

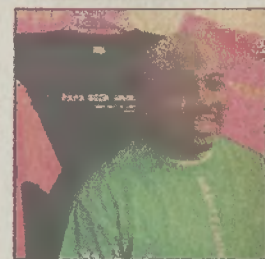
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Message tees are the new thing, and one former NCCU student is setting a new standard
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Campus Echo

Hope returning to Baghdad

By LEILA FADEL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

BAGHDAD — Taking advantage of a dramatic drop in car bombings and sectarian murders, Baghdad residents are once again venturing out to local markets and restaurants after dark in many parts of the city.

They're celebrating weddings and birthdays in public places and eating grilled carp on the Tigris River late

into the night.

A local television station has begun a feature called "Baghdad Nights," showing the capital's residents shopping, eating and socializing after the sun has set, a sight that until recently was unheard of in most neighborhoods.

In Mansour, in central Baghdad, eight young brides, dripping in new gold given to them by their grooms, visited Tanya's hair

salon this week.

Just two months ago, the shop was lucky to get one bride a month.

"Before there used to be no merrymaking for the bride," said Suad, a young hairdresser who would only give her first name for safety reasons. "Now they are coming again."

As Baghdad has changed, even security barriers have had a makeover, incorporated, if that's possible, into the

urban landscape. Over the past six months, artists have painted them with depictions of Iraqi life, ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and fantasy pictures of peaceful scenes.

But Baghdad residents are skeptical that their new freedom will last.

"It's in the hands of God now," said Umm Fatma,



A newly opened park on Abu Nawas street along the Tigris River.
LEILA FADEL/MCT

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120-hour hurdle

Service hours a final barrier

By AKILAH McMULLAN
ECHO STAFF REPORTER

You've ordered your cap and gown, taken your senior pictures, mailed out your invitations and notified your parents.

Finally, after all the blood, sweat and cramming, you are ready to walk and make your parents proud.

But what happens when you haven't completed your 120 community service hours?

Tell your parents they may need to cancel that hotel reservation because N.C. Central University requires that all students complete at least 15 hours of community service per semester enrolled in order to graduate.

According to the community service department, 30 percent of December graduating hopefuls is missing

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Bodies for hire

Pharma tests bring income

By TECCARA CARMACK
ECHO STAFF REPORTER

Study, study, study! When N.C. Central University students hear the word "study," their first thoughts may be history dates, mathematical equations or Science Odyssey homework.

However, the word now evokes a different kind of thought: mean, green cash.

Many college students are becoming the subjects of pharmaceutical clinical trials to bring in extra money.

As the semester progresses and refund money dwindles, students are looking for a way to make money while staying focused on school.

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NCCU JAZZ, VOCAL ENSEMBLES | ON THE ROAD TO CANADA



The NCCU Jazz and Vocal ensembles will attend the IAJE Conference in Toronto, Canada in January.

SAVIN JOSEPH/Echo Staff Photographer

STUDENTS TO ATTEND INT'L CONFERENCE

By SHELBYA BROWN
ECHO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ira Wiggins, director of jazz studies at N. C. Central University, said students seldom get the opportunity to work alongside jazz pioneers like Quincy Jones, Nancy Wilson and Herbie Hancock.

But next month, 35 vocal and jazz ensemble students will travel to Toronto, Canada to attend the IAJE, the International Association for Jazz Educators, where they will engage in workshops with some

of the jazz industry's biggest names.

"They get to see first hand what it's like to perform at that level," Wiggins said.

In its 35th year, the IAJE is a highly selective conference

that attracts more than 7,000 students and jazz instructors from across the world.

This year the conference will run January 9-13; students

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Jazz ensemble members practice Monday afternoon during sectionals.

SAVIN JOSEPH/Echo Staff Photographer

Eagles bring World AIDS Day to the yard

By SADE THOMPSON
ECHO STAFF REPORTER

The N. C. Central University Miller-Morgan Health Science Building swarmed with eager students, volunteers and AIDS survivors, last Saturday, all promoting awareness of a 25-year-old killer.

World AIDS Day, observed every Dec. 1, was established by the World Health Organization in 1998. The event's purpose is to serve AIDS victims and to raise awareness about the continuing epidemic.

For the second year in a row World AIDS Day was marked at NCCU with a march, performances and testimonials.

"The turnout of the community becomes greater because of a grow-

ing acceptance of being aware and the willingness we have to fight," said Sebastian Battle, an HIV program advocate and a staff member of Durham's Early Intervention Clinic.

Marchers flowed from Nelson St. eastbound to Fayetteville St., shouting, "Fight AIDS, not the people with AIDS."

Activities then shifted inside where health facilitators, including the staff of Durham County Health Center, provided information and answered questions.

Then everyone gathered in the auditorium for a selection of testimonials.

Rebecca Hall of WTVD hosted,



Riverside High School marchers extend a banner in honor of World AIDS Day.

DOMINIQUE HOLIDAY/Echo Staff Photographer

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