

News Briefs

by Angela Burrus and Lakesha Joyner

The SGA Association's trip to the Washington D.C. for the Presidential Inauguration cost ECSU students \$1,938.40.

The SGA President Anthony Sessoms was criticized for initiating the trip without consulting with students and for stating he had no obligation to inform students about the trip.

Sessoms was further criticized for not releasing information on the expense of the trip in a timely manner to The Compass and for including two non SGA members in the trip as a "reward."

Financial records associated with the trip were finally released by the Office of Student Affairs.

ECSU's Freshman Honors Forum examined the pros and cons of euthanasia on April 3 in Johnson Hall.

The forum, "Euthanasia, Physician Aid in Dying," was moderated by Alethea Swan. Panelists were Peter Eley, Bobby Jean Hayman, Damon Freshwater, Kimberly Knight and Tashia Tillett.

Following remarks by guest speakers Mrs. Jean Robertson and the Rev. David White, there was a question and answer session with the audience.

A student member of the audience said she opposed euthanasia for someone who has been unconscious or in a coma.

"We can't really say that the person is not aware of what's going on," she said. "Persons come out a coma and remember everything."

Hayman spoke out in favor of physician assisted suicide.

"Euthanasia is justified when it involves a terminal illness and it's just getting worse and worse," she said. "If I was wasting away, and there was no hope in getting better, I wouldn't want to drag it out. The issue is the right to suffer or not to suffer. I believe in a person's right to make that decision. It's their right to die peacefully, not all doped up, but peacefully."

Damon Freshwater also spoke out in favor of euthanasia. "Jack Kevorkian never killed people," he said. "He gave them the tools and let them decide. If somebody gives me the tool to kill myself, it's still my decision."

Several other speakers said they opposed euthanasia, however.

"We need to talk about the religious aspect of this," a member of the audience said. "If you kill yourself, there is a place for you. You have to think of your future."

"Dr. K. means well," said the Rev. White. "But he is not well. What doctor in his right mind goes around killing folks? He's an accessory to crime."

White said that so called "uncivilized nations" esteem life. "Only the civilized nations allow euthanasia. Can you see this is a way of getting rid of folks?"

ECSU students Beatrice Shearn and Nikki Vinson, won a second place trophy and individual speaking awards in the first annual HBCU Debate Tournament, hosted by Morehouse College in Atlanta, April 11-12.

The students competed in five rounds of preliminary debate, finishing with a 4-1 record for the tournament. They defeated Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spellman College and Morris College of South Carolina.

The students came in second behind the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Vinson received an award for the most speaker points, and Shearn received a third place speakers' plaque.

Shearn and Vinson members of the ECSU's Argumentation and Debate Class, taught by Dr. Velma Brown, chairperson of the Department of Language, Literature & Communication. Brown traveled with the students to the tournament.

In addition to the tournament, the students and advisors agreed to form an HBCU Debate league, to design and oversee regional tournament, with the championship being held in a designated site.

Morehouse College agreed to host the tournament again in 1998.

ECSU's Honors Students celebrated the arts with music, poetry readings, and a display of student art on April 8 in Johnson Hall Auditorium.

The program, "A Festival of the Arts," was presented by the Sophomore Honors Colloquium and moderated by Steven Gilchrist.

Ben Taylor and Clifford Vanterpool performed musical selections. Angela Burrus and Phillip Puryear gave dramatic readings from literary works in progress, and Donald Charity, Clarence Goss Jr. and Varick Taylor presented examples of their paintings.

Taylor is a sophomore art major from Edenton, N.C. Goss is a senior art major from Willimston, NC. And Charity is a freshman math major who graduated from Denbigh High School.

Sophomore Honors Colloquium members are Chenay Beamon, Alayna Benson, Felicia Best, Derrek Burrus, Tarsha Darden, Steven Gilchrist, Nicole Hoffler, Vincent Lawson, Christie Long, Ayonda Moore, Felicia Saunders and Jarrod Turner.

"The American news media needs more African Americans in top management positions,"

That was the message Barbara Hamm, African American news director for WTKR-TV, Channel 3 in Norfolk, brought to the participants in WRVS's 11th annual Media Conference, held April 5th in the K.E. White Center.

"African-American college graduates should pursue more management positions in the media," said Hamm, keynote speaker for the event. "We don't have enough African American managers in media."

Hamm said at a recent meeting she attended in Miami, only three and a half percent of the media managers were African-American.

"Until we are in a position to say 'no you will not show only African American men in handcuffs, and you will do positive stories about our community,'" said Hamm, "we will continue to see the stereotypes. It will not change until we are in charge."

The focus of the conference was preparing minority media professionals for the 21st century. The conference included several career planning workshops conducted by media professionals from North Carolina and Virginia.

Ms. Angela Holley, ECSU's University counselor, is soliciting questions and comments from students for a column, to be printed in upcoming issues of *The Compass*.

Two blue boxes have been placed in the University Center and the Commuter Center for students "to drop in ideas topics and concerns" they would like to see addressed in the column, according to Holley.

"Students should also feel free to come by and share their comments, concerns with me personally in the Counseling Center," said Holley.

The Center is located in the H.L. Trigg Building. Holley's office hours are from eight am to five PM.

Students interested in learning more about national tests, such as the PRAXIS, GRE, MAT, LSAT and GMAT can pick up information about the tests at the center.

Thirty-three ECSU students served as recruiters and good will ambassadors for ECSU on the annual Spring Concert Tour, which took March 7 to 16.

The students performed in churches and schools in Arlington, VA., Washington DC, Baltimore, MD., Patterson,

NJ., White Plains, NY, and Stanford CT.

The object of the annual tour is "to recruit students and serve as good-will ambassadors for the University," said Billy Hines, director of the University Choir.

Hines also said students benefited from the experience of traveling to new places.

"They get a chance to travel and visit places they've never been," said Hines. "They can then grow and learn about life. The experience broadens their horizons and allows them to realize they could actually live somewhere else other than Rich Square, N.C."

Hines, a professor in the Department of Music, has been overseeing the tour for 21 years.

Individuals desiring yearbooks will have to pay for them this year.

Although seniors will receive the year books free of charge, all others will be assessed a fee of \$10.

The additional fee is necessary to cover spiraling costs of producing the year book according to Dr. Glenda Griffen, co-advisor to the yearbook.

After paying their \$10 to the University cashier, non seniors can pick up the yearbooks in the yearbook office in Johnson Hall.

The ultimate cause of the shortfall is declining enrollment, according to one ECSU official.

"We had 300 less students than were projected," he said. "So we had less money coming in through student fees."

ECSU music professor Dr. Rachel Gregson won this year's University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Gregson, a member of the ECSU faculty since 1968, won a bronze medalion and \$7,500.

ECSU music majors praised the high quality of Gregson's teaching and her overall contributions to the University.

"She's the consummate professional," said Antoine Fries. "Not only does she teach us the importance of where music comes from, she also appreciates music and she wants us to share and appreciate it with her."

To qualify for the award, professors must be tenured and have at least seven years' teaching service. After being nominated for the award by a student, faculty member or alumni, candidates' teaching portfolios are screened by a committee of faculty members who are elected by the faculty.