



The Compass



Together We Will Find The Right Direction

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Student Claims Hearse Is Better Than Van

By SUSAN FITZGERALD

Everyone has noticed by now the 1962 Pontiac hearse being driven and parked on campus every day by Tom Bauman, Jr. The hearse's life is quite and interesting one.

Bauman, a Senior Business Administration major, native of Cleveland, Ohio, transferred from Western Carolina University to College of the Albemarle. He was in need of a car in March of 1977, when he spied the hearse parked at Twiford's Funeral Home. The hearse had originally been a Pontiac station wagon General Motors had sent to Mississippi to be cut in half and extended to make an ambulance. A few years later, it was converted into a hearse, and finally "retired" in 1972.

Tom wanted the hearse because it had as much

room as a van, with only a fraction of the initial cost. Because the hearse is a collector's item, it took some shrewd persuasion on Bauman's part to convince Mr. Twiford to sell it.

Bauman says the 16 year old vehicle now has only 69,000 miles on it and is mechanically sound. The rear half of the hearse is still equipped with some of the necessary apparatus for an ambulance and a hearse. It has curtains in the rear, the gear for attaching a coffin, a siren, and a hook-up for oxygen.

The car, according to Bauman, rides like a limousine, and it can "cruise" at 120 miles per hour, due to its high performance engine.

There are only two problems Bauman has encountered with the hearse. First, parts are difficult to find for it. In fact, he cannot even find a radio to fit



Tom Bauman's "Limousine"

it. Secondly, the body is rusting.

The humorous effects of driving a hearse seem to make it all worthwhile. Bauman says that sometimes people pull over on the road to let him by. Morticians wave at

him on the highways and stop by his home to see how the hearse is doing. Bauman has met people whose relatives died in the back of his hearse. He sometimes find people reluctant to ride in it after dark, and some newer

vehicles even race him.

Bauman says he wants people to know he is neither strange nor eccentric. He purchased the vehicle for practical reasons, and he now also enjoys its humorous effects.

Jenkins Discusses ECSU Potential

By LILLIE VAUGHAN

Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs focused on Elizabeth City State University's past, present, and future in his fall opening Convocation address to the university.

Dr. Jenkins first talked about some of the changes the university has undergone in its 87 years of existence. It's name has been changed several times, and the university for some time was understaffed, under-funded, and under-recognized. Despite all the problems, it has managed to turn out individuals who have excelled in various fields, and in

many instances proved themselves superior to those from more affluent institutions. He named a few outstanding people who attended the university and went on to express how ECSU and other historically black institutions have helped develop leadership qualities, as well as a mastery of the communicative skills of many poor, economically deprived, basic skills deficient students.

Presently he said, there has been a question as to whether there is a need for black institutions. Dr. Jenkins in response answered with "an emphatic No!" In elaborating he said, "To talk about in-

stitutions on the basis of color is to confuse the real issue this nation must face. I would take the answer one step further to say there is still a need for institutions like ECSU. Institution that recognize the discrepancies in the environments of the people that we serve. Institutions that concentrates more heavily on the exit criteria for students rather than the unrealistic entry criteria. It is because of our emphasis that most of you (students) are able to take advantage of this golden opportunity."

Commenting further he said, "Being a predominantly black institution, or the kind of in-

stitution that we are, is no longer an acceptable excuse for turning out students who perform below the norm on the various national standardized tests such as NTE, LSAT, MCAT, Miller Analogies, or GRE. We must raise the level of performance of our students so they look like or surpass students exiting from other institutions across the nation. That is why for the past two years, we have been emphasizing our drive to test for excellence."

The slogan button "Testing for Excellence", he said is ECSU's way of showing the

community it is well on its way to being the major institution in northeastern North Carolina. To do this a united effort has to be made by the entire university family, Dr. Jenkins said.

People are so often filled with uncertainties about ECSU's future, Dr. Jenkins said. The Vice-Chancellor then said, "It is our responsibility to determine the role Elizabeth City State University shall play in the future. And if we vasolate back and forth based on what others think we ought to be about, we will most assuredly end up some place we had no intentions of going."