

AROUND THE REGION

Cervical health awareness month

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January was Cervical Health Awareness Month, a national initiative to empower women across the United States through health education and proper medical care. Cervical cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer worldwide and also one of the most treatable. If detected and caught early, cervical cancer is 100 percent curable. The American Cancer Society estimates that 13,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer this year and almost 4,400 will die from it.

The main focus of this national health initiative is to increase American women's attention to early detection and health care.

Cervical cancer is a problem for many women who either do not take advantage of the procedures that detect it or do not have access to the health care they need once the disease is found.

"We don't get our Pap Smears like we should," said Beverly Shannon RN, an ECSU staff nurse. "African-American women are less likely to get their yearly physicals."

There are also many risk factors for acquiring cervical cancer like smoking, never having had a Pap Smear, having more than one sexual partner or having human papilloma virus (genital warts). The best way to detect the cancerous cells is the Pap Smear, which involves scraping cells from the cervix. The cells are placed on a slide and then checked for abnormalities. The Pap Smear is the key to lower mortality rates and low occurrences

of late stage cancer discoveries.

Cervical cancer affects all ethnicities but it occurs more in African Americans, Latinas and Vietnamese. Also women who are uninsured or under insured, like those in rural areas, are at an extremely high risk for acquiring this disease.

Last month the Elizabeth City State University student services division provided free Pap Smear tests and cervical cancer education for the female students on campus.

This was the first year that the new staff participated in this observance. "The goal of these monthly observances is to increase health awareness and promote (student) wellness," Shannon said. Students were informed via the ECSU Website and e-mail. When asked if the day produced a large turnout Shannon said, "We had a full day."

March

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these," said ECSU student, Andrew Vinson.

As each person in the diverse crowd that had assembled at City Hall lent their voice in unison to sing the anthem, it was truly clear the Dr. King's Dream, although it had not come true, was much closer to reality today than it had ever been during his lifetime.

"The idea of this event is to motivate each of us to live as if Dr. King would have wished for us to live, and though we may not possess his talents, we each have talents that can be used in helping to make his dream our reality," says Dr. Glenda Griffin.

Programs

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a lot of priorities that have taken place above us. They (Facilities Management) are getting things together and I am hoping to have our facilities up and running right away," Talbert Gray, W18BB-TV's general manager, said.

The MBC programs include "Gospel Video Countdown," "American Black Forum" and various sports programs and also Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) basketball and football games. The station currently airs programming from Annenberg/CPB (Corporation for Public Broadcasting) in the mornings.

"These programs are all education-based and vary in subject from history to math to literature to the social sciences and more," said Ms. Melba Brown, Television Services Coordinator. The programs will not feature vulgarity, profanity or sexual situations.

One new program in the lineup is "Karaoke Tyme" which will feature people singing karaoke. "This will give people a chance to come out and show the public what they have," Mr. Greg Sampson, WVRS host of "Karaoke Tyme."

"Healthy Views," the first new original series of the station, will feature health information including eating right, exercising, healthy weight loss and many other health-related issues.

ECSU TV is working with a local business, The Fitness Warehouse, and ECSU's Wellness Center to make this program a success.

"Fitness is a different lifestyle. Make it your life-style," Sam Bloodworth, co-owner of The Fitness Warehouse, said. He also wants people to realize that consistency (in fitness) is the key. The station hasn't designated a host for the show.

Other planned shows will include "The Chancellor's Chair," with host Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim, and "Academia Profiles." The Chancellor's Chair will include discussions about University issues. "Academia Profiles" will highlight the accomplishments of the ECSU faculty and staff members. All programs are slated to begin airing this month.

Vending

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"They (the students) just tell me that they lost it (their money) and I reimburse them," Stokley said.

Pepsi is currently attempting to create the same type of "slush fund" so students will be able to quickly and easily reclaim lost money from their machines as well.

The ECSU campus has more than fifty Pepsi and Lance vending machines. Pepsi rents the drink machines to the university and Lance provides the snack machines.

"It's a shame there are no Coke products," Mark McKinley said. Some students believe having a variety of products to choose from would bring better service by putting two separate vendors into competition for student dollars.

Danny Stallings, who manages the Pepsi machines on campus, said that there have been two or three instances of vandalism, all occurring in residence halls. The machines had to be completely replaced, costing \$2500 a piece.

Stallings and Ms. Doraine Spence, Director of Auxiliary Services, say that the machines have become jammed by the insertion of items other than money into the money slots. Stallings said bent coins, metal disks (from an electrical box) and paper clips have been "a big problem" by jamming the machines and causing the next user to lose his or her money.

The machines are serviced weekly, which seems to fit most students' needs. Some machines, such as those in The Complex, run out more quickly because there is much more pedestrian traffic there.

"Two out of the four times I've been there, the machines were empty," Jennifer Pride said.

Drugs

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do with arrests on the ECSU campus. The Clerk of Courts office provided access to the name of the alleged offender and the accompanying reports. Hudgins was unavailable for comment.

The Compass was made aware of the Mitchell-Lewis incident because of a student complaint to a Compass reporter that the police were coming into the dorm late at night with drug dogs and devices that detected smoke. The student said that this was an intrusion. Other students who live in the dorm were asked about drug dogs being brought into the dorms, but have not corroborated this story.

"There were no dogs used in this particular situation. We would not bring in dogs without a good reason," Beamon said.

"We are not here to harass the students. We just want to make ECSU a safe place for the students," Beamon said. "If a law is broken in front of a campus police officer it is his duty and responsibility to arrest the persons involved."

Another ECSU student who lived in Bias Hall was arrested for the possession of a small amount of marijuana and is facing charges through the university's student court.

"I'm sure most of the students know that possession of marijuana is illegal, but some students display an attitude that suggests its [possession of marijuana] is not a big deal," Beamon said.

Asked if he had a message for the students on campus, Captain Beamon said, "Marijuana is illegal; it is an offense that we will make an arrest for."

Of the students and staff members surveyed 55 percent said that they use or know someone who uses marijuana and 26 percent know someone on campus who sells drugs.

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