

ECSU's GROUNDBREAKING PROJECTS FOR DORMITORIES

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One of the main concerns of ECSU students year after year is the lack of air conditioning in most of the dormitories. Some students have even wondered why the University is going to build a new dorm instead of installing the much-needed air conditioning in the existing ones, which are Wamack, Bias, Mitchell-Lewis, Doles, and Hugh Cale.

Freshman, Tiray Jones, who is a Wamack Hall residence, said, "At times it's [the heat] unbearable, even fans don't help". Jones thinks it would be a good idea for the increase in tuition and fees to go towards air conditioning dormitories.

A sophomore, Social Work major, agreed and said, "the money we already pay out should include air conditioning, we shouldn't have to go out and buy fans".

Mr. Bruce Boyd, Housing Director, has indicated, "We hear the cry of the students, and we have long since anticipated the need for air conditioning, however, identifying the resources has been extremely hard." Boyd also explained the Bond Referendum that the North Carolina voters supported would cover the much-needed air conditioning and other

needs of the dormitories. However, a renovation such as this one will take time. Aside from the Bond Referendum, there is another project underway. Over the next eight years, each dormitory will be upgraded with new furniture, Wamack is completed, and aside from lack of air conditioning, it is state-of-the-art as far as furniture and (wiring for Internet Access.) The complex is scheduled next for a furniture upgrade.

Other major projects include groundbreaking for a new dorm in the spring of 2004. The proposed dorm will have 200 beds, suite style, and state-of-the-art facilities, including air conditioning and wiring for Internet access. "We want students to have a nice, clean and safe environment, one that promotes academic success"

In responding to the students who asked about tuition including air conditioning, Boyd said, "we keep our housing cost affordable, and sometimes finding resources including private ones, to provide air conditioning is difficult. Furthermore, heat is important as well." Boyd went on to say the existing dorms would be renovated, with air conditioning, but it will take some time.

THIRD ANNUAL ROTC RUN/WALK-A-THON A HIT

Lacey House
Contributor

The Third Annual Army ROTC Run/Walk-a-thon was held on Saturday, September 8th. There was a significant amount of cadets and community participation in the event.

Runners and walkers were greeted by nearly perfect weather. Excitement filled the air as participants ranging from cadets, alumni, the United States Coast Guard, community members, and marathon runners warmed up and waited for instructions.

The 4.8-mile race began on the campus of ECSU at the Army ROTC building and continued through surrounding streets, including Edgewood, Parkview Rd., Park Dr. and Riverside. The cadets, who were neither running nor walking, were suited up in reflective vests and positioned on streets to help guide participants in the right direction.

Trophies were given to the top three male and female finishers. The cost of the event was \$3.00 in advance and \$5.00 the day of the event.

This particular race was a first for many participants, including Larry Ormerod, 41, who came in first place for the males of his age group with a time of 31:20. When asked if he would like to participate in the event again next year, he said, "Oh yeah! If I'm free next year, I'll do it."

The other two top male runners were Ozzy Vera, who came in second

place with a time of 32:17, and Joshua Dubois, who came in third with a time of 32:18.

Pam Gensler, 36, came in first place for the ladies, with a time of 41:58. Lisa Cratty, 39, came in second place with a time of 41:59. Both ran the event for the first time, but the ladies have ran 2 half marathons and 3 10K's in the past together.

Both runners would like to come back next year. Cratty said, "We had a good time. It was a lot of fun." Gensler added with a chuckle, "Next year, we'll get our daughters out...We'll beat them."

ECSU junior, Miss Lavonne Riddick made her fellow cadets proud by coming in third, with a time of 53:52.

Erika Hardy, 7 and Jeremiah Hardy, 4, were by far the youngest participants in the event. When asked if they had fun, both responded, "Yes," with big grins. Erika added, "But we didn't finish." Both ran with their father, Major Wayne Hardy of the USCG.

Mr. Pedro Holley and his wife crossed the finish line as spirited as when they started the race. "This was my first year, but I started 3 weeks ago exercising with ROTC...preparing for my next 50 years," said Mr. Holley.

For Lt. Colonel Deas, professor of military science, this was also her first year participating in the event. "It was good. More about helping the cadets. I hope we get more community involved," she said.

LITTLE STEPS TOWARD BIG IMPROVEMENTS



Denmark takes a moment to meditate before the walk

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On August 17, 2001, Kim Denmark and a group of students from Elizabeth City State University, including the Student Government Association cabinet, some of the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, some of the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, and other students joined in a walk from Microtel Hotel to the campus of Elizabeth City State University. Denmark was wearing her trademark orange wind suit with a million signatures on it. Denmark is a native of Dayton, Ohio. What is she walking for? She is walking to improve the welfare reform system. She is striving to get the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 changed and enhanced to truly assist people in need of governmental assistance. At first she believed that every person on welfare was lazy and just wanted a free paycheck. She also thought that all individuals on welfare were black, but eventually she found out that she did not know as much about welfare and the recipients of welfare as she thought.

Denmark used to own and operate a company called Performance Health and Temporary Service. This company was very successful until she ran into financial difficulties when she tried to expand. The company was improving the lives of many people until the banks that she tried to borrow loans from tried to take her company. Before her company was shut down, Denmark had an encounter with a woman. This woman desperately wanted to improve her life and her children's lives. This lady came into Denmark's office with a baby on her lap and two children around her ankles. Denmark says that the sight of this woman was a wake-up call for her, and it was then that she decided to do something to help.

When Denmark saw how des-

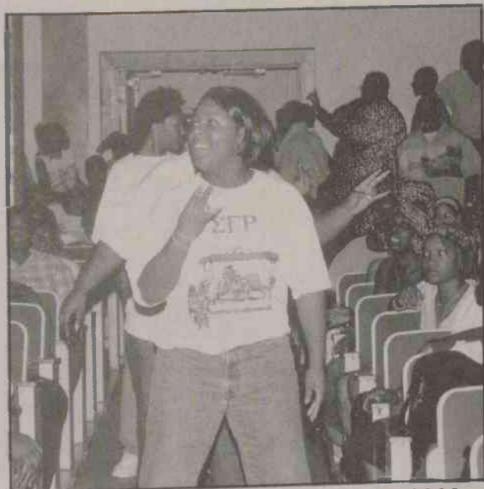
perate the lady with the children was, she began to feel as if too many of the nation's unfortunate population was falling through the cracks in the welfare system. Ultimately, she feels that they become dependent on alcohol and then commit crimes, such as theft and murder.

She got so depressed with America's way of dealing with welfare recipients that she was on the verge of having a stroke. In January 1999, Denmark decided she would walk and collect signatures for a petition against welfare reform, in hopes of collecting one million signatures. As of now, September 2001, Denmark has walked over 1700 miles through Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Washington D.C. and now North Carolina, and has now collected 20,000 signatures.

"To walk with Kim was an experience. I never knew welfare was such a big issue. Kim is a very strong and motivated individual. I was privileged to be able to walk with her," said Takia Winrow, an ECSU sophomore.

Even though Denmark has never been on the welfare roll, she hopes that the walk will encourage single mothers to be steadfast in seeking work and to eventually encourage them to start businesses, so they can work for themselves.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Student Body Meeting, August 24, 2000

Miss Tia Simms of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated was killed in a fatal automobile accident on Monday, September 3, 2001. Sigma Gamma Rho held a candle lighting ceremony on September 6, 2001 in her memory. She will be sincerely missed by all of her family, friends, sorors, and acquaintances. The Compass sends their prayers and thoughts to her family for their loss.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
KIM DENMARK AND
WHERE SHE WILL
WALK NEXT,
GET ON-LINE AT
KIMWALKS.COM