

Campus Echo

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"THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS OCCASION"

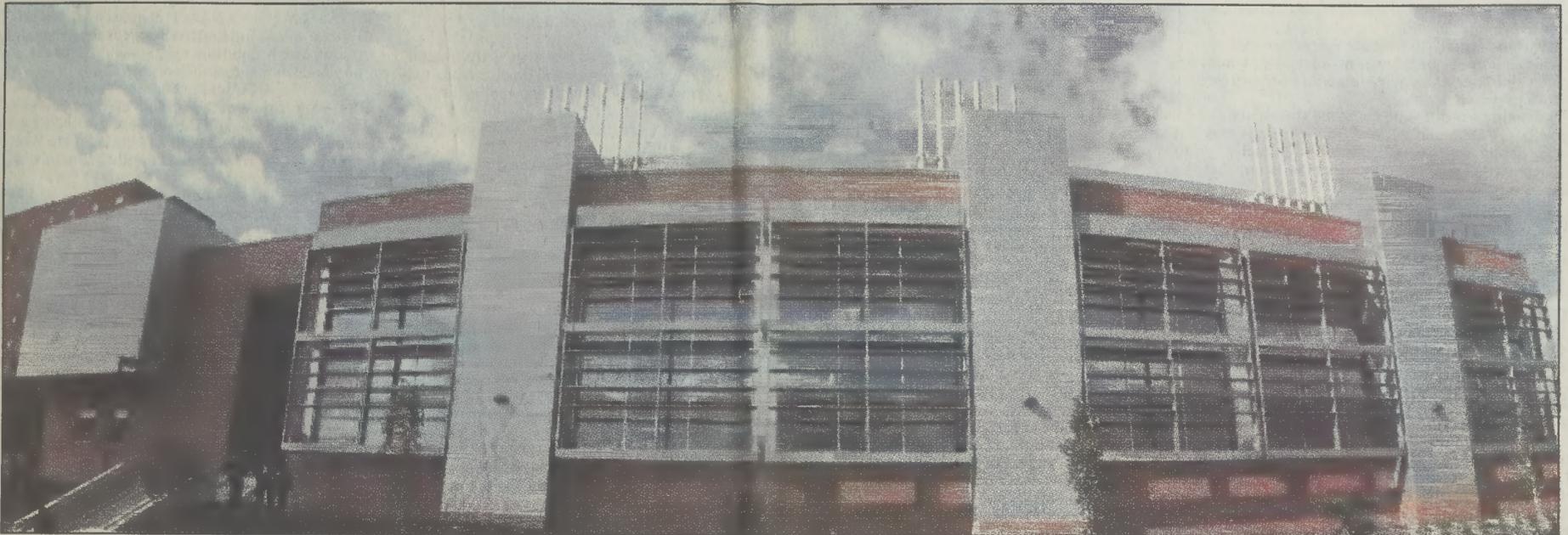


PHOTO BY ED BOYCE /Editor-in-Chief

According to its mission statement, one of the aims of the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute is to address health disparities of underserved minority groups.

Ribbon cut for BBRI building

FROM STAFF REPORTS

"There is something very special about this occasion," said David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United States, at the dedication ceremonies of the Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute.

The building is to be named after Chancellor Julius L. Chambers. Chambers said that the BBRI, along with restoring NCCU founder James E. Shepard's home, has been his greatest



Surgeon General David Satcher was the featured speaker at the BBRI dedication.

dream.

Joining Surgeon General at the event were Molly C. Broad, president of the University of North Carolina System, John Ruffin, associate director in the Office of Research on Minority Health at the National Institutes of Health, Robert A. Ingram, the chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, Ken Harewood, the new director of the BBRI, Daniel T. Blue, of

the N.C. House of Representatives, William Smith, chairman of the NCCU Board of Trustees, Eugene A. Eaves, interim provost, and Clifton Gray, SGA president.

The BBRI will address health disparities of underserved minorities and serve their health, research and training needs.

It will be the training ground for students in the biological and biomedical disciplines. Funding and support have come from the N.C. State Legislature, a number of U.S. companies, and a number of Triangle firms, including

FDY/SODEXHO Marriot, Glaxo Wellcome, and Sphinx Pharmaceuticals.

The UNC System and the Office of Research on Minority Health have also provided support.



Chambers described the BBRI as one of his greatest dreams.

\$3 billion for UNC system stalled

A bond needed for construction and repairs at universities, including NCCU, fails to pass through NC General Assembly.

By SHEON LITTLE
ECHO STAFF WRITER

In July, a \$3 billion bond package submitted by the University of North Carolina School System to the N. C. General Assembly got bogged down in a miasma of attempted compromises that were left unresolved by the end of the 1999 session.

The \$3 billion bond passed the state senate, but did not make it through the house. The house



Water damage at Annie Day Shepard, an honors dorm at NCCU.

trimmed the bond down to \$1.2 billion, but legislators said they wanted the public to have an opportunity to approve or reject it.

The money would have been used by the 16 UNC campuses, including

N.C. Central, to pay for repairs of existing facilities and construction of new ones.

Student leaders, including NCCU Student Government President Clifton Gray, went to Raleigh to lobby for the passing of the bond package.

Molly Broad, president of the UNC System, asked the UNC Board of Governors to make its case to the people.

"We will take our education efforts out to the citizens of the state," said Broad.

Broad said that attempting to establish a campaign for this issue may be difficult between now and the November 2000 elections, due to a political atmosphere that may undermine the importance of this

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Chambers gives emotional address

By SHEON LITTLE
ECHO STAFF WRITER

In a moving convocation address Aug. 27, in the sweltering heat of the McClendon-McDougald Gym, Chancellor Julius L. Chambers pleaded with the state of North Carolina to equitably fund N.C. Central University, in the wake of the N.C. legislature's defeat of a \$3 billion bond for the U.N.C. system, as he implored university students, staff, administrators and faculty to meet the challenge of improving the University.

Chambers, who has served as NCCU Chancellor since 1993, is currently being treated for prostate cancer. He was scheduled for surgery and a five to six weeks leave of absence. The Campus Echo was unable to confirm his medical plans.

At several moments during the address Chambers, 62, was forced to pause and collect himself when overcome with emotion. He made many references to the school's first chancellor, Dr. James E. Shepard, who opened NCCU's doors on July 10, 1910. Chambers noted the struggles Shepard faced trying to establish the school during an era of open racism.

"[Shepard] started this institution in the throes of segregation," said Chambers, appearing to fight back tears. "African Americans were not supposed to learn. In fact, many Americans believed that African Americans were incapable of learning. And for them to obtain a college degree was beyond their comprehension."

Even now, Chambers said, that attitude

is somewhat pervasive, making it difficult for historically black colleges and universities like NCCU to get adequate university funding.

"The feeling is strong and is accompanied with a feeling that it wastes taxpayers' money to invest in schools and other programs for African American students and institutions," said Chambers.

Chambers said he called the full-regalia convocation, the first in 13 years, because he sensed lack of enthusiasm within the University community.

"Thinking about our past, I couldn't help but be concerned with how we seemed to have approached the opening of school and other developments with so little enthusiasm," Chambers said.

Chambers' address covered issues, large and small, related to campus life. He asked why community members often fail to take care of simple things, like bussing their tables in the cafeteria, or showing up on time for classes and meetings. He asked why many faculty have not raised their levels of technological competence and their research expertise. He asked why staff often fail to accept the challenge of improving their levels of productivity and efficiency.

"We must step forward ourselves and lead by example," Chambers said. "We must stop shifting responsibilities to others."

Receiving a round of applause from the audience, Chambers boldly pointed out the shortcomings of the NCCU staff,

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Shooting near NCCU wounds student, one other

By DANNY HOOLEY
ECHO ASSISTANT EDITOR

The night before N.C. Central University began its fall semester, a shootout near the Farrison-Newton Communications Building left one student injured, as well as her boyfriend, who was charged along with two others in the incident.

At approximately 7:40 p.m. on Aug. 16, Durham and NCCU police responded to a call on Lawson Street, in reference to shots that had been fired a short

time earlier. On their arrival, police found Tereko Ryles, 20, of 912 Angier Ave., sitting on the curb at Lincoln and Lawson streets.

Ryles' girlfriend, NCCU senior Marsha Perry, 20, of 615 Lawson St., was still on the scene of the shooting at 611 Lawson Street. Ryles had a gunshot wound in his shoulder, and Perry had one in her elbow. Both were taken to Duke Hospital for treatment. Neither injury was life-threatening, according to police.

Witnesses told police that shots had been fired between Ronald Hicks, 45, a resident of 611 Lawson St., and Ryles.

The incident appears to have started with a dispute between Ryles and Hicks' nephew, Dom McLarin, 29. McLarin had apparently made repeated phone calls to Perry months earlier, according to the Durham Herald-Sun.

Hicks was charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting

serious bodily injury.

Ryles was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Hicks' son, Shaun DeWayne Hicks, 28, was charged with assault on a law-enforcement officer and resisting, delaying and obstructing an officer for striking a police officer who tried to block him as he ran toward a woman at Perry's rooming house after the shooting.

According to McLarin, he and Shaun Hicks

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INSIDE

Charles White, draftsman, on exhibit at Art Museum: A life without recognition finally remedied.

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SGA president, Clifton Gray, and Echo columnist Kim Arrington get testy about the efficiency levels at NCCU. Campus — Page 3 & Opinions Page 12

NCCU's office of public relations: A profile of the office that shows N.C. Central at its best. Campus — Page 2

Graphic artist Kadir Nelson talks about his work on "Amistad."



Chancellor Julius L. Chambers' convocation speech touched the N.C. Central University community. The speech is presented in its entirety on page 5.



Julius L. Chambers meeting with RAs in