



Photo by Roosevelt Wright, Sr.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, former presidential candidate and civil rights activist, speaks to the large crowds on the grounds of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

60's

Revisited

ECSU students join thousands in march on capitol

By Ursula McMillion

shall know we are determined," "Keep the dream alive," and "Act now Congress—what the court has torn asunder let the Congress set right."

"What I found to be most inspirational was my people are here and are concerned and not just a bunch of cheese-eating Uncle Toms," said ECSU senior Darrin Adams. "I only hope that more African Americans will wake up!"

"I was drawn to the march because I could no longer ignore the unsaid racial tension that permeates our country," ECSU English professor Dr. Glenda Davis told a reporter for *The Washington Post*.

Davis said that when she was a college student protesting against prejudice in the late 1950's, "we knew what we couldn't do and how others felt about us. But now so much of the tension is hidden...and what the Supreme Court did is symbolic of the change in racial relations, with so much bubbling beneath the surface."

"I participated in, and was a part of this historical event along with many

"The march was very powerful and left me with feelings of pride and dignity. It showed me that if we only unite with our minds set...there's nothing we cannot do"

Uchenna Bulliner

of my brothers and sisters here at ECSU," said SGA president Karen Richardson. "This experience showed me that the people of my race can come together and accomplish things other than dancing and partying."

Following the march, many of the nation's leading civil rights leaders spoke to the marchers on the grounds of the capitol.

The leaders included the Reverend Jesse Jackson, NAACP Executive Director and march coordinator, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Dr. Joseph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Lane Kirkland of the

AFL-CIO and Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat to a white man in 1955 was the catalyst for the Montgomery bus boycott.

Reverend Jackson delivered a passionate statement on the the Supreme Court's efforts to turn the clock back to the civil liberties of 25 years ago.

"To allow law to function in such a color blind fashion is not to be color blind at all," said Jackson. "It is to be blind to history... and to the present."

Jackson ended his speech with a corresponding chant between himself and the marchers. "Act now congress!"

exhorted Jackson and the crowd responded with "Do the right thing!"

Hooks inspired the crowd with a ringing speech on the civil rights struggle.

"We are not going to let five men in black robes do what the Ku Klu Klan could not do in white ones," he said.

After returning to the buses ECSU students said they had gained much knowledge and inspiration from the march.

"The march proved that if blacks and other minorities organize themselves in a non-violent manner, much can be accomplished," said freshman Thaje Padgett.

"Nothing could compare to the thousands of people, white and black standing together as one today on Washington D.C.," said senior Carol Brown.

"We being a people of color stood together, marched together, spoke together and our voices were heard and our rights will not be denied," said Wilshawnda Sirmans.

"The march was very powerful and left me with a feeling of pride and

dignity," said junior Uchenna Bulliner. "It showed me that if we only unite with our minds set on achieving our goals, there's nothing we cannot do."

"Many of us used this event as a source to revive our inspiration, but to me this should be a way of life," Bulliner continued. "We should march every day within and outside our communities with the same strength, pride and dignity. Never mind coming to Washington, D.C., let's start within ourselves."

The NAACP Silent March on Washington protested four decisions, which civil rights advocates say have struck blows against hardearned civil rights gains. One ruling, civil rights advocates say, makes it much more difficult to prove discrimination in hiring; another decision, from a Birmingham, Alabama case, weakens affirmative action.

NAACP Director Benjamin Hooks has called these four rulings, "The legal lynching of black America's hope...to become full partners in the American dream."

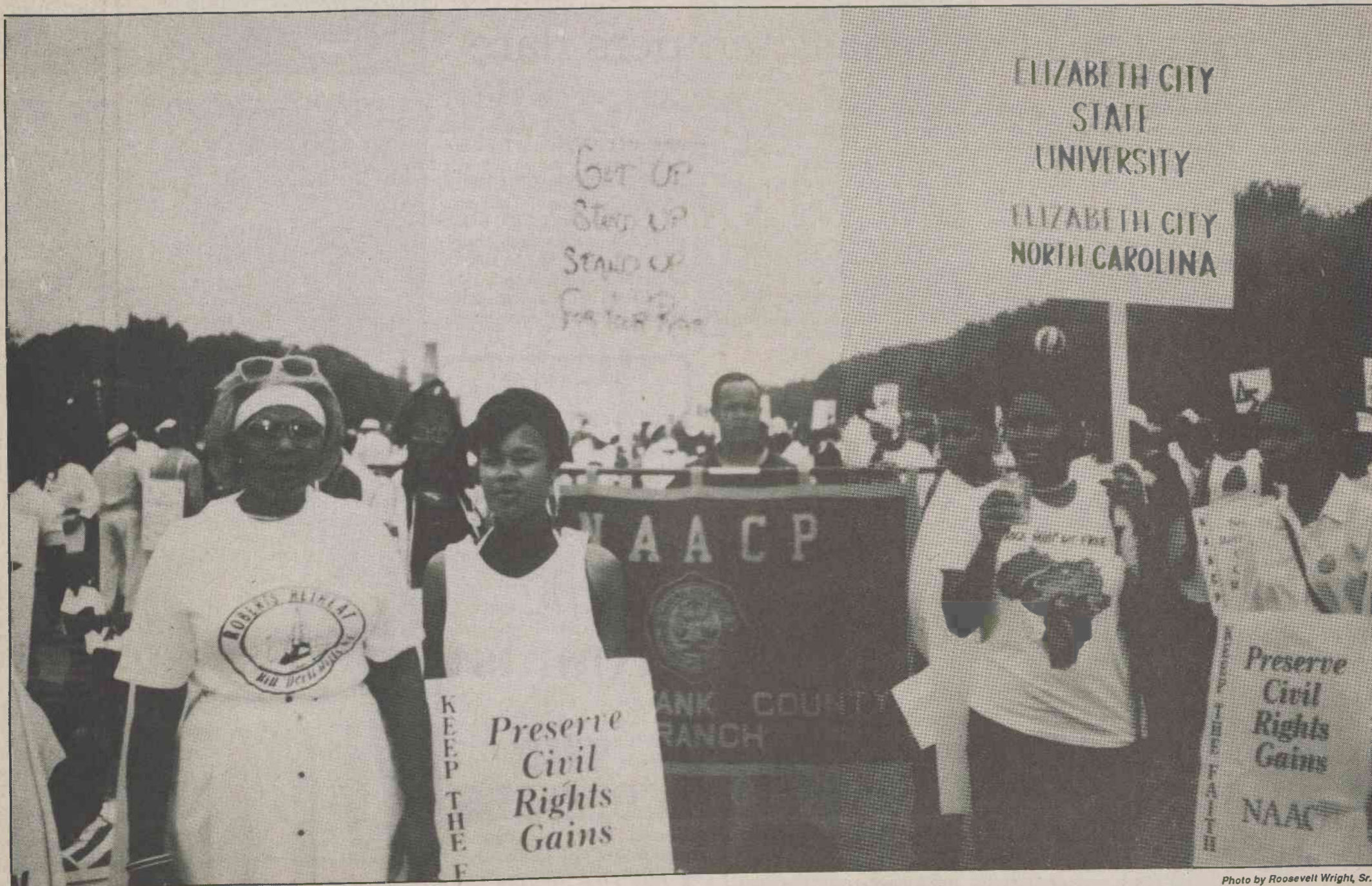


Photo by Roosevelt Wright, Sr.

Nearly 100,000 people attended the March on Washington August 26th. The group from Elizabeth City included student and city members of the NAACP. Pictured in this scene on the National Mall are Mrs. Myrtle Rivers, Ursula McMillion-ECSU's NAACP President, Darrin Adams, Uchenna Bulliner, Beverly Johnson and other Viking Family marchers. 331/2 picas