NEWS LETTER

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FOUR BOUNTIFUL YEARS

In a few days, we, the class of Fifty-Six, will say, Farewell to S.T.C. We shall join other sons and daughters who have gone out and who have achieved nobly for the cause of the institution.

As we look back and note the many changes that have occurred since the beginning of our freshman year, we can truthfully say that we have witnessed an extremely remarkable period in the history of S.T.C. We have seen improvement in the physical plant: a Science Hall with all modern equipment, two new dormitories to house comfortably faculty members and students; renovation of Butler Hall; and lights for the Athletic Field. Of great importance has been the organization of a Student Council, and the beginning of sororities and fraternities.

World events have also been significant during our stay here. The Korean Armstice was signed. This allowed many former students to return to college, and others to enroll. This is a fact attested by the number of veterans now in attendance. In addition, the historic decision by the Supreme Court declaring racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional has been hailed throughout the nation.

There have been many classes graduated from the College, but I think there will never be one that can evoke so many pleasant memories as can the Class of Fifty-Six. We are proud to have been at S.T.C. in such a time as this, and I am sure it can be said that S.T.C. is just as proud as we are.

—A Senior, '56

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT CLOSING VESPERS

The last Vesper message of the year was given on May 6 by President S. D. Williams. He used the Scripture: "Be still and know that I am God" as the basis of his address.

Narrowing his subject to the word "Stop", the president spoke in a manner that challenged his listeners. He clearly stated that the world is busy; it is steadily moving, and as a result, we are obliged to face strenuous competition. He declared that as individuals we fail to enjoy a number of wholesome experiences which life has to offer because we do not stop and think.

James Spence, a senior and also native of Camden, North Carolina, led the devotions. The Choir rendered beautifully "He Hath Been Mindful."

SENIORS, BEST WISHES AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU

Commencement will mark a significant goal in our life plan here at State Teachers College. We shall leave the sheltered walls of this institution to take our places on the highway of life with thousands of other college graduates. The competition will be keen in this transitional age of ours. It is our hope that the wise use of our time here through the acquiring of knowledge and necessary skills has equipped us for the new role that is ours.

When we leave our Alma Mater we will not forget her. Our thoughts, hopes, and prayers will go with State Teachers College everyday.

In periods of uncertainty, confusion, and disillusionment may we be directed to the One whose almighty presence is adequate for every need God bless each of you.

Yvonne Bland
President Senior Class

INTEGRATION TAKES NEW TURN

A few days ago the Supreme court ruled that the court's May 17, 1954, decision not only applied to grade schools and high schools, but to state-supported colleges and universities as well.

This action by the Supreme court caused the University of North Carolina to admit three Negro applicants as undergraduate students.

This piece of legislation was another step toward desegregation. Let us keep a watchful eye on integration to see what will be the next barrier that will be broken in this country.

—James Spence

JUNIOR ENTERTAIN SENIORS AT PROM

Members of the Junior Class of Elizabeth City State Teachers College delightfully entertained the members of the Senior Class and a number of invited guests at their Prom in the College Gymnasium Friday, May 4.

The Gym was very attractively decorated with a carnival setting carried out with various colors and pictures.

Music was furnished by the Virginia State College Swing Masters.

ARE NEGROES AT A STANDSTILL?

Today as never before the Negro is confronted with a problem which seems not to have a solution. However, there is a solution, and it is not far away. But somehow we as Negroes have stopped looking for it. Instead we have become self-satisfied; we have become complacent; and, to make matters worse, we have begun to rely on the progress, the achievements made by our ancestors.

Negroes today should make twice as much progress as their ancestors because of the fact that they are better educated. Their forefathers had nothing but the memory of slavery. Perhaps they did have more because they believed that God is the maker of human rights. They believed that if they were ostracized because they were uncouth, they could become mannerly; that if they were segregated because they were unclean, they could cleanse themselves, and that if they were discriminated against because they lacked knowledge, they could become educated. Even with these beliefs, they knew that if they were segregated because of race or color, they would strive even harder because these were the natural gifts that had come from God.

If we as Negroes today are going to continue to make progress, we must forget color and this age-old inferiority complex, and believe that where the spirit if the Lord is, there is freedom and liberty. We must think straight and at all times remember that in unity there is strength.

Above all, we as Negroes must realize that liberty is not synonymous with freedom of conscience, but that one's conscience is always free, regardless of external conditions.

—Olando Hill, '59

THE THALIA SOROSIS CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1956-57

The Thalia Sorosis Club recently elected officers for 1956-57. They are: president, Marva Thomas; vice-president, Allene Jeffers; secretary, Shirley Wright; assistant secretary, Carolyn Mitchell; treasurer, Alelia Koonce.

—Mary Spruill

GRADUATION

Graduation is a happy and sad event for seniors. It is a happy event because it indicates the attainment of a goal set for us by courageous persons of great ambition. It is trusted that the goal has been attained with full measures of devotion to scholarship and other noble objectives of higher education and higher moral standards. It is sad, however, because we shall be leaving friends that we shall probably never see again.

It is to be assumed that if we do not desire to teach, which some of us will not, we can make worthwhile contributions in whatever walk of life we choose because of our previous training at State Teachers College.

We must realize as we stand on the threshold of new life that the degree which indicates the attainment of a goal must represent a challenge to meet the new life securely, or it will be worthless. Now, let us as courageous persons face the new life with assurance, great contributions and pride.

In conclusion, I say, graduation is a happy and yet a sad event. It is happy because it represents new life for each of us. Reminiscences of the past bring sadness into our lives as we stand at the threshold thinking of friends who are departing. Yet, this is graduation, classmates.

—Myrtle O. Johnson

BAND GIVES ANNUAL CONCERT

The Elizabeth City State Teachers College Band presented its annual concert on May 9, in the College Auditorium under the direction of Mr. H. Leon Prather.

The program was divided into three parts. The first part consisted of selections arranged by John Phillip Sousa and excerpts from Ludwig Beethoven's 5th Symphony and a very popular Choral "Beautiful Savior."

The latter parts were music in a modernistic mood. These selections were arranged by contemporary composers and a few by the band director, Mr. Prather. These selections included "Tea for Two", "Wish You Were Here", "Dark Eyes", "Embraceable You". "I Hear a Rhapsody", "Eager Beaver", "The Little Rhapsody in Blue", "Going Home", "In a Monastery Garden", "Klaxton March". A brass sextet did a very popular encore entitled "Eager Beaver".

Mr. Prather introduced the four year members, James Spence and Robert Bailey.

NEWS LETTER GIVES PARTY

The Newsletter Staff gave a party Monday night, May -4, in honor of nine seniors who have worked diligently for the success of the Newsletter. They are: Lonnie Davis, Irene Exum, James Godfrey, Billy Hodge, Osie Robinson, Elsie Sharpe, James Spence, Curtis Twine, and Vivian Williams.

Games and dancing were enjoyed, after which a repast was served.

Interesting remarks were made by graduates. Response was given by James Leathers, editor-in-chief for 1956-57.