

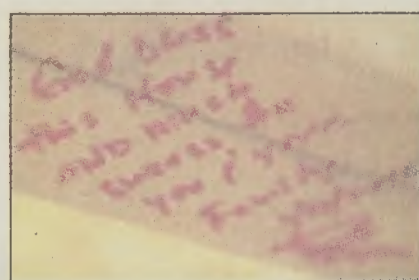
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Beyond
2011 federal budget pumps extra \$30 million increase into HBCUs
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Samm-Art Williams brings "The Dance on Widow's Row" to campus
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Jay Jones wants students to take on responsibility, even on snow days
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Hammering Habitats
Corliss Pauling spends the day with Habitat volunteers
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Campus Echo

Crawley trial underway



Defendant Shannon Crawley is accused of murdering NCCU student Denita Smith in 2007.

ASHLEY GRIFFIN/Echo staff photographer

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN
WITH ASHLEY ROQUE
ECHO ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's been just over three years since N.C. Central University student Denita Monique Smith was shot and killed outside her Campus Crossings apartment just after 8 a.m. on January 4, 2007.

Smith, a graduate student at the time of the shooting, was 25 years old. According to forensics testimony, she was shot in the back of the head from a distance of about two feet.

At the time, police investigators described Smith's shooting as "planned and personal."

At the time of her death, Smith was engaged to be married to Jemeir Stroud, an NCCU alumnus and Greensboro police officer. The two met at NCCU and had dated since 2000, her freshman year.

After a number of delays, the trial of her accused murderer, Shannon Elizabeth Crawley, is now underway.



Denita M. Smith
Echo file photo

In his opening statement, Durham Assistant District Attorney David Saaks said, "Denita was on top of the world. She was a graduate student, she was well-respected on campus, she had pledged [a sorority], her family loved her ... and she was engaged to be married."

"And then she gets a bullet to the back of the head and ends up on the bottom of a stairwell."

Smith's body and scattered personal items were found at around 10 a.m. by Campus Crossings resident Cory Daniels.



Angela Ashby, Durham County forensics technician, points to crime scene items including shoes, keys, and personal effects at a Campus Crossings stairwell.

ASHLEY GRIFFIN/Echo staff photographer

Daniels testified that he thought Smith had fallen down the stairwell from the third to the ground floor.

"I called 911," he testified.

"I shook her shoulder and said 'Baby girl are you OK?'"

Smith had accrued a remarkable set of accomplishments while at NCCU.

As an undergraduate she was an Eagles Scholar, a member of Sigma Tau Delta International English

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Iran's threat

Clinton turns up the heat on Tehran

By BORZOU DARAGAH
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

BEIRUT-In a ratcheting up of official U.S. rhetoric against Iran, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton flatly accused Tehran on Monday of trying to build nuclear bombs and painted the Islamic Republic as an imminent military dictatorship increasingly ruled by the elite Revolutionary Guard.

But Clinton also denied the U.S. was planning to launch a war against Iran, saying Washington was instead trying to rally nations to economically pressure Tehran into curbing sensitive aspects of its nuclear program.

"We are planning to try to bring the world community together in applying pressure to Iran through sanctions adopted by the United Nations that will be particularly aimed at those enterprises controlled by the Revolutionary Guard, which we believe is, in effect, supplanting the government of Iran," she said during a visit with students at Carnegie Mellon's campus in Qatar, according to news agencies.

"We see that the government of Iran, the supreme leader, the president, the parliament is being supplanted and that Iran is moving toward a military dictatorship," she said.

The Revolutionary Guard is an elite, ideologically motivated branch of the Iranian military created after Islamic clerics toppled the U.S.-backed monarch and took control of Iran during a 1979 revolution. Its members have risen to positions

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NCCU talks Obama



Obama at NCCU in 2007.
Echo file photo (Bryson Pope)

BY JAY JONES
ECHO STAFF REPORTER

With Presidents Day just behind us, the question must be asked: Are students still hopeful?

Are Eagles still talking politics? What, if anything, has changed in a year?

President Barack Obama was sworn in January 20, 2009. On Presidents Day 2009, his approval rating was 64 percent, according to Gallup polls.

As of February 1 of this year, Obama's approval rating had dropped to 50 percent.

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A pioneer of history in images

NCCU alumnus Alex Rivera's photography now on display at art museum

BY TOMMIA HAYES
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The name Alex Rivera is synonymous with photojournalism.

Well known for portraying the civil rights movement through his camera lens, he told stories the country would never forget.

"I never thought I was involved in anything that was history-making or great. To me, it was just another day-to-day assignment," he told the New York Times. Rivera died on October 23, 2008 at 95.

In honor of N.C. Central University's centennial

anniversary, some of Rivera's photography is on display in the University art museum through April 23.

Rivera was born in Greensboro in 1913. His father, a dentist, was active in the civil rights movement and a member of the NAACP.

Rivera attended Howard University but hard times during the 1930s forced him leave school and seek work.

His first job was working as a photojournalist and arts editor for the Washington Tribune, a black weekly in Washington D.C.

Rivera's first major photo assignment was to shoot Marian Anderson's historic concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939.

Fearing he was having too much fun, Rivera's father

and Dr. James Shepard, NCCU's founder, "conspired" to get him off the streets of D.C. and back to the South.

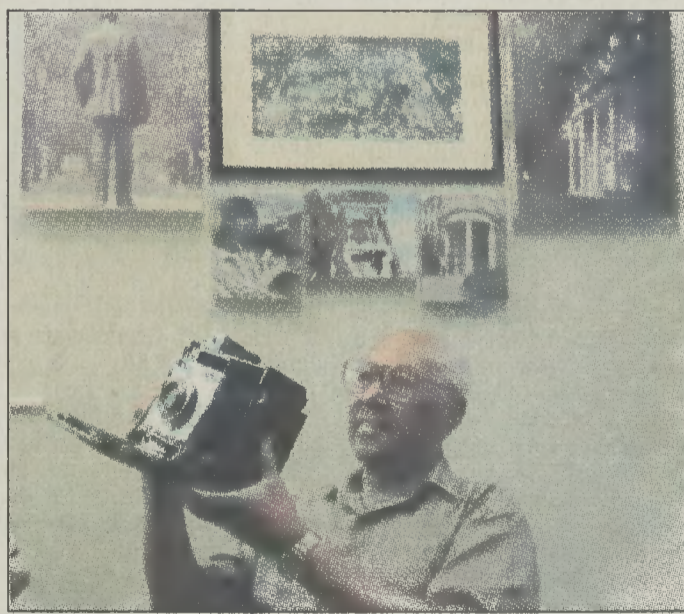
Rivera arrived at NCCU in 1939, then called North Carolina College for Negroes, to finish his education and establish the University's public relations office.

He was elected student body president his senior year and received his BA in 1941.

Rivera often took pictures of football games for other black colleges when they had no photographers.

The famous photograph of Zora Neal Hurston attending a football game at the University in the 1940s was taken by Rivera when the

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Alex Rivera displays his Crown Graphic camera in his office.

Echo file photo (Rashaun Rucker)

Program to mentor minority males

BY CARLTON KOONCE
ECHO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Looking around, it doesn't take long to realize that there is a shortage of males at N.C. Central University.

In fact, the lack of minority males at higher education institutions nationwide is no new phenomenon.

The Minority Male Mentoring Project is looking to change this discrepancy in the UNC system by per-

suading minority men to continue their education beyond associate degrees at one of nine state universities.

N. C. Central University and other state HBCUs, including Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State and N. C. A & T, were awarded a grant from the UNC system to encourage minority males graduating from local community colleges to transfer to a 4-year institution.

Last Tuesday about 35 men from Durham Technical Community College and Vance-Granville Community College visited NCCU to get a taste of HBCU life.

The men toured the campus with University Centennial scholars and student leaders of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and attended workshops on topics like mentorship and

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Gamma Beta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha step for visiting males.

WILLIE PACE/Echo staff photographer