

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008

## MISS NCCU CANDIDATES

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### Nakia Lorrain Adamson, Washington, DC



MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

**Major:** Psychology and Parks and Recreation Management  
**Favorite Food:** Jerk chicken and Rice and Peas

**Why do you want this position?** I aspire to be Miss North Carolina Central University to enhance the leadership skills that all of our students encompass but are not acting upon.

My platform is one that focuses on Reaching and Empowering Authentic Leaders, or simply the abbreviation R.E.A.L. Through changing the image of our campus, bringing back Du Bois's idea of the Talented Tenth, and encouraging more campus involvement, I seek to foster an environment of authentic leaders.

### Ashley N. Witherspoon, Charlotte



MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

**Major:** Biology  
**Favorite Food:** Chicken Alfredo

**Why do you want this position?** My desire to serve within this position is best described as responsibility. Miss North Carolina Central University is a coveted position that should have service and STUDENTS in mind, not the urge to wear a crown.

I feel that God has endowed every one of us with a light. My purpose as your next Miss NCCU is to allow my light to shine and encourage my fellow students to do the same, so that together we can make a change in our campus, communities, and the nation.

### Chanel Janay Raynor, Newport, N.C.



MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

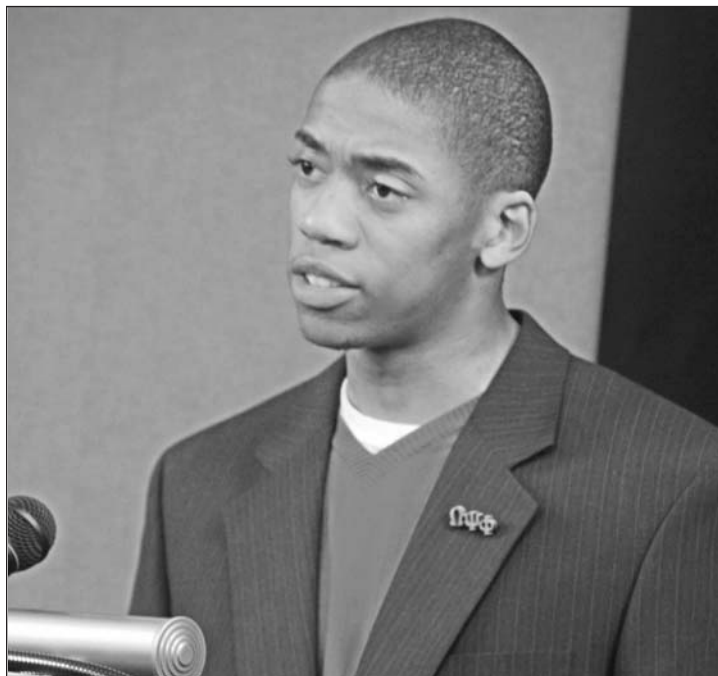
**Major:** Psychology  
**Favorite Food:** Shrimp Alfredo

**Why you want this position:** I desire to be Miss North Carolina Central University because I feel as though I have so much to offer back to this great university. The direction I would love to take this prestigious institution in is getting students to begin to look past today, begin planning toward our prosperous futures, and begin to help one another grow and improve together.

I'm such a positive person, with a positive attitude, and I wish to continue blessing, encouraging, and touching lives here at North Carolina Central University.

## MR. NCCU CANDIDATES

### Alexander V. Jackson



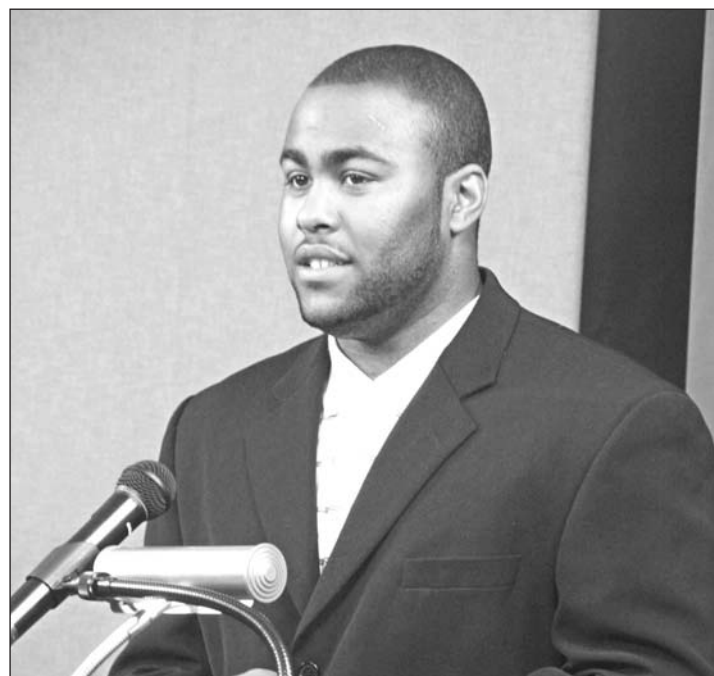
MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

**Major:** Chemistry  
**Favorite Food:** Soul Food

**Why do you want this position?** I want this position because if elected I will be the best male representation of North Carolina Central University. I want this position because I feel that as a university we need to restore the sense of ownership and pride for what we have on this campus and for this university.

The best way I saw to do so is by being an example to follow for the students of North Carolina Central University. Lastly, I want this position because I love North Carolina Central University and I believe that it should be represented well.

### Eric M. Jefferson



MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

**Major:** Criminal Justice  
**Favorite Food:** Pizza

**Why do you want this position?** The truth of the matter is that I love my university like no other. I have been engaged in service to her since I arrived as a freshman and we have been together ever since.

Now I am ready to take it to the next level. I want to be there all the time the way she has been there for me in the past. I want to do her name justice the way she has done my life justice. Through service to my peers, it's an honor to represent you, *Dear Ol' NCCU*: How sweet it is to be loved by you.

## Q&A

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seemed to be motivated enough.

Courtney was the parliamentarian for SGA this year, and she was always involved with the Senate.

She knew the constitution like the back of her hand and we knew that we could always count on her. If there was something dealing with the Senate that needed to be questioned, everybody knew to come to Courtney.

That was the real factor in my decision in running with her. I need someone like that.

When it comes to the Senate, I don't need someone that I'm going to have to teach something to all over again that they should already know.

**ECHO: What are some other issues that you see as a point of concern for next school year?**

The appearance of this campus. I think that the students love this campus but at the same time when they walk around, they think to themselves "Oh, this is not Duke or UNC."

When I walk on Carolina and Duke's campus with other NCCU students, their body language is different.

They say, "Wow look at those buildings. Look at the grass. Everything's perfect."

When you come on NCCU's campus, you don't get that.

When we go to other HBCU's, our students will compliment the campus they're visiting more than their own.

I feel that if there is some way we can make the appearance of NCCU better that would help the morale of our students.

They would be more proud to be on campus and show it off to other students from other schools.

Another issue I want to tackle is getting the administration involved with our students. This year, SGA has done many programs with the administration.

Some of those things were monthly luncheons with the Provost to discuss some of our concerns.

Other things have been fire-side chats with the chancellor, Smash NCCUSGA. But my problem is when we have these meetings with the administration, it's nothing but a bunch of talk.

There seems to be no solutions and change coming from these meetings. Our meetings with the provost were good, but I noticed that no administration was taking notes on the student's concerns.

So my thing is the students came to them with the issues, why weren't they writing down what we were saying? It seems as if the administration will meet with us, but after the meeting is over it is just a meeting.

I'm really going to focus next year on making sure the administration is constantly meeting the students' needs with providing viable solutions to their problems.

**ECHO: So, overall why should the students believe in your vision?**

The students have seen what I've done my three years here on campus. When you ask around, "Who can I come to when I need help?" "Who seems to know the campus inside and out?"

"Who will get the job done when it needs to be done right away?" — They know to come to Kent Williams.

They know when I say I'm going to do something I'm going to do it. When it comes to the well-being of this University, they know I don't play and I mean business.

They know that I'm going to make sure that I'm going to be certain that everyone is doing what they have to do in order to be successful.

Students know my past and they've seen how I've interacted on this campus.

With all of this, I believe the students know that I am the most qualified candidate for this position.

## MOBLEY

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petition.

When multiple candidates run, they each bring certain issues into their campaign. To win, other candidates must address these issues, in addition to their own, to prove that they are the best person for the job.

This year, no one was forced to discuss their ideas for engaging the university's large population of non-traditional and commuting students.

No candidate has had to discuss how they plan to ensure that campus events reflect the diversity of the student body.

Competition is important when SGA officers represent students to the University's Board of Trustees. SGA also works with various departments within the school to represent a student voice.

Last year, when Residential Life was contemplating increasing room and board fees, they looked to SGA to assist in making

the decision.

The organization works in conjunction with the Student Activities Board to plan the annual Homecoming and Spring Fling festivities.

The lack of student involvement cannot be blamed on the Student Government Association, an organization that continually holds forums to encourage people to participate.

Students are given ample time to complete the steps necessary to run for office, and students can decide to run far in advance.

Of course, running for office is only one of many ways of participating in student government.

If people feel that their needs are not being met by the organization, students have many ways to voice their complaints. The elected officers are also responsible for meeting with students and working to ensure that the student body as a whole is represented.

including SGA, are supposed to serve as advocates for the students and a positive reinforcement for our University and Durham community.

Now it seems as if they have become merely country clubs for those who seek to bask in the glory of popularity instead of serving as vessels of service.

After speaking with students, I've realized that many of them think the candidates seek votes only because they have intentions of gaining VIP passes into parties, football games or other social functions, or to serve as a resume booster.

Many questions rack my brain in this year's SGA elections.

How can one ask any student to take this year's elections seriously when you have so many candidates running unopposed?

Has the level of apathy on this yard hit rock bottom

to the point that the positions of SGA president and vice president have been decided before one pencil has filled in a ballot?

Two years in a row, may I add.

I find it sad and unbelievable as I ask my fellow Eagles about their thoughts on this year's elections and I get responses that many of them don't care about it or don't even know who is running for which positions. Where did everything go wrong?

Nonetheless, I continue to have faith and hope that our chosen leaders will rise above the glitz and glamour.

My message to all the candidates: it's not about the title that you hold but about the role you play. If your heart is not in the right place, it will definitely show.

To the rest of the student body: vote and play your part.

## COOPER

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