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Alumni!

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The Compass



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Friday Night before a packed auditorium in ECSU's Williams's Hall, Sheila Hughes, a senior, was crowned Miss ECSU. She will serve as an ambassador for ECSU until this time next year. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hughes of Camden, N.C.

HOMECOMING 1986 SCHEDULE

ECSU Homecoming 1986 started this week with various events planned for students and alumni.

STUDENT EVENTS

Monday, October 27: ECSU Day - Wear your eyeglasses, caps, scarfs and carry your umbrella; 8:00 p.m. is "Class Clash". Past events have included pie eating, free throw, hula hoop and other silly events between the classes.

Tuesday, October 28: Dress-Up Day - Wear your best to impress; 8:00 p.m. - is Toga, Toga, Toga, Toga time! Strip your bed and wear the sheet or else pay a buck to enter.

Wednesday, October 29: Mix & Match Day - How outrageous can you be? Plaids and stripes and polka-dots are the fashion today.

Thursday, October 30: Blue & White T-Shirt Day gives you a chance to show your Viking colors; 8:00 p.m. - talent show in Williams Hall where the undiscovered will be discovered.

Friday, October 31: Halloween Costume Day for some of us, some of you can just be normal; 6:00 p.m. - preparation for the big Homecoming Game with a mock funeral, pep rally, step show, mini-concert and dance "til the goblins come out" (or 3:00 a.m.).

SATURDAY, November 1: The countdown to game time begins with a **HOMECOMING PARADE** at 10:00 a.m.; at 1:30 p.m. there is a pre-game show and **HOMECOMING GAME**; at 8:15 p.m. there will be a **HOMECOMING CONCERT** featuring The Force M.D.'s and Shirley Jones in Vaughn Center (See related stories on Entertainment page.); An **ALL-NIGHT DANCE** is scheduled after the concert.

ALUMNI SCHEDULE

Friday, October 31: 2:00 p.m. - a meeting for prospective ECSU Alumni Band Members. Organization meeting in Williams Hall, band room.

7:00 p.m. - **HALL OF FAME BANQUET** held in the K.E. White Graduate & Continuing Education Center.

9:00 p.m. - organizational meeting of the ECSU Class of '67.

9:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Ice-Breaker at Holiday Inn; \$3 per.

Saturday, November 1: 7:45 a.m. - a breakfast at the Holiday Inn with Miss Alumni & Court.

10:00 a.m. - **HOMECOMING PARADE.**

1:30 p.m. - pre-game activities.

2:00 p.m. - **HOMECOMING GAME.**

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Happy Hour at K.E. White Graduate & Continuing Education Center.

FOURTH ANNUAL BLUE & WHITE BALL at K.E. White Graduate & Continuing Education Center; Music by Mr. "M" and The Organization; \$12.50 per.

New rules cause financial woes

By Steve Smith
Co-Editor

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The fall semester is already several weeks old, yet many students aren't sure of the status of their financial aid applications or if they will even qualify for aid, according to James E. Swimpson, director of financial aid at ECSU. Many students erroneously believe the delays are the result of the Graham-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act (Graham-Rudman Bill).

"The bill itself has not slowed things down at this point," Swimpson said. "However, the verification process, which we have had to deal with for the last couple of years, has had a real serious impact on the speed with which we have been able to process applications."

The verification process

has been around for a few years according to Swimpson. Verification is the process whereby applications for financial aid have to be checked for accuracy and consistency.

Swimpson said new regulations in this process have caused an increase in the number of applications which must be checked for various reasons, such as inconsistent data.

"We were told that about 30 percent of the applications would be selected to be checked but it has turned out to be about 50 percent or more," Swimpson said. "When you have to deal with that many verifications and the number of students who qualify for aid-it's a nightmare." According to Barbara Simpson, assistant director of financial aid at ECSU, between 85 and 90 percent of ECSU students receive some kind of aid.

The new regulations have led to a backlog of applications needing to be verified, according to Swimpson. Despite the backlog, the same number of personnel have had to handle the extra workload, he added.

"We have been so busy trying to check those applications we were required to, we haven't been able to spend a great deal of time looking at applications we weren't required to verify."

Swimpson said some students have been admitted without their grants being approved-with the school gambling that the student's grant eventually would be approved. Although the gamble was somewhat of a risk, Swimpson pointed out that it was not a high risk.

"One of the things I used in making that determination was what kind of aid a returning student received last year," he said. "The amounts

are not going to change drastically unless there's been a drastic change in the students situation. As far as freshmen are concerned-if we have a copy of their parents' tax statements-we can make a reasonable prediction on what kind of aid they will probably qualify for."

According to Swimpson, between 200 and 300 students would not have been able to register for fall semester if the financial aid office had not taken some risk.

Verification requirements come out on an annual basis. This year's came out in late May and the financial aid office could not begin the process until mid-June. Swimpson believes this could have had a negative impact on enrollment.

"If we cannot give incoming students some indication of the type of aid they might be qualified for, they might decide to do some other

things," he said.

Swimpson said that because of the large number of outstanding applications and the limited amount of time they had to get things done, they had to cut some earlier awards to make money available for other students.

"Some of those students whose awards were cut did not feel very kindly about it," Swimpson said. "I think many of them felt they were being penalized. That was not the case at all-it was a matter of doing what would be fair for all students."

Some of the delays can actually be traced to the students failure to get applications in on time and failure to fill the applications out correctly, according to Swimpson. The office staff is planning to hold a series of financial aid workshops on campus to help the student understand the application process.

Swimpson said he does believe the need factor should be proven, but the whole process can become a burden to students and parents. He also said the changing rules help cause the confusion.

"Verification has been around, but they keep changing the game plan after every inning," he said. "That's when it gets a little dangerous. Many people just don't complete the application process because of frustrations they run into trying to complete the application. Having to resubmit and resubmit gets a little frustrating."

Swimpson said he hopes that next year they will get the plan early so they will know what to expect. He also said he hopes that more students will complete the application materials so they won't have to experience any unnecessary delays.