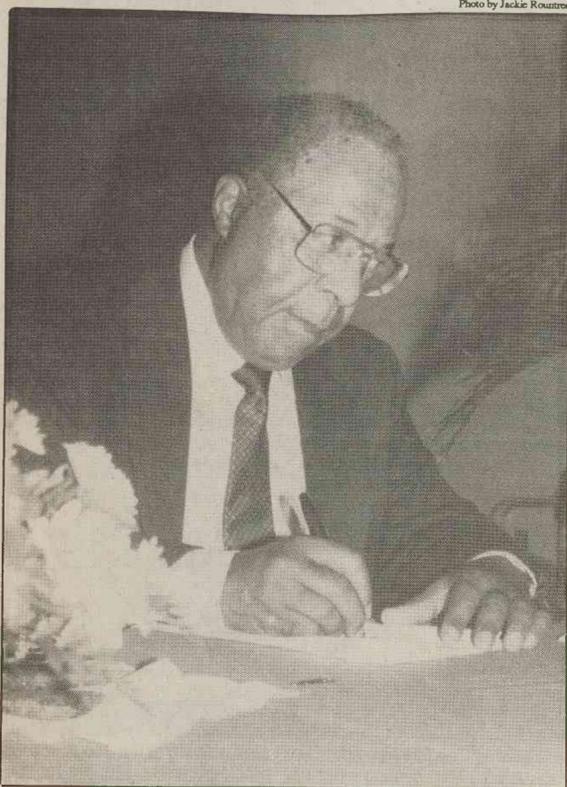


CAMPUS NEWS



Alex Haley, Fall Convocation Speaker, signs autographs following the Fall Convocation and Candlelighting Ceremony. Haley is author of the best seller *Roots*.

Haley to ECSU: We represent those who hoped, prayed for 'a better day'

By Lavenia Dameron

"If you are blessed with a living grandparent, raise your hand," Dr. Alex Haley told the ECSU family, during the Fall Convocation.

"Whatever I might say, there's no advice that's more important than that you go hug them, and say 'I want to thank you for what you did to make my life possible.'"

Haley, author of the best-selling book *Roots*, told the gathering that it's easy "in our fast-paced society to overlook the contributions of grandparents."

Haley said there exists a special bond between grandparents and grandchildren "because grandparents will tell grandkids things they will not tell their own children. They also seem to feel they share a common enemy—parents."

Haley, who lectures internationally, said that he tries to speak at a small historically black school at least once a year. And he said that at every school he visits, the grandparents in the audience always stand out.

"You will see the hands of grandmothers who have been in so many washubs. You will see the knobby hands of the grandfathers, whose faces look as if they had been carved from granite. You see the suits, and you

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Alex Haley

know that's the only one they have. The grandmothers have on their Sunday go-to-meeting dress. Their faces have a hallowed-ground expression, for many times it's the only time they've been on a campus."

Haley asked students to raise their hands if they were the first member of their family to go to college.

"Once you graduate, everyone in your family stands a little taller," he said. "And other children in the family are more likely to go. That's the way it spreads."

Haley devoted the majority of his speech to discussing his book *Roots*, the resulting TV mini-series based on the book, and his role in the production process.

"The book went off like a rocket," Haley said. "Nobody could have

guessed that it would have touched so many people in society."

Haley summarized the capture and enslavement of Kunta Kinte, his fourth great grandfather who was kidnapped while chopping wood and sold to a plantation owner in Virginia. Kunta, portrayed by Levar Burton in the TV mini-series, was brutally beaten when he refused to answer to "Toby," an English name that was forced on him by his master.

"The actors did such a good job we were ready to kill the man with the whip," said Haley. "We knew it was not real but it made us mad."

Haley recalled the mixture of emotions that filled the set at the end of the scene when the old slave, Fiddler, portrayed by Lou Gossett Jr., embraced Kunta's battered body and

said, "Deys gone be a better day."

Gossett "cried like a calf," Haley said. "His back looked like he spasmed and his shoulder blades looked like vestigial wings."

Haley described this as being the most emotional scene because it was "a time of mixed emotions and all people were praying for a better day."

Haley told the ECSU family to represent the descendants of those who prayed for a better day.

After the Convocation address, Leon White installed the class president. They are Jamie Gibbs, senior class president; Roderick Peele, junior class president; Michael Myers, sophomore class president; Dorothy Hager, freshmen class president.

Following the installation of presidents, the Candlelighting Service was held.

During the ceremony, Miss EC Tonya De Vaughn, said, "As you look at this flame should become brighter. Let this flame...quickly desire for continuing excellence."

The flame represents the knowledge to be acquired at ECSU. Members of the Freshmen class lit candles to symbolize Hope, Wisdom, Appreciation for Beauty, Faith and Love.

Spence addresses complaints about new telephone service

By Lonnie Davis

ECSU students' complaints about the new telephone system on campus can be attributed to "compressing a two-year process into six months," according to Sheldon Spence, Telecommunications supervisor.

Spence said when the decision was finally made to put the telephones into the rooms, "We went on and did it as quickly as we could."

The major complaint was that all of the phones weren't ready by Aug. 18, when students arrived on campus. Students have also complained about several technical problems they are having with the new phones.

"In the new complex and on Park Street, they shouldn't have put telephones in every room," said Kim Whitaker, a senior English major. "The lines cross too much. They should just have one in each suite." Added Whitaker, "When it rains, the telephones are no good. There's a lot of static in the lines, and the lines are busy even when no one is on the phone."

Spence said the problems students have encountered are "wiring problems that still have to be worked out." He added that in implementing the

new system the University has faced "unanticipated technical problems, such as additional add-ons in the New Complex for each room, instead of just for each suite."

Additional student complaints have focused on the lack of a student directory, an additional charge in student fees to cover the phones, students' inability to use long distance AT&T credit cards to "call home, and their inability to dial the operator or information."

"The policy on dialing and credit cards is to protect the financial interests of both the University and students," said Spence, who added that if students were able to dial zero plus the number, they would be able to charge the call to any particular phone.

"There has been a problem in the past with some student workers who have abused the telephones," he said. "This is also the reason the University did not want operator assisted calls made."

Spence said that students cannot use AT&T credit cards because the University has a contract with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co., which precludes using AT&T. Students can use Sprint or MCI, however.

Spence said Dr. Leon White, Vice

Chancellor of Student Affairs, made the decision not to have a student directory in order "to protect the privacy and integrity of students."

Spence said that students should report telephone problems to their dorm director, who will in turn report them to the telecommunications building.

The University is using dorm directors to report problems rather than letting students report the calls themselves because "there were so many calls and most of the problems were user problems," Spence said. "Also, the telephone company said it was going to charge the University \$32.50 for each visit to the campus."

Repairs to telephone lines will be done by the local service if possible, said Spence. He added that repairs have "from an eight to twenty-four hours turn-around time."

The new student telephones feature four-digit on-campus dialing, call waiting and call forwarding.

"The idea of the telephone system was excellent, but more planning in the actual process should have been done," said senior Sheila Lassiter, a resident of the New Complex. "Rushed jobs most of the time mean a lack of quality in the job itself."

Campus radio station to stay open despite major cuts in state funding

By Lonnie Davis

Despite a 50% cut in state funding for the University's radio station, WRVS will remain open, according to ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins.

"The radio station will not close," said Jenkins. "But we have to be realistic about funding."

Jenkins said he will keep the station in operation by conducting a fund-raising campaign, incorporating the station as a lab for students in the Department of Language, Literature & Communication. Then educational funds could be used for the radio station.

Under that plan, "Academic Affairs will be the supervising agency," the Chancellor said.

The \$72,000 cut in funding has already led to the loss of one staff position at the station. The cuts are the result of an overall \$371 million reduction in state spending for 1991-92.

WRVS station manager Edith Thorpe announced at a staff meeting that she is currently interviewing applicants for four new positions; however, none of the positions has been filled.

The following positions are currently vacant at WRVS: productions director, whose job responsibilities include planning workshops, training on-air announcers in the operation of production equipment and supervising all in-house production activities; program director, who will plan, evaluate and determine the station's programming; public affairs director,

"The radio station will not close. But we have to be realistic about funding."

Dr. Jimmy Jenkins

who will plan, create and produce all-in-house public affairs programming; and director of development, who will plan and implement fund-raising activities.

Thorpe said another staff person would be hired soon, but she wasn't yet sure what position the person would assume, due to confusion over state budget cuts.

Andre Smith, the station's former News and Sports Information Director, resigned during the summer to take a position in Texas.

Paula Sutton, WRVS's Public Affairs Director, left the station during the summer.

"She was not fired," said Thorpe, who had recommended that Sutton's contract not be renewed.

In commenting on the station's present leadership, Jenkins said that Thorpe has done an acceptable job and maintained a level of professionalism within the station. "However, she is under review, as all of us are," Jenkins said.

A group of students at WRVS met with Chancellor Jenkins this past summer with a list of complaints against Thorpe. The students com-

plained of the general manager's "inflexibility and vindictiveness" and questioned her professionalism.

One student who met with the Chancellor said, "Everything that we learned at the station we learned from the two staff members who were gone, and not Ms. Thorpe."

Another student said, "There was no communication between the General Manager and the students."

When informed of these statements, Thorpe said, "In the past the student staff included some who wanted to be a part of the station because it made them popular on campus. Many times in the past, students were required to attend sessions, encouraged to be creative and to produce their own programs, but they never took advantage of it."

"These students would rather use the station as a hang out," Thorpe continued. "The station is better off because WRVS is not here for that."

When questioned about this meeting, Jenkins said he had "no comment about personnel changes."

Jenkins said that he expects WRVS "to continue to be part of the public relations arm of the University."

Proud Vikings



The ECSU cheerleading team appears fit and relaxed on a recent fall day on campus. They are (left to right) first row: Tonia Leach, Dawn Conner, Trevondia Boykin. (Second row): Clara Godwin, Joy Robinson, Michelle Brite, Terri Lewis, Loretta Johnson; third row, Erica Leary, Renaldo Windham.

The Phoenix has arisen at ECSU

By DeAnna Rudisill

Elizabeth City State has a literary magazine for the first time in ten years.

The Phoenix is a literary magazine with poems, short stories and art work by ECSU students, said Sharon Chappell, former president of the Pickwick Society and co-editor of *The Phoenix*. The magazine is sponsored by the Pickwick Society, an honor society in the Department of Language, Literature & Communication.

For ten years students and faculty members have been unsuccessfully trying to find funding for a literary magazine, said Chappell, but the liter-

ary magazine was launched after a group of students asked Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins' for his help with the magazine this past fall.

Jenkins funded the magazine through his discretionary fund, Chappell said.

Chappell pointed out that several supporters of *The Phoenix* have expressed concern about the publication ceasing now that the reaffirmation team visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is over.

"*The Phoenix* will definitely continue as an annual publication," said Jenkins. "We are looking for the most convenient way to make it a perma-

nent thing."

The magazine may be funded through student fees, Jenkins said.

Participation in the magazine is open to all students on campus, Chappell. "We felt that any student who liked to write or do art should be able to get involved."

The Pickwick Society will have a series of creative writing workshops to prepare students to contribute to *The Phoenix*, according to Chappell.

The Phoenix will be distributed again in mid-October for anyone who hasn't received a copy, Chappell. The location and time will be posted on campus.

McCants now at Winston-Salem State

By Lavenia Dameron

C. D. Spangler, President of the University System has appointed Dr. Gerald McCants as Special Assistant to the Chancellor at Winston-Salem State University. McCants, former Director of Academic Development at ECSU for over four years, assumed his new position on Aug. 14.

McCants said he was transferred to Winston-Salem because Spangler felt Winston-Salem State could "profit from what I had to offer."

McCants' duties include working

with programs such as student retention, recruitment, financial aid, athletics, institutional research and preparing documentations.

"I've been here for six weeks and I still don't know my way around," McCants told *The Compass*. "So I spend most of my time in my office."

According to ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, McCants will not be replaced at ECSU due to budgetary constraints.

"I will miss the students, people I worked with and the general population," said McCants.

Several members of the ECSU family said they would miss McCants.

"I miss him, the University needs him and the University needs said John L. Whitley, Director of Incentive Scholarship Program at ECSU.

"Dr. McCants is a warm, intelligent, hard-working educator," Stephen March, an instructor in the Department of Language, Literature & Communication. "He will be missed by both his students and his friends in the University family."

McCants' departure from ECSU hadn't been derailed by Jenkins.

"If I had not been encumbered by ECSU, I would have conducted a campaign," he said.

Why did he not call for a run-off when he was only 12 shy of a victory?

To win a three-way race, a candidate must have 50% of the votes plus one, and if the winning candidate does not receive a majority, the second runner-up can call for a run-off.

Vaughan

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lent chance to become the city's first black mayor this century," reasoning that, "the other two candidates would decide the white vote and give Vaughan the victory."

Vaughan admitted he would have done things differently if his cam-

paign hadn't been derailed by Jenkins.

"I delayed my announcement because I wanted to discuss my decision with some advisors and supporters," Vaughan, "I can save the city \$100,000 (the cost of a run-off)."

"I had stated publicly that I would not call for a run-off," said Vaughan. "I am honor bound to abide by my earlier statement."