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# Campus Echo

## War cost soaring

*Bush asks Congress for billions more for Iraq*

BY RENEE SCHOOF  
 MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON —The Bush administration asked Congress on Wednesday for \$42 billion more next year for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an increase that would raise spending on the wars to \$189 billion

in 2008 — and to more than \$600 billion for Iraq alone since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

War spending would be higher in 2008 than any year since the Iraq war began in March 2003. The Iraq war's total cost is approaching that of the 1964-73 Vietnam War's esti-

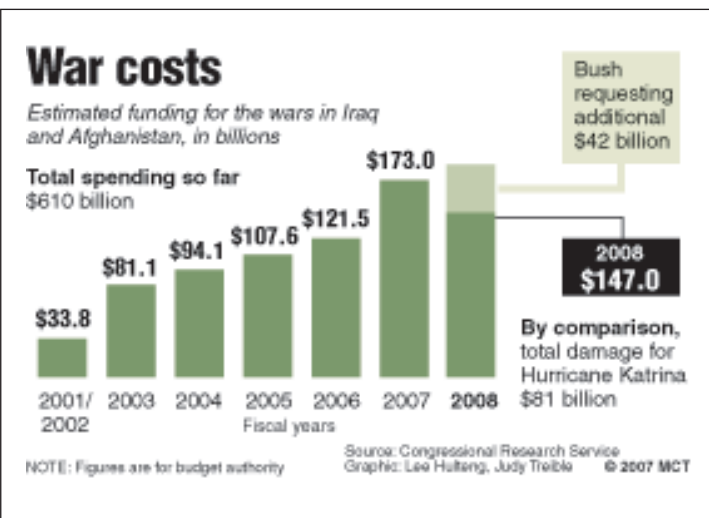
mated total of \$518 billion, in 2007 dollars.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the total for Iraq didn't include indirect costs such as veterans' care or the ultimate costs of long-term involvement, which the Congressional

Budget Office has said could exceed \$2 trillion.

"That's quite a burden this president is leaving to our grandchildren," Byrd said at a hearing at which top administration officials made their case for more

■ See IRAQ Page 7



## Midnight flood hits dorm

*9th-floor gusher swamps Eagleson*

BY SHELBA BROWN  
 ECHO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

All Eagleson Hall residents were forced to evacuate last night after water flooded the building at around 11 p.m.

Residents were directed to the Miller-Morgan Building by campus police, where they were briefed on the condition of the dorm as well as of their belongings.

"The water line broke, and now they have electrical problems," said campus police officer Kelvin Raynor. "That's not good."

■ See FLOOD Page 2

## Free HIV test

*It's painless, takes 20-minutes*

BY CHARITY JONES  
 ECHO STAFF REPORTER

Students will have a chance to be tested for HIV Tuesday, Oct. 16 in the Alfonso Elder Student Union Building from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There is no charge for the pain-free test.

"Our goal is to make people feel comfortable and encourage more people to know their HIV status," said Tanya Bass, a N.C. Central University public health educator in Student Health and Counseling Services.

Bass is the adviser to Project SAFE (Save A Fellow Eagle), an NCCU health education service.

According to Bass, students take the 20-minute tests themselves by swabbing their mouth with a cotton swab.

"The test was a piece of cake," said elementary education sophomore Shanika Scurlock.

"They also have counselors there to talk to you even if you don't have HIV,

■ See HIV TESTING Page 2

## HOMECOMING I AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW ...



Arab and Soulja Boy at Maroon Mayhem Concert. Soulja Boy followed Crime Mob at the packed Saturday concert.

SAVIN JOSEPH/Echo Staff Photographer

## Can't stop, won't stop

BY SHELBA BROWN  
 ECHO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Homecoming is underway. And as if Soulja Boy "crankin' dat" wasn't enough, students and alums alike will have a full week of events to attend.

NCCU has already experienced Cassidy, Crime Mob and Young Jeezy on Saturday as well as "Left Eye" and "Da Brat" at Choir Ball on Monday.

Tonight the modeling troupes will walk it out on the runway at the fashion show. Brace yourself 'cause it ain't over 'til the "PHAT" lady makes you laugh.

Mo'Nique will bring all that "charm" to the stage Thursday night for the comedy show while the Greek frats and sorors get ready to stomp da yard (or the gym rather) Friday at the Pan-Hellenic Step Show. Ain't no stoppin' us now, we got the groove!

## Late, late and late again

*Faculty say student tardiness annoying, unprofessional and out of control*

BY AKILAH McMULLAN  
 ECHO STAFF REPORTER

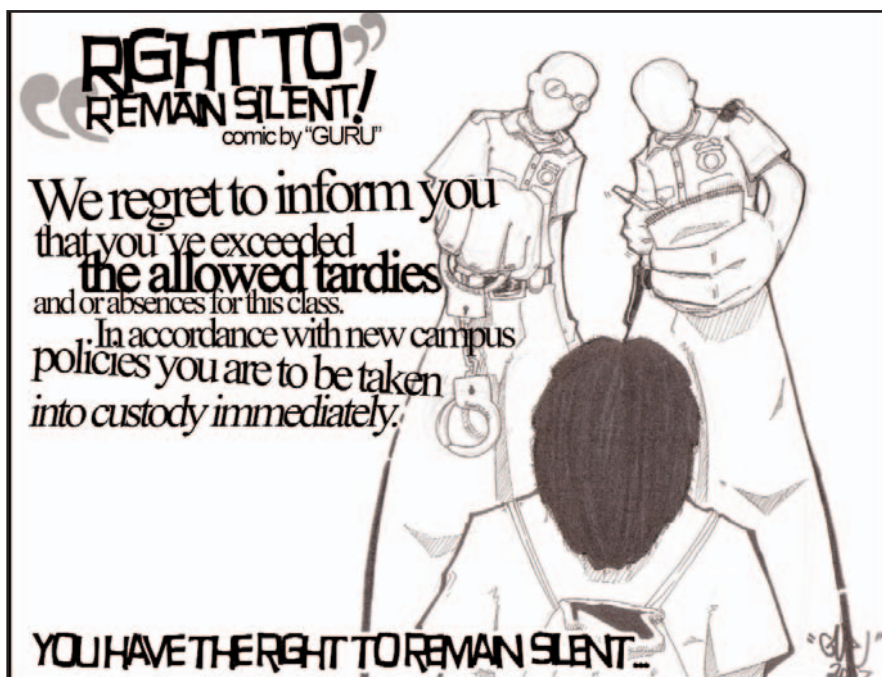
The students picked a bad day to trickle in 5, 10, 15, even 20 minutes late to Robert Nowell's 11 a.m. Law and Ethics class.

Nowell had invited a guest speaker, Rob Waters, news editor of the News & Observer, to speak.

Waters had come to speak about news coverage of the Duke lacrosse rape case. When students entered late he would look to the door, pause, and then recollect his thoughts.

Waters was learning a lesson N.C. Central University faculty know all too well: student tardiness is a growing problem.

According to the University's catalog, students are allowed four absences from classes that meet twice a week and six absences from classes that meet three times a week before being dropped from a course. But there are no official rules gov-



erning tardiness.

Michele Ware, English associate

professor of English, says that tardiness has plagued most of her classes

## GPA a big deal

*SGA prez fires exec directors*

BY GABI CLAY-WHITE  
 ECHO ASSISTANT EDITOR

Looking into the Student Government Association office in the A. E. Student Union, you would think that everything is in order.

But some students beg to differ. Even before Tomasi Larry began his term as SGA president on July 1, he had already fired

six staff members for having low GPAs.

And the numbers continue to grow.

When asked how many staff members he has fired, Larry said, "Let's just say several."

The SGA constitution only gives the 2.5 GPA requirement for the offices of the president, vice president, and Mr. and Miss NCCU, but Larry wants leaders to put academics first on their priority lists.

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and she's tired of it.

"I have chronic problems with tardiness in my classes ... even in my graduate classes."

"I think it's inconsiderate and it's rude. I wish it would stop," said Ware.

Ware is not alone. Bruce Lapenson, assistant professor of political science, is also fed up with student tardiness.

"It's annoying to the professor in particular because anybody coming in distracts the students ... and me."

Lapenson said students are not being held accountable for their lateness and it's becoming accepted by professors.

"I just think maybe it's the culture here," said Lapenson.

"It's the students' culture here that's used to doing that and professors don't really hold them account-

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