

# Sun and Steel

Photos by Toby Tate

Below, Professor Bill Richardson talks with Interim Dean Dr. Keane-Dawes.



Above, Bill Smith stands behind his work.

Below, graphic art by Mario Bradley.



Graphic art at right by Tracy Hill. At left is artist Fae Deaton with Interim Dean Dr. Keane-Dawes, and above is art by Fae Deaton.



At left, patrons discuss the exhibition. Above, graphic art by Novella.



Sheriff Randy Smithson, above, stands by his son, Tilton, one of the featured artists.



## ECSU showcases talent, new B.S. degree

By Toby Tate  
Editor-in-Chief

As I look around the room in the Fine Arts Complex, I feel like I'm on a tour of the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk; the pieces are that good. Rusty bits of scrap metal welded and bolted together to form abstract works that any sculptor would be proud of. On the walls are graphics featuring posters for

plays at ECSU, advertisements and experimental designs made by graphic arts students. One of the students, Fae Deaton, and I are the first people there, and she begins to show me around.

"There are no deep meanings to the pieces," she said. "It's just the way they fit together that makes it artistic; the empty spaces as well as the solid materials. We used an acetylene torch, no arc welding."

The big news for the ECSU art department and the reason for this exhibit is the announcement of the new B.S. degree in Graphic Design. Bill Richardson, who teaches graphic design at ECSU, explained the new program. "We just got approved in September for a full four-year degree from the arts department. The curriculum doesn't cover strictly art, but also business aspects such as

understanding the market."

Some of the other students begin to come in, and I talk to them about their designs. One of them was Bill Smith who explains the piece that looks something like an old, broken cross. "I took some pieces from an old trailer frame and left in the flaws to give it more character." I ask about his plans for the future. "I want to go to grad school in Greensboro or North

Carolina State," he said.

I find a patron, Marcos Fabio, also a student, and get his reaction to the exhibit. "The piece that looks like fire is my favorite," he said. "It's great to see how talented our students are, and that they are able to display their talent in such a way. ECSU has a lot of potential; the students here are very special."

"What I'm teaching is industry standard software," said

Richardson. "Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver...we're trying to be centered in design more so than computer science."

Richardson believes Elizabeth City will expand to accommodate his students. "Elizabeth City is the next big boom town as far as growth" he said. "There are lots of opportunities for graphic designers."