

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Is NCCU rainbow-phobic?

Warning: Before you dye your hair, dare to wear anything out of the norm, get any unusual body parts pierced, and worst of all,



KIM ARRINGTON

defend a person's right to choose what goes on in their bedroom—you'd better be ready to accept the consequences. For God's sake, don't you dare have anything with a rainbow—the symbol

for gay pride. A societal phenomenon has found its way into Central. What is it you ask? Well, it has to do with that touchy subject of... shall we say... sexual preference. We all know that the latest societal taboo—the way to politically cripple a person—is to catapult an accusation that they are gay. It was one thing when they "got" Queen Latifah, but Maxwell—that went too far. Watch your back, the "outing" police are everywhere—especially on

this campus. But first ask yourself this: Who are we to dictate what goes on in folks' bedrooms? Sit back, so I can tell you a little story. If you are—as I am—troubled by homophobia, you're suspect. I was convicted, actually. Convicted for having short hair, a different sense of style, and being open-minded. I am not gay, yet as an African-American female I know what discrimination tastes like.

For that reason alone, I find it difficult to diminish someone else's humanity because of their sexual preferences. Many at Central don't see it that way. That's okay, I believe it is your right to have an opinion. But—and this is a big but—does this mean that gay people should be treated as though they have leprosy? I've even witnessed classes at

Central turn into regular anti-gay demonstrations—even heard professors get in an unexpected jab. Is sensitivity dead or is it alive? It's fascinating because traditionally African Americans are so politically liberal, yet so socially conservative. Good or bad? I know the argument from biology that says that the same sex can't reproduce.

And I know the one in the Bible that says it's an abomination to God. Bet you can guess my retort—that same book also says that "thou shalt not judge." Some of y'all needed to be reminded of that—I've even got to remind myself of it sometimes. I wouldn't begin to pretend to fully understand what it means to be gay or lesbian, but I can only suppose that they have feelings similar to the ones that I would have for a man. I think that if we were completely

honest with ourselves, we would admit that for one reason or another we are fascinated with people's sexuality—probably too much so. Wouldn't NCCU be a better place if we exercised a bit more tolerance? And isn't university life all about learning how to see beyond our limited

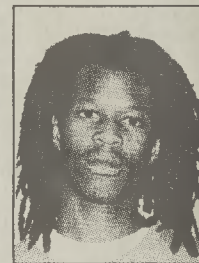
Watch your back, the "outing" police are everywhere—especially on this campus.

perspectives? I'm not telling people that they have to accept this different lifestyle. I am saying that rejecting this lifestyle should not lead to rejecting the person's humanity. After all doesn't our shared humanity mean something? So guys, how about dropping that machismo routine a bit and realizing that you're not the target of every gay man in the world. Ladies, ditto that sentiment when it comes to lesbians. In other words, when it comes down to it, we should be treated with respect and dignity simply because we are just that—human.



by Rashaun Rucker

How does N.C. A&T's homecoming affect NCCU's homecoming, the following week?



Students have spent all their money at A&T and now there is no money for our show. —Quentin Davis

Ya Heard? "EVERYBODY PLAYS THE FAKE"

The topic this week is Alternative Motives. In other words, something someone does that may help him or her get what they want.



JOE WRIGHT

We all do it, and the best fall for it. Alternative motives are acted out by people better known as fakes, phonies, smacks, gumps, bumpkins, light-minds and dopes.

For example, why does someone who doesn't like you smile in your face? It may be numerous things: you could be their ride to work, they may need to borrow a dollar, or they may want your mate. Hey, it happens. You're guilty for being nice to him or her because they are the only one in class who understands the assignment that is due in 10 minutes. Yeah—he is an a—hole—but he is 21 and he can buy anything in the

alphabet (ABC) store he wants—give him twenty bills and slide him a Corona or two. You phony. In some cases, it comes down to doing what you need to do.

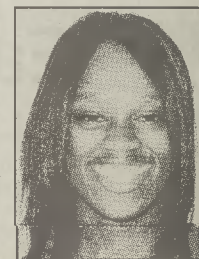
You really don't like your professor or their teaching style, but when class ends and it's a one-on-one situation in their office—you're all smiles. Your boss is anal as a probe, but when you need those days off for Black Bike Week they become your best friends. When the refund check line is around the corner and the bank closes in twenty minutes, start the fake tears to get that check—damn that! In these cases when your back is to the wall it's swing or be stung! In most cases, it stems from greed or just plain a—holism. Yeah she is a mud-duck, but she works at Burger King and your funds only support Quikstop meals, smile at her and ask for extra pickles with that.

What about that outfit you need for A&T's homecoming, sure he's a busta but his discount for working at Eddie Bauer is fabulous. "Do you have that in XL-Tall?"

You really don't want her to stay over, so you smoke a cigar and play Smashing Pumpkins until she leaves with the rah-rah face. That's one of my personal favorites. I know you need a D.J. for your event, but I also know you haven't spoken to me since fall 1996, you're lucky if I beat-box "One and Million" at your wedding! You fake. At times, someone is hip to your game and knows the science behind your ill ways. Let's be honest, it's not hard to point out. Ladies, you know he is talking a good game, but he has looked at every part of your body, but your face during the conversation.

Fellas, she may have left you a message on your machine, but she also asked to use your car before saying hello. You know he or she is full of toilet food, but it will come back to her, right?

That's all good and dandy, but I say you stomp his or her plans before it gets rolling. We know you're fake and you're doing what you do best—being fake! Beat it before I add some extra dimples to It may sound harsh, but so are lies hidden under a pretty smile—or a cute face. In conclusion, I say kill them with kindness or blind them with fists of fury. One of those choices may be easier said than done. One love to Ms. Hazel for the advice, the Boys of summer, the Heavy-Weights and my parole officer for not coming by last week, I owe you one. Until the next time, keep a closed heart and open mind! Peace.



It means we loose funds that could go to our school's operations. —Curlyn Smith



The activities are better and our students are more pumped for their show. People say "Eagle pride," but where is it. —Stephen Sheppard

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Campus Echo

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Letters

Echo music critic ripped to shreds
Date: Oct. 12, 1999
Dear Campus Echo:

So the saying is true, anyone can be a critic. After reading the October edition of The Campus Echo, I was disgusted by the poor display of criticism on the new releases by rappers 01' Dirty Bastard and Eve of the Ruff Ryders. First of all the rating system that you use confuses me. Not only is it a weak rendition of the popular Source magazine, it is also full of false statements. The headphone system of five headphones for a "classic" album and one headphone for a "wack" album is good. However, you display Eminent's album as five headphones, which is correct, and the Beastie Boys' album as four headphones, which is totally ludicrous. The Beastie Boys are terrible. No one listens to them anymore. In your article, there are two critiques that I strongly disagree with. The first is 01' Dirty Bastard and the second is Eve. I personally own both of these albums and my critique is completely opposite of yours. I would like to know how you managed to give Eve only two headphones and 01' Dirty an entire three and one-half. The 01' Dirty album "Nigga Please" is terrible. The struggling 40-minute CD is not worth picking up. This album appeared to be "banging" to you?

I felt like taking a hammer and banging it into tiny pieces. I admit 01' Dirty has his humorous hooks, but who wants to listen to him scream and curse about nothing for 40 minutes? He's horrendous. I like ill lyrics and banging beats, which "Nigga Please" lacks. Lyrically acclaimed before her album, Eve, on the other hand, already had listeners on the edge of their seats prior to the release of her album. The anticipation made her album go gold instantly with 500,000 record sales. Listening to her album, I see maybe one or two flaws, but you say it's a total failure. Not only is Eve sexy, she also has massive lyrical skills and a great producer. Swizz Beatz is one of the best producers and beatmakers in the rap industry. His beats never sound the same from "Banned from TV" on Noreaga's album, to "Memph Bleek is," on Memphis Bleek's album. All of his beats are "banging." Your comment on his beats sounding like a "slamming drum beat with your little sister banging a toy xylophone in the background," was totally uncalled for. This brings me back to my original point, anyone can be a critic. I understand what you're trying to do, but if you don't know about real hip-hop, then don't try to critique it. Judge rock music or something.

Name withheld by request.



A&T's concerts are always better than ours, and people would rather spend money there. —Ta-Mela Jeffries



It makes attendance bad when people go to other schools. It's not good for the school's moral. —Courtney Crowder



It makes it look bad, because nobody wants to support it. They can't afford to get better people. —Kimberly Mangium