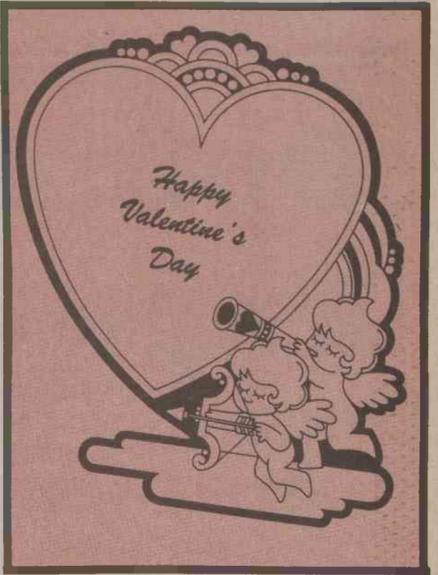


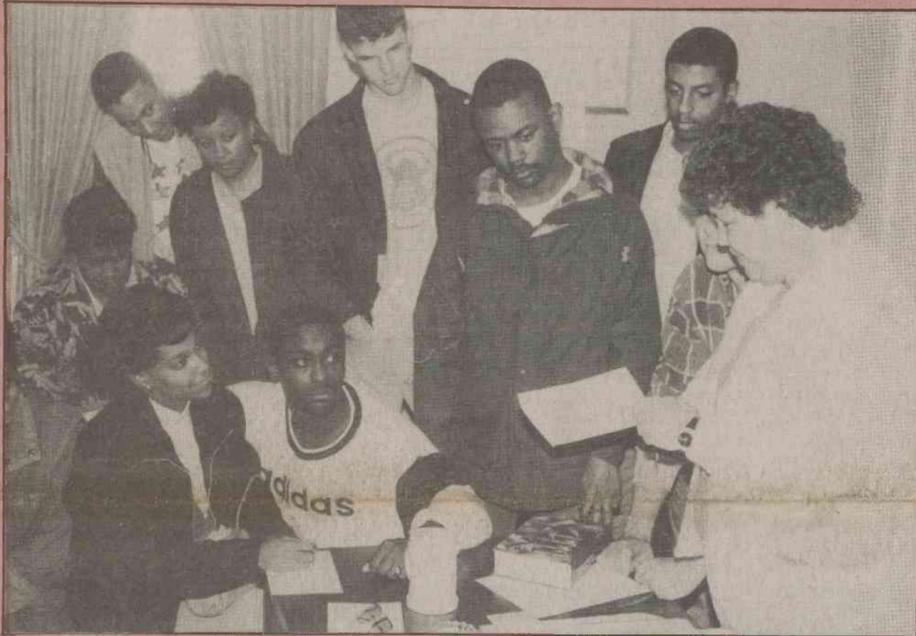
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The Compass



McCants hails results of ECSU's new academic plan



A group of ECSU's incentive scholars listen to their advisor, Sandy Meade, as she instructs them about the Incentive Scholarship Program. The scholars are Mike Whitehurst, Pam Brite, Scott Bigbie, Herbert Johnson, Chris Lynch, Darius Griffen, Ann Riddick, Evelyn Harper and Donald Silver.

Photo by Richard McIntire

Whitehurst, Pam Brite, Scott Bigbie, Herbert Johnson, Chris Lynch, Darius Griffen, Ann Riddick, Evelyn Harper and Donald Silver.

SAT scores: 60 pt. leap for '91 class

By Lisa Gregory

"I think Elizabeth City State University will lead the pack," said Dr. Gerald McCants, Director of ECSU's Academic Improvement Program.

McCants said that this year's entering freshmen had a 60 point jump in their SAT scores over last year's class. "They believe that's the highest increase in the state of N.C. for the fall 1987 semester," McCants said proudly.

More than 66% of the students who came to ECSU as freshmen ranked in the top half of their high school graduating class, McCants said. "I know that other institutions of higher education in North Carolina and in the University of North Carolina system may represent higher, or comparable scores, but that type of percentage jump is absolutely phenomenal."

McCants said that ECSU's record increase in SAT scores among entering freshmen will be published in a state report, "The Statistical Analysis of Higher Education Institutions in North Carolina."

Slightly more than 50% of this year's freshmen class are Incentive Scholarship students, McCants said. These students must be a graduate of a high school in one of 16 Northeastern North Carolina counties. They must rank in the top half of their class and meet all other ECSU admission requirements.

Incentive scholars must also agree to perform at least eight hours per week in public service, carry at least 15 hours each regu-

lar semester, and maintain a 2.0 grade point average in their freshman year, 2.5 during their sophomore year, and 3.0 thereafter. And they must agree to participate in the university's academic improvement effort.

The N.C. State Legislature funded the Incentive Scholarship program for two years, McCants said. "The program will be funded two years at a time," he added.

The University's new Academic Development Plan and Incentive Scholarship Program originated because of the UNC system President and Board of Governors and ECSU chancellor's belief that a new course of action is necessary for ECSU and the University of North Carolina. This is so they can respond to the challenges and opportunities now facing them in serving the Northeastern North Carolina region, and all citizens of North Carolina, according to the introduction of the new plan.

The plan is designed, in part, to build stronger ties with the public schools in the region and to improve working relationships with the College of the Albemarle.

"To determine the impact of the program we should look for quality end results," said McCants. "For example we are looking for a high graduation rate. If we started with 100 and graduated 80 there would be no other school in the country who could touch that."

"ECSU does offer a high quality education," McCants said. "What hurts a school is when it doesn't perform and when it doesn't produce quality graduates."

Issues Forum is filmed on campus

By Lavette Washington-Bias

Declining black enrollment, the image of historically black institutions, and the need to preserve their special identities—these were some of the major issues discussed during The Black Issues Forum, held January 15 in the Kermit E. White Center at ECSU.

The program was filmed by the UNC Center for Public Television, and will air Friday, February 19 at 9 p.m.

Panelist discussions focused on three areas related to black colleges: historical perspectives, changing roles, and present and future roles.

Historically, the panelists concluded, black colleges were never expected to excel.

"Many people expected black colleges to produce second class citizens," said panelist Dr. Lloyd Hackley, in discussing the history of black colleges, "but black graduates broke out of the mold. They went into the mainstream and competed with graduates of other institutions."

"If we count the number of black professionals, law school graduates, and PhDs, it staggers

the imagination how well they performed, having come out of those dire straits."

Hackley is Chancellor of Fayetteville State University.

One panelist observed that the origin of black institutions was intertwined with the black church.

"To study the history of black colleges is to study the history of the Negro church," said Dr. Lee Monroe, State Senior Educative Advisor. "Black colleges came about as a result of black missionaries. Their purpose was to educate freed slaves."

In discussing the changing role of historically black institutions, the panelists agreed that black colleges must make sure their graduates are competitive in the job market.

"We have to make our education competitive," said Hackley. "At the end students have to be able to compete with students from big colleges."

The panelists also discussed the role that black colleges play in nurturing black students.

"Black campuses provide a better learning environment for

See Colleges, page 5.

Governors announce drug policy

By Nancy Porter

After ten months of work the UNC Board of Governors has approved a system wide drug policy for faculty, staff and students. The policy establishes mandatory minimum penalties for all 16 campuses in the system.

Last year federal legislation required universities to have drug abuse prevention programs. All of the UNC institutions met these guidelines by late spring, but the Board of Governors felt the system needed a consistent uniform policy of minimum punishments.

"We want the message to go forth loud and clear that the campuses of the University of North Carolina will in no sense be havens for those who wish to experiment with illegal drugs," said committee chairman David Whichard, of Greenville.

Whichard said that persons found guilty of selling, delivering or manufacturing "hard drugs," defined as Schedule I and II drugs under the state's General Statutes, would be expelled or fired. Schedule I and II drugs include heroin, opium and cocaine.

First time offenders involved in the illegal sale, manufacture or delivery of other drugs would face suspension from school or employment for at least a semester. Second time offenders would be expelled or fired.

Whichard said that severe drug offenses will receive mandatory punishment; less severe offenses, however, will be left up to

See Drugs, page 6.



Ronald Penny, Elizabeth City's Mayor Melvin Daniels, William Owens, Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins and son Jimmy, Jr., and Charles Gregg (above left to right) all listen to speakers at the Waterfront area on Martin Luther King's birthday. Penny is an Elizabeth City attorney. Owens is Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, and Gregg is Chairman of the Board of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Calvin Norman

'King's dream still lives' say speakers at waterfront park

By Becky Overton

On January 11 ECSU joined the nation in celebrating the birthday of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Campus activities to mark this national holiday included an art exhibit in the Viking Room, documentary films about Dr. King, a memorial march to Waterfront Park, and an assembly program in Williams Hall Gymnasium.

The memorial march began at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the ECSU's G.R. Little Library. The marchers consisted of students, faculty and the staff of ECSU as well as members of the Pasquotank County NAACP, Elizabeth City Boys Club, and other organizations.

The marchers walked to Knobbs Creek Park in Elizabeth City where they listened to several speakers, including the mayor of Elizabeth City, three members of the Pasquotank County Board of Education, and the President of the county NAACP.

All speakers attested that "King's dream is still alive and will one day become a reality."

At 2:00 p.m. ECSU held a memorial service in Dr. King's honor in Williams Hall. The ECSU Gospel Choir sang three selections, with solos by Dwayne Carter and Johnny Ray Parker.

The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight, who is assistant to the pastor at the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem.

Dr. Knight delivered a passionate speech against society's evils—including crime, drug addiction, and the failure of political leaders, and ordinary citizens, to do something about poverty and suffering.

"There is a cruel conspiracy between suffering and indifference and silence," said Dr. Knight. "Too many people are silent about too many things."

"I am speaking of apartheid in South Africa, of starving children in Ethiopia, about unclaimed children in Vietnam fathered by unknown black and white servicemen, about children running wild in the asphalt jungle of the urban environment."

See King, page 5.