

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

SOULJAH

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I know some of ya'll might be mad to the point where it made you grit, but at least you'll be thinking about me.

SISTER SOULJAH
 AUTHOR AND LECTURER

As an activist, her platform lies in the areas of police brutality, racially motivated crimes, and the mis-education of urban youth.

Sister Souljah also stated that we should not use our environment as an excuse, but as a footstool.

"If you coming from the hood, many people have the perception that all your future is going to amount to is being a rapper or putting a ball through a hoop," said Sister Souljah. "I'm here to say that we are more than that and we should require more than that in ourselves as black people."

After receiving several scholarships and internships, Sister Souljah earned her bachelors degree in American History and African Studies at Rutgers University.

While she discussed her many travels, she stated that her visit to Africa was the most influential to her ideology and gave her a notion of what her true mission in life was.

"How can anyone call themselves educated if they have no knowledge of the

birthplace of life?" said Sister Souljah.

As an author, she has written two books. Her first was her autobiography, "No Disrepect," which debuted in 1995, and followed up with her 1999 New York Times best selling novel, "The Coldest Winter Ever."

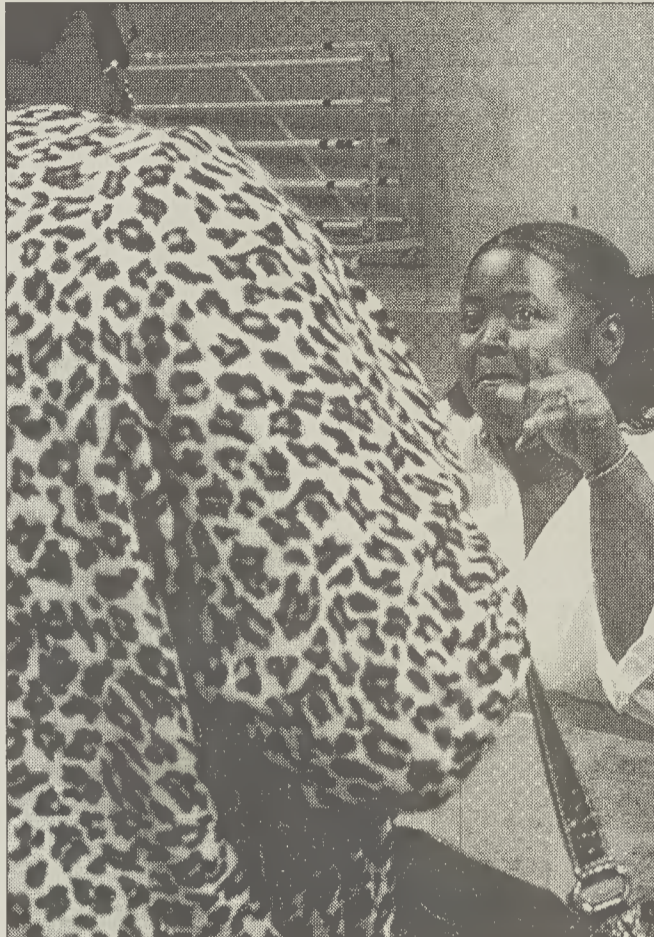
She said that there will be a follow up to "The Coldest Winter Ever" in 2007, but the exact release date is yet unknown.

She is the executive director of Daddy's House, a non-profit organization created by Bad Boy Records CEO, Sean "P-Diddy" Combs.

This program provides mentoring, tutoring, and educational opportunities for over 600 inner city youth, ages 6-16, in the neighborhoods of New York, Philadelphia and New Jersey.

Sister Souljah said that her experience at NCCU has been rewarding.

"I know some of ya'll might be mad to the point where it made you grit, but at least you'll be thinking about me," said Sister Souljah.



Sister Souljah stresses a point from her lecture at her book signing.

KHARI JACKSON/Staff Photographer

Writing studio proves useful

Student usage increases over past two years

By BRITNEY ROOKS
 ECHO STAFF WRITER

There is a room housed in the Farrison-Newton Communication Building that you may not have noticed — the N.C. Central University Writing Studio.

Its purpose is to help students work on problems with their writing. The studio is supported by federal Title III funds and the Office of Graduate Studies.

"The writing studio is a place for all stages of the writing process," said Jenise Hutson, one of the five English graduate students working in the writing studio.

Students are assisted with all aspects of the writing process at the studio — from brainstorming to outlining to forming a thesis statement.

They also get help with those tricky grammar questions.

According to Karen Keaton-Jackson, director

of the writing studio, a key element of the studio is that it gives students one-on-one training.

"Sometimes the graduate students can reach other students in ways that teachers can't," said Jackson, an assistant professor in the Department of English and Mass Communication.

Students agree. "Talking with the grad students made me feel more relaxed because I could relate," said business sophomore John Osoro.

As a freshman, Osoro was assigned a three-page essay entitled "Coming to America."

In his paper, he had to describe his experience of moving from Kenya to the United States.

"I tended to get off topic," said Osoro. "I had a really long introduction paragraph and my grammar was a problem too."

Osoro said the graduate

student who helped him said she wouldn't write his paper for him, but would show him how to improve it. He said he thinks many students have problems with writing because they don't start writing early enough.

Ronica Watford, elementary education junior, said she has trouble elaborating the details of her story.

"They really sit there and give you good helpful strategies," said Watford. "It gave me more confidence. The writing studio is very helpful... You'll get at least a letter grade higher."

Jackson said one misconception students have is that they think they should go to the studio only after they have finished their paper.

Others think they can just drop their paper off for corrections.

Student usage of the writing studio has

increased in the last two years. In the 2004-2005 academic year, students made 200 appointments. Last year, there were more than 400 appointments, and 115 appointments have been made so far this year.

Jackson says increased use is one measure of the writing studio's success.

"I'd like to have a bigger staff and more extensive hours," she said.

"That would make it more convenient for students to get help whenever they need it."

Jackson also hopes to get more computers and a bigger room.

The writing studio is located in room 339 of the Farrison-Newton Communications Building.

Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. and 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Fridays.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred.

Profs help area schools

Science study waning in U.S.

By TRAVIS RUFFIN
 ECHO STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of this semester, N.C. Central University came to the rescue of Southern High School by sending over a dozen professors to help remedy a science and math teacher shortage.

NCCU compensated the professors for their time, and the students they taught will receive both high school and college credit for classes completed.

As reported in the News & Observer, the University won accolades from the federal government.

"It is a great way for us to recruit future Eagles," said Provost Beverly Jones.

The science and math teacher shortage reflects a larger crisis in American society — there are not enough students interested in studying science and math.

"In this country, many high school students think that it's better to become a rapper or an actor because those jobs are far more glamorous and exciting than

having a career in the science and math field," said Lashonda Bailey, a junior at Southern High School.

According to the Program for International Student Assessment, the U.S. ranked 24th out of 29 countries in the ability of high school students to solve real-life math problems.

"The kids in countries like China and Japan are way ahead of us in science and math because their culture is vastly different from ours," said James Shoaf, a math professor at NCCU.

"American teens, ... instead of studying, many of them would rather watch television and play video games."

With declining American student interest in math and science, it seems fewer and fewer students become teachers.

"I hate to say it, but some of our science and math teachers are just too boring," Bailey said.

"If they made their classes more fun, the students might actually pay attention and be more interested in those subjects."

YOUTUBE

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drawing large crowds.

"Some of the clips are funny, but dangerous. Someone could've been seriously hurt," said therapeutic recreation junior Arkevia Ardrey.

Other students believe the clips should not be considered a publicity stunt.

"I don't have an opinion because it should be the students' personal business to post stuff online," said political science sophomore Marcus Price.

"If I see these guys on campus, I won't think of them any different or anything like that."

Administrators are intrigued by the different methods of technology, but are not pleased with clips such as the fights.

"Students should really consider their futures before using these forms of technology" said Tia Marie Doxey, associate director of residential life.

"Although students have a freedom to use this technology, that freedom also comes with responsibility".

According to Jennifer Wilder, director of residential life, the department of residential life did not manage the housing of Eagle Landing until July 1.

"Students need to be careful of what sites they post things on because many companies perform thorough background checks," said Doxey.

The domain name "YouTube" was launched Feb. 15, 2005 and made its

official debut last November.

The content on YouTube spans from movies, television clips and music videos and also includes amateur footage.

Some students spend nearly 20 minutes a day on YouTube.

"I enjoy the humor in most of the clips. YouTube is the online version of 'America's Funniest Home Videos' without edited scenes," said public administration junior Hewitt McLean.

However, others can't seem to get enough of YouTube.

"YouTube is a fun way to explore home video footage and display it online," said environmental science junior Ahmed Finoh.

Common student searches on YouTube include sports, latest dance moves, fraternities or sororities, humor and fight clips.

Students do not need a valid e-mail address to view clips, but they need to set up a profile to submit their clips.

YouTube contains a variety of clips of NCCU students, ranging from football plays to coverage of fights outside of Chidley Hall.

YouTube sold their company on Oct. 9, to Google.com for \$1.65 billion in stock, marking Google's largest purchase. However, YouTube continues to operate independently.

www.CampusEcho.com

NC-ARC ~ North Carolina Access, Retention and Completion Initiative in the Allied Health Sciences
BIOL 2030: Special Studies in Biology
 Section 101 (1 credit hour) (Title of NC-ARC course as listed on NCCU Course Schedule)

NCCU students participate in teleconference broadcasts of the "Introduction to the Health Professions" course (AHSC-40) at UNC-Chapel Hill

Faculty from the Department of Allied Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill provide information about application and admission processes, academic requirements, and professional opportunities in the allied health sciences. NC-ARC partners ensure that dedicated students are admitted and complete a degree program of their choice in the allied health sciences.

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