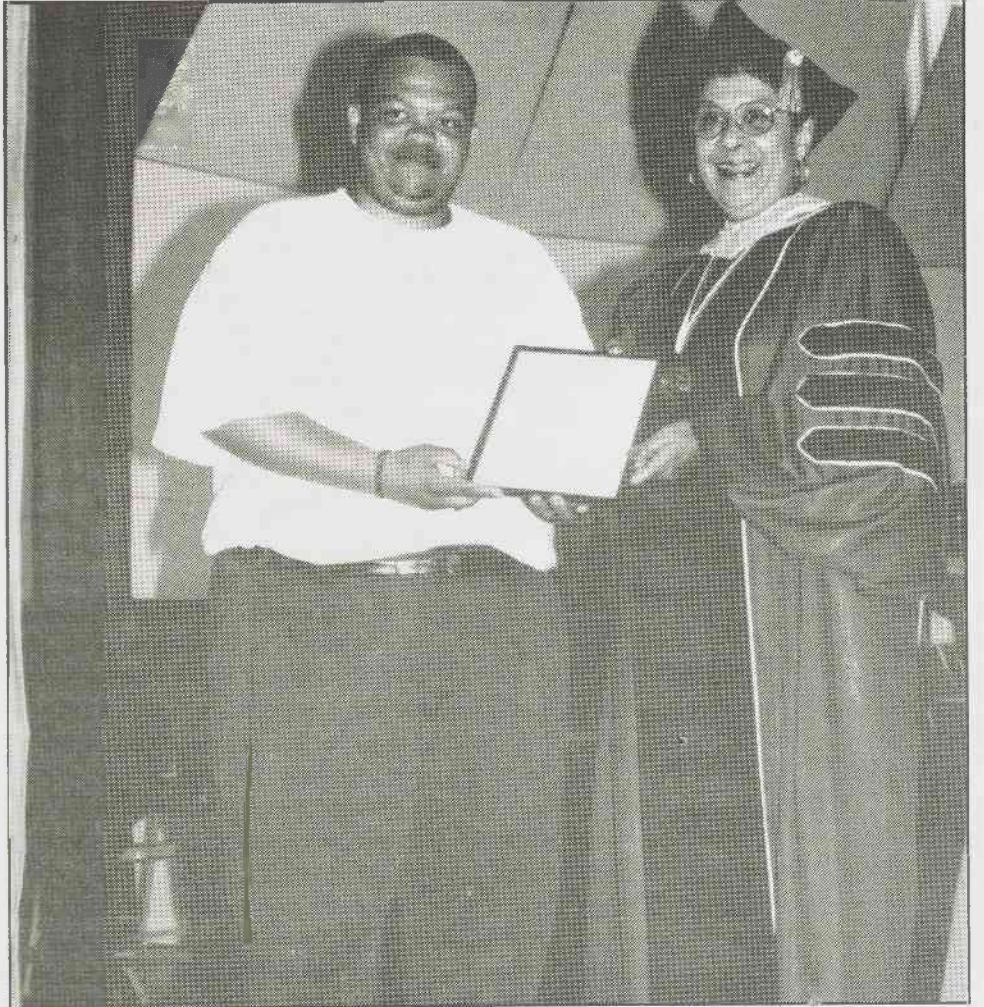




Mamadou Ka, representing Campus House G, accepts the Davis Cup from Rosine Sanders, during the April 15 Honors Convocation.



Dr. Carol Jones, Director of ECSU's Honors Program, is all smiles as she presents Felix Deloatch with the Industrial Technology Senior Award (Mechanical) during the Honors Convocation.

## "When I Come To Die, Give Me Jesus" hits home for members of the University Choir on spring tour

By Melanie Harrington

When the University Choir left for their five-state spring tour on March 20, they thought everyone would return home safely.

Six days into the tour, the bus driver, Chris Credle, died suddenly only minutes after parking the bus in the lot of the AME Zion Church in Baltimore, MD.

"He was fine parking the bus," said Trenace Fayton, a freshman. "We were joking with him while he was parking because he had blocked traffic."

Credle collapsed while getting off the bus, striking his head on a wall, said Fayton. Then he fell back and hit his head

again on the bus door. At that time he was bleeding from his head.

"We saw him take his last breath," said Fayton. "Then the paramedics came and rolled him away. We knew he was gone."

Choir members, many of them crying, held hands and prayed, according to Fayton.

"Some were praying individually and some together," she said. "I felt bad inside. I was praying, 'God, let your will be done.' Everyone had a shoulder to cry on."

Choir members were grieving because of their close relationship with Credle. "Everyone was crying," said Tysain Bryant, a junior. "There was sadness all

around because he was close to us."

Credle collapsed at two p.m. Choir members were faced with the task of getting themselves together enough emotionally to meet their 8 p.m. performance.

"As much as we were thinking of him, we had to go on," said Fayton. "In spite of the difficulties we faced we did it for him."

The concert went on as planned that night. Choir members dedicated their performance to the late Credle.

Members dealt with their grief in different ways.

David Gibson pushed the thought out of his mind that night. Tysain Bryant thought of Credle while she sang. Trenace

Fayton cried as she sang her solo, "O when I come to die, Give me Jesus..."

The sudden death made some choir members more aware of their own mortality.

"I believe that God will do what He has to do or what He pleases," said Gibson. "If it is your time and God deems it so, you have no choice."

"What if he had died while the bus was moving?" said Bryant. "It could have easily been us dying with him."

"I don't take as many things for granted as I did," said Fayton. "It made me think about how tomorrow isn't promised for anyone."

## Officials cancel activities following shooting

By Lavenia Dameron

An ECSU student was shot on campus Saturday, March 20, after a confrontation with an Elizabeth City youth.

Bernard McGee, a sophomore business marketing major, was shot in the right-rear shoulder while in the Complex parking lot.

Two other ECSU students identified Damon Byrd, an Elizabeth City resident, as the shooter, according to the campus police report.

Byrd was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury and intent to kill, possession of a weapon on state property, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, according to Capt. Olin Leary, Chief of Detectives for the Elizabeth City Police Dept.

Byrd is still in custody, according to Leary. Byrd's trial date is set for May 3.

According to the campus police report, a conflict between McGee and Byrd developed after McGee was seen talk-

ing to Byrd's girlfriend. Byrd was accused of slapping his girlfriend and then trying to hit McGee.

According to unconfirmed student reports, Byrd was escorted off the campus by campus police but returned to the campus soon afterwards and shot McGee.

When asked by the Compass about rumors concerning a lawsuit against the University, McGee declined to comment.

Following the shooting, dances and

other weekend activities were temporarily cancelled by ECSU officials.

According to Dr. Leon White, Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, weekend activities were delayed until policies and personnel responsibilities regarding activities could be reviewed.

"It was approved that all weekend events were to be delayed until the review," said White. "In the interim, weekend activities have been approved

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