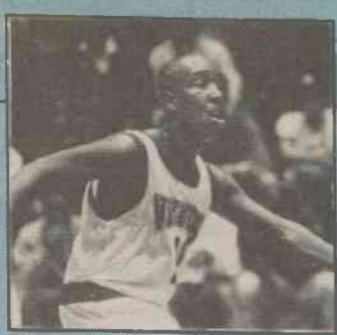


SPORTS

Mackey has a point
—page 8



INSIDE

The amazing Sam Hanef
—page 3

Remembering Travis Gibson
—page 10

Apocalypse Now: The Enemy Strikes Black
—album review

Special Reports:
Student refunds; guns on campus

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ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

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Photo by Sheila Johnson

'Make black studies mandatory' students tell University officials

By Jackie Rountree

To dramatize their demand for making African-American studies mandatory at ECSU, about 60 students staged a peaceful demonstration during the Nov. 19 assembly honoring American Education Week.

The SGA-led demonstration shocked administrators and marked an unprecedented student push for mandating black studies in the General Education curriculum.

At two p.m., students, faculty and staff gathered in Moore Hall Auditorium to hear a speech on education by Robert K. Goodwin, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. But as students took their seats, the main attraction was the line of about 60 black-clad students with interlocking hands at the foot of

the stage.

Chancellor Jimmy R. Jenkins refused to begin the program until he could speak with the demonstrators. This resulted in a confrontation between Jenkins and Ursula McMillion, a senior from Calabash, N.C. during which Jenkins chastised McMillion for her "untimeliness" in demonstrating at the assembly and the implication of controversy that the demonstration made to the local press.

"I was disappointed," said Jenkins. "What that demonstration implies is that a formal request for black studies has been made and rejected when in actuality, no one has even asked for the black studies courses yet."

After the assembly, Jenkins accused the students of being "led like lambs to slaughter by a few personalities," but the Chancellor later apologized, acknowledging that he had

encouraged students to take the initiative on this issue during a student leadership conference on Nov. 6.

Two days before the assembly the ECSU chapter of the Concerned Black Awareness Council (CBAC) started circulating a petition in support of mandating African and African-American studies at ECSU. Within the first 24 hours, students had collected 300 signatures according to McMillion. The group now has 600 signatures in favor of the change.

Students say that black studies are just as important, if not more important than World Civilization I and II.

"In one of my art history classes, we did not discuss one black artist," said one student. "History is history. How can you discuss history without discussing about the African-Americans? We are a big part of history, too. We study the Europeans, Russians,

Chinese, Babylonians and the Cowboys of the Wild Wild West. We study little about the Africans and African-Americans. There's more to history than Dr. King and Malcolm X, too. Of course, it should be mandatory here at ECSU."

"This is a predominately black institution," said Rhonda Stevenson, a junior. "African-American studies should be mandatory."

On November 20, students supporting the change in the curriculum held a rally at the University Center from 11 am to two pm. Students hung up posters supporting African-American studies, and passed out information about African-American history.

"We need to stay focused on the issue," said Kevin Brown, a former ECSU student. "Students should be

please see Students p.9

Campus shooting raises concerns about liability, lack of authority

By Mark Morris

The Oct. 19 shooting of Clifford Shaw, a 27-year-old corrections officer from Elizabeth City, has raised questions about the University's practice of hiring parttime security.

Shaw, a transportation officer at Currituck Correctional Center, was hired by ECSU to watch over Wamack Hall during Homecoming. At about three a.m. some ECSU students approached Shaw and told him there was trouble outside. Shaw told *The Compass* he was unarmed and wearing street clothes when he went outside and approached a group he identified as "non-students ranging from ages 17-26," and ask them if they had a problem.

"They began walking toward me and asked me if I had a problem," Shaw said. "I started retreating be-

cause there were so many of them and when I turned to walk away, I heard a gun blast just before the bullet hit my leg."

Shaw said he went back into Wamack and called campus police for assistance. After getting no answer, he drove himself to the security booth near the Vaughan Athletic Center where a campus policeman picked him up and drove him to Albemarle Hospital. There he was treated for a gunshot wound to his lower right hamstring.

"We had no less than 15 officers on duty that night," said George Mountain, Chief of ECSU's Police Department. "I don't know why no one answered Shaw's call."

Mountain said there were two campus policemen in patrol cars, three campus policemen in the Vaughan Center, and a parttime security at

Symera Hall and Shaw at Wamack Hall. The other eight officers were "in various places around campus," Mountain said.

The shooting—which followed an earlier incident in which an employee of Currituck Corrections Center got into a confrontation with an ECSU student he caught firing a handgun—has caused supervisors at the correction center to feel uneasy about their officers taking the parttime work on campus.

Shaw's supervisor, Sergeant William Basnight, said that measures must be taken to protect their officers.

"The major problem is that they have no power when they work on campus," Basnight said. "They aren't armed and they don't have any identification to let people know they are on-duty officers. That would prevent some incidents from ever happening."

Basnight said that he recommended to Mountain that the officers wear arm bands but has not received any response to that idea.

Liability is also an issue, said Basnight. A week after Shaw was shot, he said he did not know whether he would have to pay his own medical bills or if the University would cover them.

Basnight said that the University has provided no assistance for Shaw. "Everything has been paid for by Department of Corrections money which means Shaw had to use his own insurance and his own sick leave," said Basnight. "From now on the officers will be contracted instead of getting paid out of the door."

Basnight said that in the future, Currituck Correctional Center will

please see Shooting p.10

Photo by Sheila Johnson



Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins gets ready to demonstrate he is king of the lanes as he puts on his bowling shoes during the opening of the Commuter Center. Jenkins helped get the new center on campus.

Donors lead campaign to raise five million \$

By Mary Ann Pitt

Three members of the ECSU family are leading the University's Centennial Capital Campaign with pledges of \$5,000 and \$10,000, to be contributed over three years.

Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins has pledged \$10,000 to the campaign, which will provide scholarships, endowed professorships and new equipment for the school.

"I gave because I felt that I had to lead by example," said Jenkins, in commenting on his contribution. "Before I could ask faculty, staff and alumni, I had to give first."

Bookstore Manager Pedro Holley, and Dr. Ivory Lyons, Chairman of the Business Department, have each pledged \$5,000.

"I gave because the University needed the money," said Holley. "I wish I could have given more and

with the help of my wife, Marlene Holley, I will end up giving more before the three-year period is over. I know there are students who need the financial assistance in order to go to college. I was one myself. I believe that everyone involved should at least give something."

Holley is co-chairperson of the committee to solicit contributions from faculty and staff.

"I gave to the Centennial Capital Campaign because I look at it as a kind of self-help activity," said Lyons. "In addition to trying to raise funds from outside, those here can also help the institution by the funds that they contribute."

Jenkins, who conceived of the campaign, said he felt the University needed to subsidize state funds in order "to give us that margin of excellence."

please see Donors p.7

Value of role model for blacks stressed by Tiffany Williams

By Florestine Jones

Tiffany Williams, Miss Collegiate African-American, received a plaque and a key to Elizabeth City from Mayor Sidney Oman during her Nov. 8 visit to Elizabeth City.

"The greatest challenge for black women today is the restructuring of the black family," said Williams, acknowledging her status as a role model for black women. Williams said she believes it is the black female's job to "uplift the black man and let them know they're important," adding that the black man should shine in the world without having an inferiority complex to any other man.

Williams, spokesperson for historically black colleges and universities, also spoke out about their importance, stressing that a black college helped her to become more aware of herself and interact better with the community.

Williams said her experience as a spokesperson for black colleges will make an immeasurable contribution

to her future. "I feel that black schools are surviving and have been committed to the education of our students," she said.

Williams also said the experience of becoming Miss Collegiate African-American was an enlightening one.

"Through the Miss Collegiate African-American pageant I have met many women from across the nation and not only had the opportunity to hear different viewpoints but most importantly I have gained lifelong friends."

Williams said she was pleased when the coordinators of the contest decided to eliminate the bathing suit competition, making it the first nationally televised pageant without one.

"A female should be judged by inner beauty rather than outer beauty," she said. "The focuses are on intelligence, scholastic achievement and talent. The ladies were viewed not only as college queens, but critically

please see Williams p.10

Homecoming Concert leaves SGA in the red

By Mark Morris

The Student Government Association went \$4,000 over budget for Homecoming.

"We had a budget of \$22,000 for the Homecoming weekend," said Miquel Purvis, SGA President. "Student Affairs reported to us that the weekend cost \$26,000."

The main reason for the loss was a low turnout at the concert on Oct. 19, Purvis said.

"When we started planning for Homecoming in August we had a committee of around 22 people; but by the time Homecoming arrived we were down to ten."

Purvis said that a task force was selected from the committee to find out who students wanted to see perform at the Saturday night concert.

The top choice by students was a rhythm and blues band, Boys to Men. However, negotiations with the group failed when their single "m-townphilly" made the top ten in *Billboard* magazine and the group decided to postpone their tour.

Other acts high on the student's list were Toni! Toni! Toni!, Shabba Ranks, Ex-Girlfriend and Tony Terry. "Negotiations with Toni! Toni! Toni! went sour after the group decided colleges were not their first choice," Purvis said. "So we settled

for Shabba Ranks, Ex-Girlfriend and Tony Terry."

Purvis said the difficulty in getting the student's first choice in entertainment stems from the perpetual shift of popularity in the music industry and the fact that colleges don't command the same attention from recording artists as coliseums or concert promotion agencies.

"It is impossible to know who is going to be hot during a certain time period. Colleges are treated differently, and most of the time you don't get your first choice."

ECSU students have expressed mixed feelings about the concert.

"Shabba was excellent," said Curt Murray, a junior from Elizabeth City who attended the concert, "but the other groups left something to be desired."

Another factor in the budget overrun was the stepshow and pre-dawn dance on Friday night. The total gate for the event was over \$3,000 and after expenses were paid, the Pan Hellenic Council and SGA received \$1,300 apiece as agreed upon before Homecoming.

When asked for a tally of figures for the entire Homecoming weekend in early December, Dr. Leon White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs told *The Compass* he could not locate the receipts.

Time capsule to be buried

University to celebrate Centennial Day Dec.13

By Lonnie Davis

On December 13, 1991, ECSU will celebrate the end of its centennial year with Centennial Day, featuring tours, concerts, food, exhibits and the burial of a time capsule.

The Centennial celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with an opening ceremony. Other events, including concerts, an aerial display by the U.S. Coast Guard, a planetarium show, and campus tours, will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The time capsule, containing printed materials, photographs, and a video focusing on the history of the University, will be buried during the closing ceremony, to begin at 3:30 p.m. The capsule will remain buried until 2041.

"This celebration is a symbol of 100 years of excellence," said ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins. "We must gain as much visibility as possible if we are to do justice to our past."

Jenkins said the challenges facing the University are as great today as they were for the founders of the University.

"They had the responsibility of creating a school to serve African-Americans because we were denied. Our challenge now is to insure that we lay the foundation for not only African-Americans, but all who are interested in a true education. We have to assure ourselves that when a student comes to Elizabeth City State University, he is getting an education that is second to none."

"The greatest challenge facing the University is to continue to be a viable competitive force," Jenkins added. "Historically, this University oper-

ated in a world in which only African-Americans came here to become leaders in their own communities.

Today, graduates of the University must compete in the mainstream of America—from IBM to General Motors to classrooms and professional school classrooms. Therefore, we must insure in relative terms that our performance is equal to that of any, without regard to historical backgrounds."

This celebration will demonstrate to the Albemarle area, community, educational entities, city and county governments and businesses appreciation for the many years of dedication and service afforded the University, according to a news release from the Centennial Step Show Committee.

In an effort to promote African-American Greek fraternities and sororities, a state wide Centennial step show competition will begin at 7 p.m. The step show is free for all ECSU students with a valid I.D. There will be a \$500 cash prize and trophy to the first place fraternity and sorority, and a \$250 cash prize and trophy to each of the runner ups.

As a special incentive, a \$100 travel reimbursement and a hot meal will be provided for each participating group. Also, a dance is scheduled to follow the step show.

The all-day celebration is especially significant to Jenkins.

"My being the first graduate of the University to be named Chancellor shows that the University has reached a level of prominence and that we have reached a point of excellence producing excellence," Jenkins said.

Centennial Day is open to the public.