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The Compass

Seasons Greetings Vikings



Atleacia Stokes, Miss ECSU 1987-88, smiles for the crowd in the 1987 Homecoming Parade.

ECSU to build new center

By Becky Overton

Construction on ECSU's new student center will begin in "mid-spring semester," and university officials expect the center to be completed in the fall of 1988.

The center will be located between the Vaughn Center and the University Center, according to Dr. Leon White, Director of Student Affairs. An archway will connect the new snack bar to the new one.

The new center, which has not yet been named, will contain a three or four lane bowling alley. "The bowling alley will have a glass wall that overlooks the patio of the new snack bar," White said.

"We haven't thought of a design for the new snack bar," White added, "but we hope to give it a Viking look."

ECSU's new student center will also feature two handball courts, showers, and an office for staff persons.

The center was designed by Raleigh architect Sam Ashford, who also designed ECSU's Computer Lab, and the renovations for Moore Hall.

White said that although there are no funds presently available for renovating the University Center, ECSU plans to provide new equipment for the game room.

University officials are considering "knocking down the wall of the snack bar," White said, and building a pizza parlor which would be named "New Edition."

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Trustees approve residence hall

Jenkins envisions a 'new face' for ECSU

By Lisa Gregory

"By our Centennial we will have a transformed campus," said Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, Chancellor of ECSU. "It will not be the same campus that our graduates knew five years ago."

In a recent interview, Dr. Jenkins expressed great pride in the developmental projects that are taking place, and are yet to come, at the University.

Jenkins said that he hopes the renovations will be completed by 1991, the one-hundredth anniversary of the university.

The renovation of Johnson Hall should be complete by August, 1988, Jenkins said, and will reflect some significant and eye-catching changes. The Division of General Studies will no longer be in Johnson Hall. And there will be an outside extension added to the building in which art instructors and art majors can work on projects such as sculptures, painting and drawings.

The Departments of Art and of Language, Literature and Communication, now located in the old Thorpe Hall, will be back in Johnson Hall, when the renovation is complete.

"We know absolutely that Moore Hall will be ready for the spring semester," said Jenkins.

Dr. Jenkins said that the next step is to process the necessary paperwork that will show how the project will be financed.

He said, too, the facility should be complete within the next three years, and that it hasn't yet been decided whether the new residence hall will house males, females, or be co-ed.

"Soon there will be no building on campus where someone could say...that old uncomfortable building," the Chancellor said. "Yes, there will be older buildings, but they will be state of the art in terms of efficiency."

"In a short time ECSU will have a brand new face."

U.S. losing black teachers, says S.C.'s top educator

By Valerie Williams and Becky Overton

Calling minority teachers "almost an endangered species," Dr. Earline Simms told the ECSU family on November 17 that Black institutions are going to have to take the lead in reversing the trend.

"No one can save us, but us," said Dr. Simms, the featured speaker during ECSU's American Education Week Assembly in Williams Hall Gym. "Please wake up and understand what is going on."

Dr. Simms, Dean of the School of Education at South Carolina State University, said the Education Improvement Act required all persons interested in teacher education to take the National Teacher Exam, but that minority students aren't passing the exam as they should.

"As black educators we must look at what is happening to the black teacher," Dr. Simms said. "We'd better look at what's happening to our school system."

Dr. Simms stressed that universities will have to help remedy this problem.

"Don't put the monkey on the high schools' backs. Every professor will have to be a reading teacher, every professor will have to be a writing teacher. We can't afford to graduate students who cannot read."

Dr. Simms, who was selected as South Carolina's Outstanding Educator of the year for 1987-88, is the editorial advisor for the Journal for Teacher Education, and a member of the American Educators Research Association. She has taught 4 years at the secondary level and eighteen years on the university level.

The theme for this year's National Education Week was "We the people...Building Dreams together."

Ms. Charlotte Hoyt, the 1987 Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Teacher of the Year, also spoke during the assembly. "The successful person remembers yesterday with pride, and lives tomorrow with enthusiasm," Ms. Hoyt said.

Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, ECSU Chancellor, presented Jherly Busby with an honorary degree, doctor of humane letters, in recognition of Busby's accomplishments. Busby is Executive Vice President of Talent Acquisition and Artist Development at MCA Records.

"This is truly a growth period for blacks in our industry," Busby said. "But without the basic foundation of education, we have nothing to build upon."



Chancellor Jenkins presents an honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Jherly Busby, president of talent acquisitions and artistic development at MCA Records.

'I get high on you' Toma tells youths

By Steve Smith

"If you don't believe it's happening in your schools, you have your heads in the sand. I saw a third grader who had been smoking pot since first grade. It's sick—I'm talking about your brothers and sisters!"

This was part of the powerful message David Toma brought to area sixth through twelfth graders at ECSU's Vaughan Center October 27.

Toma is a former policeman from Newark, New Jersey who now spends his time speaking to students about the dangers of drug abuse. The television series "Toma" and "Baretta" were based on his life.

Toma said he became disillusioned with his department, which he said just wanted him to make arrests. "I asked my boss why we didn't teach the kids before we arrested them," Toma said. "He just told me to make those arrests—that shows where our priorities were."

Toma said he wanted to find out why so many kids were getting locked up. "I spent a year in the gutter with alcoholics and drug addicts. I listened to those kids."

After he could not save his five-year-old son from choking to death, Toma said he had a nervous breakdown and started taking drugs to forget. "I started playing a game with the tranquilizers. I was taking over 100 a day!"

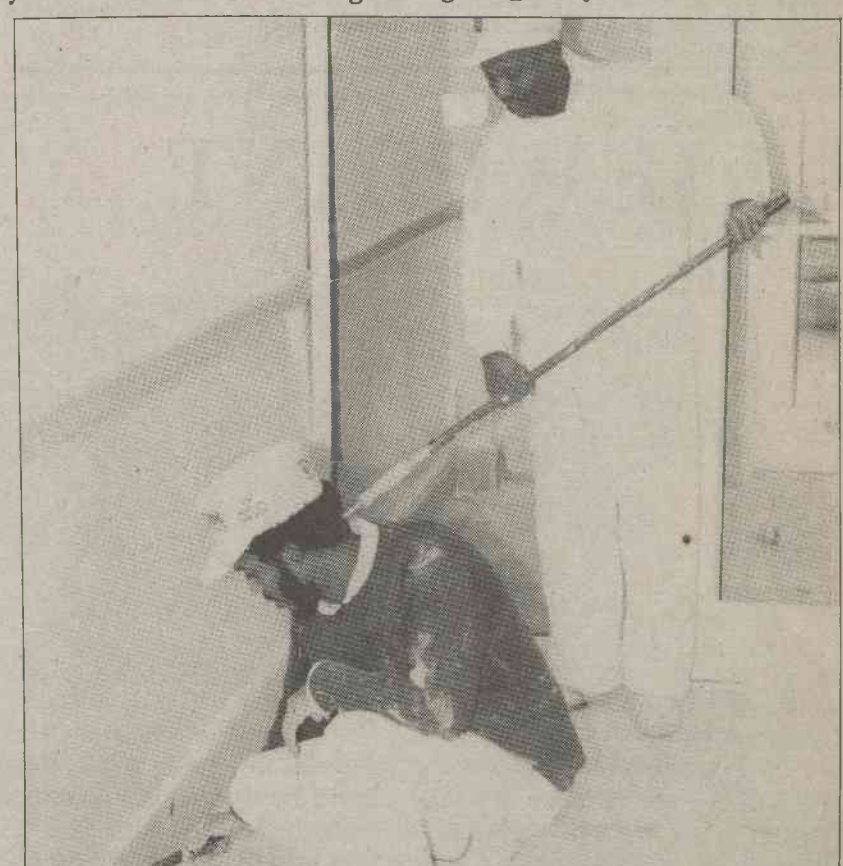
Toma said he finally beat the drug habit and felt the need to share his knowledge about the dangers of drugs. At first he said no one wanted to hear what he was saying. "The mob threatened me and my kids."

Toma recounted some of the heartaches he had seen drugs cause. His accounts of young people's lives being destroyed by drugs brought tears to the eyes of many members of the audience.

Toma said the most important thing is education. "How can you teach kids in school when they're getting high?" he asked. "The only way to stop this mess is to educate them here. The problem is that most people don't give a damn. Too many people are playing games with your kid's heads."

Toma ended with a plea for those using drugs to try and get help. "Now is the time to save your life! Quit for yourself and be proud of being clean."

Before leaving the stage to a thunderous round of applause Toma said, "This is a high, baby, right now! I don't need drugs, I get high on you."



Elgea Harris (standing) and Moochie Gibbs put some finishing touches on Moore Hall. Both men are employees of Southeastern Professional Coating, Inc.