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# Campus Echo

10 SCHOOLS HEAD TO ATL | ONE 12 MINUTE CHANCE



Sound Machine tuba player Antoine Luster during a late afternoon practice session preparing for the Honda Battle of the Bands.  
BRYSON POPE/Echo Staff Photographer

## The March to Atlanta

Sound Machine prepares its return to the Battle of the Bands

BY EBONY MCQUEEN  
ECHO STAFF WRITER

N.C. Central University's Sound Machine will be packing their bags and hitting the road Friday for the 2006 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase in Atlanta, Jan. 28.

The Sound Machine was selected from among the bands of 41 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the band and University to get additional exposure," said Kawachi Clemons, assistant band director.

Two bands were selected from each of the five conferences based on a voting process. The Sound Machine was the only band selected from North Carolina.

For the second year in a row, the Sound Machine will perform against nine other HBCUs.

"We're just excited to play on the same field as other bands who have done commercials and advertisements," said Clemons. "It's always an honor and privilege to be in the presence of other musicians."

The Sound Machine has been practicing every day for the Showcase, with additional practices to add the finishing touches to their routine.

"It shows a lot of dedication for a college student to take time out of their Sunday afternoon to practice," said Clemons.

For English and Mass Communications junior Denea Nriaka, it will be

her first year performing with the Sound Machine in Atlanta.

"I'm excited about going," she said. "All of our hard work will definitely pay off, and I can't wait to go to Atlanta."

Each band has 12 minutes to perform whatever they want. They also get to perform a pre-game show along with the other bands.

Although the performances will not be judged, each band still puts together their best halftime performance for this high-profile event.

"Over 50,000 people attended last year, and they expect even more this year," said Clemons. "It gets larger every year because of the support from the students."

Business management senior Sharron Fox said she is driving to Atlanta to see the Sound Machine perform.

"I know it's going to be packed with students cheering their school on."



Music sophomore Gerran Adams leans right during a practice run of Missy Elliott's "We Run This."  
BRYSON POPE/Echo Staff Photographer

## Dean flubs school status

N.C. Central University's quest to regain accreditation may go faster than expected according to officials

BY JEAN ROGERS  
ECHO STAFF WRITER

A month after a deadline misstep cost N.C. Central University School of Business its accreditation and its dean, the University's administration is expecting to get reaccreditation sooner than originally thought.



Benjamin Newhouse

According to Chancellor James H. Ammons, it's expected to take less than a year for the School to renew its accreditation instead of the 12-18 months they had anticipated.

The School, which lost its accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs when former dean Benjamin Newhouse failed to apply for reaccreditation on time, has already started the process

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## \$12.7 billion in student loan cuts

BY DENEESHA EDWARDS  
ECHO EDITOR IN CHIEF

Students worried about their growing student loan debt may soon have more to worry about: Congress is likely to pass a bill that will slash \$12.7 billion from federal student-loan programs over the next five years.

The changes will not affect the number of student loans given, but will affect the interest rates students and parents pay.

The cuts — the biggest in the history of the student loan program — will affect the PLUS and Stafford Loan Program by increasing interest rates an average of 28 percent. They are scheduled to become effective July 1, 2006.

The Republican "reconciliation bill" is part of a \$40 billion deficit-reduction package passed by Congress at the end of

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Customers use self checkout lane at The Home Depot, in Orlando, Florida. One third of all transactions are self-serve.  
JACOB LANGSTON/Orlando Sentinel/KRT

## Service lost in self-serve USA

It's fast, it's convenient, but it doesn't smile

BY STEVENSON SWANSON  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE (KRT)

NEW YORK — From the gas that people pump themselves to such brave new frontiers of do-it-yourself-land as the self-serve checkout kiosks at Wal-Mart and Home Depot stores, American consumers are shouldering an ever-growing chunk of the work involved in everyday transactions.

The explosion in self-serve options is generating a backlash. Communications experts say people are more isolated than they used to be in the days of face-to-face service, and other observers question how much time people are really saving if they must constantly adjust to new machines, absorb new instructions and deal with the inevitable snags.

"We're exhausted doing all this work," said Nicols Fox, a writer at work on a book called "The Case Against Efficiency." "There's just so much that we've been asked to take over. I think we're reaching a breaking point here."

Hardly anyone disputes that the information age has brought many benefits. Many like the convenience

of zipping into a bank to get cash from an automated teller and relish the freedom of going online at 3 a.m. to order steaks from Omaha and salmon from Seattle.

In the last three decades, ATMs have grown from a novelty to commonplace, with more than 371,000 machines in use.

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