

Campus.....	1-4
Beyond NCCU ..	6
Feature	8
A&E	9
Classifieds.....	10
Sports.....	11
Opinions	12

Sports
Eagles grind out
St. Aug Falcons 27- 18

Page 11

Campus
NCCU to develop first
HBCU Jazz Institute in
the U.S.

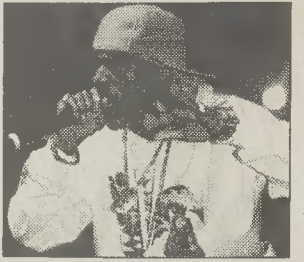
Page 4

Opinions
Opinions Editor Kai
Christopher responds
to Hugo Chavez's
remarks

Page 12

Feature
Letters to a
hip-hop legend

Page 8



Campus Echo

Study abroad in limbo Program in jeopardy

By IHUOMA EZEH
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Christine Perry hadn't thought about studying Spanish until she stumbled across a CD by the famous Mexican-American gospel and pop singer Jackie Velasquez.

"I became infatuated with the language and the Spanish world became a fascination for me," Perry said.

Last summer, Perry, a N.C. Central University Spanish junior, had her first chance to immerse herself in the language.

Along with 10 other NCCU students, she went to Mexico for a one-month study abroad program at the Universidad Internacional in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

"It doesn't matter how much you study a language and the culture," said Perry. "Until you become a part of it, you'll never really get the full effect of what's being taught."

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages has used the UI program for more than 8 years.

But now students and foreign language faculty fear that the study abroad program at UI stands a chance of being terminated if program evaluations required by the Office of International Programs are not completed.

Emmanuel Oritsejafor, director of the Office of International Programs, e-mailed the 9-page program evaluation to Cristina Cabral, study abroad program coordinator, to forward to students.

Oritsejafor said the program needs to be evaluated in order to improve student-learning skills.

Some students are questioning the timing and length of the evaluation.

Spanish senior Dorothy Debnam, a student who par-

■ See **ABROAD** Page 3

No college left behind?

By JODI S. COHEN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Speaking as the parent of a college student, U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said Tuesday that colleges and universities need to be more affordable and better show families what they're getting for their money.

Spellings offered some specific recommendations intended to shake-up

America's diverse higher education system and make it more consumer-friendly.

They include making it easier to apply for financial aid, and creating a massive database to allow families to compare colleges' performance.

She also suggested financial incentives for schools that collect and report information about students' academic performance.

"My daughter's college

costs went up this year. For what?" she said. "For most families, this is one of the most expensive investments we make. Yet there is little to no information on why costs are so high and what we're getting in return."

Spellings' remarks come a week after her 19-member Commission on the Future of Higher Education, including corporate and education leaders, submitted its final report.

Spellings appointed the commission in September 2005 to look into ways to revamp higher education, specifically in regards to cost, access, quality and accountability.

Implementing most of the recommendations would require action by Congress or agreement from colleges and universities. Spellings said Tuesday that she will first focus on the items she can do on her

own, including simplifying financial aid forms and notifying students of their eligibility earlier than spring of their senior year.

She also will meet with accrediting agencies in November to discuss putting more emphasis on evaluating colleges based on what students learn. The Education Department has the authority to approve the

■ See **TESTING** Page 6



Chancellor Ammons speaks at the official ribbon cutting of the Shepard House on Sept. 29.
BRYSON POPE/Echo Staff Photographer

SHEPARD HOUSE REHAB COMPLETE

N.C. Central University celebrated the opening of the historic Shepard House on September 29.

The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Located at 1902 Fayetteville St., at the corner of Fayetteville and Brant streets, it has been closed

for extensive renovations since 2000.

When the project initially began, the estimated cost for repairs was approximately \$750,000.

Over \$680,000 was donated to the Shepard House project from NCCU and benefactors such as Gary Hock, the State Department

of Cultural Research, and the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund.

"It's important to respect and honor what our founder has built," said Julius Chambers, former NCCU Chancellor.

Chambers made it a personal goal to rescue the dilapidated building.

SHELBYA BROWN

BOG votes to hike cost

Tuition could rise 6.5%

By EBONY McQUEEN
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The UNC Board of Governors has voted for a bill that will allow all 16 of the UNC schools to increase their in-state tuition by a maximum of 6.5 percent per year.



Derek Pantiel UNC ASG president

UNC President Erskine Bowles proposed the plan to limit the size of tuition hikes, by giving universities a ceiling to their increases.

The 6.5 percent cap will be set for the next four years.

"The Council of Student Government Association presidents are accepting this," said UNC Association of Student Governments President, Derek Pantiel, a NCCU senior.

"They understand the increase is needed," said Pantiel.

The 6.5 percent cap still exceeds the national higher

■ See **ASG** Page 2

NCCU gears up for review

Brown-Bracy is ready for the accreditation challenge

By AHNNA CAIN
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Accreditation. It may sound like a word out of a spelling bee, but for a university it's the official standard used to gauge academic standing and integrity.

"It is the standard applied to the practice of an institution," said Pauletta Brown-Bracy, N.C. Central University director of university accreditation. NCCU has been accredited since

1938.

Bracy is an associate professor in the School of Library Science. It's her job to make sure things go smoothly in 2009 when the University faces its 10-year re-accreditation review.

Bracy is clearly up to the task. She blends a courteous and matter-of-fact professionalism with a delightful sense of humor.

She has served on the executive board of the

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, an experience that has prepared her for the challenge.

According to the SACS Commission of Colleges, "Accreditation ... signifies that an institution has a purpose appropriate to higher education and has resources, programs and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that purpose." It is an institution's

way of publicly stating that it has the "capacity to provide effective programs and services" and is committed to the "principles and philosophy of accreditation."

Failure to achieve accreditation can be a major blow to the credibility of a university. It makes it harder to attract funding and talented faculty and students.

■ See **SACS** Page 2



Pauletta Brown-Bracy, N.C. Central University's director of university accreditation is in charge of making sure NCCU remains accredited.

DANA WOMACK/Staff Photographer