



Evelyn Johnson autographs copies of her history of Elizabeth City State University: "A Story of Survival."



Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, former Congresswoman, guest speaker at Honors Convocation.

By Kit Cole  
Staff Writer

"And the recipient of the Henrietta B. Ridley Award is Paul Norman!"

"The Timothy H. Womack Memorial Scholarship goes to Adrian Dillard!"

While late-comers read the program enthusiastically to see who the honorees were, scholars proudly strolled across the stage to receive awaited honors. Other major awards and scholarships were:

The Charles A. Bryant, Sr. Scholarship, Raynell P. Vesselles; The Margaret Gregory Sharpe Mathematics Award, Vidella Covington; The E.M. Spellman Compass Award, James Foreman; and The Florence Foulkes Lassiter Music Award, Alan Brent.

These were only a few of approximately five hundred students who were honored at the annual Honors Convocation Program in Moore Hall Auditorium, on March 19, 1981.

The Convocation was a ceremony of recognition for the many students who had worked diligently to maintain an average of 3.0 and above. Seats were reserved for these

scholars. They were also sent letters to attend. The night before the occasion, students who acquired the minimum of 24 hours and maintained a GPA of 3.50 or more, were honored at a dinner and entertained by a dance and song company.

Guest speaker at the occasion was Californian Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, former U.S. Congresswoman and head of the 1972 Democratic National Convention. Mrs. Burke's topic dealt with both education and legal rights for women and minorities. She said that Elizabeth City State University is an example of one of the North Carolina institutions which "provide a 'stepping stone' to higher education.

Presiding over the occasion was Dr. Jimmy P. Jenkins, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Dr. Louis Nadeau, Asst. Vice Chancellor, Special Studies and Programs; Dr. Harry J. Ghee, Vice Chancellor, Administration; and Alma L. Banks, Treasurer of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society presented the awards.

### EDITORIAL

# Will Reagan Rethink Budget Cuts?

By Mayo Caldwell  
Staff Writer

The choice of President Reagan to cut the funding for the "Pell" Grants (formerly BEOG) is indeed a regrettable and insensitive one. The central idea of Reagan's national economic policy is based on the misguided and unproven theory that in order to reduce inflation, we have to

increase unemployment and reduce the percentage of minorities attending college. President Reagan's draft bill on Higher Education Legislation contains no real surprises as it simply backs up his budget message to congress earlier in March, of this year. The proposed cuts

in the "Pell" Grants would drop 100,000 to 154,000 students from the program for a savings of 185 million to 220 million dollars.

This program has, and continues to be, the most important student aid program for the truly needy students attending ECSU. Approximately, 92% of our students receive "Pell" Grants. If the "Pell" Grants are cut by 30%, as proposed, ECSU will experience a traumatic reduction in student enrollment.

Moreover, because of the present, severe economical conditions, poor Americans are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to finance an education. And now President Reagan with his budget-tax cuts wants to make a bad situation worse. Apparently, the budget cutters are unable to comprehend the fact that if less minorities are allowed to enter the skilled job markets, more will enter the street-corner market, living unproductive lives.

In addition, the cuts will precipitate to some degree a domino reaction. Remember! If there are no students, then, there will be no employment

of staff, maintenance and faculty. Directly or indirectly, all of these people contribute to the business community of Elizabeth City, therefore; everyone in this city will suffer.

In conclusion, my hope is that Mr. Reagan will rethink the budget cuts. I just hope that he learns—that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste."

If America is to remain a world leader, we will need productive contributions from all segments of our society—not just from those who were fortunate enough to be born to financially stable parents.