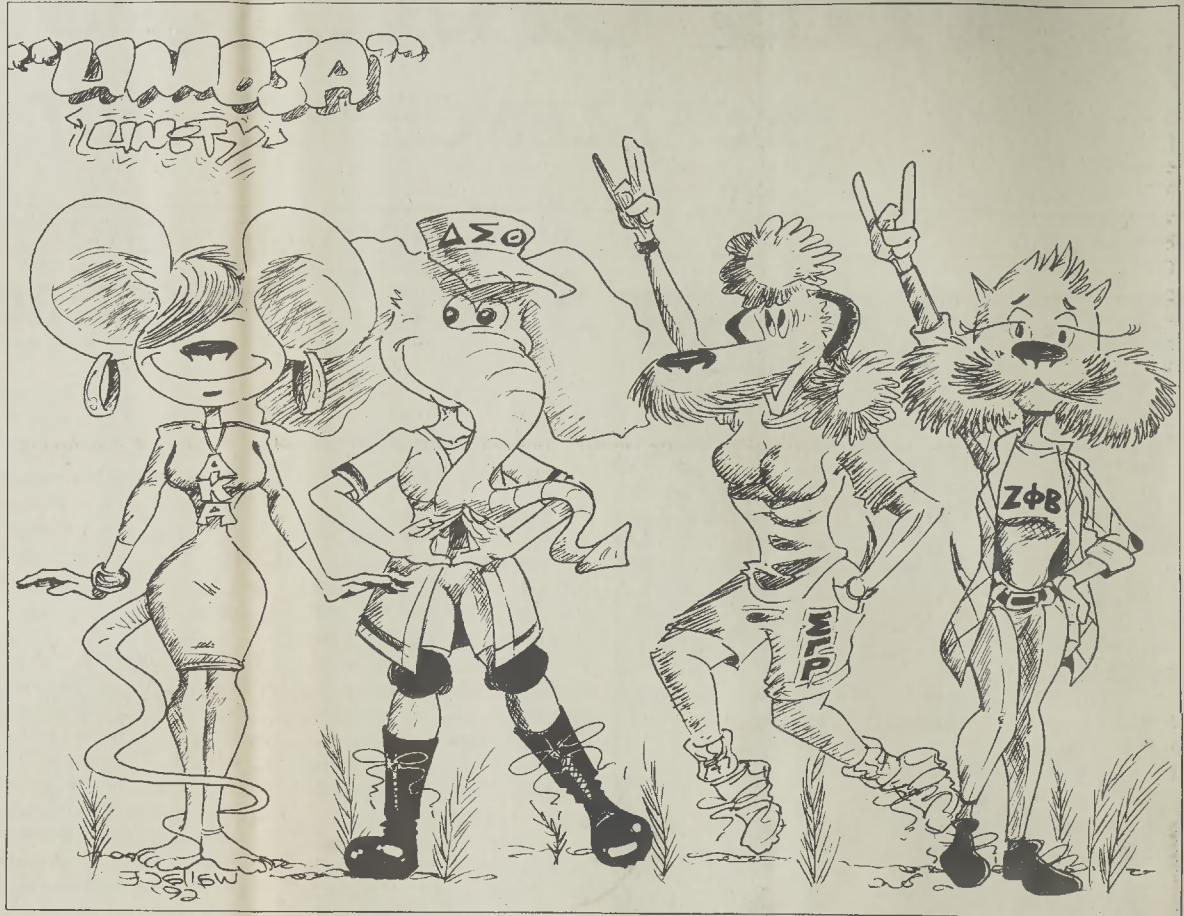
Currently, we have less than 10 people on staff that attempt to cover a student population of 5,500.

What are you contributing to the student body?

Get involved. Make your voice count and build up NCCU.

We make it happen.

Do you?



## Guest Forum

### A Reflection Of Benson's Term

As 1992 comes to a close, so to does the reign of Dr. Donna J. Benson as Interim Chancellor of North Carolina Central University. Dr. Benson has provided the University with leadership, enthusiasm, and tenacity. Recognizing that problems remain, Dr. Benson nevertheless feels that we have all made substantial progress this year. "Dr. Shepard left a legacy of triumph over adversity, which has produced a resilient commitment to this institution throughout this community," she said. "A lot of people have worked very hard to move this University forward, and for that I am very grateful."

Her first speaking engagement to the NCCU Academic Community was at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at B.N. Duke Auditorium. She talked about college students and their search for

meaning in life. Stating that far too many people wore Malcolm X paraphernalia without understanding him and his philosophies, she challenged NCCU students to read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* in its entirety.

Last spring she appointed a Chancellor's Advisory Council of elected Student Government Leaders. The Advisory Council serves as a good means of internal communication and allows the University to further support students who serve the University in various leadership capacities while simultaneously completing their degrees.

One of her first actions as interim chancellor was to rescind the "no deferment, no postponement" tuition and fee policy. "The Cabinet worked very hard to develop an installment payment plan

for families with hardships. This has enabled many students to continue to enroll in NCCU who might not have been able to attend otherwise. We hope this proves to be a good payment policy."

One area of concern to Dr. Benson upon arriving on campus was the security of the NCCU academic community. She defined campus security as "a University-wide responsibility" and worked with Acting Chief of University Police René Lynch, who emphasized crime prevention, to establish a cooperative relationship with the Durham Police Department. This fall she has worked with newly appointed Chief Anthony Purcell to establish a Crime Stoppers Program and to double the number of NCCU police officers. Changes have included improved lighting

and a ban on high school football games at night.

Prior to Commencement, the Senior Class presented Dr. Benson with a request to have their names called during the ceremony. Many groaned and complained that the ceremony was extremely long, and this facet would make it even longer. Dr. Benson disagreed, and in a record time of 58 minutes, Provost Mickey L. Burnim and Dean John Sekora called the names of more than 500 marching graduates. We were all pleasantly surprised by the efficiency of the ceremony planned by Dr. Marvin Duncan and the faculty marshals.

Working with what she calls the "hardest working recruitment team in America," in February, Dr. Benson established a fall

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### Jesus Is The Reason For The Season

As children, many of us remember waiting anxiously on Christmas Eve for the big, Caucasian man in the red suit to come flying down the chimney with bags full of gifts. That night was much too long, but you never went to sleep without leaving Santa cookies and milk, so he would not be tired for the other children.

As you got older, you realized with amazement and disappointment that the gifts that you received every year were not from Santa, but were the results of the hard work of your mother, father, grandparents or guardians. After the initial disgruntlements it began to be an even more beautiful experience when you realized the effort and love being placed on this single event.

Along the way, perhaps things got misplaced or left out about the true meaning and purpose of Christmas. Instead of celebrating the wondrous and important birth of Christ, some began to just view it as a day to receive gifts.

Christmas, is a celebration of the birth of Christ and all that he has done for us. That is the joyous occasion. Jesus is the reason for the season, giving is the reason for the season, thanking your parents for all they have done, and friends for all the trust, love and faith given to you is the reason for the season.

As you lie in your bed on Christmas Eve and reflect that Christmas isn't the same now that you are older, realize this. It is not the presents you receive. You can receive many gifts and still not know the true meaning of giving and receiving gifts. It is the spirit in which you give to others and the love that comes from within that make the difference. Think about others during Christmas, especially those less fortunate than you, and do what you can to make their holiday more enjoyable. Christmas is for everyone, the poor, the rich, the incarcerated, the handicapped, the homeless.

Do you know the reason for the season?

It's never to late to learn.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

This year at Homecoming I was elated over the football team's victory. However, I was furious over the fact that during the game recognition was not given to the other athletic teams with successful seasons. This does not come as a surprise considering I have participated on a team that has had much success on a conference and on a national level and has never received proper recognition.

Any person familiar with the history of this institution can recall the years in which numerous Olympic champions were members of NCCU's track and field team. Since then, the renowned track and field

team has brought national and international recognition to this great institution.

Personally, I am CIAA Cross Country Champion for two consecutive seasons (including this season), CIAA Indoor and Outdoor Champion, a fourtime NCAA Division II All-American, and a 1992 U.S. Olympic Trials Provisional Qualifier. There are other members of the team that have achieved All-American status as well. During the 1992 indoor season two members of the Lady Track and Field Team placed eight as a team in the NCAA Division II Nationals.

I understand that cross country and track and field are "non-rev-

enue" sports, but if we are winning, why not give recognition where it is due? This year's the women's volleyball team (another "non-revenue" sport) beat top-ranked St. Augustine's College in the CIAA tournament ending a successful season. Neither volleyball or cross country received any recognition, not so much as a write-up in the *Campus Echo*.

The Cross Country and Track and Field teams have had extraordinary performances on a conference and national level without the spoils that other athletic teams have received. We have also utilized our facilities on campus and not use improper facilities as an excuse when we were not successful.

Do not misinterpret what I have stated. I am a firm supporter of all NCCU athletic teams. It is my belief that each individual in the athletic program is a winner. However, maybe we should give more recognition to the "true champions."

Sincerely,  
Evangela Booker

Dear Editor:

In the local News & Observer, the NCCU Student Body President was at a rally Raleigh in October was quoted as saying: "... we

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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.