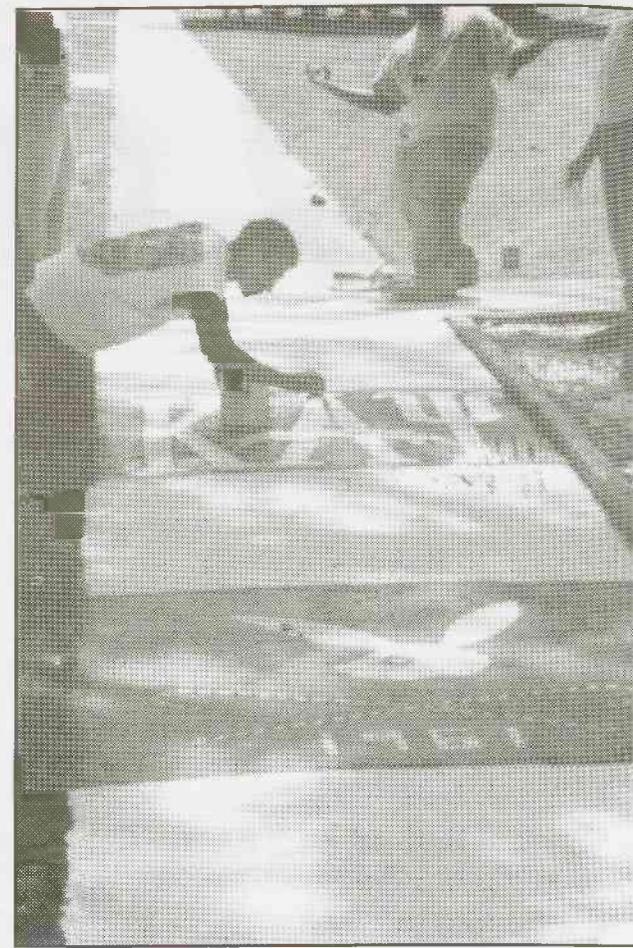


photos by J'aime Powell

Ms. Tasha Tillett of Delta Sigma Theta freshens up her organization's plot (left & above photos). One of the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi repaints the organization's logo (right photo).



Memories of Days Gone By

By Xavier Wise
Staff Writer

Just as April showers bring May flowers, the turning of the calendar brings forth my final days here at Elizabeth City State University.

It's only natural that I, like most other seniors, reflect on four years that helped shaped my mind. Rather than making this piece one that brings about tears, I'd rather look back with laughter. After all, graduation is supposed to be a time of laughter and enjoyment.

I have been through a lot in my four years here at ECSU. When I arrived in August of 1995, I had no idea what was in store for me.

Prior to coming here, if someone would have told me that I would trav-

el to the mountains of West Virginia, play on a national championship contender basketball team, and become a father all in four years, I definitely would not have believed it. However, we did play in Charleston, West Virginia, we did compete in the 1997 NCAA Elite Eight Tournament, and I was blessed with Keshawn on Dec. 13, 1997. Those who have walked before me have said that higher education will make or break you; It will be a difficult experience to overcome, but you must, nonetheless.

Aside from all that, my association with the Men's Basketball team has been an unforgettable one.

For four years, I ran out onto the floor of the R.L. Vaughn Center warmed by the cheering fans and hundreds of pom-poms being waved as

we started our pre-game rituals. We may not have won every game, but we did put forth a mighty effort each time out. And despite the fact that my teams didn't win a Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Championship, I was glad to have made it to the finals along with my teammates this year. I've been to many places and seen many things on my four year journey, and this may be why I feel the need to settle down now as my days here come to a close. I can only hope that those teammates I leave here will experience the joys I've had being a part of this winning program.

Academically, I can truly say that I was challenged every step of the way.

Each professor I've encountered really opened my eyes to new things.

Since there's so much that I've learned, I won't point out everything and everyone for fear of leaving someone out. So to every professor that I've had the pleasure of meeting, "Thank you". I hope these past four years have been as unforgettable for you as they have for me.

As I close, I'd like to leave behind some words of wisdom to those who will someday be in this position: "No commitments, no regrets". Simply put, don't commit to anything you're unsure of, and don't do anything that you may regret later.

Sure, it's easier said than done. But it's up to you nevertheless. So with a smile on my face, and my cap on my head, I bid ECSU a fond farewell and best wishes to you all.

Campus Police Focus On Prevention, Education

By Marty Jacobi
Assistant Editor

Like others in the area, Elizabeth City State University's campus is too often the target of senseless acts of vandalism, many times by people who do not understand the university's social and cultural significance to its community and who do not care.

George T. Mountain, the ECSU director of police and public safety, has worked on campus for nine years. He said that security measures are regularly in practice to discourage crime-related problems.

"We have secured officers on patrol, checking and securing buildings," Mountain said.

"Normally, two police officers and two security officers are on duty 24 hours a day.

Officers walk through each building on campus before securing them.

Chief Mountain has two types of law enforcement under his command—police officers certified through the State Attorney General's Office and have full arrest authority and security officers who provide additional eyes and ears. These officers, Mountain says, perform such necessary and essential functions as assisting students who have car problems and escorting students across campus after dark.

Mr. Mountain says that educating students about how to prevent campus crime has also contributed to lowering incidents.

"We try to do flyers and radio announcements to students to encourage them to lock their valuables in a safe location," Mountain said. This

crime prevention measure helped to reduce the number of thefts last year, he said. Students are encouraged to keep their dorm locked, even when going to the shower, he said. Students need to keep their car locked and keep the key in a safe place. Valuables should never be left alone, even in the classrooms.

"We don't think anything bad will happen to us," he said. "Sometimes we leave the windows down and the keys inside. That certainly will help criminals."

Chief Mountain adds that most campus thefts tend to occur when a large number of students are away from campus, like over the holiday weekends. These, he says, can be avoided in many instances.

"When a lot of dorm residents are away, we ask kids to report any

suspicious activity they see to the police department," Mountain said. "We receive a few calls sometimes during the semester."

Alcohol use is another factor in crimes on college campuses. Chief Mountain says that his staff regularly meets with the University's Alcohol Task Force to be proactive and stay ahead of possible problems. The Alcohol Task Force which is made up of representatives from the department of Student Affairs and security personnel representatives.

Chief Mountain suggests that issues of security should be kept in the forefront of everyone's mind..

"When things go well, we tend to relax a little," he said. "Especially in the dorms, students become more relaxed."