

Upcoming Events

CIAA Tournament
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Crime in Durham strikes a nerve

Chancellor Chambers wants to fund security measures

By Kifimbo Holloway
Staff Reporter

While most students made the lazy drive from their hometowns on Jan. 6 in preparation for the second semester, Arric Easterling was recovering from gun shot wounds he suffered while walking from his car on Lawson Street to his residence hall.

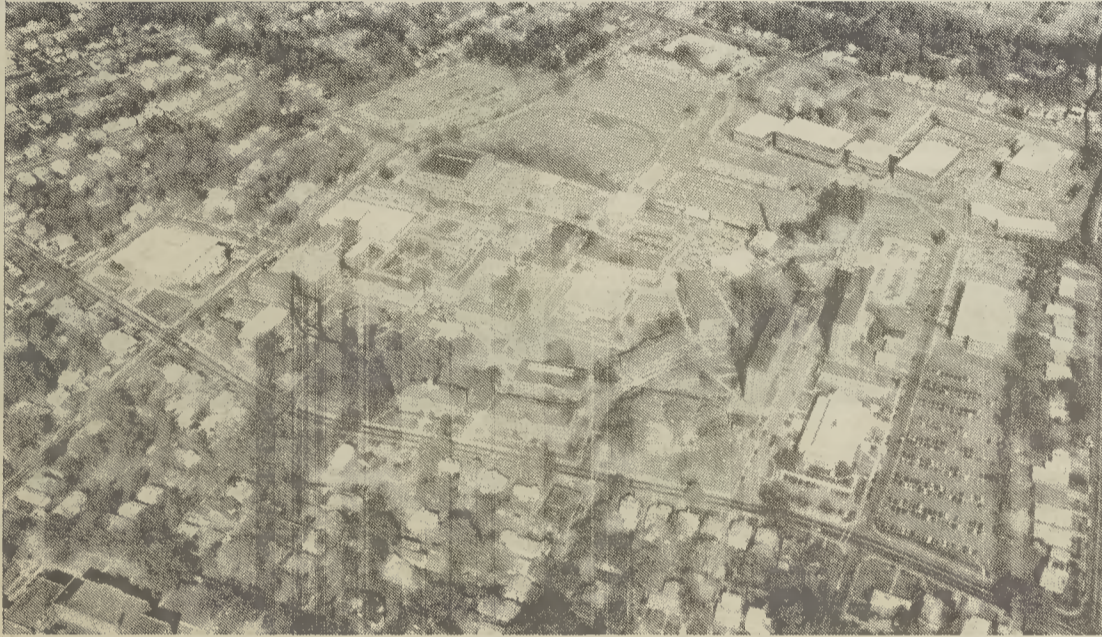
The 19-year-old sophomore was shot in the arm and hip by an unknown teenage assailant he encountered on his way from the Latham dormitory parking lot to Chidley Hall.

Easterling's shooting has raised concern among administrators for people who come onto the campus from neighboring streets and present a potential threat for students.

"[We want to] ensure safety, Chambers said. "And we plan to do that."

Chambers believes that faculty, campus security, and students must work hand and hand to promote safety on campus.

Shortly after Easterling's



(Above)
An aerial view of the North Carolina Central University campus and the surrounding community.

(Right)
Shooting victim Arric Easterling stands at the entrance of NCCU



shooting, representatives from the faculty, campus security and the student body met to survey the campus in search of potential crime areas.

The Chancellor is also attempting to fund additional secu-

city measures on campus.

Improvements in lighting and a shuttle bus are in planning, but nothing is official.

Chambers sees a tie between campus security and student pride.

In a recent visit to some of the resident halls, Chambers was disturbed by the unsanitary living conditions he witnessed.

He feels that the way students maintain their dorm rooms reflects the pride they have in the

school.

"You don't sweep chicken bones out into your hall," Chambers said.

As for students who vandalize and commit crimes on campus, Chambers said that they will shortly meet their doom.

"You have one time and you're out," he said.

Easterling agrees that student pride is essential for the future of the University.

"We can establish the fact that we're NCCU, and this is our little world within Durham and shield the activity that doesn't concern us out," Easterling said.

Although his parents wanted him to return to South Carolina and enroll in an in-state school, Easterling returned to NCCU.

"There will be your good and bad everywhere," he said.

His daughter, Arie yana, turned a year old the day after his shooting.

Easterling says she is much too young to understand what happened.

He is not bitter towards the university, nor stricken with fear, but said that he is more cautious than he had previously been.

"I am a little apprehensive about things," he said.

Understanding how lucky he was, Easterling is ready to continue working towards his degree in Computer Information Systems.

In life, Easterling said, everything happens for a reason.

Students should be aware of the company they keep, officials say

By Nneka Hall
Staff Reporter

Inquisitive minds venture into the halls of NCCU each semester, hoping for a quality education and a safe place to lie their heads.

The university setting is warm and close-nit, a comfort that can lead students to forget the community that exists beyond the campus.

Statistics show that in the Fayetteville Street area, from Aug. to Dec. of last year, there were 52 counts of drugs/narcotic arrests, two reported stabbings, two reported rapes, 7 gunshot wounds, 35 counts of assault, 4 shootings, 47 incidents in which shots were fired, 6 armed robberies and the list goes on.

Many of these incidents in-



A campus police vehicle parked outside of the Chidley Hall substation.

involved people who were in their teens to early twenties.

"Violence [near campus] is the result of a growing culture of violence in America," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Arthur Affleck.

He believes that students

should be aware of who they interact with from the community, as well as who they choose to bring onto the campus.

Youths who live in the local community see the cars students drive and the clothes they wear as a model of what a young

person deserves, Affleck said.

Affleck thinks that these young people become entranced with the student culture at NCCU, and that some will do anything to obtain this 'wealth' for themselves.

Officer Greg Grayson, of the Durham Police Department, said that this area has always had a problem with campus disturbances.

Grayson, a 1983 NCCU said that the University functions as a home away from home.

"We are a family," he said. "And as such there are some things we must do as a family."

He believes that the solution to campus safety is for students to account for their own safety.

According to Affleck, the chancellor is working to solve the problems and provide a safer environment for NCCU co-eds.

Steps taken include: new

doors and working locks for Chidley Hall, the hiring of more campus police and security officers, a working card scanning system, the enhancement of lighting on campus, and an escort (bus transportation) service with a door-to-door policy for those who live on campus and transportation for those who must park off-campus or in a distant parking lot.

"A culture of violence cannot be changed by those on campus," Affleck said.

Officer Greg Grayson will speak on campus safety precautions in the lobby of Baynes Hall on Wed., Feb. 12 at 8 p.m.