

New SGA president seeks to empower ECSU student body

by Sonya Holley

ECSU's new SGA President sums up his plans for the 1996-1997 year with one word—unity.

During his campaign, Anthony Sessoms—who ran opposed—used the slogan "Project P.U.S.H." (Promoting Unity Starting Here) to describe his emphasis on unity.

"I want to find ways that will bring the student body together," said Sessoms. "We want to learn how to support each other and that brings about unity." Sessoms also wants to "bring the students to a high level of respect and pride" for the school.

Sessoms feels that students lack power because they are not unified.

"It is almost crucial because we as students don't come together," said Sessoms. "We want to reactivate the student voice because students don't realize how much power we have as a

whole.

"I want to see the student body come together and stand to make a change."

Sessoms is not pleased with the way the administration "ignores" the student body.

"I feel a deaf ear has been turned to us by the administration," he said.

He is especially critical of the newly passed attendance policy, which he believes was enacted without enough student participation.

Sessoms wants to see more cooperation between students and administration. He stressed that it takes a "partnership" between the students and administrators to make the school successful.

"The University can't even recruit effectively if the student body isn't behind them," said Sessoms. "Potential students will not call the Marion D. Thorpe building to see how the school



Anthony Sessoms, ECSU's new SGA president, ran unopposed in the election. A junior geology major from Ahoskie, Sessoms hopes to "unify" the students and seek more attention from administration regarding student issues.

is, but they are going to call students see what is happening."

He has a number of plans for ECSU's student body. He plans to recruit "successful black Americans" to enlighten ECSU's students through motivating speeches. Sessoms also plans to have more parental involvement because "they play an important role in the success of the school." Sessoms also believes some activities, like Chill Out

Day and family meetings, should be spontaneous rather than planned.

"Nothing is impossible," said Sessoms. "The sky is the limit to what the students can do on this campus and for this campus."

Sessoms is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, National Association of Black Geologists (NABG), the Geoscience Club, NAACP, and 4-H.

He is a native of Ahoskie, NC.

POETRY

I Hate You

I hate you
I really mean it
the way you draw out a
perfectly
fine subject and twist it to
suit your
warped cause
I hate you because you
make everything hard
you could make the number
one
hard to understand to a
physicist
if you tried
but you like confusing me
more
I can't understand why you
act
this way
you know I want you
I want to smell you
and hold you
and be your girl
if you'd just wait a minute
instead of arguing over the
sun
but you insist on denying us
both
what we want
why fight so hard
when you don't really want to
win
I could love you like nothing
you've ever known
but it's impossible
if you make me despise
and hate you
and that's the very last thing
I have in store for you
by Yushawnda Thomas

Getting to class can be a hassle for ECSU's disabled students

by Tim Smith

Many ECSU students have trouble getting to class on time, but for ECSU's approximately 11 disabled students getting to class can be a major hassle.

Especially if someone is parking in the handicapped parking space.

It's hard enough to overcome disabilities, but inconsiderate people make it worse, disabled students say. Try pushing yourself an extra 100 yards in a wheelchair because someone parked illegally in a handicapped space or blocked a curb cut that allows a wheelchair-bound person to get off the road onto the sidewalk.

"Just getting around from building to building and people parking illegally and blocking the curb cuts are my biggest problems," said junior, Gary Kehner, who is confined to a wheelchair.

The University has adequate parking space, according to George Mountain, chief of campus police, but the space is not used.

"Everybody wants to park close to the (classroom) buildings." The area in front of the library is a real problem, the curb in front is clearly marked 'no parking,' but it's always

full of cars."

To combat the problem of illegal parking, two officers patrol campus and issue 20 to 50 tickets a day, said Mountain.

Not all of the individuals parking in handicapped spaces are students.

A facilities maintenance van (license plate PR 4436) has been repeatedly parking in a handicapped space -- in front of the telecommunications building on March 25, at 1:30 PM, on March 28, at 9:00 AM and 1:15 PM; on April 2, at 9:00 AM and on April 3, at 9:45 AM and 1:00 PM and 1:45 PM.

According to Mountain, campus police will tow cars that are illegally parked in handicapped spaces.

"Whenever we get a call about illegal parking, we respond immediately," said Mountain. "Any vehicle illegally parked in a handicap space will be ticked and towed. We also tow vehicles that aren't registered on campus, students parked in faculty parking areas and any vehicle parked in a fire lane."

Campus police offers enforce parking regulations 24-hours a day, said Mountain. Students who haven't paid their fines can't get an

exam permit, he added.

The American Disabilities Act of 1990 required all state and federal buildings to provide access for disabled individuals. In order to comply with the new law, an ECSU committee began working to make the campus accessible for the disabled, according to Michael Godfrey, campus safety officer.

Using \$407,000 in state funds, the University lowered water fountains, improved building accessibility, added elevators, a lift in the swimming pool, renovated one of the six bowling alley lanes available to the disabled. The University also purchased a special lift to give students access to stages, according to Godfrey. Curb and ramp renovations were paid out of the Capitol Improvements funds, he added.

Despite these and other improvements disabled students say they still have difficulties getting around on campus.

"The ease of access isn't what it should be on campus," says senior William ("J.J.") Mosley, who lost his right leg thirty years ago. "The doors should open in both directions and some of the ramps could be a little wider."