

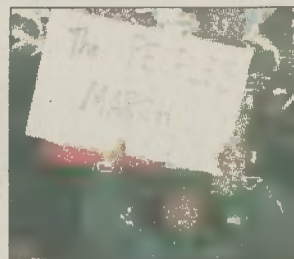
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# Campus Echo

## HIP-HOP | FLOWS



Doug E. Fresh and his hype man "rapped" up the Hip-Hop Summit on Saturday night's old-school concert.

MITCHELL WEBSON/Echo Staff Photographer

## SGA election policy fouls four

Mr. & Miss hopefuls lack credit hours

By EBONY MCQUEEN  
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Elections committee has disqualified four prospective candidates for running in the forthcoming Student Government Association elections, alleging that the candidates have not accumulated enough hours to qualify.

Juniors Latia White, Cheryl Clark and Chan Hall were told by the committee that they are ineligible to run for Miss North Carolina Central University. Reginald Boney, also a junior and a candidate for Mr. NCCU, faces the same problem.

"It's just really unfair," said Boney.

According to the four candidates, when they enrolled as freshman the NCCU course catalog stated that they needed 90 credit hours to be considered seniors. The new course catalog states that a student needs to have 96 credit hours to be considered a senior.

"I don't think we should have to follow a rule that was put in place after we came in," said White.

The candidates were notified that they were ineligible to run two days before official campaigning began.

"I just feel cheated," said Clark.

■ See SGA Page 2

## Obama joins race

By DESMOND WEBB  
ECHO STAFF WRITER

It's official.

Barack Obama has formally announced his candidacy for president of the United States.

Obama, a 45-year-old, one term U.S. Senator from Illinois, joined a crowded primary field of Democrats on Saturday, Feb. 10.

He announced his candidacy while standing before thousands at the historic Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill. where Abraham Lincoln delivered his "House Divided" speech against slavery in 1858.

"People who love their country can change it," said Obama to a cheering crowd. "It was here, in Springfield, where North, South, East and West come together that I was reminded of the essential decency of the American people — where I came to believe that through this decency, we can build a more hopeful America."

■ See OBAMA Page 5

## FOR THE LOVE OF HIP-HOP

2nd annual summit brings celebrities

By BROOKE SELLARS  
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Once again, the hip-hop industry descended on N.C. Central University for the annual Hip-Hop Summit, a part of NCCU's recently launched Hip-Hop Initiative.

This year's summit included panelists from MTV, Sony, Source Magazine, Sirius Satellite Radio and many more.

Students were given the opportunity to have an open discussion with the industry's top representatives.

They were also able to participate in events such as a film festival, a talent show, DJ and Producer competitions, and even an old-school hip-hop concert.

The summit began Feb. 9 with an opening session held at the B.N. Duke Auditorium.

Students attended several sessions, including Fashion is my Passion, with panelist Tara Payne, a designer for Abercrombie & Fitch; Jasmin Rijken, director of Marketing and Public Relations for



Logo designed by NCCU alumnus Tobias Rose.  
Logo COURTESY KOMPLEXS CREATIVE, INC.

Miskeen Clothing and Osa Asemota, founder of The Gift Agency.  
Michael "Blue" Williams, founder of

Family Tree Entertainment, was the keynote speaker that afternoon.

Students were able to meet and greet the panelists and executive staff for networking opportunities.

Brittany Benson, mass communications senior and host of the campus television program "On the Yard," shared her experience.

"I definitely benefited from meeting different people from the industry," Benson said.

"They embraced me and ... my hard

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Hip-Hop Summit film festival, concert and an editorial  
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## Business cluster focuses on health

By CANDICE MITCHELL  
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The N.C. Central University Business and Industry Cluster was held Feb. 8 at the Radisson Hotel. Its theme was "Researching Health Disparities in the African-American community."

The Business and Industry Cluster facilitates effective communication and collaboration between industry representatives and the University in activities of mutual benefit.

According to the National Institutes of Health, dispari-

ties are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality and other negative health conditions among minorities unable to receive adequate healthcare.

The 2006 National Health Care Disparities report stated that a 2005 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said African-American North Carolinians have a higher obesity rate compared to white Americans, as well as a higher prevalence of diabetes.

Kyle Marshall, spokes-man

■ See CLUSTER Page 2

### CIAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW SECTION



MITCHELL WEBSON  
Staff Photographer

### IT'S GAME TIME

Our annual CIAA preview tells you everything you need to know about the 2007 championship tournament in Charlotte.

## Committee seeks new chancellor

By RONY CAMILLE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's been only a week since N.C. Central University Chancellor James H. Ammons was selected as the 10th president of Florida A&M University, but NCCU officials have already started the process of selecting their new leader.

In a letter to faculty, staff and students, Cressie Thigpen, Jr., chair of NCCU's Board of Trustees, said a search committee has

been established.

The committee's goal is to submit candidates to Erskine Bowles, University of North Carolina System president, by June.

Ammons, who came to NCCU in 2001, plans to preside over the May 2007 graduation before assuming his new position in Tallahassee, Fla., pending further negotiations with FAMU officials.

Ammons has not announced the date that he will report to his post.



Sen. Barack Obama