

Welcome Back Day: town says "thanks"

Waterfront Park in downtown Elizabeth City was full of games, food, and college students on September 16 as the Chamber of Commerce sponsored the first "Welcome Back to College Day." The celebration was the town's way of showing its appreciation to College of the Albermarle, Elizabeth City State University, and the Roanoke Bible College.

Students from the three schools competed in volleyball, tug-of-war, and the fire drill, while the presidents and chancellors competed in lawn bowling. Although Roanoke Bible College won the majority of the events, ECSU art students won the art contest.

Most of the students involved thought the celebration was a good idea and many expressed the hope that it would become an annual event. Gayle Cox, an ECSU sophomore education ma-

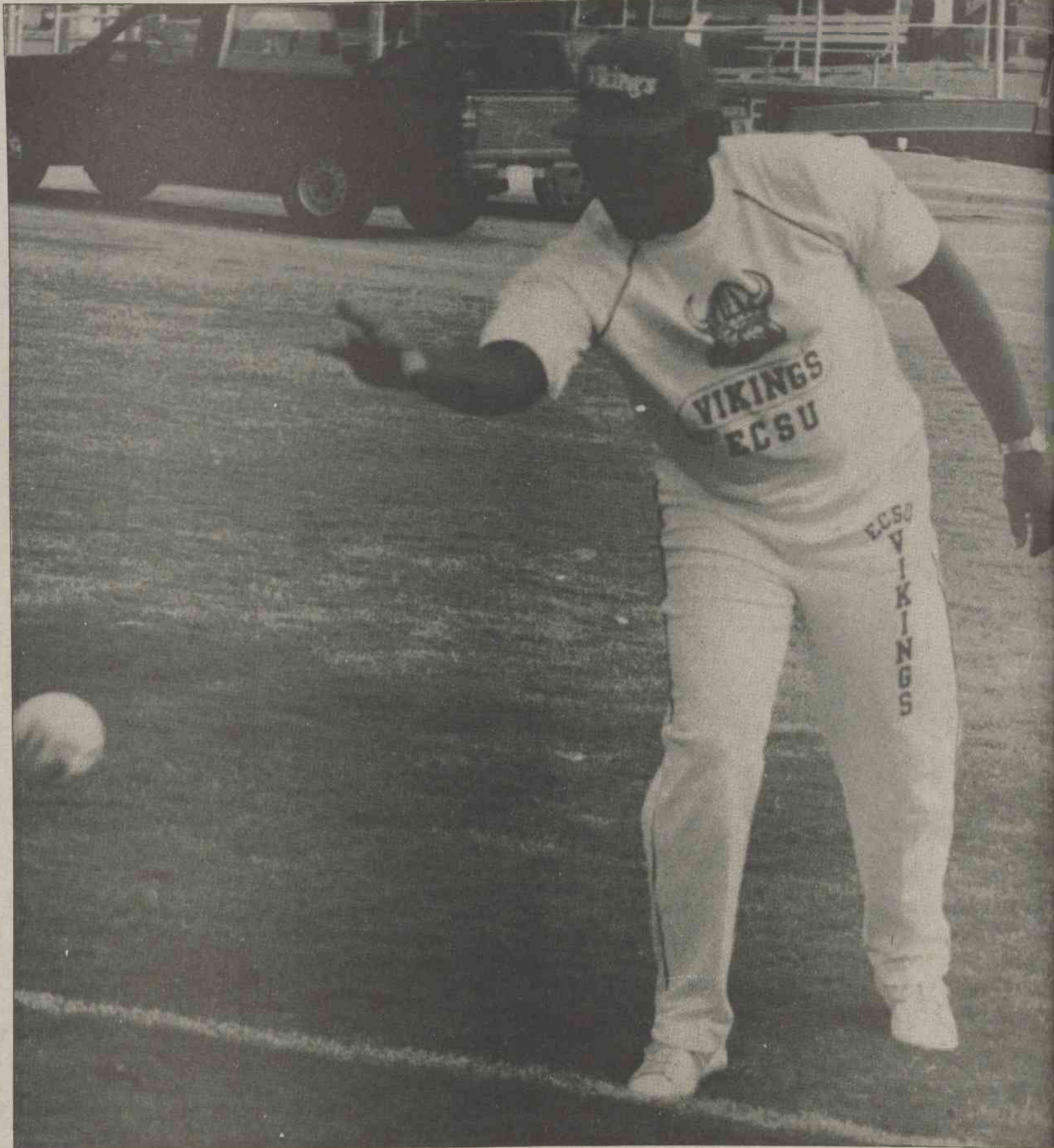
ior, said the event was a good idea because it gave the students "a break from long classes."

Monjetta Spivey, a sophomore Business Administration major at COA said the event was a "chance for people who wouldn't normally meet to get to know each other."

Lisa Boerie, a sophomore Christian Education major from Roanoke Bible College, said the event was fun and offered a chance for the three schools to learn more about each other. She added that she would like to have seen more events.

The money raised was given to charities, with half of the money going to the United Way, the other half going to the Food Bank.

Local merchants underwrote the costs of the event.



Photos by Richard McIntyre

A winning toss!

(Above) Dr. Jimmy Jenkins looks like he got a winning toss at the "Welcome Back to College Day" held

September 16 at Waterfront Park. (Left) ECSU's Chancellor and Roanoke Bible College's President discuss their lawn bowling strategies.

New sculpture: "A labor of love"

Elizabeth City State University recently unveiled a new sculpture on campus near the C.W. Griffin Education and Psychology Building.

The sculpture, entitled "The Seat of Knowledge," was created by Roy E. Farmer, one of the founding fathers of the institution.

Farmer was born in Bethel and received a bachelor of arts degree in art education from ECSU in 1972. After completing his studies at ECSU, he worked as a senior artist at Brown's Marketing and Advertising in Baltimore, Md. He also worked as a sign painter in Fort Belvoir, Va. and as a graphic artist with William F. Laney and Associates in Washington, D.C.

Farmer received a master of fine arts degree in design from Howard University in 1980 and is currently an assistant professor

of art at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss.

Farmer has been involved in a number of activities on the ECSU campus during the past few months. He has taught art in the ECSU Art Department and has worked with high school students in the "One Week University" program during summer. The sculpture is his gift to ECSU.

"I consider this sculpture a labor of love that will serve to inspire future generations of ECSU Vikings," Farmer said.

"The Univesity would not have been able to commission work of this nature because of the enormous cost and the ECSU family sincerely appreciates Mr. Farmer's gift to the university," ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins said.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Farmer pose with Chancellor and Mrs. Jenkins under the statue that Farmer donated.

ECSU's Islamic meetings lead to "self-knowledge"

By Becky Overton

Walking into E-102 of the New Complex at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays you will find Brother Joseph X. Shaw and a group of students deep in prayer, or concentrating on the study of Islam.

Brother Shaw, a Moslem, is the founder of The Study of Islam here at ECSU. He believes that the Study of Islam "educates and dignifies" a person, and leads to a deeper self-knowledge.

"I have more of a true knowledge of myself," said Brother Shaw. "I know which way to travel."

Brother Shaw said that when most students first attend the meetings, they are unaware of Islam and the teachings of Farrakhan, the national leader of the Islamic movement. "Farrakhan is dedicated to bringing the Black people out of a mental grave," said Shaw, "politically, economically, morally and spiritually."

When asked if the process of teaching students about Islam is difficult, Shaw replied, "It hasn't been hard. Once you find Islam is our true nature, how can you re-

ject it?"

Describing a belief as "only what you hold," Brother Shaw said that he didn't know if his students "believe," but added, "I'm holding their interest, they come back."

Shaw said that he didn't expect every student who attends the meetings to agree wholeheartedly with the teachings of Islam. "But if they don't agree, I want them to understand why they don't agree with it."

The purpose of the meetings, said Brother Shaw, "is to stimulate cultural awareness, making students aware of their true nature and how to study, to build a basis of understanding of one's self in all aspects."

Brother Shaw teaches the students about Islam and the Islamic movement in America. Brother Shaw first came in contact with the teachings of Islam, in 1981, but he didn't accept them then because he wasn't willing to change his lifestyle. In August of 1986, however, he began to accept the teachings.

"Since I was young I admired Malcom X. and those who believed in themselves. I always wanted it I just wasn't ready." Pointing out that his middle name is "X" Brother Shaw explained, that since slaves were given the last name of their masters they didn't know their true names. "The 'X' symbolizes the unknown, just like in a math equation," the "x" must be found.

Elizabeth City State University is not a part of an elite club as far as the Islamic teachings go. "Any campus where there's a Moslem Brother, there's teachings," said Brother Shaw, "but I don't know off hand of any in undergraduate schools." Brother Shaw will be graduating this year, but he doesn't know the future of The Study of Islam at ECSU. He's hoping that he'll reach someone enough so that they can take over, if not it will cease to be. Brother Shaw said that, "unless someone with the authority to teach takes over, they'll lead them further astray... further into confusion."

Dedication, from p. 1

Pointing out that the administration's offices are now under one roof for the first time, Culpepper said that the new building "should make the internal operations of the administration much more cohesive."

"Everyone can get in touch with each other in a moment's notice," said Culpepper. "This will make operations more efficient."

Culpepper praised the late Marion Thorpe as "a dynamic person who had the ability to get others involved. I knew him to be a considerate man, considerate of his peers and those of lesser means as well. He never looked down on anybody."

At the dedication, Culpepper said Thorpe was "a loving and caring parent and a great, devoted husband."

Dr. Thorpe was a native of Durham, North Carolina. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina Central University. Before coming to ECSU he served as the vice president of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio.



The ECSU family gathered for a Memorial Service September 29. (See related story, page 1.)

Photo by Robin Sawyer

During Dr. Thorpe's tenure at ECSU the university was greatly expanded and enriched, with many new majors added. The school gained its largest federal and private support since its beginning.

In 1969, the school's name was changed to Elizabeth City State

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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ELA	EIDER	SE
GENTLE	NASSA	
OIL	TASTE	
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University, and in 1972 ECSU came part of the 16-campus University of North Carolina system. Thorpe was named as the University's first chancellor. Thorpe also served in other professional positions, including Assistant Director of North Carolina's Board of Higher Education.