

New SGA President says he is prepared for a successful year

By Mary Ann Pitt

Shocked! That was how Michael Myrick felt when he learned that ECSU students had elected him as their Student Government Association President for the 1992-93 school year.

"When I stood up to make my acceptance speech, all I could say was 'I thank God' because I was lost for words," said Myrick.

Myrick, a sophomore majoring in English/Speech Pathology, said he was talked into running for president by friends and faculty.

"They felt that I would be a help to the student body and so did I," he said.

Myrick said his parents influenced him most in life and this also had something to do with his running for office.

"My parents have always encouraged me to strive for the best and when given the opportunity to do something, take advantage of it," said Myrick, whose motto is, "You must want something in order to have anything."

Myrick has already set goals for his term in office.

"I plan to get the school more involved with the community," he said. "And I want to send newsletters to students once a month to let them know what the SGA is doing."

Myrick also plans to keep students informed "about what they're paying for in

their tuition and fees." And he wants to have "a successful and exciting homecoming" with activities for every student on campus, religious students, international students and the minority.

Myrick said the biggest challenge facing him as SGA President is "giving the students what they want."

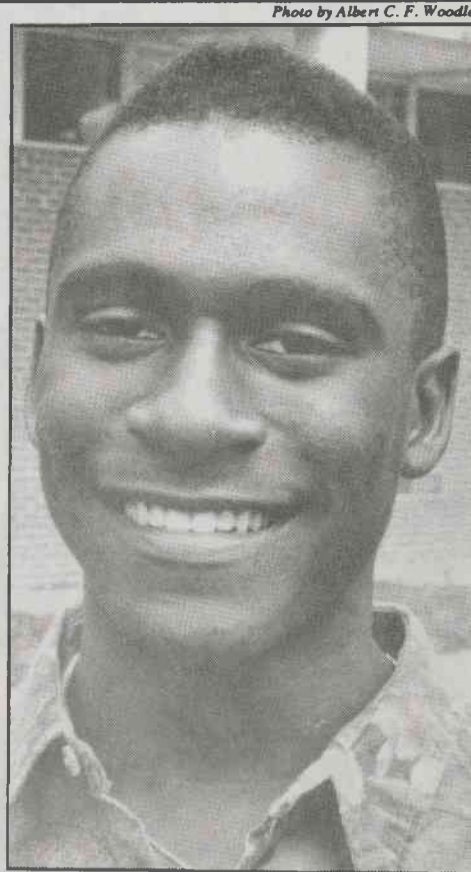
"I feel that the job of the SGA President is to guide students in a positive direction that will be beneficial to both the students and the University," he said. "I understand this position involves a great deal of hard work. The president should be motivated, dedicated, and able to give students what they want."

Myrick said he was disappointed by the low turn-out of voters at the polls this year. Only 524 of 1763 students took part in the voting.

"Many students don't take their involvement here at ECSU seriously," he said. "Maybe there is something I can do to get people to vote next time like bring the voting to the students. For example, I could set up a voting booth in the cafeteria since that's a place where most students go."

Myrick said he is looking forward to a successful school year.

"One reason I'm looking forward to next year is because, first of all, my cabinet for next year is very energetic. I've worked with all of them in previous years. I'm very excited because three of my fellow cabinet members are members of



Michael Myrick, ECSU's new SGA President, says he is ready for "hard work."

the 'illustrious' sophomore class."

"I am looking forward to serving SGA under the leadership of Michael Myrick," says Miquel Purvis, 1991-92 SGA President. "I feel he will be a strong president. Michael has helped SGA in numerous activities and I know he'll do a great job."

"I think that we can expect a change," said junior Scott Gibson. "Michael Myrick takes to office new ideas, a different perspective and enthusiasm. I'm looking forward to being a part of the new president's plan and he has my full support."

Myrick is a member of the Conocanary Baptist Church in Aulander, N.C. After graduation, he plans to get a graduate degree in speech pathology and then go to law school.

Students pick SGA officers

By Lonnie Davis

ECSU students elected Michael Myrick as their new SGA President in the April elections.

Myrick, a sophomore from Aulander, NC, and a English/Speech Pathology major, won with 45 percent of the vote. Arlinda Banks was second with 34 percent of the vote, and Kevin Dunston ran third with 21 percent.

Joynta Robinson, a junior from Elizabeth City and a Biology/Pre-Med major, was elected Miss ECSU with 48 percent of the vote. First runner-up Leslie Moore received 32 percent of the vote. Terri James was second runner-up with 11 percent of the vote, and Kim Reynolds got 9 percent.

Ralph Nixon, Jr., a junior from Ahoskie and an Accounting major, was elected Vice President with 68 percent of the vote, while Ginger Barnes received 38 percent.

In the race for Recording Secretary Nikki Etheridge, a sophomore Accounting major from Camden, NC, defeated Myra Conner with 51 percent. Joy Hornaday, a sophomore from St. Louis, Mo., received 71 percent of the vote, for Corresponding Secretary while Keita Vanderpool got 29 percent.

Wyvondalynn M. Gilchrist, a sophomore Business major from Garysburg, was elected Attorney General with 60 percent of the vote. Her opponent, Nicole Lynch, got 40 percent.

Although only 524 out of 1763 students voted, the election had "a good turnout," according to Dr. Leon White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. "Compared to other schools in the system, the turn-out was above average."

Subcommittee on Black Studies accused of 'stalling'; Committee members say they need more research

By Lavenia Dameron

Student leaders of the campaign to mandate African studies as part of the general curriculum say they haven't made much progress with the subcommittee formed to deal with the issue.

ECSU's Curriculum Committee formed the subcommittee last fall after student leaders officially presented their proposal to make African and African-American studies mandatory. The subcommittee was to investigate the issue, then make recommendations to the Curriculum Committee. In order for the changes to become mandatory, the change must be approved by the Curriculum Committee, the Chancellor and the Planning Committee of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

"The subcommittee has confirmed a

route to mandate African studies," said SGA President Miquel Purvis, "but they have required students to do more research.

According to Dr. Ivory Lyons, chairman of the subcommittee, the students are required to do more extensive research involving developing rationales and a study of African studies programs offered at other institutions. "This is just a formality," said Lyons. "We hope that we will get something that will help us."

Student leaders feel that these requirements are unnecessary.

Ralph Nixon, President of ECSU's chapter of NAACP and newly elected SGA Vice President, feels that the subcommittee is stalling until students lose interest. "I feel that the requirements of the subcommittee were unnecessary. We shouldn't have to do any more research," said Nixon.

Lyons says that the subcommittee is just following procedures required by the Curriculum Committee in order to add new programs.

"This committee is a cooperation between members of the faculty and students," said Lyons. "Members of the very committee that will be judging the proposal, will be helping to put it together."

"The job of the faculty is to teach the students to become responsible citizens," Lyons added. "We teach the students, but we also learn from them."

Tarik Scott, President of The Concerned Black Awareness Council, said that the African-American studies class offered now just deals with African-American history to 1865.

"Instead of just hearing about slaves, we'd like to hear about African kings and queens, and the advanced civilizations,"

Scott said. "The main thing we need to learn is that Africa had a rich history before slavery, that predated European intervention, and that Africans contributed to other civilizations.

Purvis said that during a recent visit to Chapel Hill, she spoke with C.D. Spangler, President of the UNC system, about the student-led effort to mandate African studies on campus.

"He said he thinks it's a good idea, and he's glad that we are concerned," Purvis said. "But then he also suggested that we should take steps to update our existing course."

Spangler said that the controversy should be decided on the ECSU campus rather than by his office, according to Purvis.

"But he did say he was behind us all the way," Purvis said.