



The Compass



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Elizabeth City, N.C.

Rental policy to stay in place

Other UNC schools may not be so lucky

By Toby Tate
Editor-in-Chief

The book-purchase policy, which was to be implemented in the Fall 2005 semester at Elizabeth City State University, has been temporarily halted until the committee appointed to study the effects has had a chance to finish its student survey.

At a meeting of the board of trustees on Tuesday, March 8, the June, 2004 decision to change from book-rental to book-purchase was rescinded, with one board member, Henry B. Pickett, Jr., dissenting.

The ad hoc committee, comprised of five students, five

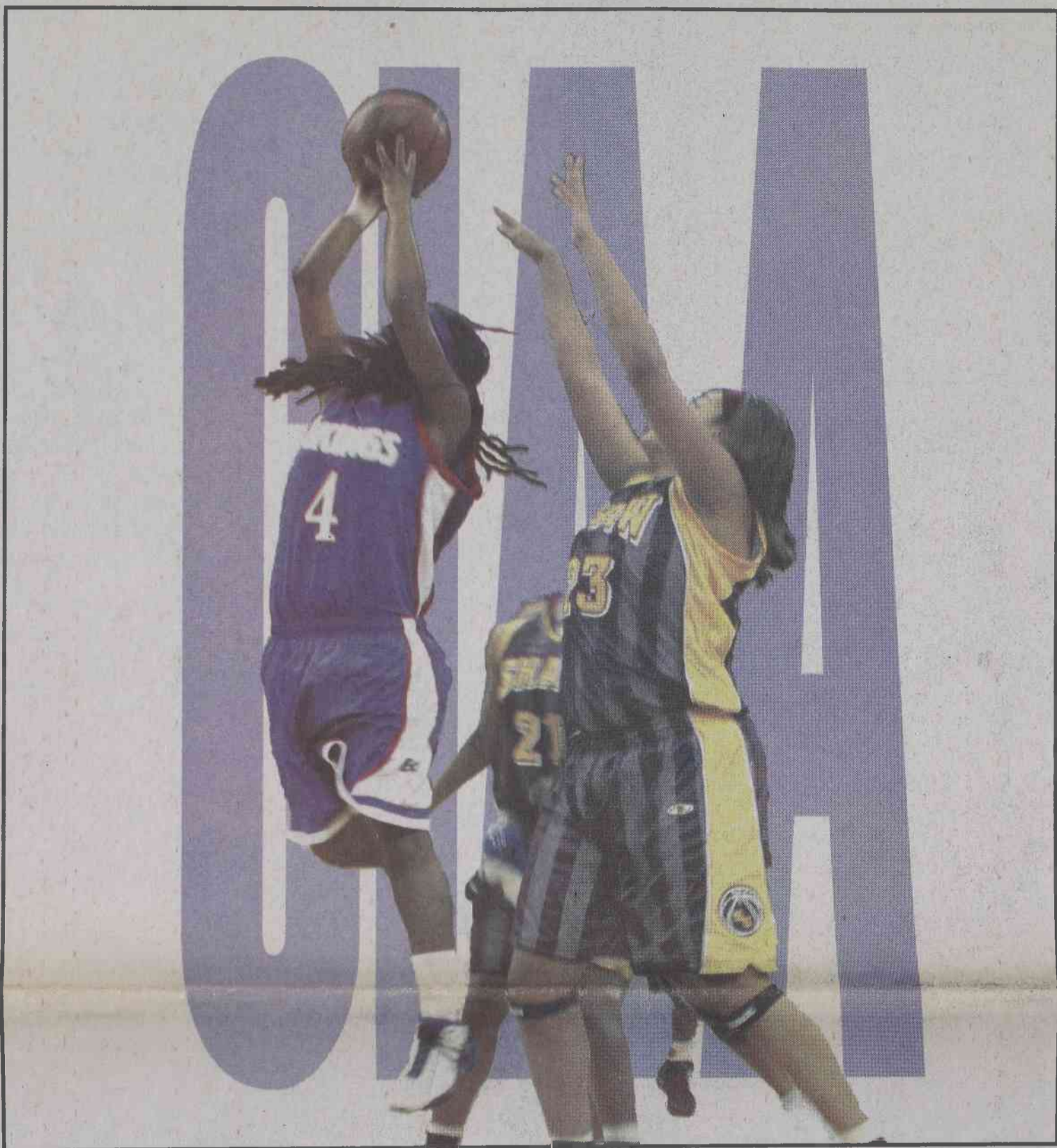
“...we made a mistake. We can rectify the mistake with reinstatement of the rental policy.”

faculty members and three ECSU staff members, failed to complete their study and report to Chancellor Burnim in time to switch to the program next semester. According to Trustee Earl T. Brown, head of the committee, they did not have sufficient time to complete the survey.

As reported in the Daily Advance, Trustee Frank H. Skidmore Jr. said, “I don’t believe the decision has to be put off indefinitely. We have been provided insufficient information by the students and university officials (on the committee). There is no scientific proof, and we may have to rely on a gut level decision. I’m prepared to make a decision that says we made a mistake. We can rectify the mistake with reinstatement of the rental policy.”

At press time, neither ECSU administration nor student government officials could be

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Sophomore Deanna Price, who scored 10 points and had four assists, takes a shot against the Shaw University Bears at the CIAA game in Raleigh on March 5. The Bears beat the Vikings 88-49. The Vikings received a sportsmanship award, and Freshman Celeste Trahan scored 12 points and broke the CIAA single game record by pulling down 26 rebounds.

Photo by Kesha Williams
Composite by Toby Tate

Photo by Rich Harvey

See the pre-game interview with Celeste Trahan in the Sports section on page 4.



ECSU gets NCDOT grant

\$50,000 part of research deal

By Toby Tate
Editor-in-Chief

Elizabeth City State University will be part of a research study of transportation needs in northeast North Carolina thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Transportation.

On Thursday, March 10, DOT Secretary Lyndo Tippett presented a \$50,000 check to Chancellor Mickey Burnim on the ECSU campus.



Tippett

The grant is part of a research services agreement between the state and ECSU allowing the university to take part in the study, which will focus on improving communication between NCDOT and smaller northeast North Carolina communities.

“The larger cities know how to work with NCDOT, but some smaller towns don’t,” said Dr. Moy Biswas, state research and analysis engineer for NCDOT. “The ultimate goal (of the study) is to have better communication. We can build more roads and that will lead to economic development.”

The focus of the research project will be the eastern part of the state because a high concentration of the state’s small, economically disadvantaged municipalities are concentrated in that region. ECSU’s strategic location east of Interstate 95 was a factor in selecting the school for grant money, as was ECSU’s expertise on the subject of community development in northeast North Carolina.

There will be two phases of the project, the first of which will identify all small rural municipalities east of I-95. A contact list will be compiled for those municipalities and their elected officials.

In phase 2, representatives from the municipalities will be interviewed about transportation issues faced by their communities. An interim report will consist of a directory containing demographic and

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Campus construction held up by new student center

Material shortages main cause of delays

By Kimberly Lilly
Staff Writer



Knofsky

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new student center at Elizabeth City State University was held March 4, 2003 on the construction site in front of Ridley Hall. This new student center was scheduled to open in the fall semester of 2004, but with the end of the 2005 spring semester approaching, students are wondering when the new center will be complete.

The center is being constructed by the McKenzie Construction Company of Elizabeth City, and was designed

by the Freelon Group of Durham N.C. It is a two-story, 34,000 square ft. building that will include a food court, lounges, meeting room, a small auditorium, the university bookstore, and an outside courtyard that will tie the building to the existing university center and bowling alley.

The center is one of the projects resulting from the \$46.3 million UNC bond referendum allocated to the university.

“The original job for the new student center was scheduled for the late fall of

2004, not early fall,” said Randi Knofsky, interim director of the office of design and construction. “The reason the center has been delayed is because of material shortages that effect construction projects in North Carolina and the whole country, not just in N.C.”

As of now the new building is going through final inspections, then it will be furnished and eventually occupants such as the university bookstore will be moved in. “The results will be worth waiting for,” Knofsky said.

Many of the campus building renovations to be performed by Ridley Renovation were rescheduled because of the delay in finishing the student

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Alumni focus boycott on Elizabeth City hotels

Homecoming game relocation denied

By Nate Rhone
Staff Writer

The Elizabeth City State University’s National Alumni Association has decided to hold its boycott of Elizabeth City hotels during the 2005 homecoming celebration.

After much negotiation the alumni have come to the conclusion that they will not stay in any hotels in the Elizabeth City area. The association made plans to boycott all Elizabeth City businesses, but as of March 4 they have decided to just focus on the hotels. Dr. Paul Norman, president of the association, said, “Our beef is definitely with the

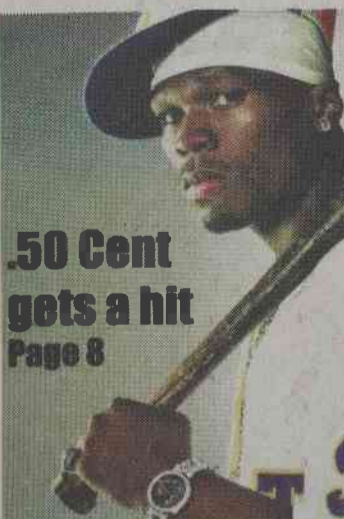
hotels.” The ECSU alumni group first raised the prospect of a boycott in November when they were angered by what they called excessive hotel prices during last year’s homecoming weekend.

Norman said the group was offered reduced rates, freebies, upgrades, and rebates from hotel owners in the Norfolk and Chesapeake, Va. area. He went on to say that chartered buses would ferry the alumni to and from the homecoming game if they stay in Va.

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Burnim



50 Cent gets a hit
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