

University Meeting held Feb. 6...

Enrollment is *'the top priority'* says Burnim during meeting

by C. F. Woodley

"While giving your blood, sweat and tears is important, we also need your money," declared Dr. Mickey Burnim during the annual University meeting, held Feb. 6 in Moore Hall Auditorium.

Burnim's plea for financial contributions to fund scholarships for ECSU students followed his comments about the need to reverse the University's declining enrollment. Pointing out that the University's enrollment has declined "for the second year in a row," Burnim explained that the decline can result in "cutbacks in expenditures in equipment, supplies and improvements on campus.

"This will help you understand why the enrollment challenge is our top priority," he added. "It is my responsibility as chief executive to ask people for what we need to support this fine institution."

Using slides and a projector to illustrate his points, Burnim said in 1994 ECSU had 2,099 fulltime students. In 1995, the number was 1,981 and in the fall of 1996, 1,852.

"The admission's department has been working hard to reverse this trend," he explained. In 1995, the University had 196 new freshmen; however as of Jan. 26, 1996, the campus had 215 new freshmen. Overall applications increased in the same time from 396 to 458. And Incentive Scholarship applications increased from 73 to 91.

"We are encouraged by what we are

seeing," he said. To further reverse the decline, Burnim hopes to make greater use of the Incentive Scholarship program which provides ECSU with more than \$1.5 million in annual scholarships.

Since the \$3,800 cap on the incentive scholarship put ECSU at a competitive disadvantage, Burnim said he wrote a letter to UNC System President C.D. Spangler asking to allow some students "a full package." "That request was granted," said Burnim, "and beginning this year some incentive scholars will receive \$5,000.

"This will put us in a more competitive position for bringing in the best students," he said.

Burnim also announced that the admission's department brought 1,300

high school students to campus during High School Day. "After being entertained on the yard by the gospel choir and a step show, they were fed bag lunches," said Burnim. "Then we took them to Roebuck Stadium to see the mighty Vikings beat up on the Eagles.

"It was a marvellous day. We did a lot to get them to think about ECSU."

Burnim also announced that President Spangler's family foundation had provided matching funds to enable the University to establish its first endowed professorship. The position, to be named after E.V. Wilkins, former chairman of ECSU's Board of Trustees, will be in the Department of Education, according to Burnim.

E. V. Wilkins and President Spangler will be honored at a March 27 reception at the K. E. White Center on campus.

Burnim's address included mention of the planned fine arts building, which will cost \$9.5 million to complete. State voters approved \$6.5 for the building in a 1995 referendum, but during the planning stages for the building, increased construction expenses hiked its cost to \$9.5 million.

Burnim said he had spoken with area legislators about the University's need for the additional money.

"I'm expecting great things from the General Assembly," he said.



Still Under Investigation...

Dorm visitor shot during robbery

by Tiffany Newell

A man wearing a ski mask shot a non-ECSU student during a Feb. 7 robbery in Symera Hall.

The victim, Andre Meekins, was treated at Albermarle Hospital for a bullet wound in the lower portion of his left leg.

The shooting took place after two masked men with handguns entered a room in Symera "with several people in it" around 10:45 p.m., according to Kent Felton, a detective with ECSU's Campus Police. Two of the victims, ECSU students Ted Cherry and Miles Griffin, were not harmed. The robbery took place in Cherry's room.

The robbers demanded that Meekins and the other victims give them their money and personal belongings and remove their clothes, according to the police report. When Meekins said he did not have any money or valuables he was shot.

The men took \$350 from Griffin.

One of the robbers is about five feet eight inches tall with a stout build, said Felton. The other man is about six feet,

one inch tall, with a slender build.

Felton suspects that a man currently being held for other crimes by the Elizabeth City Police Department may be involved in the campus shooting. He refused to disclose any other information about the case.

"It's an on-going investigation," he added. "We're working on several leads with the Pasquotank Sheriff's Department Investigation Bureau and the Elizabeth City Police Department."

This is the second armed robbery on campus since the fall term began. On Nov. 20, 1995 two men with handguns robbed an ECSU student of \$60 and several items of clothing on the third floor of Symera Hall around 9:40 a.m. The student lost four coats, two pairs of shoes, a duffel bag, and a Timberland leather jacket, according to George Mountain, Chief of Campus Police.

One of the robbers was about five feet eleven inches tall to about six feet tall, weighing about 160 pounds to about 165 pounds. The other wore a black ski mask. The suspect was a black male, about five feet ten inches tall to

about five feet eleven inches tall.

Mountain said that the victim was not injured and no arrests have been made.

Despite these two armed robberies, Mountain and Felton believe ECSU's campus is safe.

"We are taking extra measures to keep ECSU students, faculty and staff safe," said Felton.

Many students seem to agree with Chief Mountain and Detective Felton that the ECSU campus is relatively safe.

"Because ECSU's campus is small and is not in a big city, crime doesn't seem to be very high," said Timeka Whitehead, an ECSU sophomore. "The campus is very safe."

"I don't have to look over my shoulder as much as I would have to do if I stayed on a larger campus," said sophomore Angela Burrus.

Other students do not agree with the campus police or their peers.

"I have a tendency to look around when I am walking by myself, but if I'm in a group I feel safer," said Shrona Smith.

(See related "Tips" below.)

MOTHER STRENGTH

I'M THE FLOWER THAT EMERGED FROM THE SEED OF STRENGTH IN A field full of WEEDS,

I pick up AND CARRY THE THRONE OF MY ANCESTORS

Leading to a SANCTUARY of PEACE

My BURDENS BECOME HEAVY Climbing high MOUNTAINS AND CROSSING deep SEAS

I KNOW MY MASTER WATCHES ME

My light in the dark

My MEDICINE while I'm ill

I AM NOURISHED TO CARRY THE THRONE OF MY ANCESTORS

To the PALACE OF PEACE-HEAVEN.

— ANGELA BURRUS

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- If walking at night try not to walk alone.
- Beware of places where offenders can hide, like stairs, doorways, elevators, and bushes.
- If you think you are being followed, go to a well-lit area, call 911 and ask for help.
- If you are in danger yell, "Fire." (People will respond to "Fire" more so than "Help.")
- When going to your vehicle, have your keys in your hand and always check the back seat.
- If you are attacked, don't try to defend yourself, yell "Fire" and try to get away.
- Beware of your surroundings and periodically, change your routes so that no one can plan your whereabouts.