

New SGA president says victory proves power of persistence

by Tiffany Newell

Tears streamed down the cheeks of Peter Eley, candidate for SGA President, when Nathaniel Issacs, 1997-1998 Vice President announced his name as the newly elected 1998-1999 SGA President during the SGA Gala on April 3.

"I was surprised to a certain extent but very pleased," said Eley. "I gave it my best shot and I ended up winning."

According to Eley, he strived for the office of presidency since the eighth grade. Eley ran for president three other times—in middle school, high school and during his freshman year at ECSU.

"I felt it was in my heart," said Eley. "It was my destiny to become president. If something's in your heart then you should go after it."

Eley said his victory confirms his belief that "if you fail at something try, try again, because I am a living example of where persistence will get you."

According to Eley, the individual has a great deal of control over his or her destiny. As an example he cites a quote by Charles Swindell, "I am convinced that life is ten percent of what happens to me, and 90 percent of how I react to it."

"Attitudes determines your altitude," said Eley. "Most things that happen are a result of the way you react to them."

Eley's hobbies include "giving back to the community, mentoring and playing video games." He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Eley credits his father with being his

primary role model.

"He taught me everything I know and brought me from childhood to manhood."

His celebrity role model is Malcolm X, "because he admitted his mistakes to the world and lost his life trying to correct them."

As SGA President, Eley plans to boost "Viking Pride" and student unity and maintain a high level of academic achievement among students. He plans to assign more committees whose delegates will represent each class more effectively.

Eley feels that his greatest challenge is in restructuring SGA and getting Homecoming "off to a great start."

A native of Henderson, and a rising junior, Eley is a mathematics major with a minor in English. He plans to be an administrator of a large company, he said, adding that, "Ultimately I want to be a chancellor of a large school."

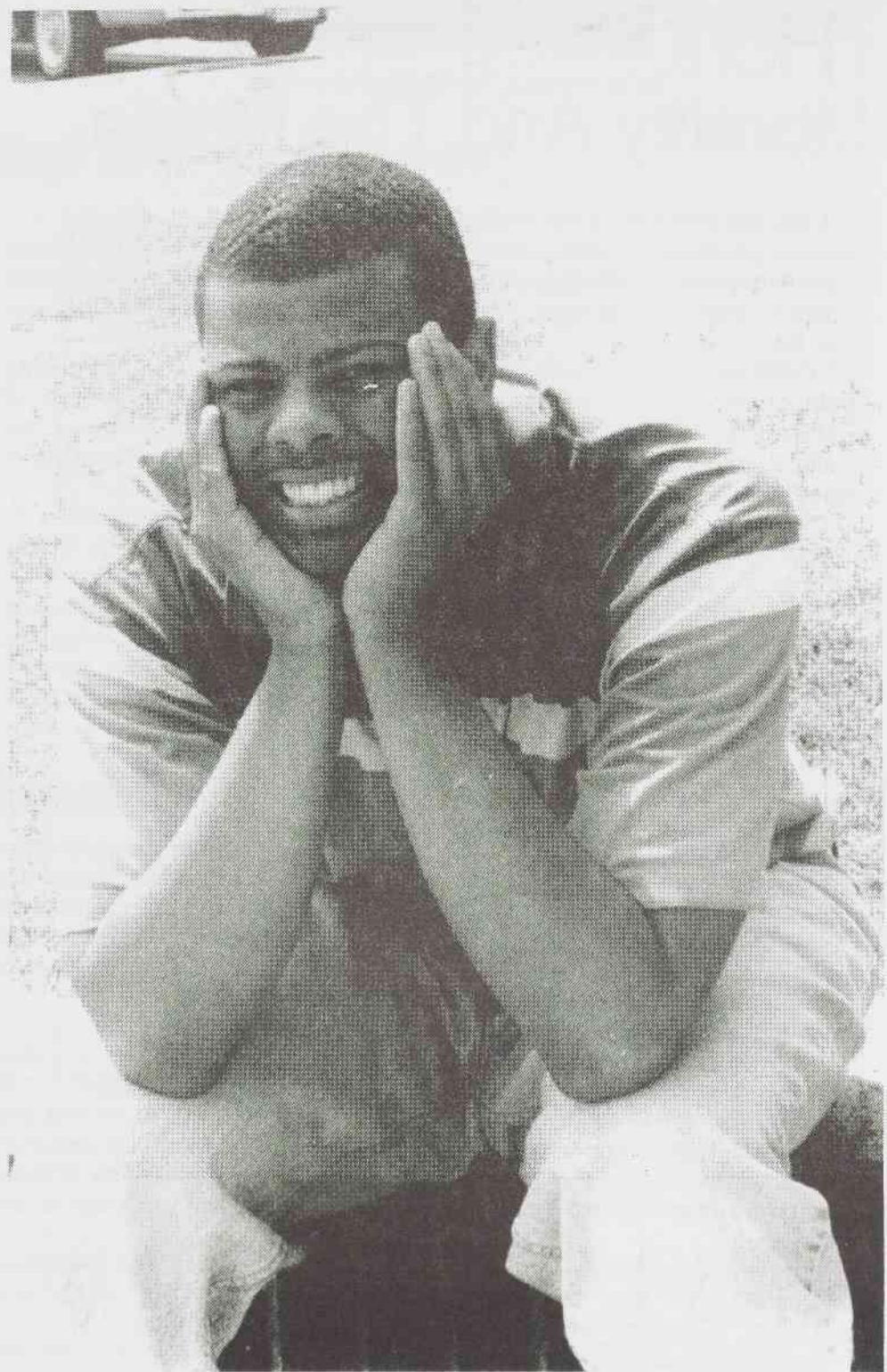
Eley gave high praises to Tamara McCray, 1997-1998 SGA president for her ability to meet the challenges of her office.

"Tamara did a good job," said Eley. "She came into a bad situation. A lot of people didn't give her credit. SGA was already in shambles."

Eley hopes that the SGA will be more structured under his leadership. By setting up more committees he hopes student involvement will increase.

Although his cabinet consists of all women, Eley feels comfortable.

"Women listen better and are more cooperative," he said.



Franklin Scott, Jr. photo

Peter Eley, a Henderson native, is a math major who plans to one day be chancellor of a large University. As the new president of the SGA, Eley plans to improve "Viking pride" and student unity.

Students discuss Macing incident at forum to 'ease tensions' with campus police

by Garry Walton

ECSU students aired several grievances against the Campus Police Department during a forum held March 17 in Johnson Hall.

Complaints included the number of tickets given to students, the use of Mace against them and the alleged failure of campus police to respond quickly enough to grievances.

The forum, "Campus Police, Here To Protect and Serve...But When Is Force Necessary?" was organized by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

The forum was designed to allow students and campus police the opportunity "to get acquainted with each

other," according to moderator Charles Gatling. "This forum is not designed to attack campus police or the students," said Gatling. "It is meant to ease the tension between the two, and try to come up with suggestions and solutions to problems."

One student asked about a recent incident during which officers arresting a student sprayed Mace that affected some bystanders to the incident.

In responding to that question, Campus Police Chief George Mountain invited the student to visit his office to discuss the incident.

"My door is always open to the students at this University," said Moun-

tain. "If you would just come by my office and file a report I will be more than willing to look into the situation."

Keywonna Everetts asked what steps she needed to take to make sure that a complaint to campus police would be taken care of.

"If you file a complaint with me then I will make sure I get back to you as soon as I can," responded Mountain. "But if you come in with a complaint I can almost assure you that it will get my full attention."

Mountain again reiterated his offer for students who had questions about the Macing incident to visit his office. "What we have now is a lot of hear-

say," he said. "It's just your word against theirs. If you just come down to my office (we can) have a more in-depth discussion."

Trey Peele complained about receiving a ticket for parking in a designated parking zone.

"If you run a stop sign, it's ten dollars," said Peele. "A speeding ticket is \$15. How can you justify giving me a \$20 ticket for a no-parking zone?"

Officer Sam Beamon responded by saying, "As police officers we do not set the fees for fines."

Ronel Brewer said that as a junior on

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