

ECSU Receives \$100,00 Crime Grant

By **Matthew Rascoe**
Editor

Students who have been involved in criminal activity and who are in the juvenile justice and court systems in Pasquotank, Chowan and Perquimans counties will soon be able to get necessary assistance through Elizabeth City State University's department of Social Services which has received a grant in the amount of \$100,00 to provide necessary intervention and counseling services.

The grant was given to the university by the North Carolina Commission on crime and will be operated through the ECSU department of Social Services. Dr. Andre Williams,

Coordinator of ECSU's Criminal Justice Program, will be responsible for administering the grant.

"This is an exciting and important development for ECSU and for our department," Dr. Williams said. "It will allow us to address some social dilemmas that surround our citizens and impact the lives of the participants," he added.

Students who register for CJ489 (Seminar in Criminal Justice) in the Fall will receive mediation training to serve as co-mediators. Williams says it will give the experience, necessary knowledge, skills and abilities needed to be effective mediators.

Interested persons should contact the Department of Social Services in Moore Hall.

Ashe and Edwards, New Royalty

By **Chyrette Copeland**
Staff Writer

This year's Mr/Miss ECSU pageant was beautiful. Contestants for Mr. and Mrs. ECSU were Ashley Edwards, Eundene Gramby, Erica Pinkeny, Melonie Long (for Miss ECSU) Jason Gaddy, Patrick Shealey, and Samuel Ashe Jr. (Mr. ECSU)

The Mr. and Miss ECSU advisory held the program on April 1st at 7 p.m. Mr. Greg Sampson opened the pageant up with a welcome followed by Mr. Steven Carter and invocation. Ashley Harris began the program with an opening number by the contestants and ECSU Black Pearls. The program featured entertainment by Karen Johnson who performed a solo, Latoya Golden who did a praise dance along with a fellow student, and Shonica Sweet who also performed a praise dance.

The contestants for Mr./Miss ECSU were all very talented in their own unique way; they did praise dances, flag and baton twirls, and followed with skits and poems, which showed their diversity of the interest and life skills. When it came to the eveningwear, which was proceeded by the question/answer portion of the program, students felt that contestants answered very adequately.

The students families, friends and student body had come out to support the contestants, wishing them the best. All of the students who ran for the office showed they all have the ability and drive to be Mr./Miss ECSU and all the contestants upheld the pride of being a student of Elizabeth City State University.

Although the results of this year's elections were contested, Ashley Edwards was crowned this year's Miss ECSU and Samuel Ashe Mr. ECSU.

Lil' Wayne: ECSU VikingFest 2006 Finale

By **T'sha Wilson**
Staff Writer

The hottest boy from the roughest block came to Elizabeth City State University to spark off the grand finale of Viking Fest. Immediately following the step show Lil' Wayne was ready to perform. He arrived at ECSU at 8:00 p.m. He had been waiting on his tour bus outside of the R.L. Vaughn center and was anxious to get on stage, when Coach Harrell received word that Lil' Wayne was ready to perform.

As he walked on stage the crowd went wild. Girls screamed, waved their hands, and tried get his attention by getting closer to the stage. Security was well enforced. There were over 2500 people in the R.L. Vaughn Center, the majority of whom were there to hear Lil' Wayne. He rapped to some of his old hits as well as the new, from "Go DJ," "Money On My Mind," "Fireman," "Hustler Music," and more.

During the performance, while Lil' Wayne waved his hand to

the beat of the music, his diamond ring flew off of his finger. He hesitated to stop the performance, but before he had the chance security handed him back his ring, getting the crowd even more ecstatic in between performances. Wayne then took off his shirt and threw it into the crowd.

Lil' Wayne says he is "the best rapper alive since the best rapper retired," which, is a very popular saying among his fans. Lil' Wayne better known as Dwayne Michael Carter by his family and friends was exposed at a young age to the music industry by various artist who were then on the Cash Money label.

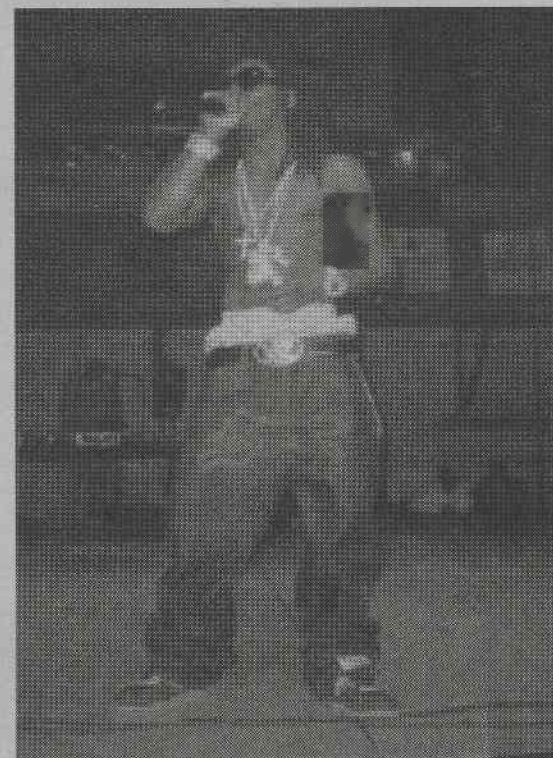
In 1997 Wayne came from underground and joined the Hot Boyz with juvenile, Turk, and B.G. Their first album sold over 400,000 copies in the South. In 1999 at the age of 16, Wayne recorded his first solo called "The Block is Hot". The albums "Lights Out," which came out in 2000 and "500 Degreez," which came out in 2002 were followed his first solo album. In 2004, Lil' Wayne released "The Carter". It was this album that

earned Wayne respect beyond the south as a rapper, for southern rappers are stereotyped as ignorant with little to no lyrical ability. In December of 2005 Lil' Wayne released his latest album The "Carter II" which went platinum.

Wayne's poetic flow got him a duet with Destiny's Child's hit single "Soldier."

After the performance was over, a local rap group, who was supposed to be the opening act performed took the stage. The audience seemed to be disinterested in the group and their performance. Over half of the auditorium began to walk out during their performance. Less than half were left by the end of their performance.

Lil' Wayne's success in the rap game has helped him become a successful entrepreneur. He is now the CEO of



Lil' Wayne performs "Go DJ" to an excited crowd during the VikingFest 2006

Cash Money Records and attends the University of Houston majoring in psychology.