

Chancellor says enrollment remains a priority

By Marty Jacobi

Increasing Elizabeth City State University's enrollment tops the list of goals of the University's five-year plan. Currently, the University has an enrollment at 50 percent of its capacity, ECSU Chancellor Mickey Burnim said in an exclusive interview with the Compass staff earlier this semester.

This means that ECSU has the potential to double its present enrollment.

The ECSU chancellor said that the University's plans for increasing enrollment include recent staff changes in several departments, among them, student affairs and admissions, where a new director has been named. There are also plans to revive the university's marketing strategy and make it more appealing to potential students, and also more comprehensive.

"We're working on a comprehensive marketing strategy," he said. "We will be bringing in a consultant to package (our) recruiting materials."

The university's annual budget used to be based on FTE (full-time equivalency) enrollment. FTE is the number of full-time students enrolled for a semester based on a one-to-one point system, which includes part-time students who are based on a quarter-point system. The more students enrolled, the higher the FTE.

Beginning in Fall '98 the University

began basing its budget on the total number of credit hours the students are enrolled in each semester. In Fall '98 there were 1,932 students enrolled. This amounted to an FTE of 1,826.5, but the number of credit hours was 28,452.

While those figures suggest an increase in the school's budget, statistically, the number of students enrolled hasn't fluctuated much over the past several semesters.

"That's both good and bad," Burnim said. "We didn't see a continual drop, but we didn't see growth."

Along with a new attention-getting sales pitch, Burnim said the University is also working on attracting a diverse student body.

"The kind (of student body) that will provide the richest experience to better teach the students to broaden their minds," he said.

While 85 percent of the students at ECSU are from the surrounding 21 county area, bringing in a diversified student body brings different perspectives to the area, Burnim said.

"The world is shrinking in a sense," he said. "A useful education is one that will expose you to people."

By increasing the number of students and encouraging diversity of students, Burnim said he hopes to fulfill the University's mission.

Students urged to file Financial Aid forms early

By Staff

Students urged to get financial aid forms in on time

In December, Elizabeth City State University will launch a special campaign aimed at ensuring that every student planning to enroll at the University in the fall of 1999 complete and have their financial aid forms, including a Federal Financial Aid Renewal Form, on file in the appropriate office by March 15, according to Dr. Dennis Brown, director of the Incentive Scholarship Program.

Mr. Brown says that in the past students who have not gotten the forms in a timely manner have been subject to inconveniences including not being able to complete their registration, being denied access to their dormitory rooms and the dining hall, and, most importantly, being denied access to class.

"In the past, delays in completing this very important form have

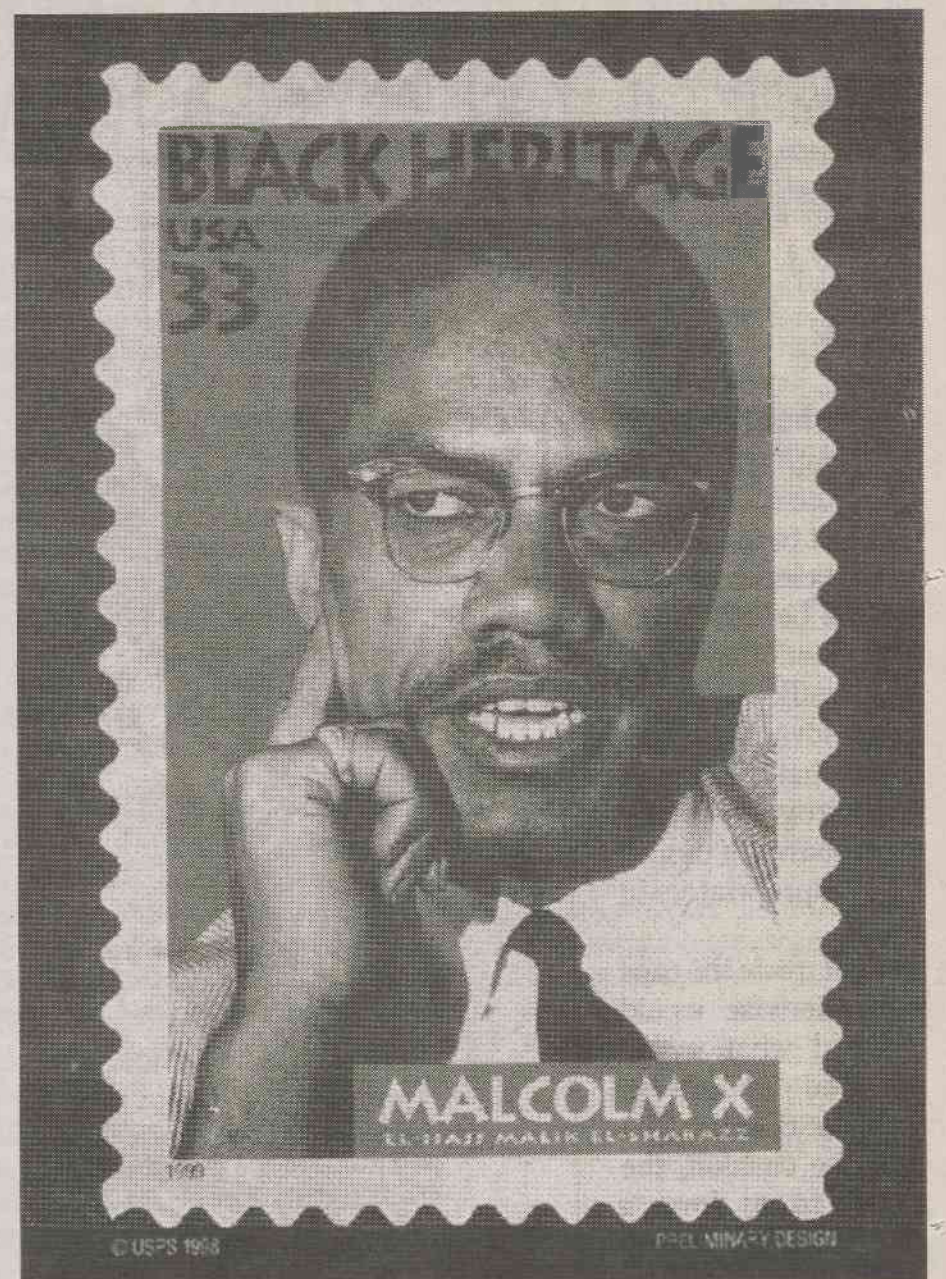
caused enormous problems for the University financial aid office as well as for those students who failed to complete the form in a timely manner," Brown said.

In order to maximize this campus-wide effort, Mr. Brown says their will be a poster "plastering" of the campus with the initiative's slogan: NOW IS THE TIME as a reminder to the entire campus the importance of this important effort.

The University's Financial Aid Office will also sponsor several financial aid workshops at which students will be given individual help as needed in order to properly fill out the forms.

Mr. Brown says other special efforts to encourage students to get their forms in on time will be made during February, which he says will be designated "Financial Awareness Month."

For information contact Dr. Brown at (252) 335-3559.



U.S. Postal Service

Malcolm X is the 22nd person to be honored in the Black Heritage Series. Stamp to be issued next year features image from 1960 news photograph.

U.S. Postal Service to issue Malcolm X commemorative stamp

By Staff

There was a time not too long ago when most people in America bristled just at the mention of the name Malcolm X. Of all of the social and political figures who had a major impact on 1960s America, it was Malcolm X, the reformed minister turned firebrand, whose name was closely associated with the civil rights movement.

Groups like the Anti-Defamation League and B'nai B'rith International were highly critical of the man who became known as El Hajj Malik el Shabazz, but on Nov. 19 there was little criticism of the slain leader as the United States Postal Service announced plans to issue a Malcolm X commemorative stamp.

Malcolm X's life was varied and vast, as most Americans know, and he changed from advocating separatism to inclusion late in his short life. Of this change the postal service said Malcolm took "a more integrationist solution to racial problems."

Malcolm X was murdered in New York's Audobon Ballroom in 1965.

Richard D. Heiderman, president of B'nai B'rith International, said the stamp should "remind all Americans of the possibility of change and reconciliation between people divided by racial hatred."

Malcolm X is the 22nd person to be honored on the Postal Service's Black Heritage Series. The new 33-cent commemorative stamp will be issued early next year.