

Homecoming '98: A huge success

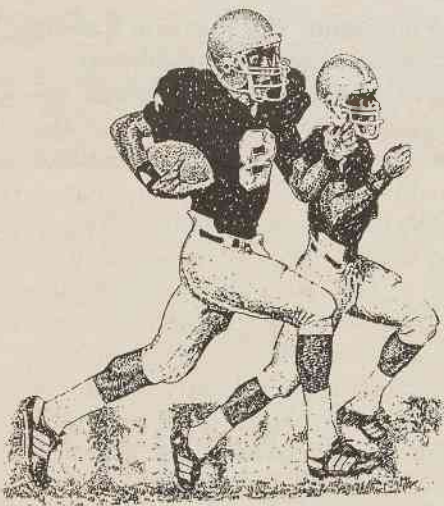
By Ronel Brewer

For the first time in a long time, my hat is off to the Student Government Association of Elizabeth City State University.

This year's homecoming was definitely one of the best since I came here in 1995. Not only did the SGA finally make money off of the events but they were packed to capacity.

The week began with a gospel concert that included numerous choirs and soloists. Our own group, Essence of Praise, was joined by a group from Norfolk State University and both performed soul-stirring renditions of contemporary and traditional gospel selections that left the audience with a touch of the spirit.

Next was the splash party which had a sizeable turnout considering the drab weather. The disc jockey, situated on the balcony of the Vaughn Center,



had a birds eye view of the bodies glistening with water.

Tuesday night was "Apollo Night," and a ECSU staffer said it was "different from the last few because we had some real talent."

The greeks kicked this part of the program off doing what they do best—stepping right down the aisle in their traditional colors.

There were poets, rap artists, singers and comedians. During intermission disc jockey Greg Sampson threw on Atomic Dog and there it was: fraternity on top of fraternity showing spirit that helped ready the crowd for the step show.

But let's not move too fast because we aren't even halfway through the week. The fashion show was one of the most daring and captivating that ECSU has seen in a while. Directed by Darryl Turner, the show kept the crowd on its feet.

On Thursday true Vikings braved the weather to party with the DJ's in Williams Hall. After the action in the gym was shut down, the real party began, with students and visiting alumni staying on the green until the wee hours.

"That's the way it should be," said alumnus Kevin Morris. "It's still not where it used to be in my freshman year but this is definitely an improvement."

The really big night for the greeks was Friday. With standing room only in the Vaughn Center, each greek group's performance was outstanding and the audience rewarded them for all of their hard work—their blood,

sweat and tears—with hugs, kisses and cheers.

This part of the big week didn't end there. Noreaga, Lord Tariq, Peter Gunz and a whole cast of others fittingly brought the night to an end.

Because of the work of Paul Bryant, assistant dean of student life and his staff, one of the most important week-

ends of the school year was made even that much more special.

The Student Government Association and the people associated with each individual event are to be commended, as well. And the entire ECSU student body deserves kudos for making this one of the most memorable of homecoming celebrations in recent memory.



photo by Eugene O'Neal

From left, Denauvo Robinson, ECSU vice chancellor for development, Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim, ECSU, Mrs. LaVera Burnim, Hope Jones, Miss ECSU and Mr. ECSU, Kelsey Lodge.

Four inducted into ECSU Hall of Fame

By Xavier Wise

Four new members were inducted into the Elizabeth City State University Hall of Fame during Homecoming weekend.

Though somewhat lost in the atmosphere of fashion shows, step shows, and concerts, the induction ceremony provided a fitting highlight of the careers and accomplishments of four mighty Vikings from "back in the day."

When it came to football, Johnnie Andre Williams was a leader on the field. One of the highlights of his career as a Viking was being selected to play in the first ever black college football game at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. Williams was also selected CIAA Player of the Week eight times.

Not too many people are still around who would remember the name Edward Cooper, one of the finest offensive guards in the history of ECSU football. A native of Elizabeth City, Cooper played during a time when statistics weren't really kept. Cooper played on

the Viking team all four years and was named an All-EIAC Offensive Guard in 1947.

Wrestling was once an ECSU championship sport, and George Miller, who started and lettered during his four years at ECSU, was one of the finest the school has produced.

A 1974 graduate, Miller was crowned Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) wrestling champion three times, from 1972-1974. Miller was NAIA wrestling champion in 1971. He also excelled in football and was a member of the 1971 CIAA and NAIA Championship teams. Miller is one of the most decorated wrestlers in the history of ECSU.

Before Miller took to the mat for the Vikings there was Eric Keyes, a 1970 graduate of ECSU. Keyes, a three-time CIAA champion, was a finalist in each of his four years. He compiled a career record of 57-6-1 and was named Outstanding Wrestler of the 1970 CIAA Championship. He was also named NAIA Tournament MVP that same year.



photo by Eugene O'Neal

Chancellor and Mrs. Burnim enjoying the Homecoming parade.