



Happy Holidays!



The Compass



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Gwendora Baxter, 20-year-old ECSU student from Roper, N.C., is lost in the stacks at the G.R. Little Library. With exams next week, it seems a good place to prepare for the last week of fall semester before Christmas break. Residence halls open again January 7, 1987, with the first official day of spring semester classes scheduled for Monday, January 12.

ECSU fraternity chapter, Hopeline co-sponsors for puppet show

By Lynne Chapman
Staff Writer

Members of Alpha Psi Omega, ECSU's drama fraternity, are organizing a Spring 1987 puppet show for children about molestation in cooperation with the Albemarle Hopeline. A similar show went to elementary schools in the area for a trial run and was very successful. The Albemarle Hopeline was established in 1981 and has three basic areas of focus. The first area is the shelter, a home in Elizabeth City

that houses up to twelve women and children. The occupants are victims of molestation and other forms of domestic violence. The shelter is run by three full-time staff members; Pat Symons, Pat Kepler and Pat Gibbs, with assistance from community volunteers. The second area of interest is the 24-hour crisis line. The crisis line is confidential and will offer assistance to anyone who is in need. In dealing with a rape victim, for instance, the victim is encouraged to get a medical examination and seek legal aid. If

the victim does not wish to follow this procedure, counseling and shelter is still available. If the victim does wish to go to court, one of the staff members will assist her throughout the ordeal. The third area of focus for the Hopeline is their counseling service for the families of a molested child. The child is often handled by a separate agency, but the families and close relatives of these children often need help. If you or anyone you know needs help with a problem, call the Crisis Line at 338-3011.

ECSU chapter needs members; NAACP plans drive

By Steve Smith
Co-Editor

Last year the campus was abuzz with talk of starting a chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), but there has been no evidence that one was ever started. People were wondering why the campus didn't have a chapter. Actually, the campus has had an NAACP chapter for years, according to Myrtle Rivers, advisor for the campus chapter. However, the chapter had only about 30

members. According to Rivers a chapter has to have 50 members before it can get a charter of its own. "The chapter has been here a long time" Rivers said. "But since we don't have 50 members, we've had to function under the Pasquotank County branch." According to Rivers, having to function as part of the Pasquotank County branch causes some inconveniences. "We have to go through the county branch for any ideas," she said. "We can't go on our own if we have any complaints."

Rivers said that since they lost so many members to graduation last year, they have not organized this fiscal year. "It's like having to start all over," she said. Although they lost so many people to graduation, Rivers said they will try to get more members starting in January 1987. "Dues for one year for college students cost only \$5," Rivers said. Anyone interested in joining the NAACP should contact Mrs. Rivers at the Business Office, campus extension 216 (335-3216).

Awaits vote by General Assembly Proposal would raise NTE standards for all N.C. colleges

By Robin Sawyer
Associate Editor

Tougher standards for ECSU education majors may result from a study by a Task Force on Teacher Preparation according to Gladys Graves, who spoke to the assembly on campus during American Education Week, November 18. Graves, is president-elect of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) and served on the task force. The Task Force, commissioned by the Governor, has released its 12-month, 137-page report calling for reforms in teacher education programs, improvements to the Quality Assurance Program, incentive programs to attract and retain teachers, and funds for continuing professional development. The University of North Carolina Board of Governors voted November 15 to adopt the recommendations of the Task Force. The report now goes to the General Assembly.

An area of concern is the requirement that all of North Carolina's 44 colleges with teacher's education programs receive national accreditation and maintain a minimum 70 percent pass rate on the third part of the National Teacher Exam (NTE). ECSU is one of twelve schools that had less than 70 percent of its students pass the NTE in October 1985. The others were Pembroke State University, Elon College, Winston-Salem State University, Fayetteville State University, Wingate College, N.C. A&T University, N.C. Central University, Shaw University, Johnson C. Smith University, Bennett College, and St. Augustine's College.

Should the General Assembly adopt the task force's report as written, then ECSU and the other schools will have to have at least a 70 percent passing rate on the NTE by 1990. To facilitate this requirement, the State Board of Education would allocate \$300,000 for the 1987-88 school year for reforms of the teacher education program, mandating score requirements on the first two sections of the NTE be raised from the current level, ap-

The majority of the schools with unsatisfactory pass ratios are historically predominantly black universities according to Graves and similar situations have occurred in the N.C. A&T nursing program and the N.C. Central law school, and at Grambling University. "Their students were not passing their tests. So they started doing some investigating," according to Graves, "and decided to put more money into teacher education departments. The faculty members had a greater commitment because it was a case of 'if you do not produce, you're not going to stay here.' There has to be a recognition that if our students are not passing, then it must be something that we're doing wrong. The fact is that if you're going to teach in North Carolina, you've got to pass the test (NTE). And let's stop using the excuse that black kids can't pass the test. Black kids do pass the test--I passed the test!"



Gladys Graves

Another recommendation of the task force deals with the appointment of a Professional Practices Commission. The Commission would include a "minimum of fourteen members of whom at least 50 percent must be teachers." Other professions set their own standards according to Graves, including medicine and law, but teachers have no control over their profession. "We're saying give me a board made up of educators--50 percent of them being faculty--not people like me, but practicing educators who would say these are the standards that we think teachers ought to have for entering the profession."

The package as proposed by the task force would cost \$12.5 million over a six-year period. The most expensive item would be in the area of incentive programs to attract and retain teachers. One suggestion would cost \$3.5 million between 1988-92, and calls for the establishment of a merit scholarship program for rising college juniors and seniors to pursue teacher education and a teaching career in a high demand area. The allotment would also provide funds which would be used to pay for leaves and scholarships for summer school study by classroom teachers. An additional \$2.3 million would be spent for the revitalization of faculty. This money would provide opportunities for "special Summer Institutes to be established by the North Carolina Center of the Advancement of Teaching." These programs would be for current and prospective teacher educators "to strengthen the knowledge and abilities necessary to participate effectively as members of a teachers education program faculty and to stay abreast of new teaching techniques and issues in education."

The task Force chose not to support the call for a change to a required five or six year education degree because, according to Graves, "More is not necessarily better."

While the task force on Teacher Preparation has completed its report, the final decision on its adoption, including the appropriation of the necessary funds to implement the programs, rests with General Assembly. Whether it will be adopted as written remains to be seen, but Graves believes that its chances are good. She said, "Supposedly since this idea was conceived by the legislature and received the Governor's support, the support of the Speaker of the House and most of the legislators, therefore, the General Assembly should be receptive."

More on American Education Week
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ECSU ON NATIONAL TV
On October 31, at 8:40 a.m., the Today morning show spotlighted ECSU. Elnora Linton, ECSU public relations director, arranged to make Willard Scott, the Today Show's jovial weatherman, an honorary Viking. Scott also gave Bryant Gumbel, co-anchor of the Today Show, a Viking sweatshirt during the show.