

# Students disappointed by guest speaker during Black History Month assembly

By Bruce Copeland

Less than 70 members of the ECSU family turned out to hear a South Carolina history professor speak at the University's Feb. 24 Black History Month Assembly, held in Moore Hall.

The poor turn-out can be attributed in part to the CIAA Tournament in Winston-Salem. Many ECSU faculty members, administrators and students attended the tournament.

The guest speaker, Dr. Lewis Suggs, spoke about 40 minutes, focusing on a black newspaper owner of the early 1900s.

Suggs stressed the importance of education, saying that many young

people are more geared toward working at a low-paying job rather than trying to better themselves. At one time, said Suggs, there were many black-owned enterprises in Norfolk, Virginia, including banks. Although these businessmen lacked an education, they were successful, said Suggs, because they were determined to make things work for them.

After these business owners retired, however, others didn't want to participate in bringing in businesses or doing things to make the area productive, according to Suggs.

Suggs appealed to his audience to embrace traditional values of work and sacrifice.

Following the assembly, several students criticized Suggs' speech, saying he was "dry and boring." According to one student, the assembly was "the worst program I've ever attended."

ECSU student Gloria Alexander, said she found Suggs' speech interesting and valuable.

"He was talking about things from the past," said Alexander, "but these are things young people need to cherish because this is what paved the way for them. If it weren't for people like Frederick Douglas and W.E. Debois, these kids today wouldn't have all the luxuries they have."

Following the assembly, several

students said the program was "poorly promoted." Other students were critical of the overall activities planned for Black History Month, saying they were "thrown-together and poorly planned."

Alexis Joyner, Chairman of the Black History Month Committee, defended the assembly program and the speaker.

"Many people enjoyed the information he (Dr. Suggs) had to offer," said Joyner, an assistant professor in the Department of Art. "There was some positive feedback. Some people just want someone to pound on the podium, whether or not he or she has something to say."

## News Briefs

ECSU students will vote for a new slate of SGA representatives March 30, from seven a.m. until six p.m. in the University Center.

The candidates for President are Dominick Allen, James W. Cherry, Ranesha K. Hunt, Tarik Y. Scott, and Alfred L. Solomon. The candidates for Vice-President are Yvonne E. Blount, Carlton C. Eley, Darron V. Jeffries, Randy M. Jones, Tasha P. Jones, and William T. Mills. Keisha M. Kent is the candidate for Corresponding Secretary. Amy D. Anderson, Corey T. Drew, and Aquita C. Robinson are candidates for treasurer. For Attorney General: Edward K. Rivers and Nekeisha S. Sylver. For Miss ECSU: Arletha G. Clark, Dorothy R. Hager, Lynetta Jordan, and Letesha R. Vaughan.

Absentee ballot voting was on March 28-29 in the Marion D. Thorpe Building.

Activities ended March 30th at seven p.m. with the SGA Gala, held at the Kermit E. White Center.

ECSU has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

The University received this honor due to its role in educating African-Americans in eastern North Carolina, according to National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy. Another factor was the University's architecture, Kennedy said.

"ECSU is the only historically black institution of higher education," said state Historic Preservation Officer William Price. "It's listing in the National Register of Historic Places underlines the school's significance in the history of black education in eastern North Carolina."

The National Register lists the nation's official districts, buildings and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has overturned the firing of Dr. Carol Kerr, a professor in ECSU's Department of Education, on procedural grounds.

In a ten-page report the board's Personnel and Tenure Committee said Kerr's rights were violated during her hearings and appeals last October.

The board ordered ECSU to pay Kerr back pay from Sept. 17, when her salary was terminated, with interest. However it did not address the merits of the firing.

Kerr, 55, was fired, in part, for refusing to be evaluated by a younger faculty member, and for using her own evaluation form for a class.

Although the committee criticized the procedure by which Kerr was fired, it did not address the merits of the firing.

Kerr returned to work Monday, March 14.

William Butts, Jr. a professor in ECSU's Department of Social Sciences died on March 1, 1994.

Butts is survived by a wife, Yvonne Butts. Other survivors include a daughter, Nancy Butts of Encino, Calif; two sons, William Butts II and Wayne Butts, both of Newport News, and a sister, Ernestyne Tyler of Alexandria, Va.

The Junior Honors African-American History program was held on Thursday, March 24 at 122 Johnson Hall.

The Second Annual Freshman-Sophomore Honors Debate will take place on Thursday, April 7 at two p.m. in Johnson Hall.

On April 12, The Freshman Honor Cultural Diversity program will take place at two p.m. in Johnson Hall.

The Sophomore Honors Current Issues Forum is scheduled for April 14 at 2 p.m. in Johnson Hall.

The Honors Convocation will be held Thursday, April 21 at two p.m. in Moore Hall Auditorium.

Sigma Gamma Rho sorority has inducted seven new members: Demetric Shepard, Felicia Cross, Simona Simons, Stacey Edwards, Cultilda Monk, and Karin Wade-Simmons.

In February the Sigma ladies took the Latch-key youth to the ECSU vs Shaw basketball game. The Sigma ladies will have a dance on April 15, 1994

The staff and management of WRVS-Fm Radio sponsored an Anniversary Media Workshop and Luncheon Sat. March 19 in the Kermit E. White Center. The workshops provided students with the opportunity to learn about programming basics, career opportunities in the record industry and mass media. Guest Speaker for the noon awards luncheon was Mitch Faulkner, Vice President & Executive Production Director of On Mic Productions.

ECSU sophomore Nikita Sutton, who won the Association of North Carolina Alphas Black and Gold Beauty Pageant in November, 1993, competed in the Southern Region Black and Gold Beauty Pageant in Nashville, Tennessee on Feb. 25, 1994. Nikita won the regional contest and will compete for the national title of Miss Black and Gold in Chicago, Ill. in August, 1994.

Nikita, who represented the Beta Zeta Chapter of ECSU, is the daughter of Ernest and Valeria Sutton of Elizabeth City.

Original plays by three ECSU students, Lavenia Dameron, Craig Avondo and Keisha Holly, will be performed in the Little Theater April 12 and 13 (Tuesday and Wednesday at eight p.m.) Admission is free.

Dr. Jimmy Jenkins celebrated his 10th anniversary as chancellor of ECSU on Jan. 15, with more than 500 guests in attendance.

Representatives from each of the ten years Jenkins has been chancellor were included in the program, with the guests reading poems and relating personal experiences about how the Chancellor had inspired them.

"It was really a beautiful evening," said Dr. Linda Callahan, Chairperson of the Department of Language, Literature & Communication.

At the event Rick Gardner, mayor of Elizabeth City, received a standing ovation when he said, "The detractors of ECSU haven't bothered to visit the campus."

The University Concert Choir spent March 14 through March 21 on their spring tour, performing in Virginia, Washington D.C. New York and New Jersey. Look for Bruce Copeland's report on the tour in the next issue of *The Compass*.

Scholarcade XIV will be presented on Saturday, April 16 in Moore Hall. Faculty, staff and administrators are busy rehearsing to show off their talent at this annual fund-raising event.

ECSU's Office of Career Planning and Placement sponsored a Teacher Job Fair on March 17 in the Vaughan Center Gym. Representatives from public schools in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina attended.

The ECSU chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, has inducted eight new members: Dr. Sharon Anee Zerlin, Billie Rae Hendrix, Jean M. Jackson, Olympic Nicole Jones, Tammy M. Jones, Rosine L. Sanders, Julie M. Trueblood and Ruth Griffin Warren. Psi Chi, founded in 1929, has 820 chapters at colleges and universities throughout the U.S.