

# Campus Echo

## 100 YEARS OF TRUTH AND SERVICE

### Our stories told

Fellow Eagles, family and friends, in your hands you hold a piece of history connected to this Centennial year.



In the search for N. C. Central University's past, the Campus Echo merely scratched the surface. There are countless stories of NCCU's rich history since its humble founding 100 years ago.

It would be next to impossible to record all the tales of strength, perseverance and bravery that have played out on this prestigious campus.

These pages contain only a few of these stories. It is a sampling of people, ideas and situations.

From founder James E. Shepard's early struggles and triumphs to establish his dream for African-Americans, to this year's centennial festivities, we have tried to capture a sense of the significance of NCCU's Centennial.

Some of the stories here hold painful memories; others hold the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

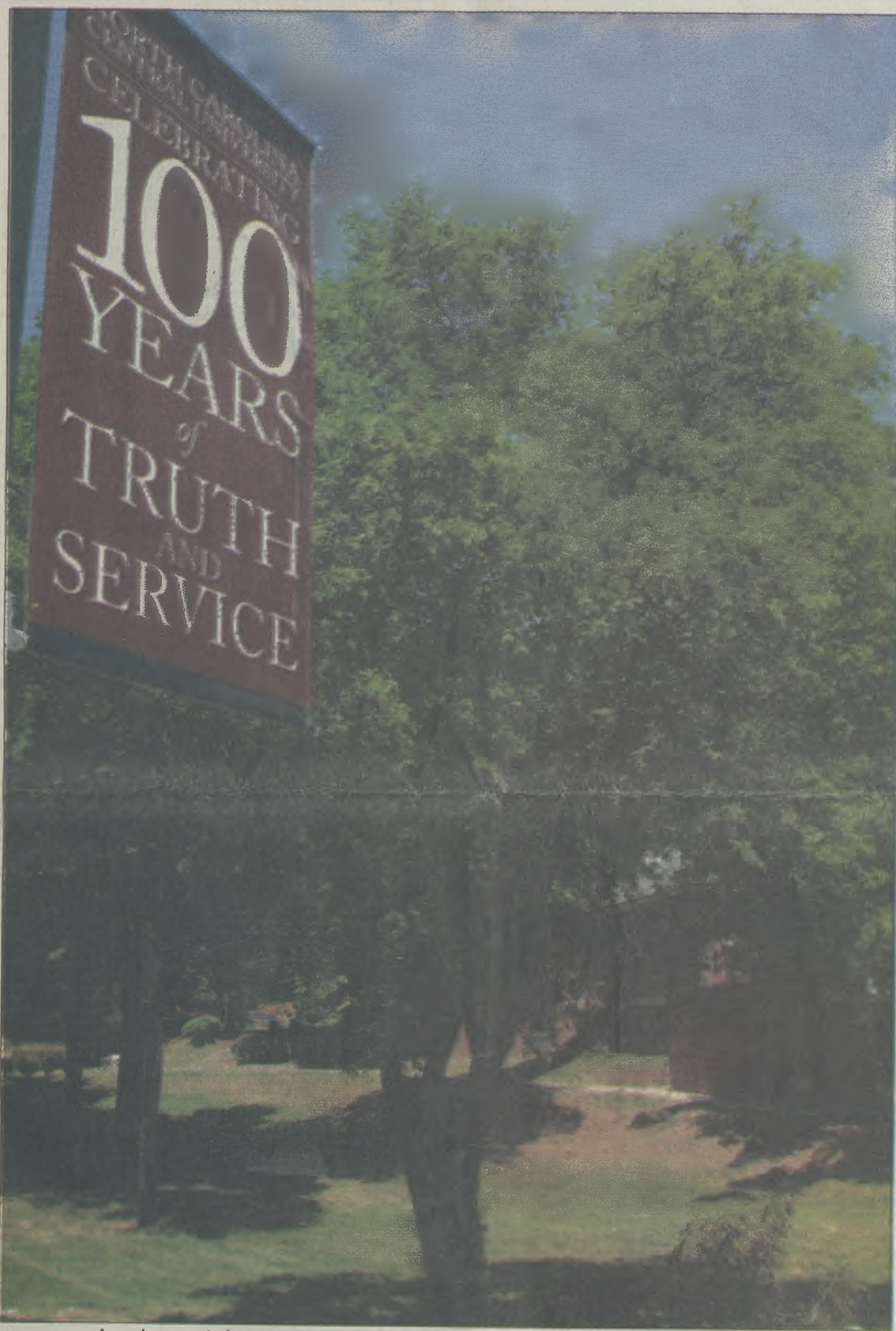
All the University's stories, told and untold, challenge us to revisit and to remember the long dusty road that has been the trail from slavery to freedom.

It has been an honor to serve as the Campus Echo's Centennial editor-in-chief and for our staff to share this history with all Eagles, near and far.

We hope this edition compels you to research more University history so that future alumni may continue to fly high.

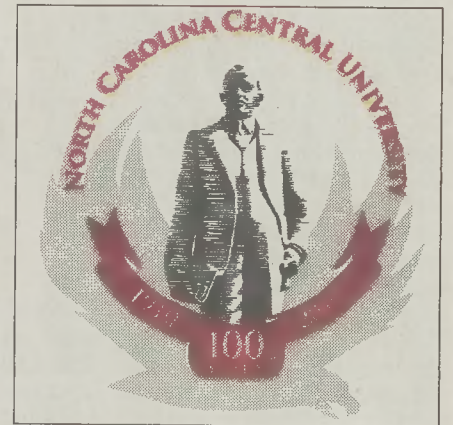
As we look forward to the next century, the Campus Echo asks everyone to join us in remembering.

### NCCU CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF GROWTH



A newly renovated campus courtyard is symbolic of constant progress at NCCU over the century. The renovation is part of an ongoing beautification effort.

ASHLEY ROQUE/Echo staff photographer



### Origins explored

By BRITNEY ROOKS  
ECHO OPINIONS EDITOR

Both the struggle and the character of N.C. Central University's founding days are revealed in recent archival documents provided to the Campus Echo.

The documents, provided courtesy of the Rockefeller Archive Center in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., offer a fascinating account of NCCU's first two decades: from its days as the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua in 1910 to its transformation into the National Training School, then to the state-supported Durham State Normal School, and then to the North Carolina College for Negroes.

The documents include founder James E. Shepard's correspondence, various appeals for financial support and Rockefeller General Education Board reports.

The documents tell the story of the institution's early financial struggles, its religious foundation, and its philosophy of education.

NCCU began as a normal school — a school that trains high school graduates to become teachers.

One 1921 document provides Shepard's background: He graduated from Shaw University in 1894 at the age of 19. He was employed as a pharmacist in Durham, worked for the Internal Revenue Service, and was appointed General Field Secretary of the International Sunday School Association in 1905.

In a 1909 handwritten appeal for support to a Dr. Wallace Buttrick of New Jersey, Shepard writes, "There can be no question that if such institutions are needed for the white race ... that to a greater degree ... one would be of much help to the colored race."

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## Family affairs, NCCU shares 'sha TAW kwa'

By ASHLEY GRIFFIN  
ECHO ASSISTANT EDITOR

"The roaring 20s" conjures images of jazz legends like Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

Then the good times came to an end and the Great Depression loomed.

At the North Carolina College for Negroes, a family tradition was being born.

The Williams clan boasts eleven N. C. Central University alumni including aunts, cousins and great-aunts.

The first of the clan was Beulah "Gigi" Luvenia Kearney-Williams, who arrived in 1928.

She established a family tradition that continues to this day.

Kearney-Williams, now

99, is one of NCCU's oldest alumni.

She graduated 75 years ago with a degree in accounting. Tuition, room and board then cost \$300.

Born in 1910, Kearney-Williams grew up in the rural town of Franklinton, N.C. where she spent most of her childhood helping her sharecropper father in the field.

Her mother was the cook for white plantation owners.

Although Kearney-Williams' parents were not well-educated, they dreamed that their children would attend college.

At 18, Kearney-Williams arrived at North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham where she and her father were greeted by



Beulah 'Gigi' Luvenia Kearney-Williams, 99, started a family tradition in 1928 when she enrolled in the North Carolina College for Negroes, now NCCU.

BRYSON POPE/Echo staff photographer

founder and president James E. Shepard. Kearney-Williams said

she could remember Shepard's approach as "kind and heart-warming."

"He was a nice-looking man," she said.

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By DIVINE MUNYENGETERWA  
ECHO STAFF REPORTER

When you read that N.C. Central University was instituted in 1910 as the National Religious Training School Chautauqua, you might wonder: "What exactly does this 'Chautauqua' mean?"

"It translates into 'meeting place,'" said Terry Huff, coordinator of University Dimensions of Learning.

The idea behind the Chautauqua summer-camp movement, which was rooted in Christian instruction and popular education, was to bring culture, lectures, plays, music and education to rural and small-town America.

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