

# The CAMPUS ECHO

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**INSIDE:**  
NCCU's Brett Harper grew up playing against Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers.  
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**ALSO INSIDE:**  
Al Freeman, Jr. and Wesley Snipes star in "Down in the Delta," reviewed on Page 4



## Shake-up at Financial Affairs still unexplained

by KIM ROSS  
The Campus Echo

An interim vice chancellor for financial affairs took his post at North Carolina Central University on Nov. 17, 1998, the day after the unexpected resignation of his predecessor.

Serving his second stint at the university, former Deputy State

Auditor Bruce Thomas has been standing in ever since Ruby Pittman abruptly left her post. Thomas said that Chancellor Julius Chambers notified him about the position.

Thomas served as Chambers' executive assistant from July 93-January 95, of the position.

In a memorandum from NCCU's Public Relations Department,

Chambers stated that Pittman tendered her resignation November 16, 1998 to be effective June 30, 1999. Chambers also stated that Pittman has agreed to serve in an advisory capacity through June 30, 1999 to ensure an orderly transition for the office and to assist with major project areas in financial affairs. However, Thomas said he has not

spoken with Pittman.

Administrative Assistant Tonya Joyner, Assistant Vice-chancellor for Financial Affairs Lola McKnight and Office Assistant Valerie Prince all refused to comment. Pittman has also turned down a request to speak to *The Campus Echo* about the matter.

In former years, the Financial

Affairs office has been often criticized by students for inadequacies, frustrating students with misplaced paperwork, long lines and general disorganization.

Financial Affairs is responsible for formulating, implementing, and monitoring financial and administrative policies and procedures. It is also in charge of human resources,

student refunds and accounts, and physical facilities of the university.

"It's a high-stress job," says Public Relations Director Carmelita Spicer. Spicer said she was "surprised" to hear of the resignation of Pittman, "a professional lady who always had a smile" and "put in long

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## Council approves massive new mall

by RICHARD DUNLOP, IBI LEWIS and MARI McNEIL  
The Campus Echo

The two North Carolina Central University alumni who sit on the Durham City Council were among those voting on Jan. 19 to approve a huge shopping mall approximately five miles south of campus.

Ward 2 Rep. Angela Langley and Ward 4 Rep. Ty Cox were in the 10-3 City Council majority that gave the go-ahead to Southpoint mall, a planned 1.3-million square-foot regional facility that will be built at the intersection of Fayetteville Road and Interstate 40.

For many months, Durham residents had debated the necessity for such a large shopping facility. Those who oppose the mall complain that it will worsen traffic congestion, degrade the quality of living conditions for surrounding residents and threaten the future of South Square Mall, which has stood for 23 years just five miles to the west of the Southpoint site.

Langley, however, argued that the mall will create "more job opportunities for people" and will create tax revenue that will offset the cost of road improvements and sanitation.

Cox said he believes that the jobs created will allow area residents the opportunity to advance from entry-level positions such as sales associate to assistant manager to manager to eventually owning stocks in a company if they so desire.

Sundar Fleming, dean of the School of Business at NCCU, agreed with the council majority -- to a point. "What is good about it (Southpoint Mall) is that it is creating jobs," Fleming said. "However, I would not want to live in the area because of the traffic."

The mall, which will occupy 243 acres that so far are mostly undeveloped, will include an office park, 480 apartments and three hotels.

The project will be built by Chicago-based Urban and Midland Development Co.

Mall supporters carried huge signs at the Jan. 19 council meeting and shouted "Southpoint Yes."

*The News & Observer* quoted one supporter, Dock Terrell, who lives in the Kentington Heights community only a few miles from the mall sit. Terrell said for 10 years he has unsuccessfully asked the city to provide water and sewer services to his neighborhood. In exchange

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## NCCU WOMEN ON AN 8-2 ROLL

# Eagles split with Aggies

A late second-half rally by the NCCU men's team falls short against archrival A&T, but the Lady Eagles' win ends an eight-game losing streak to the Aggies.

by ED BOYCE  
The Campus Echo

The NCCU men's team took a three-game winning streak against N.C. A&T into the annual renewal of their big rivalry on Jan. 20 at the Greensboro Coliseum. But the Aggies grabbed a commanding first-half lead and held on to win 73-61.

But the Lady Eagles trounced A&T's women 61-48 in the opening game, ending an eight-game losing streak against the Aggies dating back to 1986. A&T had won 14 consecutive games against the Lady Eagles in the Greensboro Coliseum.

The Lady Eagles continued their strong recovery from a disastrous 8-19 record in 1997-98. By winning their eighth game in 10 starts, NCCU's women improved to 12-4 on the season and held first place in the Western Division of the CIAA with a 6-1 league mark, 4-0 in the division. (See related story, page 5.)

The 7,852 spectators watched the A&T men make 15 of 24 first-half shots and take command of the game with a 21-3 run. The Eagles made 9 of 22 shots but went 11 minutes without a basket in the first half.



NCCU's Warren Bell, who scored 16 points, drives against the Aggies' Tarrell Robinson during the 73-61 Eagles' loss to N.C. A&T at the Greensboro Coliseum.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL PHIPPS

"I would say A&T is probably the best team we have played [this season], especially as far as defense," junior guard Warren Bell told the Herald-Sun. "I think their defense in the game

was the difference."

The Aggies led by only 19-17 with 13:42

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## Lawsuits plague university police

Chancellor promises anti-harassment effort

by DINKY KEARNEY  
The Campus Echo

The North Carolina Central University police department has been rocked by allegations that several police personnel have engaged in sexual harassment.

In the latest incident, a police officer was charged with assault and exposing himself to a female officer in December. It was the third accusation of sexual improprieties involving campus police personnel in the past five months.

The university has consistently denied the charges. In an effort to increase its efforts against sexual harassment, Chancellor Julius Chambers said last month the university will redouble its efforts to educate employees about the problem.

"We don't take this kind of thing lightly," Chambers told the *The News & Observer*. "We will investigate these allegations thoroughly, and then we will make a decision based on the facts we find."

A top North Carolina civil rights official said last month that the number of allegations against NCCU could be troubling.

"If the record shows there is a pattern, then it should not be tolerated," Ed Smith, director of the civil rights division of the state Office of Administrative Hearings, told the N&O. Smith's office investigates discrimination cases filed against the state.

Smith said the responsibility of the problem lies in the hands of

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## SGA president urges students to get involved in policy decisions

by JOHNNY GREEN, DANNY HOOLEY and KIM ROSS  
The Campus Echo

A couple months into his term, Student Government President Derrick Jordan said he began to feel the pressures of the position.

Recently, Jordan tried to sum up his old predicament as "time management, or the lack thereof. Not being able to balance my responsibilities as a student, as a leader," before he was cut off by yet another person walking through the Hoey Administration Building with a question for him. That sort of thing happens to Jordan a lot these days.

However, Jordan said he feels more comfortable in his position, thanks in part to some understanding professors.

He said he has also learned more about the way things work around here, making him more effective in terms of making real changes.

A major point of Jordan's platform in the 1998 SGA presidential election was to give the students a voice in school decision making and handling of school affairs.

Jordan said he is concentrating on keeping that promise. "In the past, the student government was viewed as an elitist group, and the main thing that I want to do is get it away from being just a social programming board and turn

it into a true governing body where students' concerns and issues are heard," said Jordan.

Jordan said he takes his concerns to the administration but he doesn't stop there; he stays there until the concerns are addressed. He said that the changes taking place on campus are a result of the SGA standing behind those issues to ensure that things are getting done.

"You have a lot of student leaders who are going to bat everyday behind closed doors," said Jordan. He added that the SGA has been faced with fighting increases in student fees to ratifying a "vague" SGA constitution that has not been revised in years.

Jordan says that upon closely reviewing the constitution it became clear that SGA should have more power and voice in the decision-making process.

According to Jordan, there has traditionally been little student representation in administrative committees because of "apathy and ignorance"

"Who knows that there's an Administrative Planning Committee? I didn't know until I read the handbook," said Jordan. Jordan believes in "putting our feet down and demanding our places."

Jordan said he is focused on graduating in May and eager to start his career. Jordan said he plans



SGA President Derrick Jordan, right, being sworn in by Chancellor Julius Chambers last fall. Jordan's term ends this spring, and he plans to graduate in May.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL PHIPPS

to teach high school English for a few years, then attend law school and eventually become a judge. He insists that he will not settle for anything less than the Supreme Court.

Jordan has advice for future SGA members.

"Hopefully the people who come in will analyze and evaluate what I've done and keep some of the things, do away with some of the things, and revise things to keep a strong student government going," he said.

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