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THE CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

Issue 37

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Sept. 12, 1994

Freshman voters will have many choices for elections on Tuesday

By Kendall Jenkins
Staff Reporter

On the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the first of two interest meetings, SGA issued a challenge for the freshman class to produce quality leaders and to take part in the shaping of NCCU's future.

Not only does the class of '98 have every intention of meeting the challenge, but they may have even broken a record along the way. More than 150 students showed up that night to show that there was more than just a passing interest in helping to govern the student body.

According to Kevin Jochems, head of the SGA election board, that was probably one of the biggest if not the biggest interest turnouts this school has seen in years. There has been a gradual increase in student awareness and involvement. Getting involved is what this year's SGA is all about, he said. There are eight presidential candidates and six vice-presidential candidates this year, Jochems says. That's twice as many candidates as last year for both of those offices. Those two

positions, along with the student congress have attracted many more interested candidates than last year, he said.

As one freshman, Henry "Tre" Lee, from Siler City puts it: "I think it's great that we have lots of freshmen getting involved in the student government, which means there is a better selection and wider variety of leaders to choose from. This mass involvement shows that the class of '98 is clearly not a bunch of sleepers and will not be overlooked or passed-over. We're out to prove not only that we have the skills to put NCCU atop the list of fine institutions but also that we have what it takes to keep it there!"

Another freshman, Christopher Battle from Pinetops, commented: "It's very important for freshmen to get involved in the SGA because politics is a part of life. SGA trains students to be responsible for getting their voices heard. SGA also instills a sense of unity, involvement, and determination to bring about change in your environment. These are all qualities of importance, particularly in the Black community."

DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 11 (Sunday)
Speeches: Congress candidates & Miss Freshman
7 p.m. - Alfonso Elder Student Union**

**September 12 (Monday)
Speeches: Class Offices
7 p.m. - Alfonso Elder Student Union**

**September 13 (Tuesday)
Election Day
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Note: Freshmen can vote in the Student Union only. Student ID is required.

Election results should be released by 9 p.m. on Election Day.

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WNCU to broadcast this fall from NCCU

Format will be mainly jazz/informational; targeting a cross-cultural audience

By Shelvina Dancey
Staff Reporter

The newest voice on NCCU's campus this fall will be WNCU-90.7 FM, the campus radio station. WNCU-90.7 began its fall agenda Thursday, September 1st, with a two-hour workshop in a classroom with few seats empty. WNCU-90.7 received its broadcasting license in May of 1992 and now broadcasting is scheduled to begin.

WNCU-90.7 will air a wide range of music forms, including gospel, hip hop, salsa, reggae, blues, and R & B. However, the station's format is primarily Jazz/Information. Says Station Manager Donald Baker, "Jazz is an area we can cover and cover well. We believe we will get many listeners—cross-cultural."

WNCU-90.7 encourages volunteers from NCCU and the surrounding community and arrangements are being made to employ programs that

SAT averages score nearly 100 point rise

Freshman class only 7 points behind Chancellor's goal

By Madelyn Hooker
Staff Reporter

When Chancellor Julius Chambers announced N. C. Central University's new SAT average would be 900 - over 100 points higher than in previous years, the admissions office rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

This year's freshman was just seven points short of the goal with an average of 883 for total admitted students in 1994-95, said Nancy Rowland, director of admissions.

"Last year's average was 781, so we went up about 100 points. We did very very well this year,"

said Rowland.

So why the big hike in SAT averages? What's the big deal anyway, since many agree the test is not a good predictor of college success?

The person who gave the mandate knows best. However, the chancellor was unavailable for comments.

One misconception that Louis Aikens of the department of education feels students have is that there is a standard minimum score that will be raised.

"When we're talking about raising the score we're talking about raising the average [score]," he said. The average, which is a total of all the scores divided by the number of new students, is what has been raised, he said.

This higher average is already attracting students who were considering Howard, Spelman, UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. A&T, said Rowland.

Conversely, UNC-Chapel Hill's chancellor is saying emphasis will no longer be put on SAT scores, which averages over 1000 currently, she added.

Some of the reasons for raising NCCU's average are to improve academic climate, to receive academic funding and to be capable of getting more money to either fund programs or construct new buildings, said Rowland.

The school will not consider in-state students with scores less than 700, nor out-of-state students with scores less than 800, she added.

In her opinion, students from the north have higher SAT scores than those in North Carolina because they have been exposed to SAT prep classes.

Rowland says she is not a strong advocate of the SAT as the only indicator of collegiate success because students with scores lower than 700 sometimes succeed academically than those with the high scores.

"If we are going to say we are among the elite then our averages will have to rise. I think alumni would feel better when they read in the paper that their alma mater is not next to the bottom," said Rowland.

