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Campus.....	1-4
Q & A	5
Beyond.....	7
Feature	8
A & E	9
Sports.....	10-11
Opinions	13-14

Special Insert
Our first-ever salute to NCCU's best teachers.

In the fold

Campus
NCCU's Child Development Lab trains kids, cares about community.

Page 4

Opinions
This ain't another tearjerker. Rony Camille & Co. throw their hardcore deuces.

Page 14

Q&A
Outgoing Chancellor James H. Ammons talks to Echo about life at NCCU

Page 5



Campus Echo

NCCU assures students

Officials say stay alert

EBONY MCQUEEN
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The chilling pictures of students running, some screaming, ambulances with their sirens on and police officers running with guns at the educational institute of Virginia Tech shown in the national and local media has led the N.C. Central University community to ask the question -- How prepared are we if something like that would happen here?

"What happened to those innocent students is a tragedy, and that's more of a reason for us to be cautious of our campus community," said Malik Williams, a computer information systems

■ See **REACTION** Page 2

Duke case fizzles

NCCU reacts, calm lauded

RONY CAMILLE
ECHO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Duke lacrosse case apparently has come to an end. Like many others touched by the ordeal, James H. Ammons, chancellor at N.C. Central University, is relieved.

"There is a lot we can learn from this, and I am just really proud of the NCCU family, and [that] the larger community remained calm, even though there was a temptation to do otherwise," Ammons said in an exclusive interview with the Campus Echo.

Ammons praised members of the University family for their patience in the days when many were jumping to conclusions about the guilt or innocence of the lacrosse players accused of rape.

He spoke a day after state Attorney General Roy Cooper dismissed all charges against Dave Forker Evans of Bethesda, Md.; Colin Finnerty of Garden City, N.Y.; and Reade Seligmann of Essex Fells, N.J. The three men, former members of the Duke University lacrosse team, were charged with the sexual assault, rape and kidnapping of a former NCCU student on March 13, 2006.

Crystal Gail Mangum, a 27-year-old black NCCU student, was hired to perform as a dancer that evening at a Durham house where members of the Duke lacrosse team held a party.

■ See **DUKE** Page 2

A campus in mourning

Virginia Tech tragedy shocks nation

BY JANE STANCILL AND TONY PUGH
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS/MCT

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Dazed and stricken, the Virginia Tech community struggled Tuesday to come to grips with the murders of 32 friends and colleagues, as details emerged about the loner who unleashed terror on the bucolic campus.

Students fought back tears, walked quietly around the sprawl-

ing campus and greeted one another with hugs. Their classes canceled for the week, many packed their things to head for the security of home.

They checked Facebook, the social-networking Web site, where they searched for news of who was safe and who was missing. They entered their names on group lists such as "I'm OK at VT."

Emotions were raw among the 10,000 who gathered in the basket-

ball arena for a nationally televised midday memorial service. An overflow crowd packed the football stadium. "Today, the world shares our sorrow," said Zenobia Hikes, the vice president of student affairs.

Outside, faculty members described the gunman — whom authorities identified as 23-year-old senior Cho Seung-Hui — as

■ See **SHOOTING** Page 7



COLORED MUSEUM | SCENES BROUGHT TO LIFE



From left: Anthony Johnson, Terra Hodge, Tiara Jackson, Laura Nickerson and Charles Messick woo the audience.

SHENIKA JONES/Echo Staff Photographer

COLORED MUSEUM

When I walked into the theater, I wasn't sure what to expect. Based on the title alone, I figured the show would focus on race, probably in some historical context.

The posters hanging around campus featuring a colorful mammy character alluded to something possibly comical, but at the very least controversial.

I suspected something was up when I walked in and a shirtless man who may or may not have been shackled welcomed me to the Colored



Charles Messick and Anthony Johnson do a scene.

SHENIKA JONES/Echo Staff Photographer

SEE **COLORED MUSEUM** | PAGE 9

The little girl from exit 148

ALIECE MCNAIR
ECHO STAFF WRITER

"He didn't know where he came from, so he didn't have a dream for where he ought to be going," Robyn Hadley told N.C. Central University quoting Alex Haley's "Roots" character, Kizzy.

Hadley was the keynote speaker for the 58th annual Honors Convocation for Academic Achievement April 13.

She said met Haley when she was a senior in high school and he was researching his genealogy at the local library. He



Chancellor Ammons and Robyn Hadley talk at event.

KAI CHRISTOPHER/Echo Staff Photographer

later offered to pay her expenses at Harvard University. Instead, She quoted Kizzy to

encourage students to network.

The convocation was held on Friday the 13th. Hadley said, "Thirteen is a wonderful sign, a divine sign" and told the audience about herself, "this little girl from exit 148 in Graham."

Hadley was the 13th candidate from UNC for the Cecil Rhodes scholarship in 1985. She became the first African-American female recipient.

Hadley said going to

■ See **HONORS** Page 3

Spring fling 2007

Same thing, different year

KESHA LEACH
ECHO STAFF WRITER

It's the time of the year that N.C. Central students have been anticipating — Spring Fling 2007.

The week's festivities kicked off Saturday, April 4, with the Vibe Hoops and Hip-Hop tour at the McLendon-McDougal Gymnasium.

The Maroon & Gray Ball scheduled for Sunday in the LeRoy T. Walker Complex was cancelled due, in part, to low ticket sales.

The Spring Fling Crunk Fest transformed George St., adjacent to the Alfonso Elder Student Union, and the Union itself, into a carnival with music, airbrushed tattoos, caricature artists and food.

Tonight at 7 p.m. in the B.N. Duke Auditorium, Hipno Bro will conduct his hypnosis show.

"This year we have more events that entice the students, but I guess we'll see after the events are over," said Student Activities Board adviser Marquita Johnson.

According to Johnson, planning for this year's Spring Fling began in May 2006, though preparations for the concerts began in December.

Johnson said that she

■ See **FLING** Page 3

■ See **FLING** Page 3