



THE TOM TOM

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Most Beautiful, Handsome selected

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

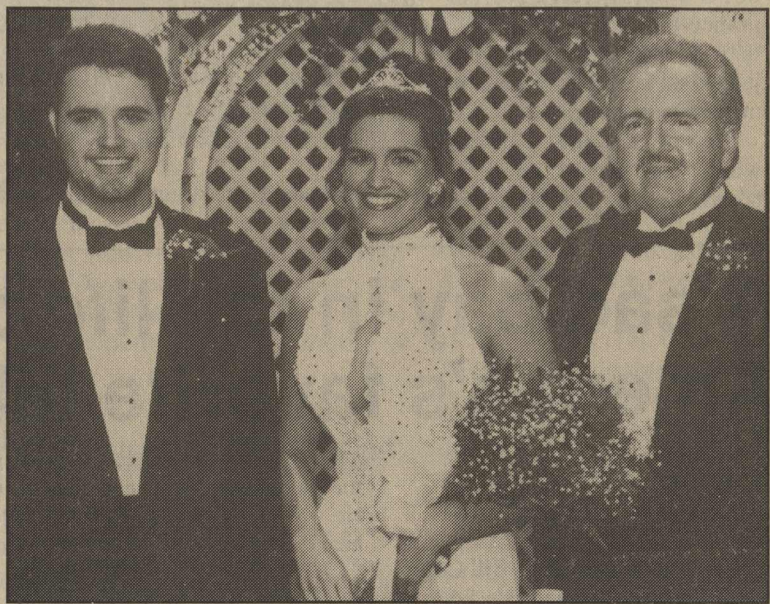
On Jan. 6, East Central Community College's Most Handsome and Most Beautiful were announced. Most Handsome and the Beaus were chosen by popular vote. The title of Most Beautiful and the Beauties were based on an interview and an evening wear competition. Miss Marci Hollingsworth provided delightful entertainment for the evening.

The Beaus were chosen as Richard Blackburn, Davis Fulton, Shawn Houser, Bryan Madison, and Sam White. The top eleven in the ladies' category were announced as Latasha Shaunta Lewis, Jill Martin, Kelly Alexander, Kelly Melton, Crystal Cooley, LaRee Lyle, Krisan Risher, Deanna Bankston, Megan Young, Penny Johnson, and Amy Smith.

East Central's chosen Most Handsome is 21-year-old Shawn Houser. Shawn is the son of Bud and Sally Taylor of Lake. He is a sophomore music major at ECCC. Shawn is a member of 'Round Midnite Blues Band, the Collegians, the East Central Concert Choir, the Ac'cents Vocal Ensemble, and the Warrior Marching Band.

Beau Richard Blackburn is the son of Dickie and Ann Blackburn of Newton. Richard is an 18-year-old freshman majoring in liberal arts. He is a member of the Warrior Corps and Phi Beta Lambda.

Nineteen-year-old Davis Fulton



Sophomore LaRee Lyle of Lena was recently named Most Beautiful at East Central Community College following pageant activities held on the Decatur campus. Lyle, a liberal arts major and graduate of Scott Central High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lyle of Lena. Sophomore Shaun Houser (left), a product of Lake High School, was chosen Most Handsome by a vote of the student body. Houser, a music education major, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Taylor of Lake. Also pictured is ECCC President Dr. Eddie M. Smith who crowned the new titleholder.

is the son of Art and Jean Fulton of Philadelphia. He is a freshman physical therapy major. Davis is a member of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Phi Theta Kappa.

Elementary education major Bryan Madison of Philadelphia is the son of Jack Madison and Bonnie and Billy Foster of Meridian. Bryan is a 20-year-old sophomore. He is a member of the football and basketball cheerleading squads.

Sam White is a nineteen year old sophomore majoring in nurs-

ing. His parents are Buddy and Cathy White of Philadelphia. Sam's activities are Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

Crowned as Most Beautiful is LaRee Lyle. LaRee is a 19-year-old sophomore broadcast journalism major. She is the daughter of Steve and Regina Lyle of Lena. LaRee is a member of the Warrior Corps, the EC Concert Choir, the Ac'cents Vocal Ensemble, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Centralettes. LaRee is also a member of the

ECCC Players where she recently performed in the Fall Dinner Theatre Production, "The Mouse Trap".

Beauty, Jill Martin is the 19-year-old daughter of Joe and Janice Martin of Philadelphia. Jill is a sophomore marketing major. Jill was chosen as a homecoming maid. She is a member of the Centralettes, the Warrior Corps, the Diamond Girls, and Phi Theta Kappa. She is also the vice-president of the Student Body Association.

Eighteen-year-old Beauty, Krisan Risher is the daughter of Shot and Tam Risher of Sebastopol. Krisan is a freshman presently majoring in Accounting. Krisan is a member of the Warrior Corps, the Fashion Squad, Mu Alpha Theta, Students in Free Enterprise, and Phi Beta Lambda.

Amy Smith is a 22-year-old Beauty. She is the daughter of Ginny Price and Milford Smith. This resident of Preston is in the Licensed Practical Nursing program. Amy is the treasurer for HOSA.

Beauty Megan Young of Louisville is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Crawley and Mr. and Mrs. John Albert Young. She is a 19-year-old freshman secondary education major. Megan is a member of the Warrior Corps.

This traditional occasion at East Central was enjoyed by all. Congratulations on the honor in which the winners have received. On behalf of the students I would like to thank those who made this important evening possible.

ECCC board honors Warrior football team

A resolution honoring the East Central Community College football team for its outstanding 1996 campaign was recently adopted by the ECCC Board of Trustees. The commendation, signed by Board Chairman Prentice Copeland of Philadelphia and College President Dr. Eddie M. Smith, reads as follows:

• WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Board of Trustees to recognize and commend excellence; and

• WHEREAS, the East Central Community College Warrior Football Team had an exceptional season, finishing with a 10-1 record; and

• WHEREAS, the Warriors were ranked nationally all season and finished with a number five ranking nationally; and

• WHEREAS, the Warriors, led by Head Coach Willie Coats, and Assistant Coaches Terry Underwood, Timmy Coats, Fredrick Lyons, and Jon Williams, committed themselves to a team effort for excellence, thereby paving the way for the team's success; and

• WHEREAS, Coach Willie Coats was named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges' South Division Football Coach of the Year; and

• WHEREAS, the Warriors climaxed their season with a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the Second Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held on December 7, 1996, in Brunswick, Georgia; and

• WHEREAS, Mack Pittman, freshman running back from Panama City, Florida, set a Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic record with 197 yards rushing on 32 carries and received the team's most valuable player award.

• NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, that we do hereby commend and congratulate the 1996 Warrior Football Team and Coaching Staff for their exceptionally outstanding season.

• BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be provided to the team members and the coaches and that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees.

ADOPTED THIS THE 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1996.

ECCC announces fall semester honor roll

Students named to the 1996 fall semester honor roll, including the President's List, Dean's List and Honorable Mention List, have been announced at East Central Community College in Decatur, according to Raymond McMullan, director of admissions, records and research.

Those students listed on the President's List with a 4.0 grade point average include the following:

LEAKE COUNTY: Karen Lynn Adams, James Travis Cain, Ginger Ann Greer, Harley Joe Hollingsworth, Amanda Leanne Moore, Jennifer Leigh Musgrove, Justin A. Thornton and Donna Jones Tubby, all of Carthage, and Amy Elizabeth Gomillion of Walnut Grove.

NESHOBA COUNTY: Donnie C. Atkinson, Candice Warren Beason, Paula J. Crawford, Allison Shumaker Eubanks, Wesley Delane Fulton, Randy Dale Howell, Sally Wilkerson Kea, Debra Gail Seale Lee, Lynda Jayroe Madison, Leslie Leigh Nelson, Lisa D. Nelson, Natalie A. Smith, Tosha Lashay Thomas, Mary

Sullivan Warren, Melanie Elaine Webb and Samuel Wayne White, all of Philadelphia; Ruth Crawford Franklin, Christy Lynn Bugg Gross, April Lynn Ladd and Rhett Crispin Rivers, all of Union; and Leslie Angela Swindle of Noxapater.

NEWTON COUNTY: Detra D. Carter, Donna Cumberland, Cindy Boggan Massey, Kimberly Shea Shaffer, James Gregg Simmons, Milton Wayne Smith and Adria Rachelle Stamper, all of Decatur; Joe E. Green of Conehatta; Annette Belinda Chapman, Ethel Tumbling Jordan, Valerie A. McMullan, Dale Evans Moncrief, Sharon Norman Nix, Adam L. Strebeck, Gloria Bender Tatum and Martha Renee Wheeler, all of Newton; Elvie Lois Leach Allen, Carla Rena Ezelle, Michael E. Lee, Deanna Laura Bankston, Jennifer A. McDaniel and Penny Permenter Sharp, all of Union; Tandra A. Walker of Hickory; Marion Nichols Croft of Chunky; Georgia Slaughter Chaney, Janet Leigh Harrison and Nona Dale Tucker, all of Little Rock; and James Marcus Savell of Lake.

SCOTT COUNTY: Olivia Marie Hamil, Krisan Lynette Risher and Jonathan Eric Sharp, all of Sebastopol; Mary Steelman Dearman, Jason Lee Frith, Jacob Michael Jenkins, Brandi Gilbert Myrick, Ashlea L. Renfroe and Anna Nicole Rinewalt, all of Morton; Donna Page Forsythe, Jacqueline Denise Hughes, Angela Suzanne King, Jeralyn Waggoner Perkins, Brian Thomas Shaw, Joseph Andrew Sistrunk, Diane Anderson Spencer, Tina Guthrie Thrash, Stephanie D. Taylor, Callie Suzanne Warren and Sarah Joy Whitesell, all of Forest; Warren Daniel Harrison and LaRee Anne Lyle, both of Lena; Cassandra Leigh Harrell of Pelahatchie; and Mickey Duane Thrash of Conehatta.

WINSTON COUNTY: Amanda L. Lundy Bates, Justin Lee Miles, Jeremy Clifton Nowell, Gaydon T. Richardson, Christal Vanlandingham and Margaret Megan Young, all of Louisville; Arny Renee Moore, Evelyn Ingram Robinson and Amy Clay

See HONOR ROLL, page 3



ECCC beauties, beaus

The above East Central Community College students were recently selected beauties and beaus for the 1996-97 term. Recipients of the annual honor include (from left) Amy Smith, Bryan Madison and Jill Martin, all of Philadelphia; Richard Blackburn, Lawrence; Most Beautiful LaRee Lyle, Lena; Most Handsome Shaun Houser, Lake; Sam White, Philadelphia; Krisan Risher, Sebastopol; David Fulton, Philadelphia; and Megan Young, Louisville.

EC cheerleader tryouts scheduled for March 6

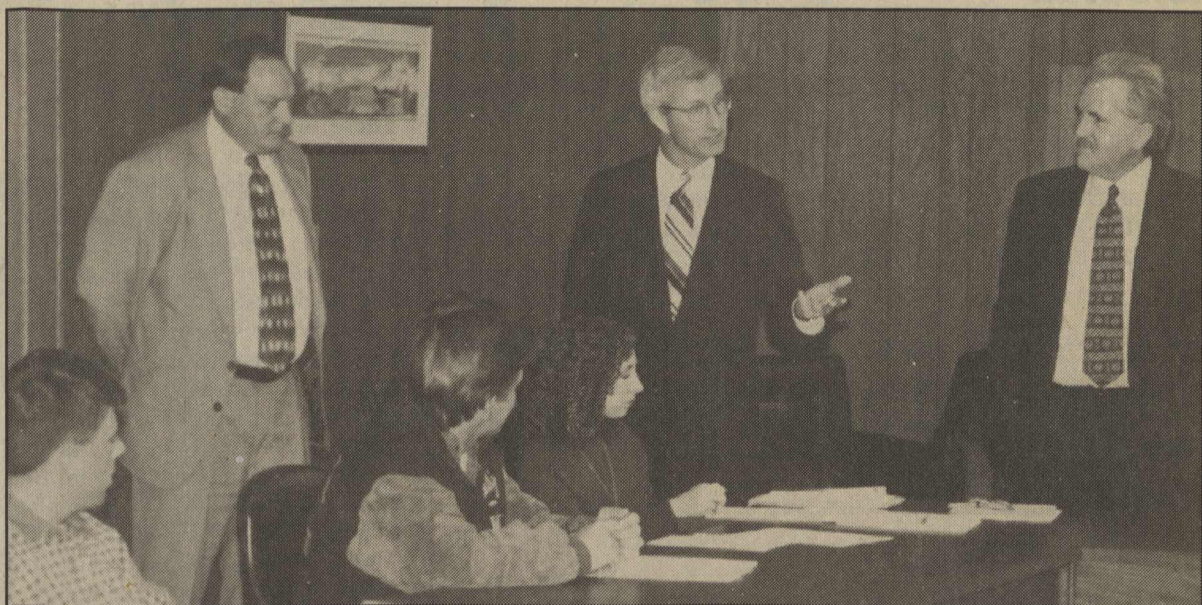
Tryouts for the 1997-98 East Central Football and Basketball Cheerleading Squads will be held on Thursday, March 6, at 4 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

Tryouts are open to all students (male or female) eligible to attend East Central Community College for the 1997-98 school year and who further meet specific cheerleader eligibility requirements.

There will be a mandatory meeting of all interested persons on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 22 at 3:15 p.m. in Brackeen-Wood Gym to discuss tryout routine, cheerleader rules/regulations, tryout procedure and judging criteria. Any student who plans to try out must attend this meeting.

Students selected for the squad will receive a full tuition scholarship for each semester of service.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Virginia Pace, ECCC cheerleader advisor, at 635-2111 ext. 239.



State officials visit ECCC

Lt. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, center, and State Senator Terry Burton, left, of Newton recently visited the East Central Community College campus and were special guests at the Presidents' Council's November meeting. Musgrove is shown making remarks to the student group, which is composed of presidents and other representatives of various campus organizations. The state officials earlier addressed a meeting of college administrative and faculty personnel during which they predicted substantial financial support for the state's community and junior colleges in the 1997 legislative session. Shown at right is Dr. Eddie M. Smith, ECCC president.

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Is there a moral decline in America?

By TORI JORDAN
The Tom Tom

Deadbeat fathers, gay and lesbian marriages, Newt Gingrich being reelected as Speaker of the House. What do these occurrences mean?

Does America even realize just how serious its morality has eroded. We are living in a time when people's roles are confused. Men don't know if they're men and women don't know if they're women. Moral decay is the sign that a country is collapsing. We cannot continue to

ignore this problem.

Crime continues to plague every city in America. The value of a person's life means less and less as murder becomes one of the leading causes of death.

The family in America, the fabric of a society, is in dire straits. The number of children born out of wedlock remains at an alarming rate. The church, another pillar of decency and morality, is in jeopardy.

People would rather go to athletic events than attend church. Churches that once had large congregations

have now dwindled to a faithful few. Children in inner cities carry guns, hard core drug addiction is on the increase; how long can America survive such chaos before it finally bursts at the seams?

America must return to the values of the past if it is to survive the 21st century. Some might say that is difficult with the Internet and all its illicit temptations. It must be done nonetheless. It should be stressed in schools, churches, on billboards, and milk boxes, everywhere until America gets the message.

Who is Robert Johnson?

By JACOB GRIMES
The Tom Tom

Mississippi is well-known for producing wonderful music talents. It is also known as the home of the King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, who as born in Tupelo.

Many people believe that Elvis was the first and most important Mississippi musician. While Elvis did play a large role in developing the sound called rock 'n' roll, there were many prior to him that laid the ground work for almost all forms of popular music.

Beginning around the turn of the

century, Delta bluesmen began making the music that would have the greatest effect on American culture. The Blues comes from old Negro spirituals and slave "hollers."

While the list of influential bluesmen from Mississippi is a long one, almost everyone would place Robert Johnson of Hazeltown at the top of their list. Johnson had a very short recording career in the 1920's, but accomplished more than most musicians do in an entire career.

Songs such as "Dust My Broom", "Terraplane Blues", and "Crossroad Blues" are even today played by students of the blues. "Crossroad

Blues" has become the signature of Eric Clapton. The song tells the story of a crossroads near Clarksdale where Johnson supposedly sold his soul to the devil in order to become the world's greatest guitar player.

If you are interested in finding out more about Mississippi's rich history and performers such as Johnson, Muddy Waters, Elmore James, and B. B. King, the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale and the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame in Jackson will provide you with an abundance of information and a much better understanding of our very special natural resource, the Blues.



ECCC Phi Beta Lambda officers selected

Selected to serve as Phi Beta Lambda officers at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 term are (seated) Adella Rainer of Decatur, president, and (standing from left) Christina Miller of Philadelphia, vice president; Tonya Williamson of Ludlow, secretary/treasurer; and Julie Laird of Lake, reporter. Phi Beta Lambda is an organization for students majoring in business related fields of study. The organization is sponsored by Michele Ergle, business technology instructor.

King's dream kept alive

By MICHAEL JONES
The Tom Tom

Around the country, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was recognized. King was the civil rights leader assassinated in 1968 while standing on a balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. On Nov. 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation making Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

Celebrations and prayers honoring King were held throughout the weekend of Jan. 18-20. Celebrations included parades in cities such as Jackson and Atlanta, Ga. Schools and federal offices across the country closed in honor of King. Many colleges including Jackson State University and Tougaloo College held worship services and banquets honoring the slain civil rights leader. The most important celebrations were held in our nation's churches where prayers and wreath-layings took place.

Baseball team looking forward to good season

By JEREMY BROWN
The Tom Tom

The 1997 East Central Diamond Warrior baseball team is looking forward to their upcoming season with great anticipation.

Coach Jamie Clark said "The team has been practicing really hard for the last two weeks and looks impressive as a whole. The only weakness of the team will be on the mound.

Only two pitchers from last year's team have wins as college players. These two sophomores are Jason Latham and Ray Ivy. Both men are expected to lead the team on the mound with help from promising freshmen. The rest of the team should fall into place with solid hitting and defense.

The Warriors posted a 31-21 win-loss record last season. With seven starters from last year's team and 11 freshmen, the Warriors are looking for an even better season this year.

The first game will be Feb. 11 against Mary Holmes Community College. Everyone is invited to come check out the '97 Warriors and get ready for some hard hitting action. This season promises to be one of the best!

WHERE DO YOU TURN
TO LEARN
WHAT'S
ON SALE?

YOUR NEWSPAPER:
The link to your community

When is beauty not beautiful?

By MISTY SMITH
The Tom Tom

With the recent murder of a child beauty queen in Colorado, beauty pageants for children have come under keen speculation by bleeding heart humanists worldwide. The question of whether or not it's "politically correct" to prance a young girl hardly more than a baby across a stage to be judged on her appearance is now a major source of debate.

Let me say now that, despite what these tight-lipped, snub-nosed, clueless morons are shout-

ing into the deaf ears of local governments, there is nothing wrong with beauty pageants. Different people are blessed with different gifts, and some are lucky enough to land good looks. Telling a pretty girl to hide her beauty and quote Shakespeare is the same as telling a smart girl to keep her mouth shut, smile, and nod.

Children should not be taught that appearances are superlative, but they should not be told that they mean you're a puppet, either.

However, it is going a bit overboard when you smear three pounds of make-up and blood-red lipstick on a four-year-old's face

and send her strutting in front of an audience in a thigh-high skin-tight mini-skirt. Here it ceases to be the proud display of a child and becomes nothing short of optical prostitution by the parents.

Having been blessed with the most beautiful little sister in the world, I can think of nothing better than seeing her stumble her cute little way to center stage to receive a crown form the judges.

But I can think of nothing more horrifying than seeing her emerge from behind the curtains with a fake smile plastered on her face and dressed to look like a three-foot-high, 30-year-old woman.

A sad day in the life of America's favorite television

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

Nearly everyone loves Bill Cosby. He is known as America's favorite television dad. Not only did we love the Cosby Show but also those cute Jell-O commercials. This is perhaps why America was saddened was the news that Cosby's only son was murdered.

Ennis William Cosby, 27, was murdered just off the freeway ramp in Los Angeles. The son of Cosby was discovered by a woman who says she saw a white male leaving the area. His body was found lying in a pool of blood outside the driver's side of his Mercedes Benz.

Apparently Cosby's son had been changing a tire because the trunk and

the passenger door were both open. He was killed by a single shot to the head. There was one statement made by Bill Cosby after he had learned of

his son's death. The statement was very sentimental as he turned toward the cameras and microphones and said, "He was my hero."

'Superman' continues his 'show biz' career

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

In May 1995, Christopher Reeve, also known as Superman, was paralyzed from the neck down in a horse-riding accident. Reeve has continued his career in "show biz" by directing a movie for HBO. The name of this movie is *In the Gloaming*. Not only has he directed this movie, but he has also continued acting and fund-raising. Executive producer Fred Zollo

said, "Chris being in a wheelchair didn't make him any less stubborn and willful and opinionated and strong-willed. Chris ran the set about as well as Roosevelt ran the country." I grew up watching Superman, and I always felt that he was a respected hero.

In some ways I also feel that Christopher Reeve is as noble as an immortal Superman. It is always refreshing to see someone with a handicap take advantage of all the possibilities of life.

Tribute to Nathan Russell #20

I hated you in high school but grew to love you as a friend
And now you've gone to a place where love will never end
You didn't want to leave us, so you put up a fight
But when you heard Jesus call, you headed toward the light
And as you headed down the path toward the voice you heard
You began to remember everything you had done while in this world
You remembered all the happiness, all the pain and sorrow too
But as you walked, you smiled because you knew that people loved you
As you finally reached the light, you knew it was the end
For when Jesus came to meet you, He took you home with Him
As I went to sleep, I saw you wearing wings
When you died you were my friend, and I hope to see you again.

Neal Keeton, Jr. #45

Note: Nathan Russell and Neal Keeton were rivals in high school as Nathan played football for Forest High School and Neal played for Morton High School. However, as teammates on the ECCC football team, the old rivalry ended, and a friendship began.

Only the Newspaper



Complete coverage!

Only the newspaper covers the news you can use -- from school board and city council meetings to police, fire and school beats. Reporters and photographers are there when you can't be.

Your Newspaper:
The Link to Your Community!

TOM TOM STAFF

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Kristi Weaver
Shannon Jenkins
Travis Mizell
Nesa Gressett
Gabriel Miller
Faculty Advisor.....Mrs. Virginia Pace



ECCC sophomore class officers

These East Central Community College students have been elected sophomore class officers for the 1996-97 school year. From left are Robin Burkes of Meridian, treasurer; Jim Savell of Lake, secretary; Jennifer Musgrove of Carthage, vice president; and Bart Gregory of Louisville, president.

EC Players to present ‘Mame’

By RICHARD EDWARDS
The Tom Tom

The East Central Community College Players are under way with their 1997 spring musical “Mame”. Auditions for the production were held Jan. 14 and 15. A cast of nearly two dozen students was selected to fill the roles.

The story is set in the 1920’s. Auntie Mame is well-to-do, lives in New York and is surprised by a wonderful present, an orphan nephew named Patrick. Some of the wild, exploratory spirit of Mame bubbles in each human being who really believes life is a banquet.

With the onslaught of the Depression, Mame loses all her money and

goes through jobs as quickly as she finds them. Suddenly she meets Beau, a wealthy descendant of the South. Beau proposes to Mame and she accepts.

Patrick is a grown man by now and proposes to a young lady himself. Soon Mame is introducing her brand of living to the next generation of youngsters. Mame defies any and all generation gaps!

Come join the cast of “Mame” for an evening of music and dance April 9, 10, 11, and 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ovid S. Vickers Theater. Tickets are \$5 for East Central students, faculty, and staff, and \$7 for the public. Tickets go on sale to the public beginning March 31. To reserve your tickets call 635-2111. There will be no reserved seating.

The Cast of Mame

Young Patrick.....	Colby Amis of Decatur
Agnes Gooch.....	Lisa Harrison of Little Rock
Mame.....	LaRee Lyle of Lena
Vera.....	Emily Bullock of Decatur
Lindsey/Chorus.....	Amanda Moore of Carthage
Ito.....	Ben Wall of Forest
Babcock/Chorus.....	Corey Robinson of Forest
Madame Branislawski/Chorus.....	Sissy Greer of Carthage
Beau Jackson.....	Jim Savell of Lake
Mother Burnside/Chorus.....	Shelia Oliver of Little Rock
Mrs. Upson/Chorus.....	Detra Carter of Decatur
Pegeen/Chorus.....	Karen Persons of Noxapater
Gloria/Chorus.....	Amy Gomillion of Walnut Grove
Older Patrick.....	Richard Edwards of Forest
Sally Cato/Chorus.....	Jessica Everett of Newton
Stage manager/messenger.....	J. B. Ware of Union
Jeff/Chorus.....	Michael Scarbrough of Philadelphia
Peter Dennis.....	Blake Hedrick of Newton
Gregor/Chorus.....	Max Lobentovinch of Newton
Cousin Fan/Chorus.....	Laura Anderson of Philadelphia
Mr. Upson/Chorus.....	Richard Blackburn of Lawrence
Chorus.....	Jessica Jordan of Edinburg
	Valeria Sam of Carthage

★ Honor Roll

Wilkes, all of Noxapater; and Julia Barrett Reynolds of Philadelphia.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY: Sonja Rochelle Curry, Sheneatha Dooley, Pamela Warren Vance and Tanesha Williams, all of Meridian.

KEMPER COUNTY: Timothy Wayne Stephens of DeKalb.

SMITH COUNTY: Melissa D. Hawkins of Raleigh.

The Dean’s List includes the following students with a 3.5 or above grade point average:

LEAKE COUNTY: Shirley Standridge Freeny, April Leanne Greer, Margaret S. Greer, Kelly F. Lawrimore McCoy, Natalia Suzanne McKay, Kenneth D. McMillion, Melanie Allyson McPhail, Alicia Deanna Moore, Jacqueline Delynn Moore, Robert C. Moss, Tara Lynn Renaud, Chantell Blanche Shumake, Brian L. Sistrunk, and Jason Christopher Wade, all of Carthage, and Johnny L. Solomon and Amy Jean Spears, both of Lena.

NESHOBA COUNTY: Ashley Skylar Allard, Amanda Lynn Bell, Leisa S. Luke Boswell, Peggy Alford Branning, Rebecca Eve Chapman, Thomas Bradley Cosgrove, Amzie Jonathan Crowe, Michael Bryant Davis, Benjamin James Fulton, Christie R. Fulton, Davis Thomas Fulton, Robert Brian Hardy, Pamela Marie Kilpatrick, Christopher Xavian Lewis, Crystal Dawn Lewis, Jill Marie Martin, Ben Myers, Melanie Jane Patterson, Brock H. Phillips, Whitney Odessa Salter, Zachary Gibbon Sanders, Donna T. Strickland, Justin Collin Walley and Tarita Sachet Williamson, all of Philadelphia, and Randy W. Cumberland and Cindy Johnson Goss, both of Union.

NEWTON COUNTY: Candi Kendrick Blackwell, Emily E. Bullock, Denise Haynes Whitfield, Marcus D. Hill, Kelly G. Hollingsworth, Joey Frank Lang, Michelle McGuire Lee, Lana D. Lohrer, Teresa Williams Mitchell, Amy Teresa Pace, Adella Etoy Rainer, Ted W. Valentine Jr. and Carla Rosson Woodall, all of Decatur; Michelle Lee Hillman and Marianne Lang, both of Conehatta; Kristi Michelle Conrad, Robert Earl Daniels, Jason Lee Jones, Joshua Wade Quinn and James B. Ware, all of Union; Kay H. S. Evans, Timothy Brian Garrison, Dawn Beeland, Cyrus LeJames Ben, Renate Kaye Ben, Timothy Edward Boswell, Amanda Lalanía Braxton, Sandra Paulene Chisolm, Lawanda Coleman, Elijah Wayne Ben, Joseph Lee Brown, Rusty Edward Cumberland, Wendy Marie Davis, Matthew Ernest Eakes, Johnna Suzette Foster, Rhonda Audine Fox, Robert Clayton Fulton III, David Ryan Gilmer, Tara Suzanne Hall, Anthony William Hoxie, David Jeremy Huffman, Jennifer Lee, Kara L. Loper, Bryan Steven Madison, James Seth McCoy, Serena Renee Morris, Hope Susanne Nelson, Erica Denise Roberson, Leslie Daree Robertson, Derek Fowler Russell, Billy Clyde Singleton Jr., Dana Morris Spears, Kim Gayle Stewart, Ginger Johnson Stovall, Natalie Sue Stovall, Jarrod Watkins Taylor, Autumn Lea Townsend, Penny L. Pickle White, Robert Christopher White, Theresa Davis Wiggs and Jennifer Leslie Williams, all of Philadelphia; David Houston McDonald of Collinsville and Catha Lynn Allison, Amanda Jo Barfoot, Janet Rachelle Hedgepeth, Stephanie R. Joyner, Nic D. Massey,

White, all of Forest; Tonya Fay Williamson of Ludlow; Julie Marie Laird of Lake; and Michael Thomas Edwards of Conehatta.

WINSTON COUNTY: Amy Rebecca Parker, Stacy Leigh Carter, Amy Brooks Dunaway, Penny Lane Johnson, Shondrice Dewon Lampley, Laquita Moore, Andrea Karen Persons and Nonya Desha Reed, all of Noxapater; Amy Suzanne Boatner of Philadelphia; and Ginger Foster, Julie Johnson Greer, Jim Bart Gregory, Jason Lee Hailey, Heather Joy Jermings, Donna Fulgham McDaniel, Carolyn Gladney, Kimberly Ann Wilson, Marcus Markey Thames and Magan Lorraine Triplett, all of Louisville.

SMITH COUNTY: Katherine F. Easterling of Morton.

LAUDERDALE: Harold Hollingsworth III of Meridian.

JASPER COUNTY: Jason Eric Ward of Newton.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.: Jack Wylie of Montgomery, Ala.

ASCENSION PARISH, LA.: Brandon John Williams of Gonzales.

The following students were named to the Honorable Mention List and earned a 3.0 or above grade point average:

LEAKE COUNTY: Tiffany Nicole Agent, Brandi Louise Atkinson, Madonna Janean

Atkinson, Stacy Catherine Baker, Laurie Heather Beckham, Joshua William Carroll, Jason Britt Cooper, Ashley Nicole Davidson, Amanda Joyce Gilbert, Nesa Lee Gressett, Derrick Chrishaw Harvey, Stephanie Lynn Houston, John Michael John, Nathan Michael King, Benita Ann Madden, Travis Daniel Martin, Kelly Deann McGriff, Karen Louise McRae, Jill Marie Ray, Amanda Dawn Sanders, Christy Marie Sanders, Christopher P. Stewart, Jason Ryan Stewart and Tunya L. Thornton, all of Carthage; Carolyn M. Richardson and Andrew T. Underwood, both of Sebastopol; Sandra Tucker McMillan of Edinburg; and Kathy Lindsay Brooks, Ashley Lanae Byram, Linda Lea Bone Gilbert, Lawanda Shephard and Randi Adams Watkins, all of Lena.

NESHOBA COUNTY: Steven Jason Alford, Brad Earl Barrett, Lisa Evans, Timothy Brian Garrison, Renate Kaye Ben, Timothy Edward Boswell, Amanda Lalanía Braxton, Sandra Paulene Chisolm, Lawanda Coleman, Elijah Wayne Ben, Joseph Lee Brown, Rusty Edward Cumberland, Wendy Marie Davis, Matthew Ernest Eakes, Johnna Suzette Foster, Rhonda Audine Fox, Robert Clayton Fulton III, David Ryan Gilmer, Tara Suzanne Hall, Anthony William Hoxie, David Jeremy Huffman, Jennifer Lee, Kara L. Loper, Bryan Steven Madison, James Seth McCoy, Serena Renee Morris, Hope Susanne Nelson, Erica Denise Roberson, Leslie Daree Robertson, Derek Fowler Russell, Billy Clyde Singleton Jr., Dana Morris Spears, Kim Gayle Stewart, Ginger Johnson Stovall, Natalie Sue Stovall, Jarrod Watkins Taylor, Autumn Lea Townsend, Penny L. Pickle White, Robert Christopher White, Theresa Davis Wiggs and Jennifer Leslie Williams, all of Philadelphia; David Houston McDonald of Collinsville and Catha Lynn Allison, Amanda Jo Barfoot, Janet Rachelle Hedgepeth, Stephanie R. Joyner, Nic D. Massey,

Sashoney Nelson, Stephanie Ward Peebles, Hollie Lea Penson, Kristie Goss Pilgrim, James Trenty Ridout, Dan A. Savell, Kimberly Boykin Smith, Misty Ann Smith and Ken Earl Thrash, all of Union.

NEWTON COUNTY: Daniel Lemont Arrington, Justin Wayne Chapman, Karen L. Evans, Tory Sherod Evans, Jessica N. Everett, Chasity Gill, Lazerrick Hampton, Krystal Dawn Harrison, Shaquania M. Huddleston, Patricia Lynn Moore, Heather Ashley Munn, Carrie Allison Norman, Miriam Moncrief Rivers, Deric D. Thompson, Maxim Lobentovich, Bruce Eric Weaver and Vertis Walker Williams, all of Newton; Heather Bailey Armstrong, Lillian Zulinda Blalock, Melissa A. Brand, William Ryan Clarke, Angela Weems Dunkerson, Leigh Ann Graham, Jason Paul Holmes, Tori Michelle Jordan, Christen Brooke Knight, Natasha Marie Mathis, Christina L. Miller, Lee Rigdon, Melissa Williams Shive and Deborah Skinner, all of Decatur; Marinda Joy Comans, Janice Beckham Adkins, Stevie D. Dixon, Rebecca Lynn Munn, Detrick D’Juran Perry, Terrance H. Strickland, Jeremy Allen Swindle and Sandra Baldwin Thrash, all of Union; Kelly Jo Alexander, Tijuana Jean Alexander, Lisa Michelle Harrison, George H. Hedgepeth, Dana Rachelle White, all of Little Rock; Stephanie D. Gibbon, Linda Nelson McDill and Marie Bealer Williams, all of Conehatta; Stephanie Suzanne Craig, Bill Henry Johnson, Marissa Lee McGee, Jessica Suzanne Strebeck and Kristie Latoya Temple, all of Hickory; Darrell Scott Embrey Rosalind Marie Evans, Scott L. Houston and Alex C. Savell, all of Chunky; Jeremy Nathanie Brown, Nancy Lee Jones and Amy D. Phillips, all of Lake; Mary Gaye Lunsford of Collinsville and Jennifer Sha Alderman, Julie Ellen Clanton and Jimothy Lamon Lewis, all of Lawrence.

SCOTT COUNTY: Shameca Linette Anderson, Misty Ann Burrell, Barbara Virginia

Calhoun, Ingrid Yanory Chirino, Kelly Margo Cook, Jason Scott Driskell, Richard Dwight Edwards, Janet Risher Grant, Christopher L. Haralson, Chad Morris Havard, Asif M. Iqbal, Ty Marcus Jankowski, Greta Dione Hodge, Fran L. Jones, Timothy Joe Mitchell, Pamela Benton Newton, Wendy J. Nicholas, Marilyn Ann Reed, Sonny Aron Sparks and Mary Francis Williams, all of Forest; Carla Phillips, Donna Goss Gilmer and Michelle Andrews Easom, all of Sebastopol; Phyllis J. Armstrong, Laura E. Boyd, Troye Craig Bradshaw, Teresa Wilkerson Brown, Misty Lashea McCurdy and Teresa Sharp, all of Morton; Regena Marie McGraw of Walnut Grove; Amy D. Latham of Lena and Daniel M. Gressett, Kristy Carol Leach and Alexander Mickel Lee, all of Lake.

WINSTON COUNTY: Michael Eugene Coleman, Kamonica Lashai Craig, Melinda Henry Eaves, Daniel Aaron Hamilton, Michael Wayne Joiner, Stephanie A. King, Kelvin Kinte Knowles, Melvin Andrae Knowles, L. Grant Mayo, Patrick Morgan Moore, Rodrick Coy Moore, Justin Dale Nowell, Lucas Bradley Nowell, Jeremy Parks, Brenda Jackson Rogers, William Veasy Rogers,

Amy Joyce Rook and Lisa Jewell Sullivan, all of Louisville, and Stephanie Reed Childress, Tonya G. Covington, Rodney L. Mason, Edwin Moore, Jason Scott Robinson and Stacy Lee Stevenson, all of Noxapater.

ALABAMA: Lakendrick T. Clancy of Tuscaloosa and Jon Nicholas Dumas of Chatom.

ATTALA COUNTY: Lucinda McAdory of Kosciusko.

LOUISIANA.: S. Kristine Martin of Bossier City, Kim M. Migliore of Metairie, and Herbert Montgomery Jr. of Lafayette.

CHOCTAW COUNTY: Justin Lee Griffin of Ackerman.

CLARKE COUNTY: John Michael Donovan of Stonewall; Emily Ruth Jenkins of Shubuta; and Kelly Christina Melton of Enterprise.

GEORGIA: Gilberto A. Venzen of Eastman, Ga.

GRENADA COUNTY: Brenda M. Beck of Grenada.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY: Robin Ann Burkes, Eric Landis Butler, Jeremy Wayne Hopkins, Timothy Lee Long and Racquel Q. Sanders, all of Meridian, and Misty Leigh Littrell of Chunky.

NOXUBEE COUNTY: Shannon Craig White of Macon.

RANKIN COUNTY: Carol Dianne Bennett of Brandon and Stephanie Paige Powell of Pearl.

SMITH COUNTY: Clotee Harper and Felicia Deanna Scott, both of Pulaski.

Price, Wilkinson featured in recital

By RICHARD EDWARDS
The Tom Tom

East Central Community College showcased the talents of Ross Price and Leesa Wilkinson at a faculty recital Tuesday, Jan. 14, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center.

Mr. Price performed various songs in five sections. Selections included three English arias, four early Italian songs, a selection from the song cycle Die Schone Mullerin, Vainement, ma bien-aimee, and three songs in English. Mrs. Wilkinson served as the accompanist to Mr. Price.

Also featured during the recital were Sophomore Josh Bamberg on trumpet, and Dr. Eddie Smith on piano.

Mr. Price is the principle voice instructor at ECCC. He holds B.M. and M.M. degrees from Mississippi College. Mr. Price, a lyric tenor, has performed leading roles with, among others, Opera New England, Mississippi Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Shreveport Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera of Dallas and the San Antonio Festival.

Mrs. Wilkinson studied piano pedagogy at Mississippi State University from 1978 - 1984 where she received her Bachelors and Masters of Music Education.

Mrs. Wilkinson has taught piano and music theory at East Central for eight years and has served as accompanist for the choir and spring musical.

Pre-cheerleader tryout clinic planned for Feb. 22

The ECCC Cheerleading squad will host a one day pre-try-out clinic on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Brackeen Wood Gymnasium. The clinic is open to any student who is interested in trying out for a position on a junior high, high school, or college squad.

They do not have to be on a squad at the present time. The purpose of this clinic is to prepare them for try-outs for the 1997-98 school year. Males and females are encouraged to attend.

Participants in the clinic will be divided into groups according to grade level. We will work on jumps and motion techniques, as well as teach a cheer, chant and dance which you may use for your try-outs if you choose.

Students who plan to try out for the East Central (or other college squad) will also work on partner stunts.

Cost for the clinic will be \$20 per person. This will include insurance and lunch. In addition, concessions will be available at breaks.

If you have questions, please call 635-2111 ext. 239.

Great Expectations at William Carey College



William Carey College Theatre has been selected to perform its original production, *It Could Have Happened Once Upon a Time*, at the regional Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in Tennessee in February. Six college productions are selected from the southeastern region of the United States.

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from every department.

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or 601-582-6103
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MPACT will help parents beat the rapid rise of college tuition

Most of us recognize the importance of a college education when competing in today's market for higher paying jobs. But a college education is expensive. Many families are experiencing an ever increasing financial burden for these educational expenses, having few options by the time their children reach college age; either they get college loans, or vie for shrinking federal financial assistance programs.

Nationwide, college tuition has increased 234 percent in the last 15 years. In the 1994-95 academic year, 56% of all available college aid was in the form of loans. Some experts have estimated that when a child born in 1995 is ready to enter college, the average four-year cost at a public university, including room, board, books, tuition and fees will be more than \$128,000. These figures represent national averages; though Mississippi schools will be less, their costs will still be substantial.

The Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program

(MPACT) was passed by the Mississippi Legislature to help parents and grandparents defray rapidly increasing college tuition costs. Now, through the MPACT plan, Mississippi families can beat the rapid rise of college tuition costs.

For example, a one-time payment of \$1,867, will pay for two years of public Mississippi community/junior college or an extended payment plan of \$10 a month, will cover tuition and fees for one year. With a one time payment of \$9,141, a newborn enrolling in the MPACT program would have covered tuition and fees for a four-year Mississippi public university education, or an extended plan of \$80 a month will achieve the same results.

MPACT contracts are guaranteed by the State of Mississippi. "This will help thousands of Mississippi parents pay for their children's college tuition," said State Treasurer Marshall Bennett. "MPACT is pro-family legislation that will replace long term debt and worry with a

safe, sound and secure savings plan."

The flexible nature of MPACT is another incentive for enrolling. Families signing up for this plan do not have to indicate which college their child will attend. MPACT is transferable to private in-state colleges, as well as out-of-state private and public colleges. Several payment schedules exist for children of all ages.

MPACT is not only cost effective; it has tax advantages as well. All payments to the MPACT program are tax deductible for state income tax purposes. Interest earnings are tax exempt to the state, and on the federal level they are tax deferrable until the time of withdrawal, and then only taxable at low student tax rate.

Enrollment period begins Feb. 1 and runs through April 30, 1997. To enroll or receive more information, call toll free 1-888-308-1997, Jackson area call 354-6800. Or write MPACT College Tuition, P.O. Box 120 Jackson, MS 39205-0120.



Students chosen for Who's Who

These sophomores have been named to the 1997 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges. First row from left are LaRee Lyle of Lena, Karen McRae of Carthage, Olivia Hamil of Sebastopol, Jessica Jordan of Edinburg, Jill Martin of Philadelphia, Adella Rainer of Decatur, Whitney Salter of Philadelphia, Christina Miller of Decatur, Jeralyn Perkins of Forest, Tonya Williamson of Ludlow, Stephanie Taylor of Forest, Amanda Bell of Philadelphia, Deborah Skinner of Decatur, Donna Gilmer of Sebastopol, Evelyn Robinson of Noxapater and Travis Cain of Carthage, (second row from left) Neal Keeton Jr. of Morton, Laquita Moore of Noxapater, Jennifer Musgrove of Carthage, Olivia McDaniel of Philadelphia, Emily Jenkins of Shubuta, Lisa Harrison of Little Rock, Allyson McPhail of Carthage, Andy Sistrunk of Forest and Sammy Sullivan, Jeremy Swindle and Nic Massey, all of Union, (third row from left) Richard Edwards of Forest; Lee Rigdon of Decatur; Ben Wall of Forest; Joey Lang of Union; Bart Gregory of Louisville; Ben Myers and Jason Alford, both of Philadelphia; and Jim Savell of Lake, and (fourth row from left) Michael Edwards of Conehatta, Matt Eakes of Philadelphia, Joe Green of Conehatta and Jonathan Sharp of Sebastopol. Not pictured are Maurice Bowie of Morton; Christie Fulton and Erica Roberson, both of Philadelphia; Terrance Strickland of Union; Darrick Massey and Kelly Cook, both of Forest; Jacqueline Moore of Carthage; Susan Smith of Collinsville and Eric Butler of Meridian. Students are selected for this prestigious honor based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for success. The honorees join an elite group of students from more than 1,800 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign countries.

Two-Year Junior/Community College Plans					
Years Till Beneficiary Starts College*	Projected Enrollment Year	Lump Sum Single Payment**	Monthly Payments Over 5 Years	Extended Monthly Payments***	Number of Payments Extended Plan
2 or less	1999 or earlier	\$2,313	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	2000-2001	\$2,313	N/A	\$74	36
4	2001-2002	\$2,070	N/A	\$52	48
5	2002-2003	\$2,057	\$43	\$43	60
6	2003-2004	\$2,044	\$43	\$37	72
7	2004-2005	\$2,030	\$43	\$33	84
8	2005-2006	\$2,018	\$42	\$30	96
9	2006-2007	\$2,001	\$42	\$28	108
10	2007-2008	\$1,987	\$42	\$26	120
11	2008-2009	\$1,972	\$42	\$24	132
12	2009-2010	\$1,957	\$41	\$23	144
13	2010-2011	\$1,942	\$41	\$22	156
14	2011-2012	\$1,927	\$41	\$21	168
15	2012-2013	\$1,912	\$40	\$20	180
16	2013-2014	\$1,897	\$40	\$19	192
17	2014-2015	\$1,882	\$40	\$19	204
18	2015-2016	\$1,867	\$39	\$18	216

One-Year Junior/Community College Plans					
Years Till Beneficiary Starts College*	Projected Enrollment Year	Lump Sum Single Payment**	Monthly Payments Over 5 Years	Extended Monthly Payments***	Number of Payments Extended Plan
2 or less	1999 or earlier	\$1,162	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	2000-2001	\$1,162	N/A	\$38	36
4	2001-2002	\$1,034	N/A	\$27	48
5	2002-2003	\$1,029	\$23	\$23	60
6	2003-2004	\$1,022	\$23	\$20	72
7	2004-2005	\$1,016	\$22	\$18	84
8	2005-2006	\$1,009	\$22	\$16	96
9	2006-2007	\$1,002	\$22	\$15	108
10	2007-2008	\$995	\$22	\$14	120
11	2008-2009	\$988	\$22	\$13	132
12	2009-2010	\$980	\$22	\$12	144
13	2010-2011	\$973	\$22	\$12	156
14	2011-2012	\$966	\$21	\$11	168
15	2012-2013	\$958	\$21	\$11	180
16	2013-2014	\$951	\$21	\$11	192
17	2014-2015	\$943	\$21	\$10	204
18	2015-2016	\$936	\$21	\$10	216

*Years till the Contract Beneficiary begins college, measured from September, 1997

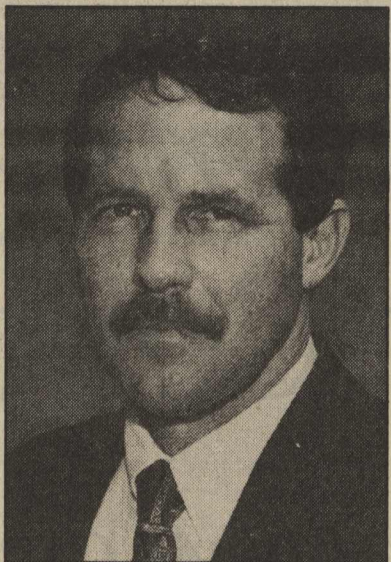
**For payment options with partial down payments plus monthly payments please call the MPACT Office.

***Extended Payment Plan not available for Projected College Entrance Dates less than three years from September, 1997.

Alexander selected academic counselor

Michael D. Alexander of Little Rock was recently selected academic counselor at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, college president.

Alexander, who began his new duties on Jan. 6, previously served as guidance counselor at Southeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian. He is also a former coach/social studies instructor at Newton, Newton



Michael D. Alexander

County, Beulah Hubbard and Union high schools.

He said his selection to the ECCC post had provided him with a "tremendous opportunity."

"I consider being named academic counselor at East Central a high point in my career. I had always hoped to serve in that capacity one day - it is really a dream come true for me. I am very excited to be at East Central, and look forward to working with students and helping them achieve their educational goals," Alexander said.

A graduate of Beulah Hubbard High School, Alexander received an associate of arts degree from Meridian Junior College, a bachelor's degree in social studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's in guidance and coun-

seling

Alexander has two sons: Jake, 13 and Nick, 10. His parents are Dale and Maxine Alexander of Little Rock.

ECCC Concert Choir

Students selected to perform and receive scholarships as part of the 1996-97 East Central Community College Concert Choir include (first row from left) Charles Hinson, director; Bessie Ragan, Newton; Kelly Alexander, Shelia Oliver and April Crocker, all of Little Rock; Amanda McGahey, Morton; Greta Hodge, Forest; Dandy Shepard, Lawrence; Tori Jordan, Decatur; Shawn Houser, Lake; George Hedgepeth, Little Rock; Glen Hansford, Decatur; Scott Houston, Chunky; Tripp Gaddis, Forest; Larry Grantham, Jackson; Charles Lightsey, Union; Alex Savell, Decatur; and Leesa Wilkinson, accompanist, (second row from left) Amy Boatner, Philadelphia; Candy McCormick, Forest; Natasha Youngblood and Heather Denson, both of Morton; Rosalind Evans, Chunky; Tracy Richards, Newton; Layla Peoples, Lawrence; Ashlea Renfro, Morton; Tarita Williamson, Philadelphia; Williams Rogers, Louisville; Mason Certain, Forest; Travis Mizell, Carthage; Alex Gill, Walnut Grove; Dan Hendon, Union; Levar Robinson, Morton; and Elijah Ben, Philadelphia, and (third row from left) Emily Bullock and Detra Carter, both of Decatur; Holly Hamrick, Newton; Benita Madden, Carthage; Lana Lohrer, Decatur; LaRee Lyle, Lena; Lisa Harrison, Little Rock; Janet Hedgepeth, Union; Laura Anderson, Philadelphia; Michael Jones, Carthage; Marcus Jones, Morton; Ashley Allard, Philadelphia; Jeremy Swindle, Union; Josh Bamberg, Decatur; Richard Burton, Little Rock; Lee Rigdon, Decatur; and Michael Scarbrough, Collinsville.

Strebeck featured in Naturals

By RICHARD EDWARDS
The Tom Tom

On Jan. 21, East Central Community College hosted a concert by the Naturals of Mississippi College. This vocal ensemble included twelve vocalists, and about a dozen crew members. Under the direction of music director Steven Barnett of Clinton and dance choreographer Greg Jones of Brandon, the group presented "Time Warp America". This nostalgic program of music, including costume changes, represented the music of the 20's and World War II era to the present 90's.

Included in the vocalists for the MC Naturals, was first soprano Staci Strebeck. Strebeck is a 1994 graduate of Newton County High School and a 1996 graduate of East Central Community College. While at East Central, Strebeck was heavily involved in such campus activities as the concert choir, the Centralette dance line, the Accents vocal ensemble, a Collegian vocalist and the spring musicals.

In addition to her musical activities, Strebeck was also a member of the Warrior Corps, Phi Theta Kappa, and SIFE. At Mississippi College, Strebeck is a communications major with a minor in business.

Strebeck stated that the many activities that she was involved in were important to the work she does with the Naturals. "East Central has given me the foundation and education I needed to go on to MC. The opportunities and experiences that were available to me here at EC, have helped me every step of the way with the Naturals.

"I am very grateful for all the support of the College, the faculty, and the students." Strebeck concluded that she was very "proud of her East Central family and friends" and wanted to say the most important words she could think of - "thank you".



McMullen named HOSA representative

Valerie McMullen of Newton, a surgical technology major at East Central Community College, has been named the Post Secondary Central District Representative for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) organization. She was elected Nov. 23 at the HOSA State Fall Leadership Conference held on the ECCC Decatur Campus.



ECCC Diamond Girls visit Happiness Hill

In the spirit of giving during the Christmas Season, the Diamond Girls from East Central Community College in Decatur recently visited Happiness Hill, a school for girls, in Union bearing gifts. Pictured from left are Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Palmer, school directors; four of the students who reside at Happiness Hill; Tonya Williamson of Ludlow and Christina Miller and Jill Martin, both of Philadelphia, all Diamond Girl captains; and Lanette Hanna, Diamond Girls' sponsor and ECCC recruiter/Tech Prep Career Center director.



ECCC entertainers

One of the most popular entertaining groups at East Central Community College is the Ac'cents, the College's "show choir." Directed by Charles Hinson, the talented musicians are featured during campus concerts and are also available for special programs at civic and community clubs throughout the five-county district. Members include (from left) Ashlea Renfroe, Morton; Tripp Gaddis, Forest; Holly Hamrick, Newton; Lee Rigdon, Decatur; Lisa Harrison, Little Rock; Shaun Houser, Lake; LaRee Lyle, Lena; Jeremy Swindle, Union; Kelly Alexander, Little Rock; and Janet Hedgepeth, Union. Not pictured is Crystal Cooley, Hickory. For more information contact the ECCC Music Department, phone 635-2111, ext. 225.



Display ceramic artwork

These students of East Central Community College art instructor Bruce Guraedy display their various forms of ceramics artwork which were featured in the Fall Semester Art Exhibit on the Decatur campus. The annual presentation was held in the Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center on Nov. 21. Their work will be on display for several weeks. Pictured are (seated from left) Heather Beckham of Philadelphia, Kelly Bates of Morton, Deborah Skinner of Decatur, Kim Peckham of Virginia Beach, Va.; and (standing from left) Reno King of Conehatta, Joyce Trapp and Mary Everett, both of Decatur; and Nick Eubanks of Philadelphia. Not pictured are Lisa Hale of Raleigh and John Paul and Debbie Risher of Morton.

Gomillion joins Warrior Corps

Amy Gomillion of Walnut Grove was recently tapped for membership in the East Central Community College Warrior Corps, a select group of students who assist in recruiting and serve as official hosts for College events and activities.

Gomillion is a 1996 honor graduate of Leake Academy where she was salutatorian and co-editor of the yearbook, The Rebelee. In addition, she served as president of the Drama Club, vice president of the Beta Club and Senior Honor Society, projects chairman of the SADD Chapter, vice president of the Senior Student Christian Organization and was a member of the high school band and flag corps.

She was chosen first alternate to Leake County's Junior Miss, served as a Girls' State delegate and was Leake Academy's representative to HOBY. She also participated in the First Youth Leadership Leake program. In addition, Gomillion is an active member of Walnut Grove United Methodist



Amy Gomillion

Church.

At East Central, the pre-pharmacy major serves as president of the Freshman Class, vice president of Wesley Foundation, Dorm Council representative and holds membership in the Diamond Girls, Fashion Squad, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Mu Alpha Theta and Baptist Student Union.

Her parents are Don and Betty Gomillion of Walnut Grove.

Dental school seeks volunteers with Sjogren's Syndrome

The UMC dental school is looking for people with Sjogren's syndrome, a condition that causes dry mouth and dry eyes. Dr. Charles Streckfus, associate professor of diagnostic sciences, is principal investigator in the drug study referred by the National Institutes of Health.

The study requires volunteers between the ages of 18-70 who have been diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome and who do not expect to undergo any dental treatment for the next four months.

Those selected receive a new medication at no cost that may provide relief from dry mouth and dry eyes.

Streckfus says the two-hour examination required of participants is not painful or harmful in any way.

For more information, contact Streckfus at 6012.



Lead nurses' group

Serving as 1996-97 officers for the Association of Student Nurses (ASNEC) at East Central Community College are (from left) Donna Gilmer of Sebastopol, president; Mesha Merchant of Carthage, vice-president; Shannon Reed of Louisville, secretary; Evelyn Robinson of Noxapater, treasurer; and Brenda Beck of Grenada, reporter. Brenda Whatley Kirby, skills lab instructor for the Associate Degree Nursing Program, serves as sponsor.

Fordice holds press conference

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

Governor Kirk Fordice held the first live press conference on Jan. 15, since his almost fatal car accident on election day. Governor Fordice stated that he has no memory of the day of his wreck. He answered many questions on the extent of his injuries and his recovery. Although many questions were answered, one was not.

That question is "What was Governor Fordice doing in Memphis on Election Day?" As Fordice informed the media, what he does on his day off is not anyone's business and neither is his personal life.

I agree with Governor Fordice's statement. No matter if Governor Fordice had dinner with someone or not is not the public's business. It would not be the public's business what every other American did on their day off. Since Kirk Fordice is our governor, that does not give the public the right to invade his privacy.

Fordice has been a good governor to the state of Mississippi for the past five years, and we as Mississippians should be thankful that his accident was not fatal. Suppose the accident had been fatal - Would it have really mattered what Governor Fordice was doing in Memphis on his day off?



Scholarship recipient

Ginger Greer (left) of Carthage is the first recipient of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors scholarship to attend East Central Community College. The new scholarship is valued at \$500, with \$250 presented each semester of the recipient's freshman year. Greer is an honor graduate of Leake Academy, where she was valedictorian and co-editor of the high school yearbook. She also served as flag corps captain. At East Central, the freshman pre-med major is a member of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Baptist Student Union. Her parents are Bill and Freddie Alan Greer of Carthage. Ginger is shown with Randall Lee, ECCC Dean of Students. For more information regarding the Mississippi Association of Supervisors scholarship, which will be awarded each year to a freshman from the College's five-county district, contact the Dean of Students Office, ECCC, Decatur, MS 39327, phone 635-21 1 1, ext. 205.



ECCC Mu Alpha Theta inductees

These students are the newest members of East Central Community College's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, the honor society for students majoring in math or related fields of study in two-year colleges. Pictured (first row from left) Jennifer McDaniel of Union, Madonna Atkinson of Carthage, Amanda Bell of Philadelphia, Sissy Greer of Carthage and Adria Stamper and Kim Shaffer, both of Decatur, (second row from left) Amanda Gilbert and Ginger Greer, both of Carthage; Amy Gomillion of Walnut Grove; Deanna Bankston of Union and Janet Harrison of Little Rock, (third row from left) Amy Spears of Lena, Krisan Risher of Sebastopol and Amy Dunaway, Nonya Reed and Leslie Swindle, all of Noxapater and (fourth row from left) Ricky Frazier of Morton, Justin Miles of Louisville and Jake Jenkins of Morton. Mu Alpha Theta is sponsored by Lois McMullan, mathematics instructor.

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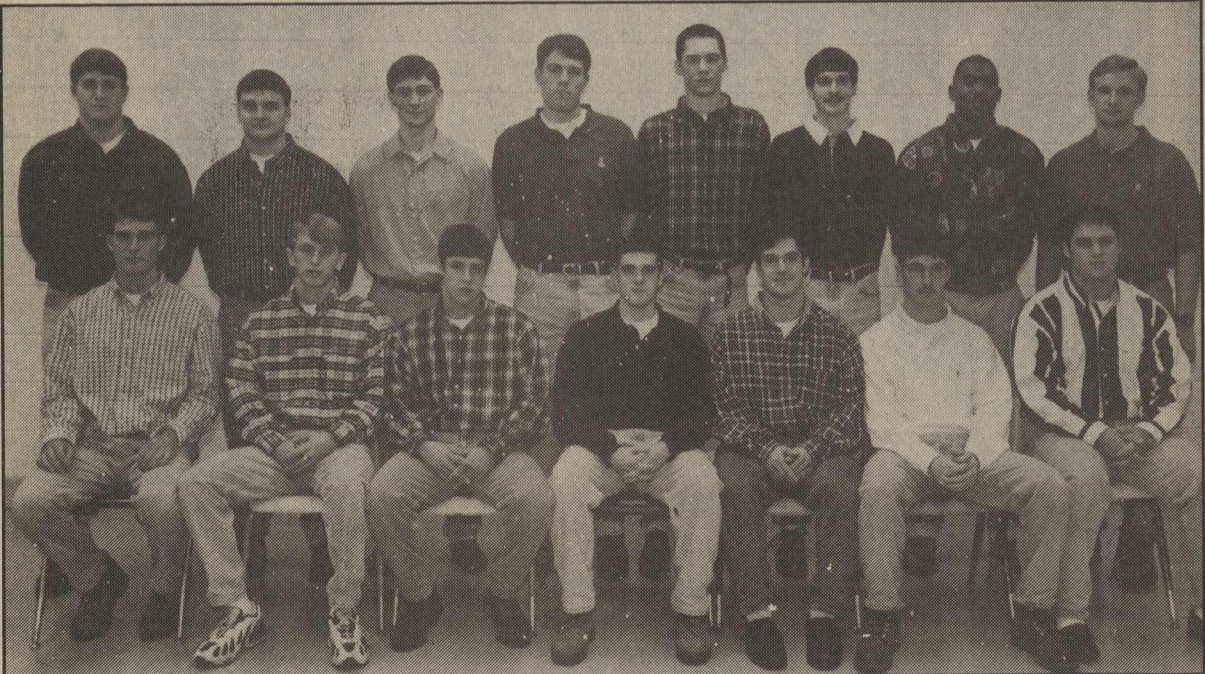
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7.5% Radio

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Sports



Receive special recognition

These members of the East Central Community College baseball team were recently recognized for earning at least a 3.0 grade point average during the 1996 fall semester. The outstanding student athletes and their respective high schools include (seated from left) Nick Dumas, Washington County, Chatom, Ala.; Rusty Cumberland, Neshoba Central; Eric Weaver, Newton; Brian Hardy, Philadelphia; Brandon Williams, Bishop Sullivan, Baton Rouge, La.; Steve Dixon, Union; Shawn Jacobs, Brandon (transfer from Panola Junior College, Carthage, Texas); and (standing from left) Jonathan Crowe, Bayou Academy, Cleveland; Zach Sanders, Neshoba Central; Kenny McMillon, Leake Academy; Eric Butler, Lamar Academy; Dan Gressett, Lake; Mark Davis, Enterprise; Marcus Thames, Louisville; and Mike Donovan, Enterprise. Each year Diamond Warrior head coach Jamie Clark provides special recognition to team members who make the ECCC honor roll.



Diamond Girls for the 1997 baseball season are, first row, from left, Stephanie Cook, Tonya Williamson, Christina Miller, Jill Martin, Tonya Covington, and Sherie Bradford; second row, Lisa Nelson, Jill Ray, Whitney Salter, Leslie Nelson, Mandy Smith, and Heather Munn; third row, Vickie McGee, Julie Clanton, Adria Stamper, Robin Burkes, Wendy Davis, and Amy Gomillion. Not pictured Brooke Knight, Kelly Alexander, and Latasha Harvey

Diamond Girls selected for 1997 baseball season

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

The Diamond Girls for the 1997 baseball season have been selected. They are Robin Burkes, Tonya Williamson, Christina Miller, Jill Martin, Whitney Salter, Stephanie Cook, Tonya Covington, Brooke Knight, Adria Stamper, Kelly Alexander, Julie Clanton, Sherie Bradford, Amy Gomillion, Mandy Smith, Wendy Davis, Vickie McGee, Jill Ray,

Heather Munn, Leslie Nelson, and Lisa Nelson.

The girls were selected through an interview last semester. The Diamond Girls will work at all of the home games. Some of their duties include: running the concession stand, picking up fly balls, and picking up bats. The first baseball game is at home on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. against Mary Holmes.

The Diamond Girls will sell Krispy Kreme donuts from Jan. 14-27. The

sale of the donuts will help purchase T-shirts, wind pants, and possibly wind shorts for the Diamond Girls.

East Central Community College
Football Team Honors
1996 Campaign
(10-1)

Willie Coats - Co-Coach of the Year

All-State (First Team)
Offensive Tackle Jason Nixon - Seminole, Ga.
Center Marcus Holmes - Louisville
Punter Al Hunt - Honea Path, S. C.
Linebacker Kemba Bryant - Atlanta, Ga.
(Most Valuable Defensive Back)
Cornerback Ashanti Webb - Tampa, Fla.

All-State (Second Team)
Running Back Mack Pittman - Panama City, Fla.
(Had 1,139 yards rushing on 200 carries)
Guard Bo Thomas - Morrow, Ga.
Wide Receiver Tim Livingston - Carthage
Defensive Lineman Kendrick Clancy - Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Honorable Mention
Offensive Tackle Ryan Stokley- Morton
Tight End Undeon Hardy- Neshoba Central
Fullback Steve Bradford - Scott Central
Quarterback Jake Kizziah - Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Wide Receiver Calvin Williams - Carthage
Guard Russell McCann - Newton County Academy
Defensive End Neal Keeton - Morton
Linebacker Dejuan Clark - Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Linebacker Jimmy Kincaid - Morton
Cornerback Mark Thomas - Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Noseguard Corey Hamler - Charleston, W. V.
Defensive Lineman Tyquan Taylor - Louisville
Strong Safety Jeff Rowell - Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Strong Safety Xavier Thomas - Holt, Ala.
Free Safety Joey Pinkston - Forest
(Led state in interceptions with 8)

ECCC players sign with Ark.-Little Rock

Two members of the East Central Community College men's basketball team will continue their athletic careers at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Warrior head coach Marty Cooper announced that sophomores Maurice Bowie and Maurice Jones signed national letters-of-intent on Nov. 13 with the Sun Belt Conference squad, led by Wimp Sanderson, one of the winningest coaches in NCAA history.

Bowie, a 6'7", 205-pound power forward from Morton High School, scored 27 points against East Mississippi Nov. 11 in leading the Warriors to their second straight season victory (77-70) after beginning the 1996-97 campaign by losing a six-point decision (65-59) to Delgado (La.) in the Jones County Junior College Tournament. Bowie blistered the backboards for 30 points in ECCC's 79-66 win over Coahoma in final tournament action on Nov. 5.

Last year Bowie averaged 19.2 points per game and scored 30 points

in four separate contests. He pumped in a season high 39 points against Delgado on Jan. 13.

His talents on the basketball court did not go unnoticed as he was the only freshman selected first team All-State. In addition, Bowie was the recipient of ECCC's most valuable player award.

Bowie is also involved in various campus activities and currently serves as student body president.

Prior to coming to East Central, Bowie was a member of Coach Jerry Gautier's Panther squad which advanced to state tournament action his senior season.

Bowie is the son of Rosie Marie Honeysucker of Lena.

Jones, a 6'2", 195-pound guard from Forest High School, averaged 10 points per contest last season and received the "Top Freshman Award" on the Warrior team.

He scored 16 or more points during each of the final seven games last year, including a 24-point effort against league-leading Gulf Coast in

the season finale. In that division matchup, he made four of eight baskets from three-point range and hit six of eight two-point shots.

This season, Jones scored 17 against East Mississippi; 14 against Coahoma; and eight in the Delgado game.

Jones was a member of Coach Gina Skelton's Bearcat team which also advanced to the state high school tournament his senior year.

He is the son of Betty Jones of Forest.

Coach Sanderson is beginning his third year at Arkansas-Little Rock, where he has recorded 40 wins in two seasons and has twice led the Trojans to the championship game of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. He was named Wilson Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year last season.

Sanderson formerly coached at the University of Alabama where he led the Crimson Tide to 267 victories and five Southeastern Conference titles.

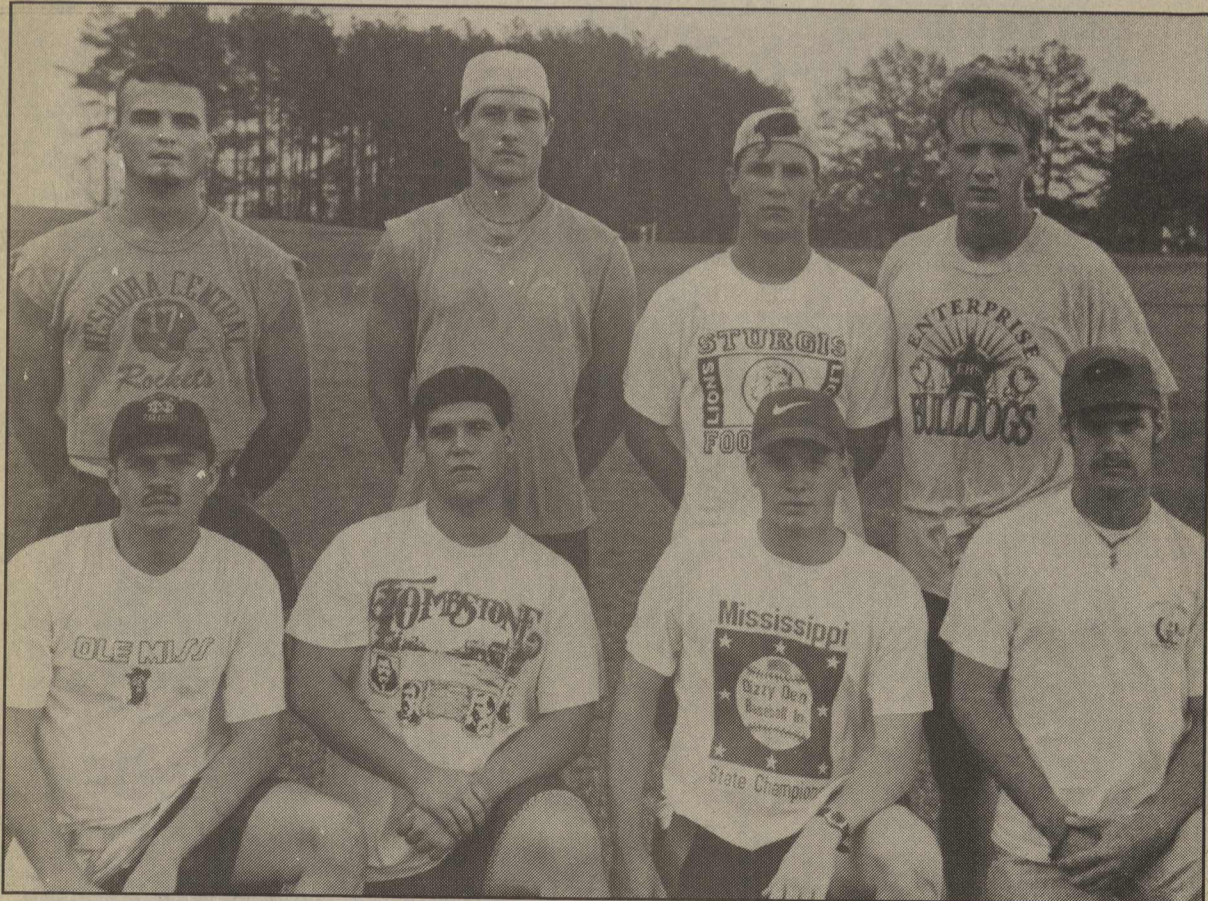


ECCC flag football champs

"Pallbearers" won the intramural football championship recently held at East Central Community College in Decatur. Team members include (kneeling from left) Chris Banks, Brandon; Coach Mack Stubbs, Walnut Grove; Deundre Smith, Carthage; Jason Manuel, Kosciusko; and Bobby Moss, Carthage; and (standing from left) Kenny McMillon, Phillip Blackwell, Anthony Palokas, Shad Sanders and Brian Sistrunk, all of Carthage; and LaVonsa Holmes, Louisville. Pallbearers finished the season with a 9-1 record. The ECCC intramural program is led by Mike Anderson.

1997 Diamond Warriors
Baseball Schedule

Friday, Feb. 14	Alabama Southern	Monroe, AL	Noon
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Belhaven (JV)	Decatur	1:00
Wednesday, Feb. 26	Delgado	Hattiesburg	2:00 Single
Friday, Feb. 28	Wallace State	Decatur	3:00 Single
Saturday, March 1	Wallace State	Decatur	1:00
Tuesday, March 4	Copiah-Lincoln	Decatur	3:00
Thursday, March 6	Holmes	Goodman	1:00
Saturday, March 8	Southwest	Summitt	1:00 Single
Thursday, March 13	Holmes	Decatur	Noon Single
Thursday, March 13	Alabama Southern	Decatur	3:00 Single
Friday, March 14	Itawamba	Fulton	1:00 Single
Saturday, March 15	Itawamba	Fulton	1:00
Sunday, March 16	Northwest	Senatobia	1:00
Tuesday, March 18	Jackson State (TN)	Decatur	3:00
Wednesday, March 19	Three Rivers	Decatur	6:00 Single
Saturday, March 22	Hinds	Decatur	1:00
Tuesday, March 25	Three Rivers	Decatur	3:00 Single
Wednesday, March 26	Jones	Ellisville	4:00
Friday, March 28	Gulf Coast	Decatur	1:00
Monday, March 31	Danville	Decatur	3:00
Tuesday, April 1	Pearl River	Decatur	4:00
Friday, April 4	Northwest	Decatur	3:00
Saturday, April 5	Copiah-Lincoln	Wesson	4:00
Monday, April 7	East Mississippi	Decatur	6:00 Single
Wednesday, April 9	Southwest	Decatur	4:00
Friday, April 11	Itawamba	Decatur	6:00 Single
Saturday, April 12	Itawamba	Decatur	1:00
Tuesday, April 15	Hinds	Raymond	2:00
Saturday, April 19	Jones	Decatur	1:00
Monday, April 21	East Mississippi	Scooba	6:00
Wednesday, April 23	Gulf Coast	Perkinson	4:00
Saturday, April 26	Pearl River	Poplarville	1:00



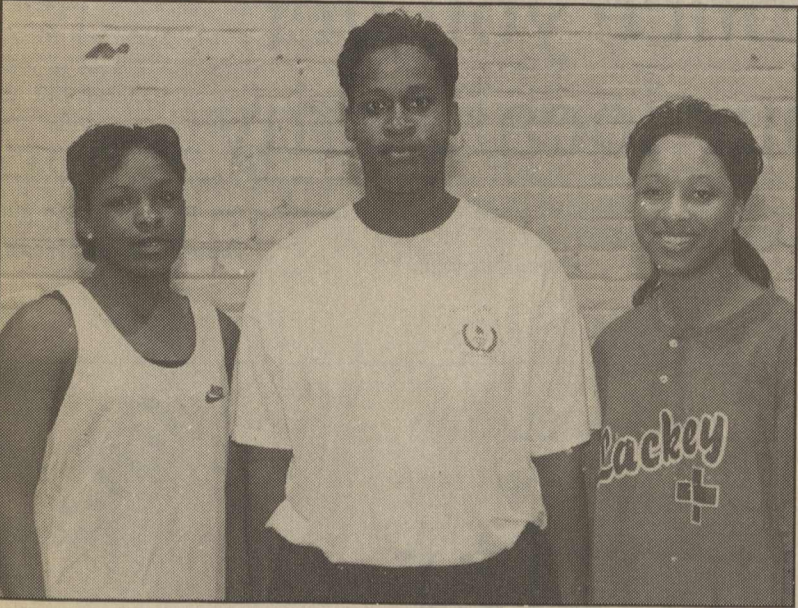
Tournament runners-up

"High Performance" finished second in the intramural football competition recently held at East Central Community College in Decatur. Team members include, kneeling from left, Jeremy Brown of Lake, Patrick Moore of Louisville, Bart Gregory and Jeremy Nowell, both of Nanih Waiya, and, standing from left, Sam White, Mark Nance and Ryan White, all of Philadelphia, and Mike Donovan of Enterprise. High Performance finished the season with a 5-3 record. Coach Mike Anderson serves as director of the ECCC intramural program.



ECCC players sign scholarships

East Central Community College sophomore basketball players Maurice Bowie (seated at left) of Morton and Maurice Jones of Forest recently signed national letters-of-intent with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Bowie, a 6'7", 205-pound power forward, averaged 19.2 points per game last year and was the only freshman selected first team All-State. He was also chosen ECCC's most valuable player. Jones, a 6'2", 195-pound guard, averaged 10 points per contest last year and was the recipient of ECCC's "Top Freshman Award." Coach of the Arkansas-Little Rock squad is Wimp Sanderson, former head coach at Alabama. Pictured with the student athletes are (standing from left) Jennifer Cooper, assistant men's basketball coach; Rutha Bowie and Marie Honeysucker, Maurice Bowie's aunt and mother, respectively; Betty Jones, Maurice Jones' mother; and Marty Cooper, head men's basketball coach.

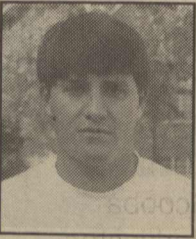


ECCC intramural champs

Winning top honors in the intramural three-on-three basketball tournament recently held at East Central Community College are members of the above team called "Sneaky." From left are Lawanda Shepherd of Carthage, and Kristie Ware and Mary Williams, both of Forest. The ECCC intramural program is directed by Coach Mike Anderson.

Crowe named outstanding warrior

Third baseman Jonathan Crowe was named the most outstanding offensive player following competition in the Region 23 Community/Junior College All-Star Baseball Game recently held at Smith-Willis Stadium in Jackson. Crowe, a sophomore liberal arts major, is a graduate of Bayou Academy in Cleveland. He currently resides in Philadelphia and is a former resident of West Point. The ECCC Diamond Warriors are coached by Jamie Clark, also a former West Point resident.



Jonathan Crowe

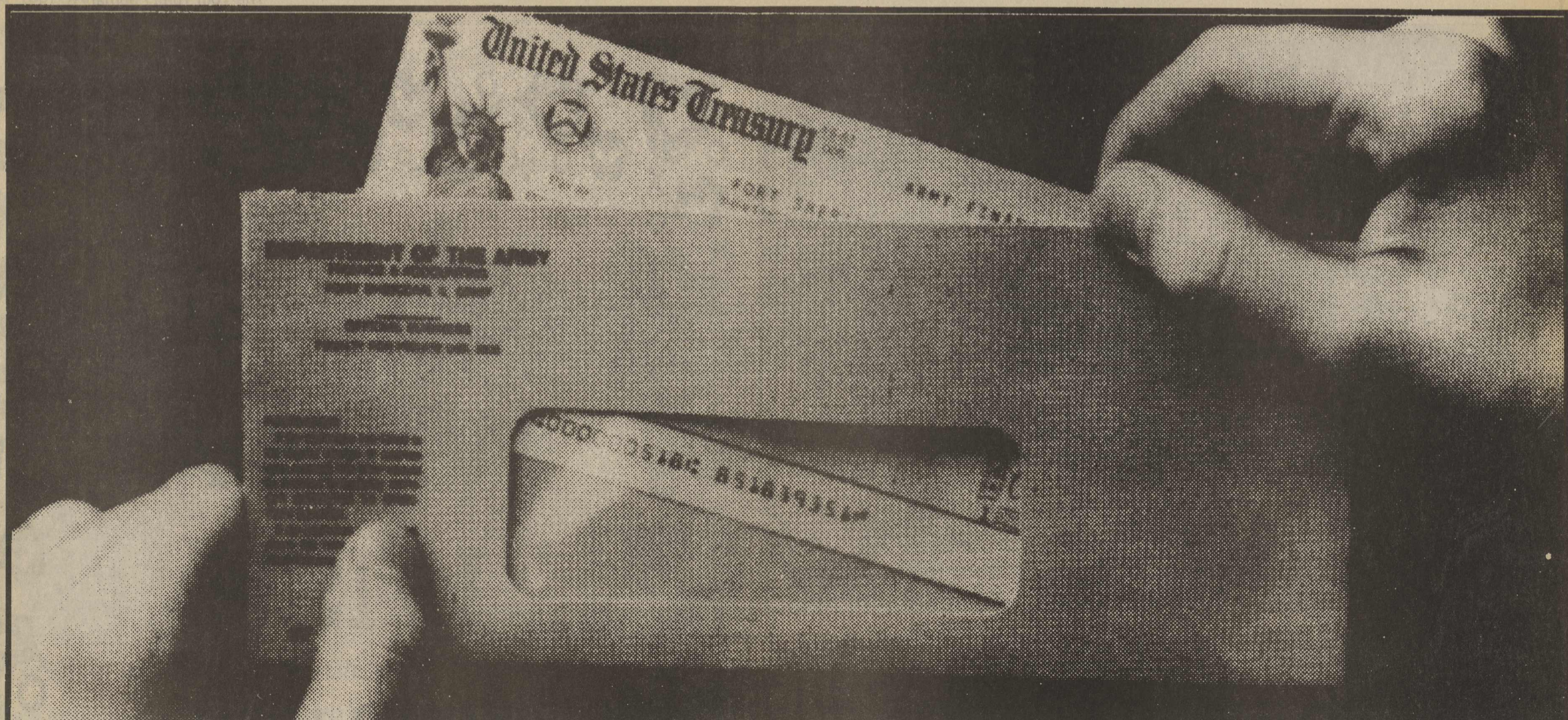
SEALED
WITH A
WISH

Hope your
Valentine's
Day smacks
with fun!

The
Tom Tom
staff

1997 Warrior Tennis Schedule

Feb. 25	*Southwest	1:30
Feb. 27	Holmes	2:00
March 5	Itawamba (at MUW)	2:30 Women only
March 5	*Co-Lin	1:30 Men only
March 6	Hinds	2:00
March 18	*Co-Lin	2: Women only
March 20	Jones	2:30
March 24	Gulf Coast (at USM)	11:00
March 25	*Northeast	3:00
March 26	*Holmes	1:00
March 31	Mary Holmes	2:30 Women only
April 1	*Mary Holmes	2:00 Women only
April 3	Northeast	3:00
April 4	*Northwest	11:00
April 5	Pearl River	11:00
April 7	Co-Lin	2:30
April 8	*Pearl River	2:00
April 10	Gulf Coast (USM)	2:30
April 11	*Hinds	1:30
April 15	Itawamba	2:30 Women only
April 16	*Jones	2:30



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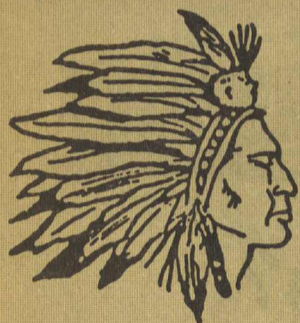
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Volume 51, Number 6

A Student Publication of East Central Community College

April 7, 1997

Myers, Musgrove named Mr. and Miss ECCC

Sophomores Ben Myers of Philadelphia and Jennifer Musgrove of Carthage have been selected by the student body as Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for 1996-97 in elections held on the Decatur Campus.

Myers, a product of Neshoba Central High School, is serving his second year as a member of the Warrior Golf Team. A proven leader on the East Central campus, he serves as a member of the President's Council and the Warrior Corps, the official student host and recruiting group for the College.

He is also a member of Phi Beta Lambda and Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college. An outstanding student, he was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges. He also enjoys participating in intramural sports on campus.

Myers is an accounting major with a 3.8 grade point average and has been named as a Dean's List

scholar. After graduation, he plans to attend the University of Mississippi and become a certified public accountant.

"ECCC is a great place to be," Myers said. "The faculty and students really care for each other."

Musgrove, a graduate of Leake Academy, has an outstanding academic record with a 4.0 grade point average. A physical therapy major, she has been named a President's List scholar and vice president of the Sophomore Class.

She is a member of the Warrior Corps, the official student host and recruiting group for the College; the Lady Warrior basketball team; Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college; Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

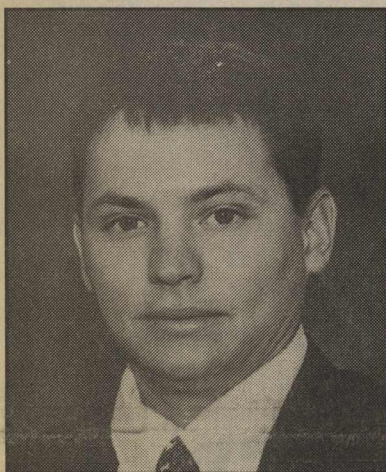
She has been chosen sophomore homecoming maid and freshman class vice president. She was also selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Comm-



Ben Myers and Jennifer Musgrove were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for 1996-97 by the student body in recent elections on the Decatur Campus.

unity/Junior Colleges. After graduation she plans to study physical therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson or the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

"EC has influenced my life by allowing me to meet new people and get involved," Musgrove said. "EC had made me more outgoing because I am a person here and not just a number."



Joey McLeod

Trainer selected to assist at Saints' mini-camps

East Central Community College athletic trainer Joey McLeod of Decatur was recently selected to assist training staffs for the New Orleans Saints during the team's various mini-camps scheduled in April and June.

For McLeod, the assignment marks the fifth consecutive year he has been chosen to work with the Saints' staff. McLeod said he will provide assistance during mini-camps planned April 3-6, April 25-27 and June 6-8.

McLeod, a certified athletic trainer with the Rush Sports Medicine Team in Meridian assigned to provide full-time service to ECCC athletes, said he always looks forward to working the Saints' camps. "Participating in the mini-camps is a great experience for me and I like

See **TRAINER**, page 3



ECCC retires Russell's jersey

Ceremonies to retire the football jersey worn by East Central Community College football player Nathan Russell of Hillsboro were held Feb. 13 during half-time activities of the East Central-Copiah-Lincoln men's basketball game on the Decatur campus. Russell, a freshman special teams player and backup defensive back, died Oct. 11, 1996, — the day before homecoming — following injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident which also injured several ECCC students. Russell was a former standout at Forest High School. College President Dr. Eddie M. Smith is shown presenting one of Russell's #20 jerseys to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Russell, while Warrior head football coach Willie Coats looks on.

Rehearsals under way for 'Mame' production

Rehearsals are well under way for the East Central Community College musical production of "Mame" scheduled April 9-12 on the Decatur campus. Performances will be held each evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium.

Cast in the leading role of "Mame" is sophomore LaRee Lyle of Lena. Also appearing in the popular musical and their respective roles include Lisa Harrison (as Agnes Gooch) and Sheila Oliver (Mother Burnside/chorus member), both of Little Rock; Colby Amis (Young Patrick), Emily Bullock (Vera) and Detra Carter (Mrs. Upson/chorus member), all of Decatur;

Amanda Moore (Lindsey/chorus member), Sissy Greer (Madame Branislawski/chorus member) and Valerie Sam (chorus member), all of Carthage; Ben Wall (Ito), Corey Robinson (Babcock/chorus member) and Richard Edwards (Older Patrick/stage manager), all of Forest;

Jim Savell (Beau Jackson), Lake; Karen Persons (Peggy/Sally Cato/chorus member), Noxapater; Amy Gomillion (Gloria/chorus member), Walnut Grove; Michael Scarbrough (Jeff/chorus) and Laura Anderson (Cousin Fan/chorus member), both of Philadelphia;

Blake Hedrick (Peter Dennis) and Max Lobenvich (Gregor/messenger/chorus member), both of Newton; Richard Blackburn (Mr. Upson/chorus member), Lawrence; and Jessica Jordan (chorus member), Edinburg.

Tickets are \$7 for the general public and are on sale now. To reserve tickets call 635-2111. There will be no reserved seating.

Leadership program cited in national publication

The Leadership Newton County Program offered at East Central Community College in Decatur recently received national attention in a journal published by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college which sponsors the highly acclaimed special interest course.

The article, submitted by Dr. Richard Ethridge, Chairman of the Division of Social Science, Business Administration and Education and professor of history and political science, highlights the success of the program since its beginning in 1993. Participants in the community-based leadership course include county and

community leaders who are interested in the economic, social and cultural development of the region. Many of the class members also belong to local chambers of commerce in area municipalities. The program is limited to 20 class members each year. Costs to provide the special course are underwritten by a group of interested citizens and entities.

The noncredit course is a condensed version of the Leadership Development Studies credit course offered at East Central. Dr. Ethridge, who serves as class instructor along with longtime English teacher Ovid

See **PROGRAM**, page 3

Record number joins ECCC honor society

A record 84 students were inducted into Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, during initiation ceremonies held recently.

Officials who participated in the annual spring semester program, held in the Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center, included ECCC alumna and former Phi Theta Kappa Academic All-American Tam Cooper of Decatur, who is employed at the organization's international headquarters in Jackson; ECCC President Dr. Eddie M. Smith;

PTK Chapter advisors Dr. Shelby Harris and Mrs. Ann Burkes; and chapter officers Jim Savell of Lake, president; Andy Sistrunk of Forest, vice president scholarships; Allyson McPhail of Carthage, vice president-leadership; Adella Rainer of Decatur, vice president-fellowship; Matt Eakes of Philadelphia, vice president service;

Erica Roberson of Philadelphia, secretary; Lee Rigdon of Decatur, treasurer; Karen McRae of Carthage and Stephanie Taylor of Forest, historians; and Olivia Hamil of Sebastopol, reporter.

Inductees included the following:

LEAKE COUNTY: Ginger Greer, Kelly McCoy, Tara Renaud, Amanda Moore, Margaret Greer, Alicia Moore, Harley Foe Hollingsworth, James Travis Cain, Jason Christopher Wade, Kenneth McMillon, Brian Sistrunk, Robert C. Moss and Justin A. Thornton, all of Carthage; Amy Gomillion, Walnut Grove; and Amy Spears, Lena.

NESHOBA COUNTY: Christy

Bugg Gross, Lisa D. Nelson, Jennifer McDaniel, Leslie Leigh Nelson and Zachary Gibbon Sanders, all of Union; and TaRita Sachet Williamson, Melanie Elaine Webb, Debra Gail Seale Lee, Crystal Lewis, Natalie Smith, Paula Crawford, Ashley Allard, Brian Hardy, Brock Phillips, Benjamin Fulton, Donnie Atkinson and Davis Thomas Fulton, all of Philadelphia.

NEWTON COUNTY: Elizabeth Gwen Owens, Lake; Candace Sheila Oliver, Janet Harrison, Pamela Luke and Lori Ann White, all of Little Rock; Adria Rachelle Stamper, Kimberly Shaffer, Lana Lohrer, Detra Carter and Emily Bullock, all of Decatur; Deanna Bankston, Rhett Rivers and Joshua Wade Quinn, all of Union; and Linda McDill, Conehatta.

SCOTT COUNTY: Sarah Joy Whitesell, Thomas Taylor Gaddis III, Candice McCormick, Joni French, Calie Suzanne Warren, Sonny Sparks and Brian Shaw, all of Forest; Cassandra Harrell, Pelahatchie; Ashlea Renfro, Alisha Bennett, Anna Rhinewalt, Jacob Jenkins and Ted Anthony, all of Morton; Julie Laird, Lake; and Krisan Lynette Risher, Sebastopol.

WINSTON COUNTY: Nonya Desha Reed, Amy Parker, Amy Dunaway, Penny Lane Johnson, Amy Clay Wilkes and Leslie Angela Swindle, all of Noxapater; and Margaret Megan Young, Christal Vanlandingham, Ginger Foster, Heather Jennings, Brenda J. Rogers, Justin Miles and Gaydon Richardson, all of Louisville.

OUT OF DISTRICT: Harold Hollingsworth of Meridian and Jack Wylie of Montgomery, Alabama.

ECCC Centralettes announced for 1997-98

Members of the East Central Community College Centralettes, the dance line of the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band, have been selected for 1997-98, announced Thomas W. Carson, band director.

Carson said the performing group includes 14 new members who were selected following tryouts recently held on the Decatur campus, and seven returnees from last year's squad.

New members and their respective high schools are Bethany Laird, Kristi Jones and Leslee Carter, all of Newton County; Courtney Wilcher and Teresa Moore, both of Edinburg; Misti Harrell, Scott Central; Dana

Dye, Morton; Lori Darsey, Newton County Academy; Ronit Frey and Corrin Chambliss, both of Louisville; Natalie Vowell, Winston Academy; and ECCC students Quanta Hill, Neshoba Central;

Julie Clanton, Newton County Academy; and Kristie Temple, Newton County. Returning Centralettes and their respective high schools include Brandi Atkinson and Mandi Sanders, both of Carthage;

Layla Peoples and Traci Richards, both of Newton; Erin Craven, Newton County Academy; and Tori Jordan and Kelly Alexander, both of Newton County.

Spring Highlights

April

- 5 HOSA softball game
- 9-12 EC Players present "Mame," Vickers Fine Arts Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets on sale now. Call 635-2111 for more information
- 15 Student/Faculty art show, Vickers Fine Arts Center, 6:30-9 p.m. Free admission
- 21 Softball scholarship signing ceremony, ADN Conference Room, 4 p.m.
Collegians Spring Campus Concert, Huff Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free admission
- 28 ECCC Concert Choir and Ac'cents Spring Concert, Huff Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- 29 Spring Band Concert, Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Free admission
- 30 Campus picnic

May

- 1 Awards Day, Huff Auditorium, 10:30 a.m.-until
Awards Day picnic, 12-1 p.m.
Spring Spree activities, 3-5 p.m.
Spring Spree formal, old gym, 9 p.m.-until
- 2 ADN pinning ceremonies, 7:30 p.m.
- 5-8 Final exams
- 9 Spring Commencement, 8 p.m.

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Lewis well-prepared
for workforce



EC students write on . . .



Should cloning be for humans?

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

At Roslin Institute near Edinburgh, Scotland, Ian Wilmut and his colleagues created a lamb which is an identical twin to her own mother. This is a major breakthrough in science. The question is "Should this be attempted on humans?" There is no one discussing the possibility of cloning humans at Roslin Institute or PPL Therapeutics, who provided a third

of the funding to create this lamb. However, this may be done. The public should have an opinion on this subject.

The ability to clone opens up many new opportunities. Some of these are positive and some are negative. Not only will it be possible to save endangered species, but also replacement organs for transplant patients. Cloning would also benefit agriculture by cloning champion livestock to make a better herd.

These may sound marvelous, thinking of the betterment of the world. However technology will be misused. Women giving birth to a twin sounds creepy. Being a new breakthrough, these scientists aren't sure whether this lamb will age prematurely or have other health-related problems.

There are many other negative aspects to cloning. Morally, is this right? Is technology overstepping God's boundaries? Should cloning even be attempted on humans?



Keep Mississippi Beautiful Executive Director Barbara Dorr presents the Transportation Commission a plaque awarded to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) by the Federal Highway Administration and Keep America Beautiful. Mississippi tied with the Texas Department of Transportation for the Distinguished Service Citation, which was presented to Dorr and Shirley W. Rutland, MDOT's anti-litter coordinator, during a banquet in Washington, D.C. The national awards program recognizes outstanding programs and actions which sustain individual responsibility, positive citizen action, and public/private partnerships in waste handling and environmental improvement. Placing first in the 1996 competition was the Oklahoma Department of Transportation with the Tennessee Department of Transportation earning second. Pictured from left to right are Transportation Commissioners Wayne Burkes and Zack Stewart, Dorr, Transportation Commissioner Ronnie Shows, MDOT Executive Director Robert L. Robinson, and Rutland.

MDOT receives national award from Keep America Beautiful

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has received a national award from Keep America Beautiful and the Federal Highway

Administration for its litter prevention and education programs.

According to Sarah Peacock Crowell, MDOT Public Affairs

Director, Mississippi tied with the Texas Department of Transportation for the 1996 Distinguished Service Citation.

The award recognizes outstanding programs and actions which sustain individual responsibility, positive citizen action, and public/private partnerships in waste handling and environmental improvements. This is the fourth consecutive year in which MDOT was recognized both nationally and at home for its litter prevention efforts.

Shirley Rutland, MDOT's anti-litter coordinator, and Barbara Dorr, executive director for Keep Mississippi Beautiful/People Against Litter, accepted the award during a banquet in Washington, D.C.

"This award is for work done by MDOT personnel prior to my being hired, which reinforces my belief that this agency is already committed to becoming a national leader in litter prevention," Rutland remarked. "Barbara Dorr works closely with MDOT, which enhances our anti-litter efforts statewide."

MDOT's anti-litter program was expanded in September of 1996 with the addition of six litter program specialists, one for each MDOT district. Rutland, a 20-year public relations veteran with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, is responsible for coordinating and promoting programs designed to influence public attitude about the proper disposal of litter.

"Public involvement and support are necessary to any success the agency has in overcoming the litter problem," Rutland said. "Through programs such as Adopt-A-Highway, for volunteers, and Adopt-An-Interchange, for municipalities, individual participation can make a difference in litter removal and prevention."

Rutland said first place in the 1996 competition was awarded to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation with second place going to the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

For additional information about becoming involved in any of MDOT's litter prevention programs, contact Shirley Rutland by calling (601) 359-7017 or writing to MDOT, Public Affairs Division, P. O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS 39215-1850.

Do we need help?

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

In the United States today there is a problem. The problem is that Uncle Sam and his pals on Capital Hill are taking our human rights away, slowly but surely. Some of the everyday decisions we must make as people are being made for us. Many of these decisions are those that should be made by parents.

A good example of this is the explicit lyrics stickers on tapes and compact discs. These stickers are supposed to warn parents that some material in the music may be unsuitable for their children. I believe this is a slap in the face to the parents who are involved with their children's lives.

Those parents who would not like the music are most likely aware enough not to allow their children to buy it. For some unknown reason the government seems to think parents need help in performing their jobs as parents.

Recently a TV ratings system, which is similar to the movies rating system, was put into use. Is this really necessary? I look at the rating system the same way I look at the album stickers. If a parent and a child are watching a program together and the parent is offended by something, he or she has the ability to change the channel.

The ratings system, in my opinion, insults the parent's intelligence. Something that our government or the television's governing body finds obscene might not offend some people.

But, there is always a reminder in the corner of your screen to remind you what they believe your children should be watching in order to grow up a well adjusted young man or woman.

There are many more important problems facing parents and children today than what CD they listen to or what TV program they watch. Drugs are at height and there is a disease called AIDS running wild in America.

The money wasted on these censorship programs would be better put to use for drug rehabilitation programs and research programs for a cure for AIDS. Hopefully one day our big brothers up in Washington will decide to face the real problems in our great nation and leave the easy ones for the parents to solve.

SIFE gets ready for competition

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

East Central's SIFE will travel to Atlanta, Ga. April 5-7 to compete with other SIFE Organizations in their region. If SIFE wins in Atlanta, the group will travel to the Nationals.

SIFE has been preparing for competition all year by doing different projects. These projects include: Deficit/Debt Speech, Bookmarkers, Christmas Stockings for Salvation Army, Mentoring Union High DECA, Fund-raisers (Magazine Sales, College Donations, Raffle Tickets), Internet Project, Federal Debt Bulletin Board, 5th Grade Eco-

nomics Lesson, ESL/GED Job Application Workshop, Media Coverage, Voting Public Service Announcement, National Debt Announcement, and SBOC Workshop.

To get ready for competition SIFE had to first, write an annual report. This report is about all the projects SIFE completed in the past year. The annual reports are mailed weeks before competition. These reports are the first impression the judges will have on SIFE'S program. Then, SIFE will compete. During competition, SIFE members will present the projects they were involved in to a panel of judges. They will also

answer questions about their projects.

Many students are not aware of the SIFE organization. SIFE stands for Students In Free Enterprise. SIFE is "an organization made up of college students teaching others an understanding of how market economics and businesses operates, and helping them to use this knowledge to better themselves, their community, and their country" (SIFE 2). If a student is interested in being a member next year, contact Ms. Moore. This organization does not charge membership dues. *The Tom Tom* Staff wishes SIFE GOOD LUCK in their competition in Atlanta!

SIFE presents tips for a successful job interview

Be prepared for the interview. Think of possible interview questions and try to think of how you might answer those questions. Also, know something about the company where you are applying for the job. It will be easier for you to suggest ways you can be of service to your prospective employer if you know about the company.

Bring the appropriate items. Be sure to take the following items to your interview: your personal data sheet, social security card, a complete school transcript, your employment record, names and addresses of references, a pen (preferably black), and a small notebook for taking notes.

Take pride in your personal appearance. Be neat, clean, with hair combed, fingernails clean, and shoes shined. Try to dress conservatively. Try to refrain from wearing flashy jewelry, lots of make-up, and strong cologne. Also, avoid wearing new clothing to which you have not adjusted.

Arrive early for the interview. Go to the interview about ten minutes early. Tell the receptionist who you are and whom you wish to see.

Non-verbal interview tips. Maintain eye contact. Sit up straight on the front of your chair. Use your head and face to agree with both positive and negative statements. Keep your hands in an open, visible position at all times. Avoid nervous gestures such as fidgeting, drumming your fingers, and cracking your knuckles.

Use your voice to your advantage. Speak at a moderate rate, volume, and pitch. Speak directly to the employer. Be honest and admit when you do not know the answers. Use correct English and refrain from using slang expressions.

Ask questions. You are expected to ask questions also. Failure to do so may indicate to your interviewer a lack of interest on your part. You might ask: What will be the scope of my work? With whom (department, area) will I be working? What opportunities

are provided for advancement? Is there a company training program for self-improvement?

End the interview properly. After the interviewer has completed the interview, leave immediately. Remember to thank the interviewer for his time and consideration. Also, thank the receptionist when you leave. Always mail a thank-you note unless you are hired on the spot.

Commonly Asked Interview Questions: Tell me about yourself.

What is your special training in this work? Why did you leave your previous jobs? Where do you want to be in five years? What do you want from this position?

How do you get along with other people? What are your three greatest strengths and weaknesses? Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

For other business tips or information about SIFE or the United States national debt, check out our website at www.intop.net/neccc/index.html.

Thirteen Massachusetts teens hospitalized for overdose

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

Wobum, Massachusetts made national news when thirteen teenagers were hospitalized for an overdose of the prescription muscle relaxant, Baclofen. As of March 2, there were ten in critical condition. One of the teens admitted taking seven as others had taken as many as thirty-five. These are normally prescribed as a dosage of one or two pills. This tragedy is happening more

and more over the years.

Although it usually isn't on such a high scale rate. These teens were most likely unaware of the dangers of this prescription. Drug awareness should not only involve illegal drugs but also legal drugs.

There are many people who are unaware of the dangers that come with these legal drugs. The public should be warned that while these drugs can be a "lifesaver" when taken correctly, they can be a "killer" when misused.

Mardi Gras bash

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

Students enjoyed a night filled with dancing, games, refreshments, and socializing. The bash was held in the old gym which was packed with students. The gym was decorated with balloons and Mardi Gras masks.

Students were put in the mood for dancing by the help of Mingo with his exceptional music. Students got to lay back and laugh during the game of Singled Out. Olivia McDaniel was EC's Jenny McCarthy.

King Cake and punch were served. Pictures were taken of couples and groups of friends. Masks and beads were thrown to the crowd. This was the first Mardi Gras Bash held at East Central. The night gave the students a time to relax, have fun, and socialize.

Ice cream is rated as America's favorite dessert. Annual production of ice cream amounts to fifteen quarts a year for every man, woman and child in the U.S., and if water ice, sherbet, sorbet, spumoni and gelato are added, the figure jumps to 23 quarts per person.

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ECCC students selected class favorites

These students have been elected by the student body at East Central Community College in Decatur as freshman and sophomore class favorites for 1996-97. Pictured are, from left, Robert Earl Shephard of Morton, sophomore; Cyrus Ben of Philadelphia, freshman, Maurice Bowie of Lena, sophomore; Brian Hardy of Philadelphia, freshman; and Marcus Hill of Decatur, sophomore. These students will be featured in the College yearbook, the Wo-He-Lo.



ECCC co-eds selected class favorites

These co-eds have been elected by the student body at East Central Community College in Decatur as freshman and sophomore class favorites for 1996-97. Pictured are (first row from left) Olivia McDaniel, sophomore, and Quanta Hill, freshman, both of Philadelphia, (second row) Robin Burkes of Meridian, sophomore, and (third row from left) Karen McRae of Carthage, sophomore, and Kamonica Craig of Louisville, freshman. These students will be featured in the College yearbook, the Wo-He-Lo.

★ Program

Vickers, said the program starts with a day and a half opening session which includes a "get acquainted" banquet and continues with a breakfast meeting, lunch and afternoon session the following day. Instructors are excused from classroom duties on the opening day session to devote their time exclusively to participants. Afterwards, class members meet twice a month in a two-hour session for two months and one final time for a class session and recognition banquet in the third month.

The program's graduates receive a certificate of completion and involve

themselves in many developmental projects once they have completed the course.

In recognizing those who complete the program, Dr. Ethridge said: "As they are community leaders already, their enhanced skills in leadership enable them to more effectively produce for this area. They become more interested in securing new business for the community and fostering cultural opportunities."

For more information regarding Leadership Newton County contact area chambers of commerce or call ECCC, Ph 635-2111.

★ Trainer

seeing how the Saints operate their training program. Of course this year I'm really looking forward to meeting Coach Ditka (new Saints head coach) and other members of the new staff."

McLeod's services at East Central are provided through an agreement between Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian and East Central Community College. In addition to serving College athletes, he is also available to treat injuries and provide service to area high school athletes.

McLeod, who came to ECCC last spring, succeeded Chad Barker who served as the first full-time athletic trainer and began his duties in 1995.

Barker was later assigned to another position with Rush Sports Medicine.

Certified on the national and state levels, McLeod is a graduate of the University of Alabama where he worked as a student trainer for three years. During his sophomore season, the Crimson Tide won the 1992 national football championship. He served as head student trainer his senior year and served in the same capacity one season for the Alabama men's basketball program. In addition, he twice served as an assistant trainer for the Delchamps Senior Bowl and was formerly associated at UMS-Wright Preparatory School in Mobile, Ala.

Adult student finds success 'second time around'

Attending college as a nontraditional or "adult" student has a different meaning for Warren Harrison of Forest who first attended East Central Community College in Decatur following his 1984 high school graduation. Harrison, now 30, well remembers what it was like going to college as a teenager. The Scott Central High School product was not only a student; he was a member of the Warrior football team.

At 6'2", 260 pounds, Harrison was expected to be one of the Warriors' top linemen. But during that 1984 season, East Central did not win a game, and Harrison admitted his performance in the classroom did not receive many high marks as well.

"I took classes required for engineering and electronics majors and did fair with my coursework. But I mostly played around a good bit and didn't apply myself," he said.

Harrison's situation was further complicated when he got married during the spring semester of his freshman year. He and his wife later divorced and he quit school. Harrison began working at a grocery store and later started his career with Sara Lee Bakery, Inc. in Forest. During this period Harrison married the former Angela Glaze, who is employed at Tower Loan Finance in Carthage. They have a daughter, Brittany, a first grader at Morton.

When Sara Lee officials announced last summer that the Forest facility would cease operations in December, 1996, Harrison knew it was time to make a change in his life; not just for him, but more importantly for his family.

Harrison enrolled in East Central's electrical technology program last fall as he continued working at Sara Lee. Like many other company employees, Harrison received financial assistance to attend college. Sara Lee provided employees up to \$1500 to help them pay for college courses.

Returning to the classroom has not been easy for Harrison, but added he now has a "different focus."

"As an adult attending college, I now know the importance of learning everything I can. I also know what it is like in the real world, and what I need to do to support my family. It's my goal to get a better job and provide a better life for me and my family," Harrison said.

Harrison attends classes at East Central from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Concerning his abilities in the classroom, electrical technology instructor Mrs. Mary Everett said Harrison is one of her "top" students.

"Warren puts forth every effort to do his very best. He works well with all students of all ages. He is just a super guy. I wish I had a dozen more just like him," said Mrs. Everett.

Harrison will receive his degree in electrical technology this May, and only lacks three courses to earn a degree in electronics which he plans to complete when possible.

Now that Warren Harrison is well on his way to a better life, he offers the following advice to teenagers and others who may be undecided about pur-

Former ECCC instructor begins scholarship honoring past president

A scholarship in honor of the first president of East Central Junior College has been established by one of his former faculty members.

The Roscoe C. Pugh Memorial Scholarship was recently endowed with a \$10,000 contribution by Leon Eubanks of Hattiesburg who served as English instructor at East Central from 1934 to 1943. Pugh served as ECCC president from the College's beginning in 1928 through 1934. He previously served as superintendent of Newton County Agricultural High School.

In announcing the new scholarship, which targets nontraditional students, Eubanks, who recently turned 91, said he simply wanted "to honor my friend, Mr. Pugh."

Current ECCC President Dr. Eddie M. Smith said only the interest earned on the endowment corpus will be used to fund the scholarship award, which will be available for two semesters of coursework at East Central.

To qualify for the new scholarship, candidates must: (1) Enroll as full-time day academic or technical students at the Decatur campus after having been previously enrolled as part-time students; (2) Have earned all previous college credits at East Central Community College; (3) Have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours credit and not more than 21 semester hours credit before applying for the scholarship; (4) Have a minimum 3.00 grade point average on all college work complet-



ed; and (5) Have submitted completed scholarship application forms to the Dean of Students' Office.

East Central Community College President Dr. Eddie M. Smith presents a College sweatshirt to Leon Eubanks of Hattiesburg in honor of the former ECCC English instructor's 91st birthday. Eubanks, who was an East Central faculty member from 1934-43, recently presented the College with a \$10,000 check to endow a scholarship for non-traditional students in honor of Roscoe C. Pugh. Pugh was East Central's first president, serving from 1928-34. Also present for the special occasion were (at left) Hubert Gilmore of Jackson, a former student of Eubanks; and (at right) Dr. Phil Sutphin, ECCC dean of instruction. (Photo by Larry Hogue, ECCC director of development and alumni relations.)

Final selection of the scholarship recipients will be made by the College's Scholarship Committee.



Warren Harrison of Forest, a 30-year-old nontraditional student at East Central Community College, is shown working on a programmable controller system as part of his classroom training in the College's electrical technology program offered on the Decatur campus. Harrison, who first attended ECCC in 1984, recently returned to the classroom and will receive his degree in May.

using a college education:

"Stick with your education; don't quit. Get your degree as soon as you can because it is worth the effort you put into it and besides, you will regret it later if you don't. Believe me, it is

easier to earn a college degree as a teenager instead of being an older student and especially one with a family. But whatever age a person is, it is very important to get that college degree," said Harrison.

For more information concerning educational opportunities for adult students, contact the Office of Adult and Continuing Education, East Central Community College, Decatur, Miss., 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 279.

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Jimothy Lewis of Newton, a sophomore majoring in machine shop technology at East Central Community College, is shown operating a CNC (computer numerical control) machine, one of the many types of equipment used in training students for industrial careers. Jimothy, who also has a degree from the College's metal fabrication technology program, graduates in May.

Lewis 'well prepared' for workforce, nears completion of second degree

He has one degree; now he's aiming for another.

It seems that Jimothy Lewis of Newton just cannot get enough education.

The 23-year-old East Central Community College student received a degree in metal fabrication technology two years ago, and will complete the College's machine shop technology program in May.

Why two degrees?
"I just love working with my hands," Lewis said and added, "I also know the importance of a good education so I can get a good job."

Lewis is just one of several hundred students who are enrolled in a vocational technical program at East Central. Special recognition was made of all vo-tech majors during National Vocational Education Week held Feb. 9-14. The theme of this year's observance is, "Put Your Career in Gear"; which seems most appropriate for someone like Lewis who began putting his career "in gear" while a student at Newton High School.

"I really owe a lot to Mr. Monroe Clark, my ag (agriculture) teacher at Newton, who first got me interested in welding. I knew when I graduated from high school I would attend East Central and enroll in the welding program there," he said.

Lewis, who first attended EC as a recipient of the R.W. Bounds Scholarship and later received a pell grant, qualified for the advanced placement program in welding (then known as metal fabrication technology) because of his background at NHS. Lewis admitted when he enrolled in EC's welding program, he thought

he knew "everything" about the skilled trade. As a student in instructor James Bayne's class, he found out otherwise.

"Mr. Bayne prepared me well. He taught me a lot that I realized I didn't know—mainly that there are many different types of welding. He is really a great instructor," Lewis said.

In addition to receiving instruction and hands-on experience as a welder in Bayne's class, Lewis also enrolled in various academic coursework, a requirement of the then technical program. That experience was also beneficial to his education, he added and helped fuel his desire "to be the best student I could be."

Lewis' success in the welding program did not go unnoticed, as he received "student of the month" honors and was named outstanding welding student during the annual Awards Day activities held prior to the 1995 commencement exercises.

It was during that year Lewis decided to take machine shop technology classes as well, in addition to working 30 to 35 hours each week as a part-time employee at ESCO Manufacturing in Newton.

Why did he become interested in machine shop technology?

"It really gives my mind a challenge. There's a lot of math involved in this program and it's always something different every day," he said.

Serving as instructor of the two-year program is Richard Clark, who also received praise from Lewis.

"Mr. Clark is also a very good instructor, and is very knowledgeable about all the different equipment in the shop. He has also made it clear

that if we are successful in his program, getting a good job with industries will not be a problem," he said.

Lewis, who said he can operate various equipment including a CNC (computer numerical control) machine, lathe, drill press and horizontal band saw, just to name a few, recently began working part-time at Brook Manufacturing Company in Union as a tool and die man. He said he enjoys his work and knows that he can look forward to a successful career in an industrial setting. But he also knows without guidance and a quality education his future would not be as bright as it is today.

"I'm very grateful to my instructors at Newton and East Central for all they have done for me. I also want to thank Mrs. (Sheila) Lyon (former EC special populations counselor) for encouraging me a lot and keeping me enthused about my studies," he said.

Lewis will receive his second degree from East Central in May, and probably begin full-time employment. On the other hand, he said he may try for degree number three by enrolling in the College's electrical technology program. He may even decide to become a teacher on the community college level and help students in the same manner that he was assisted. But whatever route he takes, Jimothy Lewis represents another success story for a graduate of East Central's vocational-technical programs.

For more information regarding vocational-technical careers contact Jimmy Dempsey, counselor, Bradford J. Tucker Applied Technology Center, ECCC, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 214.



Foundation officials visit ECCC

Dr. Tom Wacaster (seated left), vice president for educational programs for the Phil Hardin Foundation in Meridian, recently visited East Central Community College in Decatur to discuss opportunities for the College. The Hardin Foundation offers a competitive grant program to help meet various educational and community needs. Those meeting with Dr. Wacaster included (seated at right) Dr. Eddie M. Smith, ECCC President; and (standing from left) Randall Lee, Dean of Students; Gene Davis, Director of Adult and Continuing Education; Dr. Phil Sutphin, Dean of Instruction; and Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations.



ECCC 'Round Midnite

Selected as members of 'Round Midnite at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 term are, from left, Ryan Clarke of Decatur; Nic Massey of Union; Johnny May of Decatur, assistant band director; Shawn Houser of Lake; and Tom Carson of Decatur, director of bands. This popular blues band is selected by audition.

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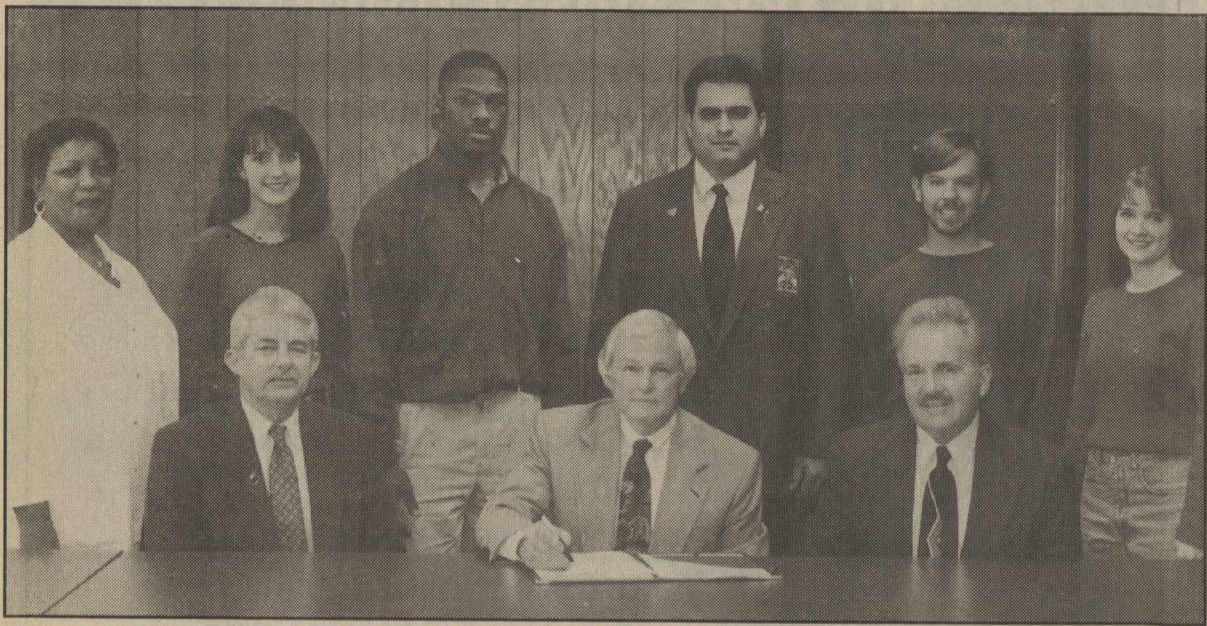
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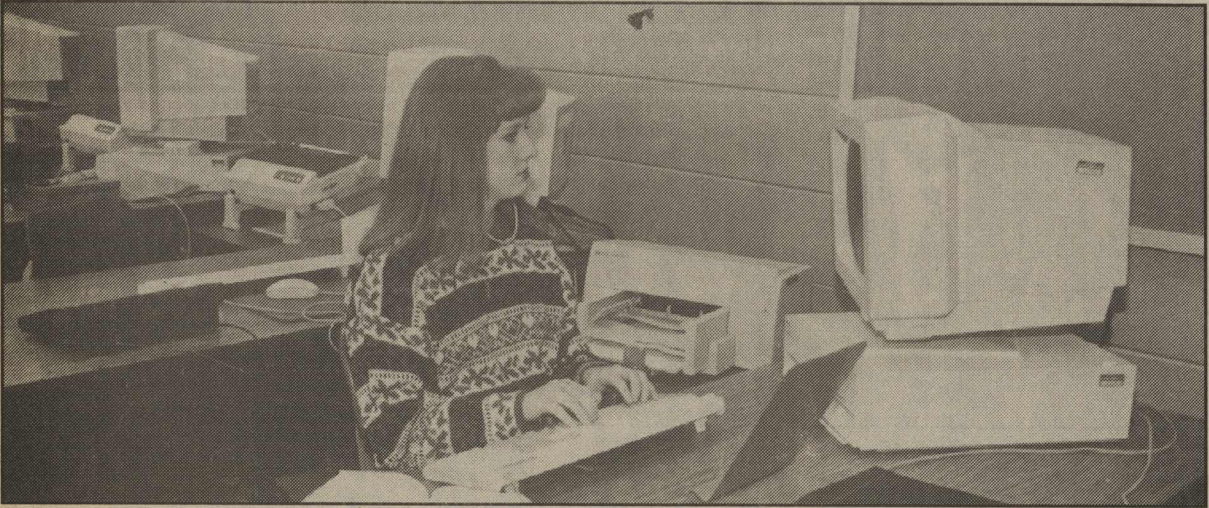
Proclaim Vo-Tech Week

Bill Blassingame, Director of Vocational Instructional Development for the Mississippi Department of Education, is shown signing a proclamation declaring National Vocational Education Week which was observed Feb. 9-14. The theme for this year's observance was "Put Your Career in Gear." The state official signed the proclamation during ceremonies recently held at East Central Community College in Decatur. East Central officials and vo-tech students who participated in the ceremony included (seated from left) John Adcock, Director of Vocational-Technical Instruction; Blassingame; Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president; and (standing from left) Dale Moncrief of Newton, cosmetology; Dawn Nelson of Neshoba Central, licensed practical nursing; Michael Stewart of Carthage, drafting and design technology; Reza Bazyari of Meridian, refrigeration and air conditioning technology; Gabriel Watts of Louisville, carpentry; and Marianne Lang of Sebastopol, business technology. Bazyari is also serving as state president of VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America). For more information regarding vocational-technical programs offered at East Central, contact Jimmy Dempsey, counselor, Bradford J. Tucker Applied Technology Center, Ph 635-2111, ext. 214.



ECCC Jazz Band

Members of the East Central Community College Jazz Band for 1996-97 include (ground level, from left) Ty Jankowski, Lake; Olivia Hamil, Sebastopol; Phillip Triplett, Louisville; Josh Bamberg, Scott Houston and Ryan Clarke, all of Decatur; Johnny May, assistant director; Matt Eakes, Philadelphia; and Thomas W. Carson, director; (standing on next level, from left) Stacy Carter, Noxapater; Sarah Whitesell, Forest; and Jessica Jordan, Edinburg; (kneeling from left) Charlie Lightsey and Greg Chitwood, both of Philadelphia; and (top row, from left) Misty Burrell, Forest; Christie Beckham, Philadelphia; Stephen Spire, Union; and Jason Alford, Philadelphia. The talented group is available for special performances throughout the district during the spring semester. For more information contact Thomas W. Carson, ECCC Director of Bands, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 228.



Leslie Robertson of Philadelphia, a sophomore majoring in medical office technology at East Central Community College, is shown typing patient information as she listens to instructions recorded by a physician in an actual hospital setting. Robertson also has access to a medical dictionary to assist her in understanding and spelling various medical terms. She plans to become a transcriptionist following graduation in May.

Robertson sets sights on becoming transcriptionist

When Leslie Robertson graduated from Neshoba Central High School two years ago, she was undecided about her career plans. She completed the application process to attend East Central Community College, but had no idea what course of study to pursue.

So Robertson called Jimmy Dempsey, the College's vocational-technical counselor, for advice. She vividly recalls their conversation:

"I mentioned to Mr. Dempsey that I wanted a career in the medical field, but did not want to become a doctor or nurse. He suggested I major in medical office technology. The program sounded like something I would enjoy, so I took his advice. I'm very happy with my decision, and now I look forward to receiving my degree in May and entering the workforce as a transcriptionist."

For a student like Robertson, receiving sound advice from a counselor such as ECCC's Jimmy Dempsey can obviously have career-making implications. For Dempsey, helping students is part of his job; the reason he's employed at East Central. In expressing his commitment to students, Dempsey describes it best:

"When a student is in my office, I don't have time for anybody or anything else. If we truly mean that East Central is the college 'With You in Mind,' then it's got to be that way. I'm here for one reason: to serve students."

Dempsey, and his fellow workers at the college's Bradford J. Tucker Applied Technology Center, share the same dedication. It's this type of commitment that has helped students like Leslie Robertson achieve their career goals and become viable members of the workforce. Efforts of Dempsey and others associated with the vocational-technical center were recognized during National Vocational Education Week held Feb. 9-14. The theme of this year's observance was "Put Your Career in Gear."

Robertson, who commutes daily to the Decatur campus from her home in Philadelphia, said she is "very pleased" with the instruction received from the ECCC faculty.

"For most of my classes I have (business technology instructors) Mrs. (Michele) Ergle, Mrs. (Elizabeth) Pitts and Mrs. (Ann) Bullock. They are very good instructors and really go the extra mile to help students with their coursework. They are also available after hours

to help as well. But the main thing is that I'm learning what I need to know for my career," she said.

As part of the learning process, students use actual tapes recorded at various hospitals. Classroom emphasis is also placed on medical terminology and medical machine transcription. Robertson said it is much easier to understand a doctor's comments on tape when one is cognizant of the medical terms. "At least," she joked, "it's a lot better than having to read a doctor's handwriting."

An honor roll list student with a 3.2 grade point average, Robertson has also learned how to balance her time between responsibilities at school and those at home. She has classes Monday through Friday on campus, and finds time between classes to study before her day ends around 2 p.m. She then reports to her part-time job at the Super Wal-Mart in Philadelphia where she is employed in the photo processing department. And she still has to find time for family and

friends and especially her fiancé, Ken Fortenberry of Philadelphia, who is also employed at Super Wal-Mart as produce manager. Since they don't usually have the same working hours, finding time to be together is not always easy, "but we manage okay," she added.

Robertson said she and her fiancé have not set a marriage date, and probably will not do so until after she begins her new career as a transcriptionist; hopefully at a Philadelphia or Meridian hospital or medical clinic. All indications point to a successful career for Robertson, who is entering one of the fastest growing careers in the field of medicine—all because of a phone call she made to a counselor at East Central Community College.

For more information regarding careers available in the vocational-technical areas, contact Jimmy Dempsey, counselor, Bradford J. Tucker Applied Technology Center, ECCC, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph. 635-2111, ext. 214.



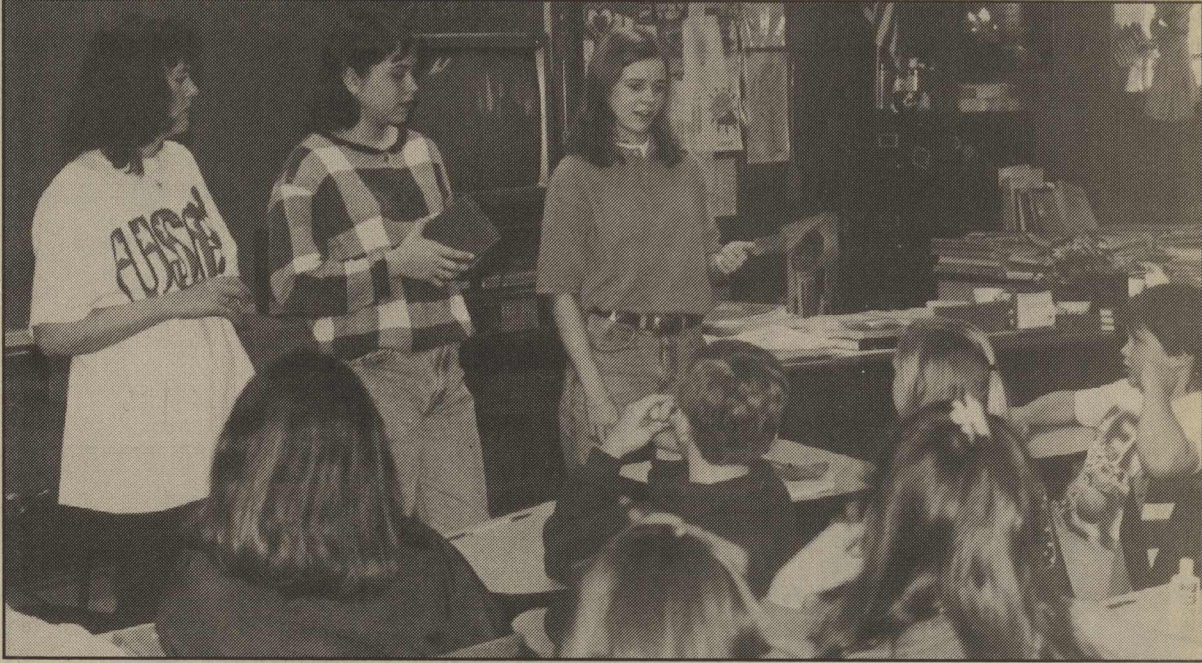
ECCC SIFE officers

Selected to serve as officers for Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 term are (seated from left) Stephanie Taylor of Forest, president, and Victor Parker of Pelahatchie, vice president, and (standing from left) Phyllis Morrison of Newton, secretary, and Adella Rainer of Decatur, treasurer. The organization is sponsored by Wanda Moore, ECCC economics instructor.



ECCC VICA Officers

Serving as leaders for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) organization at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 year are, from left, Jason Ward of Newton, chaplain; Lee Bailey of Meridian, vice president; Derrick Harvey of Carthage, parliamentarian; Nancy Jones of Lake, treasurer; Mike Williams of Morton, historian; Marion Croft of Chunky, president; and Tim Stephens of DeKalb, secretary. Lester Miles, EC heating and air conditioning technology instructor, serves as VICA advisor.



ECCC SIFE visits Newton County Academy

Members of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at East Central Community College in Decatur recently visited Newton County Academy. They presented a program on the three different economic systems in the world to the fifth grade class. SIFE members involved in the workshop are, from left, Phyllis Morrison of Newton, Shannon McDonald of Decatur and Stephanie Taylor of Forest. Similar programs were held at Newton Junior High School, Newton County Elementary School, Sebastopol, Union and Conehatta Elementary School. Wanda Moore of Philadelphia, ECCC economics instructor, serves as SIFE advisor.



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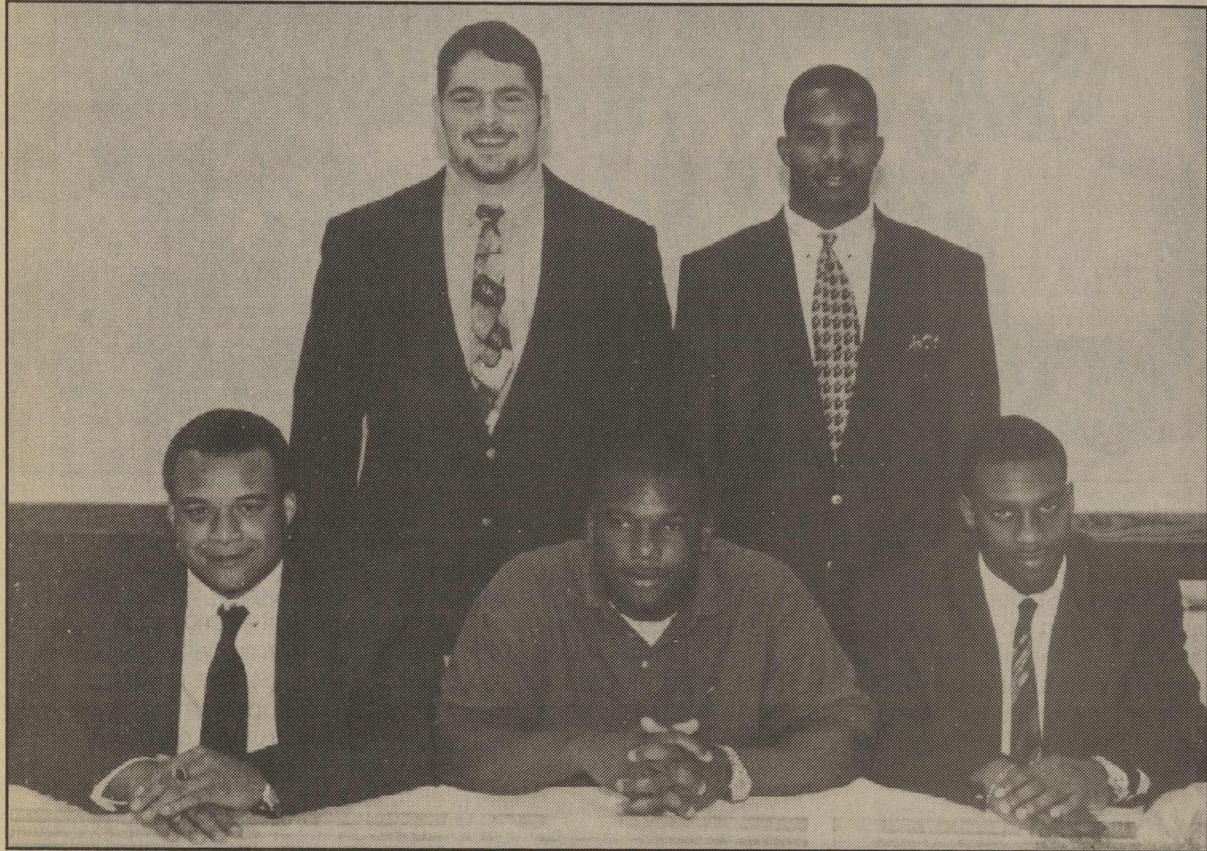
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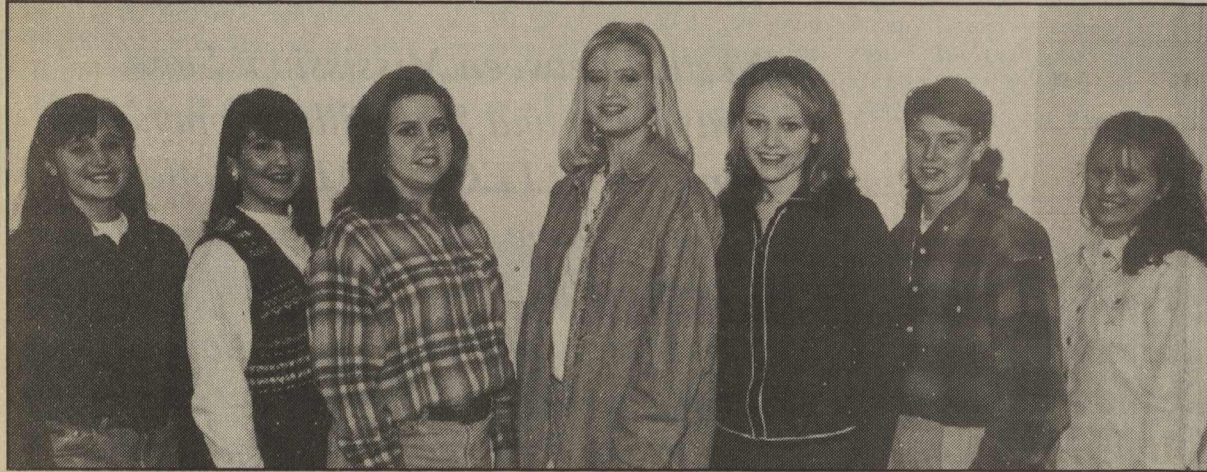
ECCC athletes honored

Members of the East Central Community College football team who were chosen honorable mention All-State following their successful 1996 campaign include (seated from left) cornerback Mark Thomas, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; defensive lineman Tyquan Taylor, Louisville; noseguard Corey Hamler, Charleston, W. V.; free safety Joey Pinkston, Forest; tight end Undeon Hardy, Neshoba Central; offensive guard Russell McCann, Newton County Academy; and (standing from left) defensive end Neal Keeton, offensive tackle Ryan Stokley and linebacker Jimmy Kincaid, all of Morton; and linebacker Jeff Rowell, quarterback Jake Kizziah and linebacker Dejuan Clark, all of Tuscaloosa. Pinkston led the state in interceptions with eight. Not pictured are wide receiver Calvin Williams of Walnut Grove and strong safety Xavier Thomas of Holt, Ala.



Outstanding Warriors

These members of the East Central Community College football team received various national, regional and state honors following their successful 1996 campaign. Seated from left are center Marcus Holmes of Louisville, first team NJCAA All-American, second team J.C. Grid-Wire All-American, All-Region 23 and All-State; punter Al Hunt of Honea Path, South Carolina, first team All-State; cornerback Ashanti Webb of Tampa, Fla., honorable mention J.C. Grid-Wire All-American, first team All-State; and (standing from left) offensive tackle Jason Nixon of Seminole, Ga., first team All-State; and linebacker Kemba Bryant of Atlanta, Ga., second team NJCAA All-American second team J.C. Grid-Wire All-American, All-Region and first team All-State. Holmes was also named the South Division's most valuable offensive lineman and Bryant was chosen the division's most valuable defensive back. Hunt led the South in punting with a 40-yard average. The Warriors finished the season with a 10-1 record, including a 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Ga. on Dec. 7. The ECCC players were among a host of other team members who were recognized at the annual football awards banquet held recently on the Decatur campus.



Outstanding student athletes

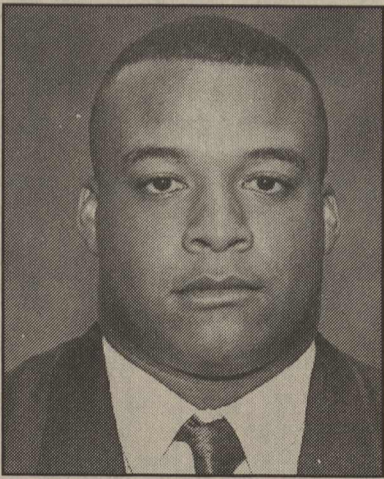
Members of the East Central Community College softball team who received special recognition for earning a 3.0 grade point average or above during the 1996 fall semester include (from left) Paula Crawford, Neshoba Central; Christy Sanders, Leake Academy; Carla Phillips, Sebastopol; Stephanie Craig, Newton County; Amy Moore, Noxapater; April Sanderson, Edinburg; and Regena McCraw, Sebastopol. Crawford was also cited for achieving a perfect 4.0 mark. The outstanding student athletes were honored by Coach Mike Anderson for their academic success.

Holmes named to All-American teams

The list of honors continues to grow for Marcus Holmes of Louisville, a standout offensive lineman the past two seasons at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Holmes, a 5'11", 225-pound center, was recently named first team All-American by the National Junior College Athletic Association and was featured in the association's publication, JUCO REVIEW. Holmes was earlier selected second team J.C. Grid-Wire All-American.

In addition to the national recognition Holmes has received, he was chosen All-Region and first team All-State. He was also tapped the South Division's most valuable offensive lineman. Holmes received



Marcus Holmes
the same recognition by his Warrior

teammates at the annual football awards banquet held recently on campus.

Holmes, whose major is metal fabrication technology, plans to continue his athletic career at a college not yet decided.

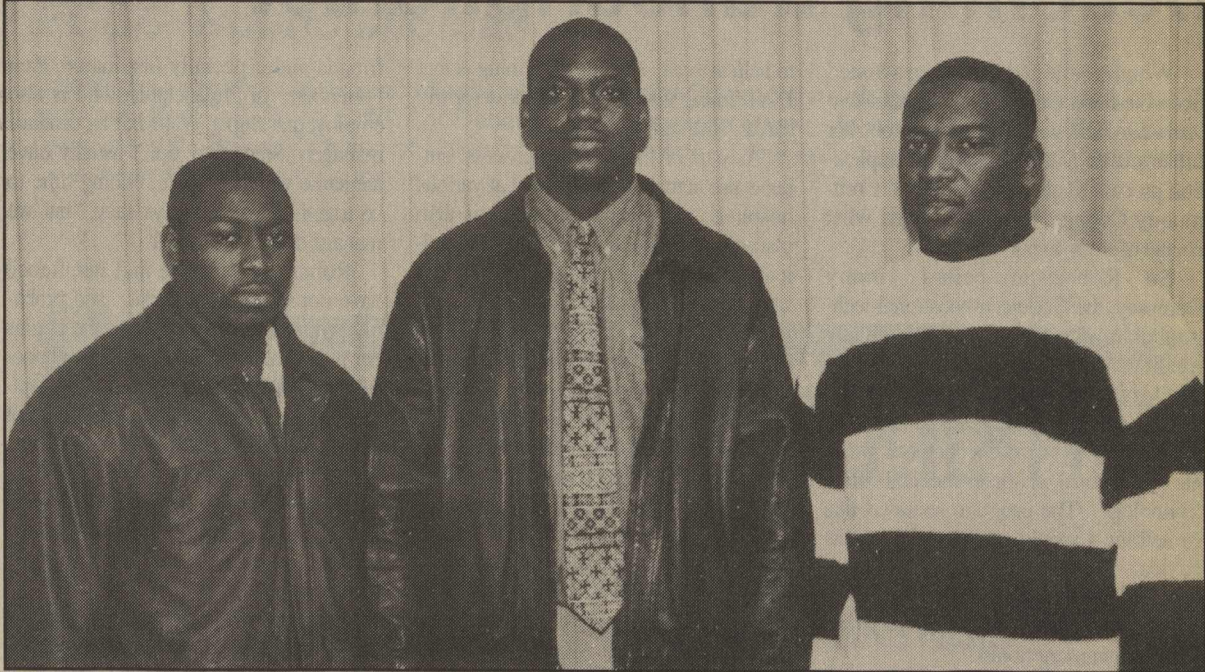
East Central completed one of its best football seasons in almost 60 years during the 1996 campaign, compiling a 10-1 record and a fifth-place national ranking. The Warriors defeated Middle Georgia College 7-6 in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held in Brunswick, Ga., on Dec. 7.

The Warriors are coached by Willie Coats (head), Terry Underwood, Timmy Coats, Frederick Lyons and Jon Williams.



Receive ECCC team awards

Recipients of team honors presented at the East Central Community College football awards banquet included (seated from left) center Marcus Holmes of Louisville, most valuable offensive lineman; linebacker Kemba Bryant of Atlanta, Ga., most valuable defensive back; linebacker Jimmy Kincaid of Morton, co-recipient of the "Warrior Award"; and (standing from left) strong safety Jeff Rowell of Tuscaloosa, Ala., co-recipient of the "Warrior Award"; linebacker Zach Sanders of Neshoba Central, Academic Award; running back Mack Pittman of Panama City, Fla., most valuable offensive lineman; linebacker Kendrick Clancy of Tuscaloosa, most valuable defensive lineman. Pittman was also recognized for being named ECCC's most valuable player in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held in Brunswick, Ga., on Dec. 7. Pittman set a bowl record by rushing for 197 yards on 32 carriers and scored ECCC's only touchdown in the Warriors' 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College.



Receive post-season honors

The above East Central Community College freshmen football players were named to the All-State second team following the Warriors' successful 1996 campaign. From left are running back Mack Pittman of Panama City, Fla.; offensive guard Bo Thomas of Morrow, Ga.; and linebacker Kendrick Clancy of Tuscaloosa, Ala. Pittman was one of the league's top rushers with 1,139 yards on 200 carries. He also scored 13 touchdowns, thanks to Thomas and other offensive lineman who cleared the path to paydirt. Clancy had 65 tackles and 14 assists in helping lead a stingy Warrior defense. Not pictured is sophomore wide receiver Tim Livingston of Carthage, also a second team All-State selection. Livingston grabbed 14 passes for 285 yards and scored two touchdowns. East Central completed the season with a 10-1 record, including a 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held in Brunswick, Ga. on Dec. 7.

1997 Football Cheerleaders	
Male	
Bryan Madison, Neshoba Central	
Jeremy Nowell, Louisville	
Bill Johnson, Newton County High School	
Raland Burkes, Newton County Academy	
David Hollingsworth, Newton County Academy	
Alex Lee, Carthage	
Alt. Michael Scarborough, Neshoba Central	
Female	
Crystal Cooley, Newton County Academy	
Heather Munn, Newton High School	
Amy Clark, Newton County Academy	
April Matthews, Newton County Academy	
Capri Posey, Neshoba Central High School	
Jennifer Pace, Newton County Academy	
Paula Crawford, Neshoba Central High School	
Leslie Brackeen, Newton County Academy	
Nichol McKee, Newton County Academy	
Suzanne Vance, Clinton	
Alt. Brandi Ulmer, Newton High School	

1997 Diamond Warriors Baseball Schedule			
Friday, April 4	Northwest	Decatur	3:00
Saturday, April 5	Copiah-Lincoln	Wesson	4:00
Monday, April 7	East Mississippi	Decatur	6:00 Single
Wednesday, April 9	Southwest	Decatur	4:00
Friday, April 11	Itawamba	Decatur	6:00 Single
Saturday, April 12	Itawamba	Decatur	1:00
Tuesday, April 15	Hinds	Raymond	2:00
Saturday, April 19	Jones	Decatur	1:00
Monday, April 21	East Mississippi	Scooba	6:00
Wednesday, April 23	Gulf Coast	Perkinston	4:00
Saturday, April 26	Pearl River	Poplarville	1:00



Former East Central Community College center Marcus Holmes (seated) of Louisville is shown signing a national letter of intent to continue his athletic career at West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas. Holmes, a 5'11", 256-pound product of Louisville High School, helped lead East Central to a 10-1 record and fifth place ranking in the national juco poll last fall. Following the Warriors' successful 1996 campaign, Holmes was named first team NJCAA All-American, second team J.C. Grid-Wire All-American, All-Region and All-State. He was also chosen East Central's most valuable offensive lineman. Pictured with the outstanding athlete are (standing from left) ECCC head football coach Willie Coats and Holmes' father, Wilbert Holmes of Louisville.

East Central players sign scholarships



Former East Central Community College standout cornerback Ashanti Webb is shown signing a national letter of intent to continue his athletic career at Ohio State University. Webb, a 5'11", 180-pound product of King High School in Tampa, Fla., received numerous honors following the Warriors' 10-1 campaign last fall, including honorable mention J.C. Gridwire All-American, All-Region and All-State. Webb had 54 tackles and eight blocked kicks in leading East Central to its best record in almost 60 years. Webb recovered one of his blocked punts for a touchdown and his block of a Middle Georgia College PAT in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic provided ECCC with its margin of victory in a 7-6 win. He was also credited with an interception and five knock-downs of passes thrown by opposing teams. Pictured with the new Buckeye are (standing from left) his parents, Ricardo Smith and Evelyn Webb, and ECCC assistant coach Jon Williams.



Former East Central Community College linebacker Kemba Bryant of Atlanta, Ga., is shown signing a national letter of intent to continue his athletic career at Marshall University in West Virginia. Bryant, a 6'1", 210-pound product of Riverwood High School, had 89 tackles and 40 assists last season for the Warriors who posted a 10-1 record and were ranked fifth in the national juco poll. Bryant received numerous honors following the successful 1996 campaign, including second team NJCAA and J.C. Grid-Wire All-American, All-Region and All-State. He was also named the South Division's Most Valuable Defensive Back. Pictured with the outstanding athlete are (standing from left) his parents, Llewellyn and Mellinese Bryant, and ECCC assistant coach Jon Williams.



Former East Central Community College cornerback Mark Thomas of Northport, Ala., recently signed a national letter of intent to continue his athletic career at Louisiana Tech. Thomas, a 5'10", 185-pound product of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School, had 51 tackles and one interception last fall for the Warriors who completed the 1996 campaign with a 10-1 record and were ranked fifth in the national juco poll. Thomas was later named honorable mention All-State. Shown with the standout athlete are (standing from left) his father, Charles M. Thomas, and ECCC assistant coach Jon Williams.



Former East Central Community College linebacker Jimmy Kincaid of Morton recently signed a national letter of intent to continue his athletic career at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. Kincaid, a 6-foot, 204-pound product of Morton High School, had 58 tackles last fall for the Warriors who posted a 10-1 record and were ranked fifth in the national juco poll. Following East Central's successful 1996 campaign, Kincaid was selected honorable mention All-State. Pictured with the outstanding athlete are (standing from left) ECCC head football coach Willie Coats and Kincaid's mother, Sadie Kincaid of Morton. Jimmy is shown holding his nephew, Xavier, who also wanted to be a part of the signing ceremony.



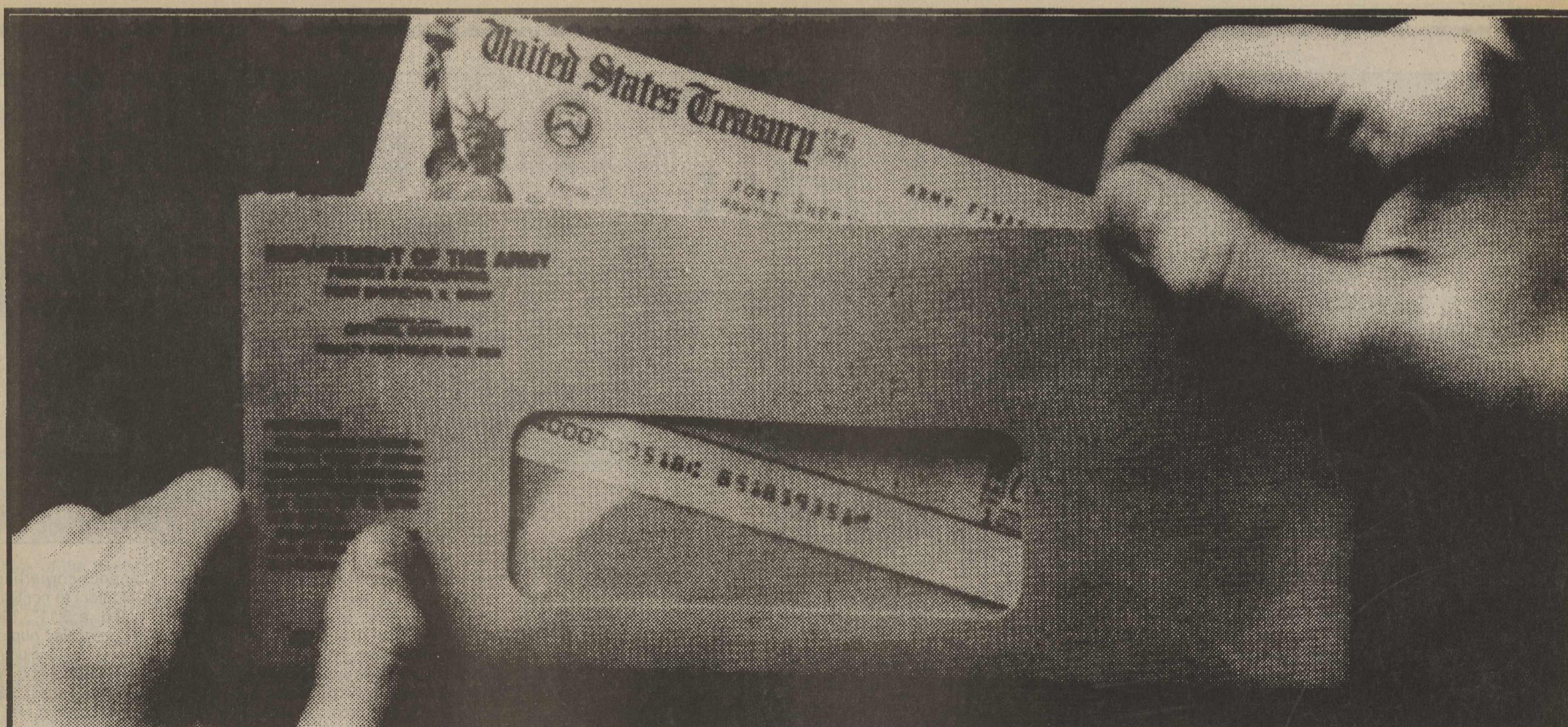
Diamond Girls

Co-eds selected as Diamond Girls for the 1996-97 Diamond Warrior baseball campaign include (first row from left) Stephanie Cook of Carthage, Tonya Williamson of Ludlow, Christina Miller of Decatur, Jill Martin of Philadelphia, Tonya Covington of Noxapater and Sherie Bradford of Forest, (second row from left) Lisa Nelson of Union, Jill Ray of Carthage, Whitney Salter of Philadelphia, Leslie Nelson of Union, Mandy Smith of Philadelphia and Heather Munn of Newton, and (third row from left) Vickie McGee of Forest, Julie Clanton of Lawrence, Adria Stamper of Decatur, Robin Burkes of Meridian, Wendy Davis of Philadelphia and Amy Gomillion of Walnut Grove. Not pictured are Brooke Knight of Decatur, Kelly Alexander of Little Rock and Latasha Harvey of Brandon. Lanette Hanna, ECCC recruiter/Tech Prep Career Center director, and Midge Hedrick, secretary to the director of adult and continuing education, serve as Diamond Girl advisors.



ECCC basketball cheerleaders

Basketball cheerleaders at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 campaign include (front from left) Bryan Madison of Philadelphia and Stephanie Rascoe of Stonewall, captain, and (back from left) Kristi Martin of Bossier City, La.; Kelly Martin of Enterprise; Emily Jenkins of Shubuta; Bill Johnson and Crystal Cooley, both of Hickory; and Tonya Covington of Noxapater. Virginia Pace, ECCC English instructor, serves as cheerleader sponsor.



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A Student Publication of East Central Community College

May 6, 1997

Six inducted into Hall of Fame

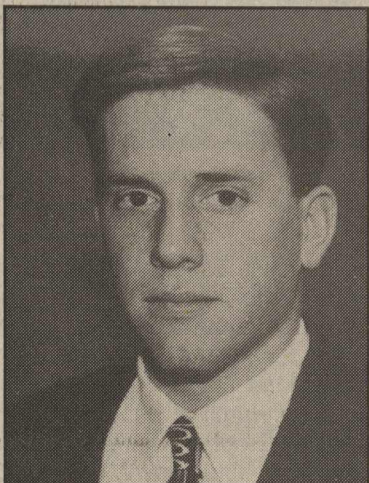
Six members were inducted into the East Central Community College Hall of Fame in ceremonies held on May 1, 1997, in Huff Auditorium. This is the highest award that an East Central student can receive as it acknowledges character and service of the highest quality. Criteria for selection include exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribution to the betterment of East Central Community College.

Selected for inclusion this year are: Mr. Bart Gregory; Miss Olivia Hamil; Miss LaRee Lyle, Mr. Jim Savell; Mr. Jonathan Sharp; and Miss Stephanie Taylor.

Bart Gregory is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gregory of Louisville and is a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School. At East Central, Bart is President of the Warrior Corps, Sophomore class, and the President's Council. He also serves as Vice-President of Mu Alpha Theta and was selected as the student recruiter for East Central in the summer of 1996. Bart was a freshman class favorite, a Dean's List Scholar, and a member of the 1996 NJCAA Academic Men's Tennis Team of the Year. He is described by one who nominated him for this honor as "one who leads by example and has everyone's respect."

Olivia Hamil serves as the reporter for the Mississippi/Louisiana region of Phi Theta Kappa. President of Mu Alpha Theta, and captain of the Fashion Squad. She is an active member of the concert band, the jazz band, the Warrior Marching Band, and the Warrior Corps. Olivia is also active in the PEER Tutorial Group, SADD, and the Wesley Foundation. She was named HEADWAE student of the year and selected for inclusion in Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. One of those who nominated Olivia referred to her as "a model student whose enthusiasm for ECCC is definitely real." Olivia is a graduate of Sebastopol High School and is the daughter of Mr. James C. and Dr. Burnette Hamil.

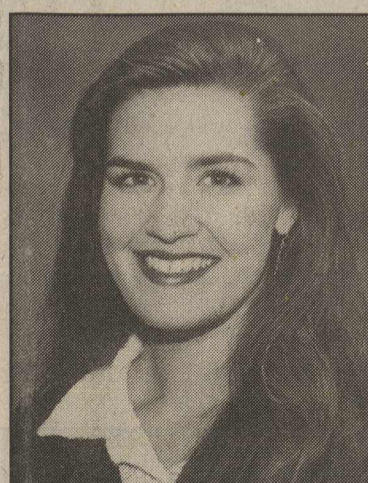
A graduate of Scott Central High School, LaRee Lyle is captain of the Centralettes, and a member of the Warrior Corps, Phi Theta Kappa, the Concert Choir, the Warrior Marching Band.



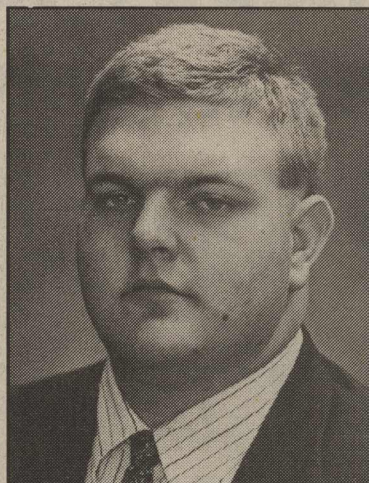
Bart Gregory



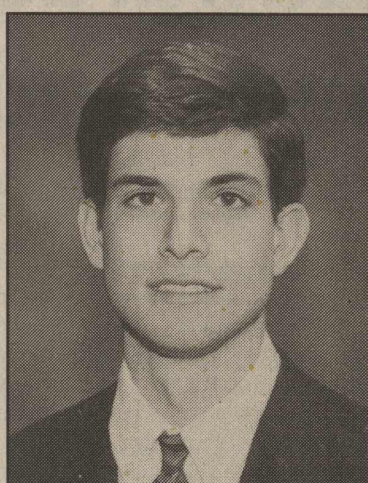
Olivia Hamil



LaRee Lyle



Jim Savell



Jonathan Sharp



Stephanie Taylor

LaRee is a distinguished performer with starring roles in the ECCC Player's productions of Mame, The Music Man, Rumors and The Mouse Trap. She is a Dean's List Scholar, a member of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College All-State Choir, and was selected as Most Beautiful for 1997 in the East Central Beauty Review. Nominators described her as "one who lives and breathes East Central." LaRee is the daughter of Steve and Regina Lyle of Lena.

Jim Savell is president of Phi Theta Kappa, vice-president of the President's Council, and a sophomore class officer. He is also an active member of the Warrior Marching Band, the Concert Band, the Collegians, the ECCC Players and the PEER Tutorial group. He was selected to Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, and Phi Theta Kappa's All-Mississippi Academic

First Team for Community and Junior Colleges. Jim is described as "having a relentless work ethic and impeccable character and morals." He is a graduate of Newton County High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Savell of Lake.

The son of Rev. and Mrs. John Sharp of Harpersville, Jonathan Sharp is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, the Wesley Foundation, the PEER Tutorial group and co-president of the Baptist Student Union. He has also been recognized as a President's List Scholar every semester that he has attended East Central. He was the recipient of the R.O. and Bertha Hannah Scholarship in 1995, and received the Spanish Award also. According to nominators, "He sets the proper standard in everything he does." Jonathan is a graduate of Sebastopol High School.

Stephanie Taylor is a graduate

of Forest High School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor of Forest. At East Central, Stephanie serves as president of the Students in Free Enterprise, President of Newsome Hall Dorm Council, and Vice-President of the Warrior Corps. She is also a member of the Tennis Team and Phi Theta Kappa and Mu Alpha Theta.

Stephanie is the recipient of the Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry Award and was selected for inclusion in Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. She was also selected as honorable mention for the All-Mississippi Academic Team for Community and Junior College Students. She is described by nominators as "one of the most assertive, organized, and efficient students at East Central."

Pictures of these students will hang in the lobby of Huff Memorial Auditorium.

ECCC commencement scheduled May 9

Diplomas will be awarded to over 350 East Central Community College students during graduation ceremonies scheduled Friday, May 9, 1997, on the Decatur campus. The annual commencement program begins at 8 p.m. in Warrior Stadium.

Selected to deliver the commencement address is honor graduate Olivia Hamil of Sebastopol. Hamil is the recipient of numerous honors at ECCC, including her recent selection to the 1997 Hall of Fame. The President's List scholar was also chosen the College's HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working Toward Academic Excellence) Student of the Year for 1996-97 and serves as reporter for the Mississippi/Louisiana region of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college.

Special music will be provided by graduating sophomore Laura Anderson of Philadelphia who will sing, "Climb Every Mountain," by Rogers and Hammerstein.

She will be accompanied by Mrs. Leesa Wilkinson, ECCC music instructor.

Other graduating sophomores who will serve as program participants include Student Body Association President Maurice Bowie of Morton, invocation, and Summer Measell of Decatur, benediction.

College President Dr. Eddie M. Smith will award degrees and certificates following the presentation of candidates by Dr. Phil Sutphin, Dean of Instruction. Candidates for graduation include the following:

LEAKE COUNTY: Beverly Alford, Frankie R. Beckham, David L. Bonney, Travis Cain, Nikki Callahan, Ashley Davidson, Jacqueline Dixon, Mattie Dixon, Tammy Berryhill Evans, Jo Frenny, Nesa Gresset, Jacob Grimes, Sandra Martin Hannis, Derrick C. Harvey, Tammy Wyvette Harvey, Stephanie Houston, Lori Ann King, Timothy J. Livingston, Allyson McPhail, Natalie Suzanne McKay, Karen McRae, Alicia Deanna Moore, Birdia Morgan, Jennifer Leigh Musgrove, Tara Lynn Renaud, April Suzann Sanderson, Chantell Blanche Shumake, Aretha Smith, Mitchell Skipper Sprayberry, Amy M. Thomas, Tanya Linette Thornton, Ollie Joe Triplett, Earl R. Truss, Edith S. Vowell, Cynthia Stovall Ward and Timothy Watkins, all of Carthage; Robert T. Alexander, Maurice Bowie, Amy Gappin Coleman, Nancy S. Faulkner, War-

ren Harrison, James Bradley Johnson, LaRee Anne Lyle, Olaf Keith Moss, Miranda Rowan, Debra Sessums, LaWanda Shepeard and Windy D. Smith, all of Lena; and Thelma Lee Barton, Shannon Berryhill, Connie Hafers Lewis, Jennifer Russell, Melissa K. Sistrunk and Joey B. Thrash, all of Walnut Grove.

NESHOBA COUNTY: Tommy Alford, Sally B. Allen, Laura L. Anderson, Patricia Lynn Anthony, Brad Barrett, Bonnie Bates, Amanda Lynn Bell, Renate K. Ben, Amy Suzanne Boatner, Christy R. Bounds, Felicia Z. Brantley, Wade Breazeale, Joseph Lee Brown, Tim Chapman, Thomas Bradley Cosgrove, Amzie Jonathan Crowe, Michael Davis, Wendy M. Davis, Heather Eakes, Matthew Ernest Eakes, Minetta Fortenberry, Johnna S. Foster, Lynette Fulton, Wesley Fulton, Robert C. Fulton II, Kenya L. Grace, Lisa Gray, Jolynn Hall, Tara Hall, Crystal Isaac, Alma Marie Johnson, Annette Lewis, Christopher Lewis, Kenneth M. Love, Bryan Madison, Natasha Madison, Jill Martin, Olivia McDaniel, Serena Renee Morris, Ben Myers, Gregory Phillips, Sandy Pope, Sylvia Elaine Pope, Leslie Daree Robertson, LaDonna M. Roebuck, Whitney Salter, Dana Morris Spears, Donita Stephens, Natalie Sue Stovall, Larry Wayne Tate, Shannon Thaggard, Justin Walley, Tanya D. Weatherford, Melanie Elaine Webb, Samuel Wayne White, Brett Williamson and Parish Williamson, all of Philadelphia; and Marilyn Rockco, Foxworth.

NEWTON COUNTY: Lisa Culpepper, Tina G. Reynolds and Bruce J. Thomas, all of Chunky; Amy Blackburn, Heather L. Bounds, Celeste Brown, Deana H. Chickaway, Stephanie Gibbon, Sean Gibson, Joseph E. Green, Marianne Lang, Shawntal L. Mayes, Linda McDill, Kimberlea K. Peckham, Mickey Duane Thrash, Margaret Vance and Michael T. Edwards, all of Conehatta; Heather Armstrong, Lillian Blalock, William Ryan Clarke, Donna C. Cumberland, Tawana A. Davis, Brandy Graham, Marcus Hill, Donald J. Hisaw, Kelly G. Hollingsworth, Tammy Jones, Miranda Lucroy, Shannon Beth McDonald, Summer Measell, Christina L. Miller, Robert Kevin Pierce, Harold Todd Pillsbury, Adella Rainer, Lee Rigdon, Melissa W. Shive, James Gregg Simmons, Deborah D. Skinner, Michael Jason

See GRADUATES, page 3

Summer class schedule announced for 1997

A special three-week term officially begins 1997 summer class offerings provided by East Central Community College in Decatur.

Four subjects - American Literature II, Microcomputer Applications, Computerized Accounting and Word Processing Applications - will be offered from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. each week day beginning Monday, May 12, and continuing through Friday, May 30. Registration for each course is scheduled at 8 a.m. on the day of the first class meeting (May 12) in Newton Hall, Room 60, on the Decatur campus.

Also scheduled to begin in May are Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) and Cosmetology classes. Three LPN courses - Maternal-Child Nursing, Psychiatric Concepts and Nursing Transition - are being offered and begin on May 12. (For more information contact the LPN Program, Ph 635-2111, ext. 211). Registration and the first class meeting for the Cosmetology courses will be held Tuesday, May 27. Courses being offered include Cosmetology Theory III, Facials and Makeup, Thermal Techniques and Beauty Salon Management.

The first four-week term offered on the ECCC campus begins Monday, June 9 and continues through

Thursday, July 3. Registration is scheduled at 9 a.m. Friday, June 6, in Newton Hall, Room 60.

Courses offered during first period (8 to 10:15 a.m. unless otherwise specified) include English Composition I, *General Biology (lecture and lab), *Human Anatomy and Physiology I (lecture and lab), *General Chemistry I (lecture and lab), American National Government, Intermediate Algebra, General Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, *Physical Science Survey (lecture and lab) and Introduction to Health, Physical Education and Recreation. (*Check summer schedule for class times.)

Second period courses (10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. unless otherwise specified) include English Literature I, American History I, College Algebra, Art Appreciation, Child Psychology, Microcomputer Applications and First Aid.

The second four-week term is scheduled from July 7 through Aug. 1. Registration will be held at 9 a.m. Monday, July 7.

Courses offered during first period include English Composition II, *General Biology II (lecture and lab), *Human Anatomy and Physiology II (lecture and lab), *General

See SUMMER, page 3

Exam Time is Here

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

The exam schedule for the 1997 Spring semester has been announced.

Graduating sophomores may talk with their teachers concerning exemption from exams. All Vocational Course Exams will be given Wednesday, May 7, 1997, beginning at 8 a.m. The exam schedule is as follows.

Monday, May 5, 1997

A	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
D	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
B	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

2	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
6	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
1	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

4	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
5	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
3	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 8, 1997

7+	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
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INSIDE

this edition
of
The Tom Tom

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Drum Major duties
passed to sister



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Knowles is state
VICA officer

Page 7

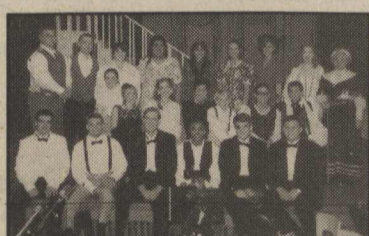
ECCC Players
present 'Mame'

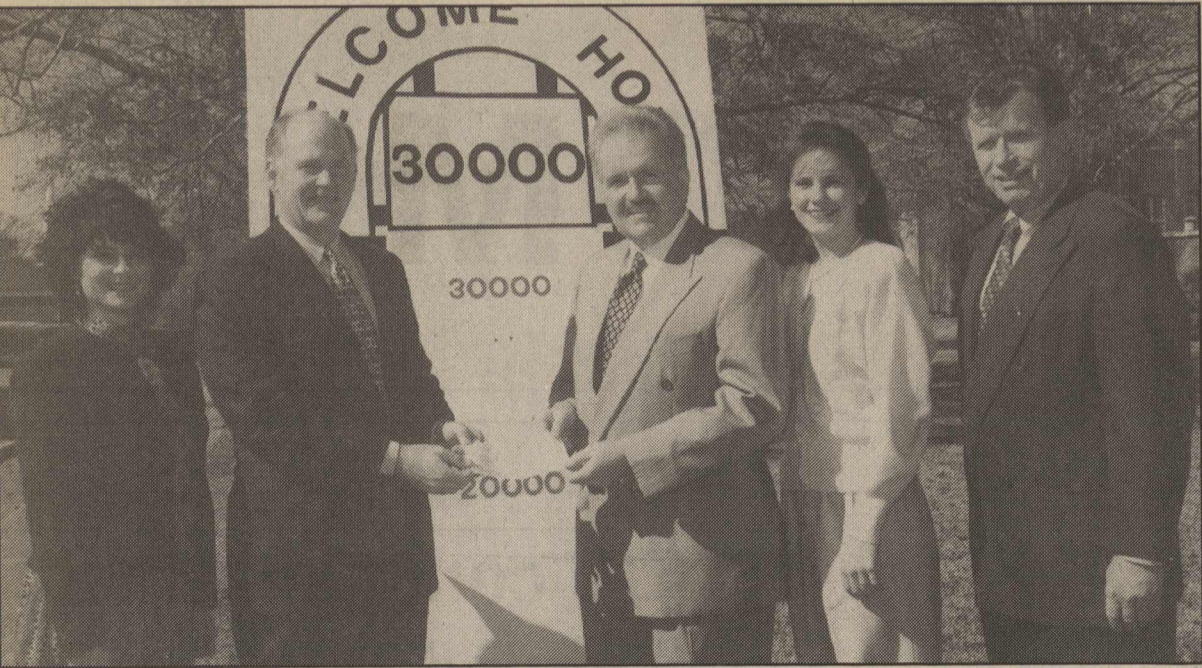
Page 4

Awards Day
held

Page 4

Graduation is special
to McRae's





Donates to ECCC project

Officials with the Meridian office of Mississippi Power Company are shown presenting a check to East Central Community College representatives for the College's "Welcome Home Project" recently initiated on the Decatur campus. The \$1000 donation will be used to help rebuild an archway that earlier existed at the front of the campus which will now include an electronic marquee to publicize various College events and activities. Pictured are (from left) MPC officials Angela Andrews, Education Segment Representative and Mac Freeman, Division Manager, and ECCC officials Dr. Eddie M. Smith, President; Kimberly Mott of Meridian, assistant to the Director of Development and Alumni Relations; and Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations. For more information regarding contributions to the "Welcome Home Project" as well as other fundraising endeavors contact the Development/Alumni Office, ECCC, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 323.



New ECCC keyboard lab

These music majors at East Central Community College are shown in a new keyboard lab located in the Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus. Working on their classroom assignment are (clockwise from left) Jeremy Swindle of Union, Josh Bamberg of Decatur, Laura Anderson of Philadelphia and Jessica Jordan of Kosciusko. The new lab, which includes an additional keyboard for instructor Leesa Wilkinson, is used for group piano lessons and keyboard work in theory class.

Savell, Taylor receive academic all-state honors recently

East Central Community College sophomores Jim Savell of Lake and Stephanie Taylor of Forest were recently named to the 1997 Mississippi All-State Academic Teams for Community and Junior Colleges.

Savell, a liberal arts/history major, is one of 10 students chosen from throughout the state on the first team. Those receiving the prestigious honor are selected on an application basis which includes written essays, letters of recommendation, demonstration of academic achievement, leadership skill and community service involvement.

As a Mississippi first team recipient, Savell will also be considered for placement on the All-USA Academic Team for Community and Junior Colleges, sponsored by *USA Today*, Phi Theta Kappa and the American Association of Community Colleges. Those receiving the national recognition are featured in *USA Today* and will receive a \$2500 stipend.

A President's List scholar with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, Savell is president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college; secretary/treasurer of the Warrior Corps, a select group of students who assist in recruiting and serve as hosts for various College events and activities; secretary of the sophomore class; and a member of the ECCC Players. He is also a member of the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band; a technician for the Collegians; and a former cast member of the College's dinner theater and spring musical productions.

Among honors Savell has received include the L.B. Simmons Memorial History Award which was presented his freshman year. He was recently named to Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

In addition to maintaining an active campus life, Savell helps manage the family farm located near Lake.

Savell plans to continue his education at the University of Mississippi and later attend law school.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Savell of Lake.

Taylor was named to the honorable mention All-State Academic Team.

Also a President's List scholar and 4.0 student, Taylor serves as president of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and the Newsome Hall dorm council; vice president of the Warrior Corps; historian for Phi Theta Kappa; women's tennis team captain; and is a member of the President's Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Mu Alpha Theta and College Republicans. She also serves as a college tutor.

Taylor received the Freshman Chemistry Award last year and was recently named to Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

In addition to campus activities, she works during summer months as a teller at Community Bank in Forest.

Taylor plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University and major in accounting.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor of Forest.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team is coordinated by The Clarion-Ledger, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.

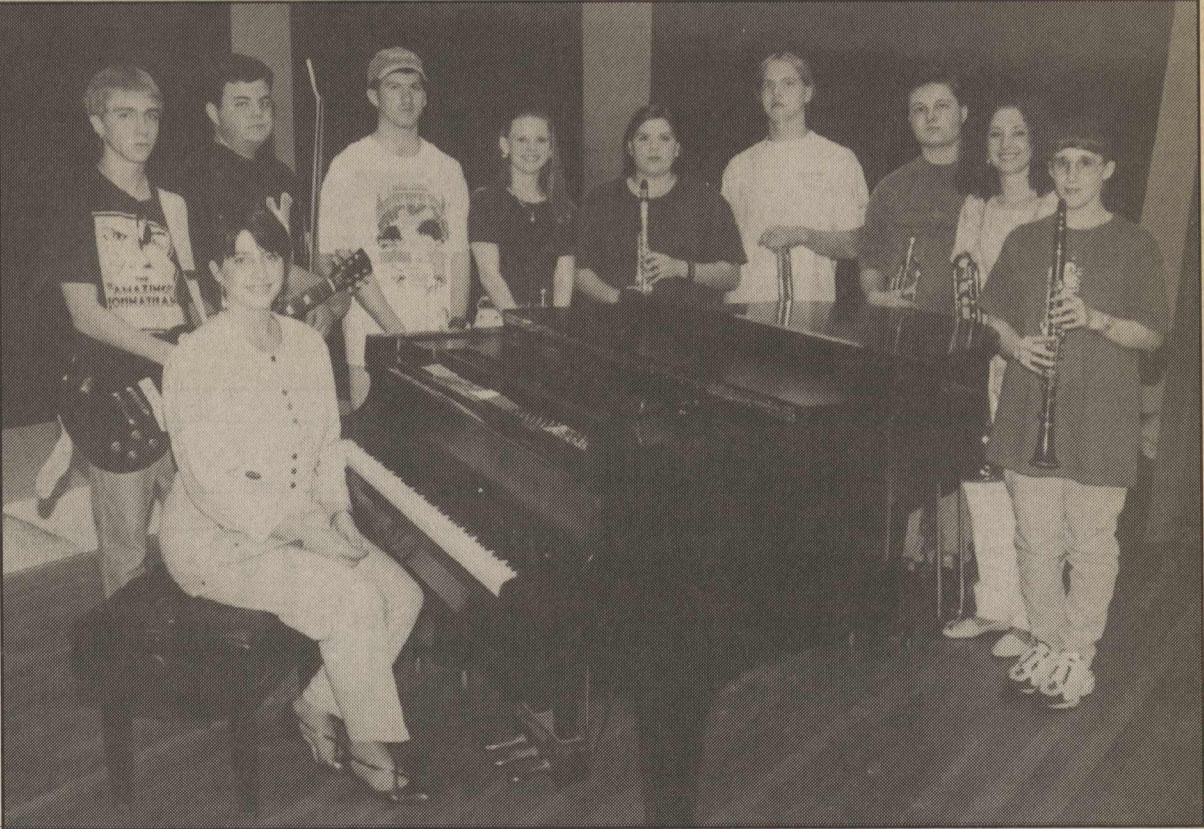
Cheerleaders announced for 1997-98

Football and basketball cheerleaders for the 1997-98 term have been selected, announced Mrs. Virginia Pace, who serves as sponsor.

Named to the football cheerleading squad are Bryan Madison, Capri Posey and Paula Crawford, all of Philadelphia; Jeremy Nowell of Nanih Waiya; Bill Johnson, Raland Burkes, Crystal Cooley and Leslie Brackeen, all of Hickory; David Hollingsworth, Heather Munn and Brandi Ulmer, all of Newton; Alex Lee of Lake; Amy Clark of Chunky; Jennifer Pace of Decatur; Nichol McKee of Little Rock; and Suzanne Vance of Clinton. Michael Scarborough of Philadelphia was selected an alternate.

Also leading cheers for the Warrior and Lady Warrior basketball teams are Cooley, Johnson, Clark, Pace, Nowell, Posey, McKee and Brackeen.

East Central begins the 1997 football season by hosting Holmes Community College at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4.



Orchestra for 'Mame'

Providing musical accompaniment for the East Central Community College production of "Mame" were the above members of the pit orchestra who include (seated) pianist Leesa Wilkinson of Meridian, ECCC music (keyboard) instructor; and (standing from left) guitarists Scott Houston of Chunky and Ryan Clarke of Decatur; trumpet players Josh Bamberg of Decatur and Sarah Whitsell of Forest; clarinet player Cheryl Watkins of Lake; trombone player Philip Triplett of Louisville; trumpet player Stacy Carter of Noxapater; trombone player Olivia Hamil of Sebastopol; and clarinet player Dawn Ward of Little Rock. Not pictured are trombone player Stephen Spire of Union; percussionist Johnny May, ECCC assistant band director; and orchestra director Thomas W. Carson, ECCC director of bands.

Edwards happy to hand over duties to sister

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

For most brothers and sisters, sibling rivalry, fierce competition and vying for attention go hand in hand with choosing anything but the same path. But for Richard and Tiffany Edwards, it's nothing but friendship as they follow each other's footsteps.

Richard has served as Drum Major and President of the Warrior Marching Band for the past two years. As he graduates from East Central this spring, his sister, Tiffany, will serve as Drum Major for the next two years beginning this fall.

Before ECCC, Richard served as Drum Major for the "Rebel Pride" Marching Band of Scott Central High School in Forest, Mississippi. During his two years of service, he received six consecutive superior ratings at district, state and tri-state competitions. He also received a superior rating as student conductor.

During his two years at East Central, Richard has performed at area high schools within the district. He has also instructed summer band camps as well as privately instructs other high school Drum Majors.

After graduation, Richard plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and major in Speech.

After auditions in February, Tiffany Edwards was selected to serve as Drum Major for the next two years at ECCC. Tiffany is a 1997 honor graduate of Scott Central High School. At SCHS, she has also served as Drum Major for the past two years. Tiffany has received four superior ratings at both district and state competitions. Tiffany also performed during an East Central football game, as the Scott Central "Rebel Pride" was the special guest band during half-time.

At East Central, Tiffany will be majoring in Music with Vocal emphasis.

Richard and Tiffany have continued to share their experiences in band by performing together at several football games. They have also instructed camps and other students together. Richard and Tiffany choose to work as a team and provide support for each other. Now as one leaves East Central, another steps in to fill his place.

When asked how he felt about leaving and his sister coming in, Richard answered, "I'm very proud of Tiffany. Of course, I'm going to miss EC and all the great experiences I've had. But I'm happy that my sister will have to opportunity to



Tiffany and Richard Edwards

Fashion squad to be honored during Homecoming

By RICHARD EDWARDS
The Tom Tom

The school year of 1997-98 will mark the 25th year of the Fashion Squad at East Central. For this reason, all former models will be one of the honored groups to be recognized at East Central's Homecoming activities this fall.

This year's homecoming activities are scheduled for the week of Oct. 13-18, leading to the homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 2:30 p.m. The Fashion Squad will present a show on Friday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m., and a "Reunion" on Saturday at 10 a.m. As a special feature, the Fashion

Squad will also showcase the children of former models to show how styles have changed over time.

Mrs. Pouncey has served as the sponsor of the Fashion Squad since its beginnings in 1973. She has been hard at work for several months collecting names and information of over 300 former models of the squad.

Mrs. Pouncey stated that she was still having some difficulty finding a few models.

If anyone has any information about a former member of the Fashion Squad or if they were a former member please call Mrs. Pouncey at East Central, 635-2111, ext. 286.

take part in one of the best influences on my life—East Central. And I can't think of any one person that I would be prouder of to take my place."

A trip on the wild side

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

Ron Davis and the Zoology II class took a trip to Jackson to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. A spokesperson informed the group of the aspects of the museum, while a film told of the importance of the earth and its inhabitants. I believe everyone who went learned something new.

This museum provides an opportunity for the public to be aware of the endangered species in Mississippi. Most people associate endangered species with the rain forest, however, it is a problem in Mississippi.

These animals, who were once in great numbers in the wild are now in a much smaller number. For some of these animals, it is too late, they are extinct, vanished from the earth.

TOM TOM STAFF

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	Gabriel Miller
Faculty Advisor.....	Mrs. Virginia Pace



LPN students honored

These students enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at East Central Community College in Decatur received various honors at the District HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Contest held recently at Meridian Community College. Award winners included (standing from left) Amber Roberts of Carthage, second place, Creative Problem Solving; Ruth Franklin of Union, first, Gerontology Knowledge Test and HOSA Bowl first place team member; Amy Smith of Philadelphia, second, Creative Problem Solving; Jennifer Lee, also of Philadelphia, HOSA Bowl first place team member; Denise Fleming of Newton, second, Gerontology Knowledge Test and third, Creative Problem Solving; Amber Grady, also of Newton, third, Creative Problem Solving; and Ron Permenter of Lawrence, third, Creative Problem Solving; and (seated from left) Peggy Branning of Philadelphia, first, Extemporaneous Writing; Annette Chapman of Newton, first, Medical Math and HOSA Bowl first place team member; Sonya Mangum of Morton, second, Creative Problem Solving; Paul Pryor of Forest, third, Creative Problem Solving; Miriam Rivers of Newton, fifth, Medical Spelling; and Melanie Patterson of Philadelphia, HOSA Bowl first place team member and third, Medical Math. Students winning first, second and third place honors advance to state competition scheduled in Biloxi. Serving as LPN instructors at East Central are Sandra Thomas and Kathy Buckman.

★Summer

Chemistry II (lecture and lab), Oral Communication, College Algebra, Intro to Computer Concepts and *Physical Science Survey (lecture and lab). (*Check summer schedule for class times.)

Second period classes are English Literature II, Trigonometry, Music Appreciation, World Civilization II, American History II and Intro to Sociology.

ECCC also offers evening classes as part of its summer term schedule.

Registration for evening classes offered on campus will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 2, with those signing up for academic classes reporting to the Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center and those registering for vocational courses assigned to the Bradford J. Tucker Applied Technology Center.

Courses offered in the 10-week academic term include General Biology I, Human Anatomy and Physiology I, Principles of Accounting I, Intermediate Algebra, Oral Communication, Music Appreciation, Legal Environment of Business, English Composition I, World Geography, Nutrition, Microbiology, General Chemistry I, Anatomy and Physiology II, Intro to Computer Concepts, Business Statistics, Principles of Economics II, American History I, College Algebra, General Psychology, Elementary Spanish I, American Literature I, Informal Geometry and Algebra, Human Growth and Development, English Composition II and American National Government. (See summer schedule for class times.)

Vocational classes scheduled during the seven and a half week term include Basic Electricity, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Basic Auto Mechanics and Woodworking.

East Central also offers day and evening summer classes at various locations throughout the College's five county district. The off-campus schedule is listed below.

CARTHAGE

Registration will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at the Carthage/Leake County Vocational-Technical Center. Classes begin Monday, June 9 and end on Thursday, July 31. Academic and technical classes will meet twice each week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Course offerings include English Composition I, American History I, American Literature I, English Composition II, College Algebra, American National Government, Oral Communication, Intro to Computer Concepts and Microcomputer Applications.

FOREST

Registration will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 4 at the Forest-Scott County Vocational-Technical Center. Classes during the seven and a half week term begin Monday, June 9 and end on Thursday, July 31. Classes meet twice each week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Course offerings include English Composition I, General Psychology, Elementary Spanish I, Developmental Algebra, American History I, American Literature I, College Algebra and Principles of Accounting I.

MORTON

Registration will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at Morton High School. Classes begin on Monday, June 9 and end on Thursday, July 31. Classes meet twice each week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Course offerings include Trigonometry, American History I, English Composition II, American National Government and Elementary Spanish II.

LOUISVILLE

Registration for a special three-week term will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 12 at the Louisville-Winston County Vocational Technical Center. Classes meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Course offerings include Intro to Computer Concepts, World Civilization I, Intermediate Algebra and Microcomputer Applications.

Registration for the first four-week term will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday, June 5 at the vo-tech center. Classes begin on Monday, June 9 and end on Wednesday, July 2.

Course offerings include English Composition I (8 to 10:15 a.m.), College Algebra and Oral Communication (10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.), and English Composition I, Trigonometry, American History I, Dendrology, First Aid and World Civilization (6:30 to 9:15 p.m.).

Registration for the second four-week term will be held at 9 a.m. Monday, July 7 at the vo-tech center. Classes begin Tuesday, July 8 and end on Friday, August 1.

Course offerings include English Composition II (8 to 10:15 a.m.); American National Government and College Algebra (10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.); and English Composition II, American Literature I, American History II, Personal and Community Health and Legal Environment of Business (6:30 to 9:15 p.m.). (more)

PHILADELPHIA

Registration for a special three-week term will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 12 at the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Vocational-

Technical Center. Classes meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. from May 12 through May 30.

Course offerings include Intro to Computer Concepts, American National Government and Intermediate Algebra.

Registration for the first four-week term will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3 at the vo-tech center. Classes begin Monday, June 9 and end Wednesday, July 2.

Course offerings include College Algebra, Trigonometry and American Literature I (8 to 10:15 a.m.); College Algebra and English Composition I (10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.); and Painting I, American History I, English Composition I, Keyboarding, Elementary Spanish, Nutrition and Human Growth and Development (6:30 to 9:15 p.m.).

Registration for the second four-week term will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 7 at the vo-tech center. Classes begin Tuesday, July 8 and end Friday, August 1.

Course offerings include English Composition I (8 to 10:15 a.m.); College Algebra (10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.); and Legal Environment of Business, American History II, Elementary Spanish II, Informal Geometry and Algebra, Intro to Computer Concepts, General Psychology and American Literature II (6:30 to 9:15 p.m.).

The cost per academic hour is \$50. Tuition and fees are non-refundable after the first class meeting. Payment in full is due at registration.

For more information contact the Director of Admissions, Records and Research, East Central Community College, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss. 39327.



Plan cancer fundraising event

Making plans for the annual Newton County "Relay for Life" fundraising event benefiting the American Cancer Society are committee members (seated from left) Kay Havard, director of nurses and Gloria Feinstein, director of marketing, both with Newton Regional Hospital; Inez Dumas, leather department employee and Cyndi Robinson, assistant human resource manager, both with La-Z-Boy South in Newton; and (standing from left) Paul Chaney of Meridian, executive district director for the American Cancer Society; Larry Blackburn, workforce specialist and Dr. Eddie M. Smith, president, both of East Central Community College. The all-night activity will be held from 6 p.m. Friday, May 16 to 6 a.m. Saturday, May 17, on the East Central Community College football field. Serving as co-chairpersons for this year's fundraising effort are Cyndi Robinson of Decatur and Rhonda Walker of Meridian. For more information contact Gloria Feinstein at Newton Regional Hospital or Kay Lucas, Newton Chamber of Commerce.

★Graduates

Smith, Ted W. Valentine, Jr., Ovid S. Vickers, 111, Denise Whitfield and Perez Willis, all of Decatur; Rhonda Lynn Sheely, Deltona; Melissa Rowzee Ivey and Tabitha McGee, both of Hickory; Gwendolyn Tucker, Lawrence; Mollie Blum, Lisa Michelle Harrison, Tami L. Howington, Elizabeth K. McMillan and Lori A. White, all of Little Rock; Daniel Arrington, Lisa Cunningham, Linda Jo Dukes, Jessica N. Everett, Patricia Ann Fountain, Timothy B. Garrison, Chastity Monique Gill, Lazerrick M. Hampton, Melanie Lucas Hamrick, Maleca Henderson, Ethel T. Jordan, Gregory E. McBride, Stephanie Bender McCune, Sonya McDonald, Michelle Moore, Phyllis Morrison, Vertis Marie Mosley, Carrie A. Norman, Franklin Tyler Norman Parks, Gloria J. Tatum, Marcia Vance, Marcell Walker, and Jason Ward, all of Newton; and Lynn Allison, Calvin Bailey, Amanda Barfoot, Robert Clarence Blount, Jr., Nancy Gail Brashear, Jason Burns, Doris Clay, Randy Cumberland, Michael Duncan, Jimmy Daniel Hendon, Timothy Lannar Huddleston, April Ladds Nick Massey, Bradley McNair, Rebecca Lynn Munn, Detrick Perry, Hollie Lea Penson, Antonio Rogers, Amanda Savell, Kimberly Boykin Smith, Dana Stokes, Heath Strickland Brandy Russell Sullivan, Sammy D. Sullivan, Angela Sumrall and James B. Ware, all of Union.

SCOTT COUNTY: Gary Butler, Tori L. Chambers, Kelly Cook, Terri LaShane Cooks, Joseph Crain, Richard Edwards, Lance Eichelberger, Catina Graham, Greta Hodge, Asif M. Iqbal, Arlene M. Jones, Maurice D. Jones, Angela S. King,

Darrick Massey, Wendy Jamel Nicholas, Shrona R. Patrick, Jeralyn Waggoner Perkins, LaWanda Annette Pinkston, Jewellia R. Reid, Corey Robinson, Christina D. Rushing, Joseph Sistrunk, Iris Smith, Margie Ann Stephens, Stephanie D. Taylors Kimberly Renae Tew, Stephanie Thames, Tina Guthrie Thrash, Benjamin David Wall, Kristie Cassandra Ware, Trilandra L. Ware, Yashica Veni Wash, Mary Francis Williams and Michelle L. Young, all of Forest; Jonathan Eric Sharp, Harperville; Marlina Cox, Linda Fay Jones, Nancy Lee Jones, Julie Laird, Jim Savell, Lisa Ann Taylor, all of Lake; Jason Latham and Tonya Williamson, both of Ludlow; Jerami L. Beard, Alisha B. Bennett, Teresa W. Brown, LaTorreia N. Davis, Katherine Easterling, Lenora Femyer, Ricky S. Frazier, Jason L. Frith, Brandi MyrickX Robert Earl Shephard, Timothy Ryan StokleyS Melissa Strickland, Gary Tracy, Misty Blackburn Tracy, James. M. Williams and Terri Lynn Gould, all of Morton; Clotee Harper, Pulaski, Donna Goss Gilmer, Olivia Marie Hamiland Bryant Lang, all of Sebastopol.

WINSTON COUNTY: LaKisha S. Cistrunk, Letrail L. Cistrunk, Angela R. Coats Kimberly Reel Estes, Carolyn D. Gladney, Jim Bart Gregory, Roderick D. Hickman, Wilbert Demarcus Holmes, Sheila Loving, Charlotte M. McAdory, Donna McDaniel, Patrick Moore, Jeremy Parks, Shannon Brown Reed, Autumn L. Robertson, William V. Rogers, IV, Amy Joyce Rook, Sonya Covington Smith, Honey Natalie Taylor, Philip Triplett, William Neal Wilson and Cynthia Hatgher Yarbrough, all of Louisville; Ger-

maine Chambers, Tonya Covington, Melissa W. Harrison, Shondrice Lampley, Amy Renee Moore, Laquita Moore, Amy Rebecca Parker, Andrea Karen Persons, Shurron Phillips, Evelyn Amanda Robinson and Stacy Stevenson, all of Noxapater; and Pascal Clark, Preston.

OUT OF DISTRICT

ATTALA: Lucinda McAdory, Kosciusko. HOCTAW: Justin L. Griffin, Ackerman. CLARKE: John Michael Donovan and Stephanie Leigh Rascoe, both of Stonewall; Emily Jenkins, Shubuta; Jason Kizziah, Thomasville; Kelly Christina Melton, Enterprise; and Alicia Atteberry Stokes, Milwaukee.

HUMPHREYS: Walter J. McClendon, Beizoni.

JASPER: Mark A. Ishee, Jr., Louin; Ronterrel U. Bender and Malithia Shaunte Jones, both of Montrose; and Debra W. Boulton, and Rose Hill.

KEMPER: Timothy Stephens, Dekalb.

LAUDERDALE: Reza H. Baz-yari, Kevin Blanks, Robin Burkes, Eric L. Butler, Brenda Faye Carpenter, Jeremy Hopkins, Timothy Lee Long, Monty McMullen, Laura Leigh Peavey, Melissa K. Thornhill and Diane P. Untalan, all of, Meridian; and David McDonald, Kathy W. Purser, Lilah Schickel and Susan Annette Smith, all of Collinsville.

RANKIN: Tera Tarsha Agee, Brandon; and Cassandra L. Harrell and Victor Parker, both of Pelahatchie.

OUT-OF-STATE

LOUISIANA: Brandon Johnb Williams, Gonzales. FLORIDA: Ashanti Webb, Tampa Bay. ALABAMA: Freddie Louis Jowers, Sweetwater; Mark Thomas, Northport; and

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Awards Day held May 2

Awards Day ceremonies were held Thursday, May 2. Awards recipients were:

VOCATIONAL AWARDS
Cabinet Making, Earl T. Truss; Carpentry, Earl T. Truss; Cosmetology, Dale Moncrief; Licensed Practical Nurse, Annette B. Chapman; Vocational Student of the Year, Ronald B. Permenter.

TECHNICAL AWARDS
Auto Body Repair, Mark A. Ishee; Auto Mechanics, Ollie J. Triplett; Child Development, Serena R. Morris; Computer, Ted W. Valentine; Electrical, Jason E. Ward; Electronic, Jo Freeny; Heating and Air Conditioning, Jeremy W. Hopkins; Machine Shop, Terrance H. Strickland; Metal Fabrication, Demarcus L. Cistrunk; O. L. Newell Drafting, Susan A. Smith; Surgical Technology, Flora N. Hodge and Valeria A. McMullan; Technical Student of the Year, Jeralyn W. Perkins.

SPECIAL AWARDS
Citizenship, Olivia M. Hamil; Tom-Tom Award, Richard D. Edwards; ECCC Players, Lisa M. Harrison; ECCC Singers, Marcus M. Jones and Amy S. Boatner; ECCC Gospel Choir, Marcus M. Jones, Alex L. Gill and LeVar J. Robinson; L. B. Simmons History, Lana D. Lohrer; Philadelphia-Neshoba County Arts Council Scholarship, Laura L. Anderson; Ruth Carr-Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Non-Traditional Education, Sammy

D. Sullivan; Kappa Kappa Iota, Holly Hamrick; Mathematics, Justin L. Miles (F) and Amy S. Boatner (S); S. Lebrun Hutchison, Matthew E. Eakes; MBEA Student Award, Michael T. Edwards; Secondary Education, Amy S. Boatner; Delta Kappa Gamma, Amy S. Boatner; Spanish, Marinda J. Comans; ADN Outstanding Achievement, Donna J. Tubby, 1st and James T. Cain, 2nd; Anthony Coleman Men's Basketball, Gilberto A. Venzen; USM Eddie M. Smith, TBA; USM Scholarship, TBA; MSU Scholarship, TBA; Homer F. Hunter Award for Athletic Managers, John M. Donovan; Walter Arno Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics, Stephanie D. Taylor; Wo-He-Lo, no recipient.

ALUMNI MEMORIAL AWARDS
Billy Wayne Baucum Secondary Education, John M. Donovan; Opal McMullan Dickinson Elementary Education, Allison M. Eubanks; W. A. Coursey, Jr. Engineering, Nathan M. King; Danny R. Killens Engineering, Melanie A. McPhail; Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology (1 year), Marianne Lang; Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa, Olivia M. Hamil and James M. Savell; Leon Eubanks Kaljc-Peers Award, Amy E. Gomillion; Sue Yarbrough Fulgham Speech, Joey F. Lang; William S. Giffin Men's Intramural, Brian L. Sistrunk; Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services, Joseph A. Sistrunk; Howard Sessums, Joe E. Green;

Andrew F. Webb Football, Wilbert D. Holmes; Earline Wood Women's Basketball, Jennifer L. Musgrove; Alatha Chaney English Award; no qualified candidates for 1997.

FACULTY MEMORIAL AWARDS
J. Wallace Bedwell Business, Stephanie D. Taylor; Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry, Amy E. Gomillion; Robert G. Fick Memorial, Jeremy A. Swindle; Frank Edwin and Nena Holt Leatherwood, Biology Science, Ginger A. Greer; J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering, Brian T. Shaw; Charles E. Pennington Business Technology (2 year), Jeralyn W. Perkins; General William Patrick Wilson General Academic, Gaydon T. Richardson.

SPECIAL HONORS
Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence Award, Olivia M. Hamil; Student Government Awards, SBA Officers: Maurice Bowie, Jill M. Martin and Tonya G. Covington; Sophomore Class: Jim B. Gregory, Jennifer L. Musgrove, James M. Savell and Robin A. Burkes; Freshman Class: Amy Gomillion, Vicki R. McGee and Penny L. Johnson; Scholar's Bowl Team, Joshua W. Carroll, Stacy L. Carter, Jacob M. Jenkins and Joseph A. Sistrunk; 1997 All Mississippi Academic Team for Community and Junior Colleges, James M. Savell and Stephanie D. Taylor.



All-State choir members

These talented East Central Community College musicians were recently named to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State Choir and were among performers at the annual program held at the University of Southern Mississippi. From left are Lee Rigdon of Decatur, Shawn Houser of Lake, LaRee Lyle of Lena, Lisa Harrison of Little Rock and Tripp Gaddis of Forest. The ECCC Concert Choir is under the direction of Charles Hinson.

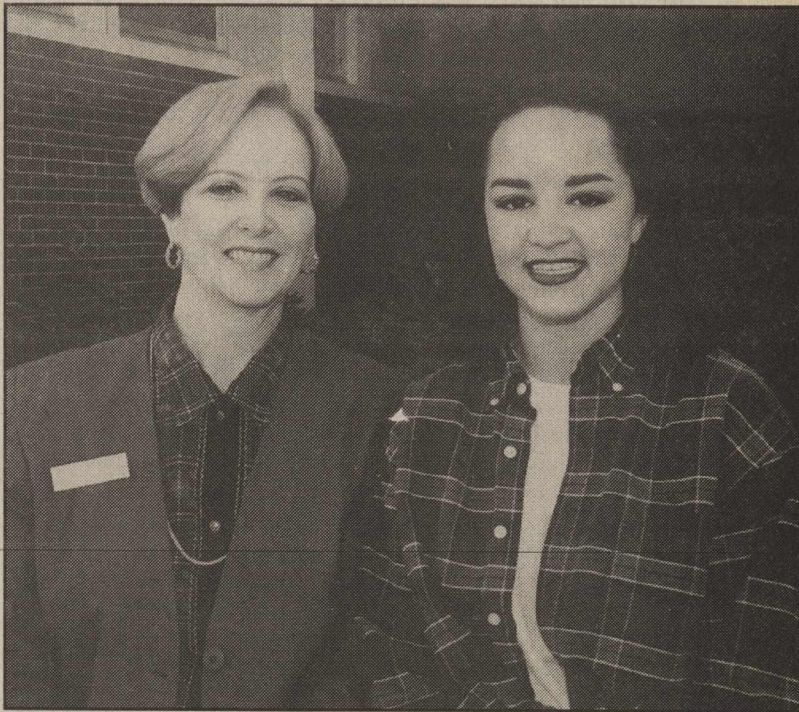
Graduation is special for McRae family

By JACOB GRIMES
The Tom Tom

The end of the 1996-97 school year is right upon us. It is time for graduating sophomores to make plans for their futures. It is a very hectic time, but it is also a very exciting time as well. Graduation ceremonies will be held May 9 and those who are graduating close one chapter in their lives and move on to another. While graduation is a special time for all students and their families, it is even more special for others.

One such case is for sophomore Karen McRae and her mother, Mrs. Gloria McRae, who is a math instructor at East Central. First of all East Central is somewhat of a family tradition for the McRaes. Mrs. McRae attended EC not so many years ago and returned three years ago to teach here. Mrs. McRae was very pleased with Karen's decision to begin her education at EC.

In her two years at EC Karen has been involved in several of East Central's activities and organizations. She was a two year member of the Centralettes. She was also a Diamond Girl and a member of the Modeling Squad. Her freshman year she participated in the spring musical and she was elected Homecoming Queen this year. While balancing her studies with all of her extracurricular activities Karen is a member of both



Gloria and Karen McRae

Phi Theta Kappa and Mu Alpha Theta and has a cumulative GPA of 3.4.

Karen says she has enjoyed her time at EC and is glad she decided to start out at EC instead of a major university. Not only has Karen gotten a good start to her education, but she also feels that being at EC with her mother has improved their relationship.

Karen plans to attend Mississippi State next semester where she will

be a marketing major. Mrs. McRae, a USM graduate, couldn't be any prouder of Karen, but she doesn't quite understand why she chose MSU over USM. She says she will give Karen her support as long as she is happy.

EC has been an important part of the McRae's life and they are very loyal towards and proud to associate with EC. EC has meant a lot to the McRae's, but all the same the McRae's have meant a lot to EC.

'Mame' would be proud of performance

By KEITH JUSTICE
The Tom Tom

Is there a synonym for "Mame"? The very word has come to be accepted as an unofficial one-word definition for modern musical theatre for all that is best about comedy and music on Broadway.

But is there a reasonably succinct yet expressive synonym for a four-letter word which is the title of a musical, the name of a character, and an indicator which denotes a positively optimistic point of view?

Life is full of questions. A play can't answer them all. Can it?

Mame the Broadway musical opened on May 24, 1966 at the Winter Garden and ran for 1,508 performances. Do cold, lifeless numbers tell everything we need to know?

Not by themselves. But they do tell part of the story, and the part they tell about has to do with popularity. And what does that mean?

It means drama students at East Central, particularly the central female characters, had some pretty big high heels to fill when they decided to present a production of Mame.

Yet another question. Did they fill those shoes?

The answer to that is yes, indeed they did. The audience said so when they gave the cast the best gift an audience can give—a standing ovation at the end of the show.

The audience seemed to set aside a special place in their hearts for nine-year-old Colby Amis, who played the part of the younger Patrick, as indicated by the unmistakable increase in applause volume during the curtain call. And there is an interesting bit of ECCC trivia that crops up here.

Colby's mother, Cheryl (Baucum) Amis, appeared as the character Baby June in the stage play Gypsy when she was about the same age as Colby. That play also was presented in the ECCC Fine Arts Center about 20 years ago.

The cast of Mame attacked their parts with the same enthusiasm that Mame attacked life, and in so doing ensured the success of the production. A play that operates across the entertainment spectrum, including elements ranging from broad humor to tragedy, can be difficult to present. Necessarily, most of the tragic elements occur offstage and therefore are somewhat glossed over. Therein lies the danger that the essence of the story will be lost and the plot elements will get only surface treatment.

But the cast of the ECCC production of Mame brought the spirit of Mame to life for four evenings and creditably presented that essence to an audience, some of whom might have been returning for a refresher course in Mameattitude and others who might not have realized what benefits can be derived from an occasional peek at what life looks like through the bottom of someone else's martini glass.

And the costumes and dance numbers alone were worth buying a ticket and going to ECCC to see. Not to mention the pleasant surprise of the song and dance sequence in which the nanny decides to embrace

life rather than just giving it the occasional pat on the back.

But why—you ask—would people today want to see a 30-plus-year-old musical? Good question.

The entertainment media these days tend to be somewhat dark, often armed and dangerous. And Mame is the exact, diametric, 180-degree polar opposite of that. Music, obviously the heart of any musical, can upstage even the most persistent trends toward stage noir or soapy theatrical despair, and Jerry Herman's marvelous music is entertaining, uplifting and sentimental without bogging everything down knee-deep in syrup.

The ECCC cast and orchestra worked together impeccably to maintain the delicate balance of robust good humor, faith and inspiration that are central to Herman's music.

If the character Mame really existed, and had been on the ECCC campus last week to see this production of her play, she would have been proud.

Mame lived her figurative life as if it were a banquet, and she often wondered why so many people starved themselves, choosing to avoid the main course and pick through the crumbs instead. We meet Mame at the beginning of the play, when Wall Street is crashing down around everyone's ears, and at the end of the play the second "war to end all wars" has just ground to a halt and she has lost her husband in a mountain-climbing accident.

In her lifetime, she gained and lost just about everything it is possible to gain and lose, from a husband to her personal fortune, but it is by disposition and force of will that she surmounts all obstacles in her quest for life. Mame sometimes failed at jobs—actress, manicurist, whatever—but she never failed at the business of living.

The phrase "cockeyed optimist," which we borrow from South Pacific, seems tailor made to fit Mame, but with a dash of Mame-worldly good humor added for spice. Rather like a mixture of Carol Channing and Bette Midler.

And spice, after all, is the variety of life. Or something like that.

Although Mame's life is a story, it also tells a story. Most people (especially students) hate to hear that something has a meaning above and beyond what is stated in dialogue or presented in exposition. But the truth is, if the meaning of Mame totaled no more than the sum of 90 minutes of dialogue, it would have disappeared from the American consciousness the month after it opened.

In other words, God forbid, the play has something to say.

Is it anything deep, heavy, or philosophical? Something to be dredged up out of thick, dusty tomes crammed to overflowing with long sentences, six-syllable words, and tiny print?

Probably not.

But the fact that the musical has endured for thirtysomething years, and that some of the songs—particularly Mame's theme song—have become some of the most instantly recognizable classic stage music in theatrical history means, by definition, that the play tells a much bigger

story than the simple trials and tribulations of one woman.

Mame, by herself, and Mame, by itself, separately and collectively, almost constitute a modern theatrical tradition. There is a danger in trying to live up to a legendary tradition, but the actors and actresses at East Central have maintained the integrity of the Mametradition, and they appeared to have some fun while they were about it—the surest indicator that they knew exactly what they were doing. It is much easier to share the fun with someone when you are having fun yourself.

After the applause fades away and the cast members take their final bows, the members of the audience are left with a memory of Mame as a story of the human spirit triumphant, and that means the cast members did their jobs. They upheld their end of the unspoken but implicit agreement between the cast of a play and the ticketbuying public.

Of course, some may scoff at the idea of Mame as a story of the human spirit triumphant, not to mention a story of life, love, loyalty, family and friendship. If a play says all that, there must be something to be learned from it. But learning often means emulation. Can we all be Mames? Should we all be Mames?

Well, not literally. The spirit of Mame is to drink champagne when you can, and drink root beer as if it were champagne when root beer is all you have. And when you don't have champagne or root beer either one, but if someone is kind enough to hand you a lemon-well, you know the adage.

When things looked their worst, it was Mame's style to put on her best dress, slip into spike heels, then march up to adversity, look it in the eye, and tell it to get out of her way before she politely but insistently knocked it to the ground and stomped it senseless with those four-inch spikes. And all the while exhibiting a modicum of class and an abundance of style.

Mame was "going for the gusto" long before that became a popular advertising cliché.

The spirit of Mame tells us to endure when we must and triumph when we can. Which brings us to a final question: Just because Mame can rise above adversity, even tragedy, does that mean we can, too?

Of course we can. We must. When we do, that is called 'life.'

And that also answers our first question about a synonym for "Mame."

SIFE places second in competition

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

East Central's SIFE placed second in competition at Atlanta, Georgia. EC's SIFE traveled to Atlanta on April 7 and returned to East Central on April 9.

This was the first time SIFE has ever placed in competition. At Atlanta, they presented a slide show that demonstrated all of the projects the SIFE had done within

the 1996 - 1997 school year. SIFE competed with seven other SIFE teams from across the United States.

Members who attend the competition were sponsor, Wanda Moore, Shannon McDonald, Vickie McGee, Phyllis Morrison, Victor Parker, Adella Rainer, Krisan Risher, Shad Sanders, and Stephanie Taylor.

Congratulations to the SIFE Team!!




Peer Tutorial Group

Above are East Central Community College students who are members of the College's Peer Tutorial Group, an organization which provides assistance to individuals who need assistance in their studies. Seated from left are Leslie Swindle, Noxapater; Stephanie Taylor, Forest; Gaydon Richardson, Louisville; and Olivia Hamil, Sebastopol. Standing from left are Amy Dunaway, Noxapater; Andy Sistrunk, Forest; Brandon Tucker, Carthage; Ricky Frazier, Morton; Brian Shaw, Forest; and Amy Spears, Lena. Not pictured are Magan Triplett, Louisville; Jim Savell, Lake; Amy Boatner, Philadelphia; Stacy Carter, Noxapater; Denise Whitfield; and Jonathan Sharp, Sebastopol.

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Sports



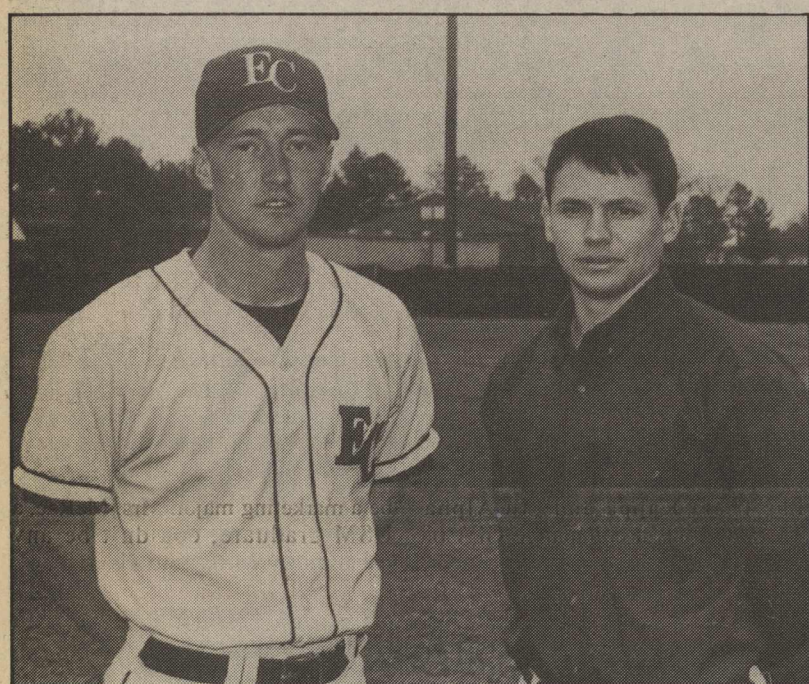
ECCC men's tennis team

Members of the Warrior Men's Tennis Team at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 campaign include (first row from left) Bart Gregory of Louisville, Asif Iqbal of Forest and Jason Frith of Morton and (second row from left) Bryan Madison of Philadelphia, Steve Woitt of Decatur and Brian Sistrunk of Carthage. Not pictured is Jeff Rowell of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Ryan York of Walnut Grove. Joe Clark of Decatur serves as coach for the team.



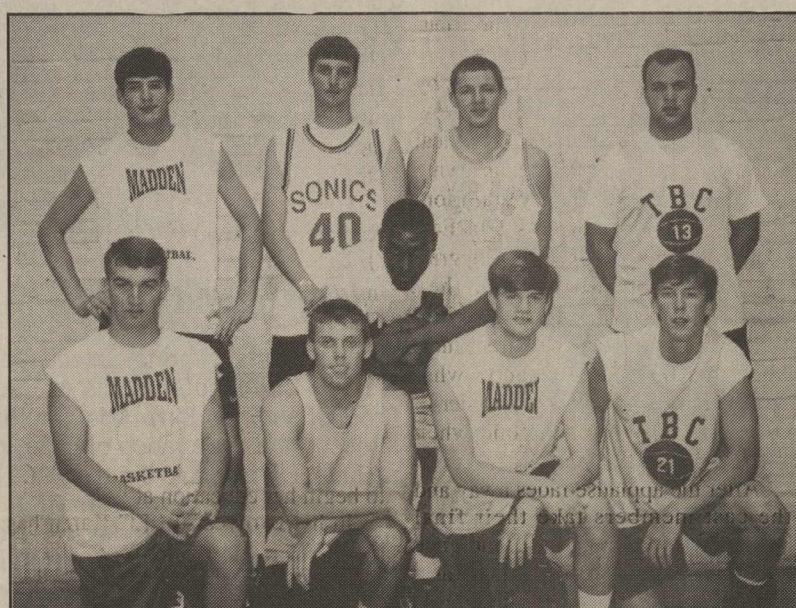
ECCC women's tennis team

Members of the East Central Community College women's tennis team for the 1997 campaign include (first row, from left) Shannon McDonald, Decatur; Coach Natalie Vance; Stephanie Taylor, Forest; and (top row, from left) Lori White, Little Rock; Fran Jones, Forest; and Lana Lohrer, Decatur.



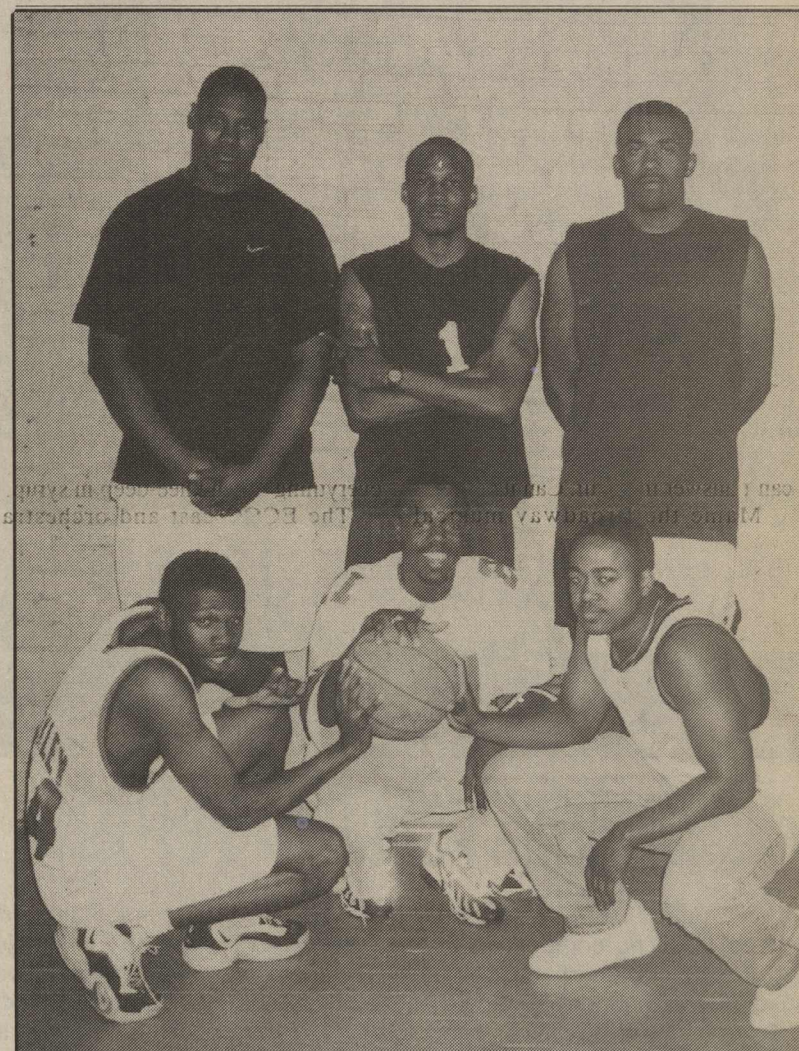
ECCC coach, trainer

Serving as assistant coach and trainer, respectively, for the East Central Community college baseball team during the 1997 campaign are (from left) Shannon Cooley of Hickory and Joey McLeod of Decatur. McLeod's services are provided by Rush Sports Medicine in Meridian and ECCC. Not pictured is Warrior head baseball coach Jamie Clark.



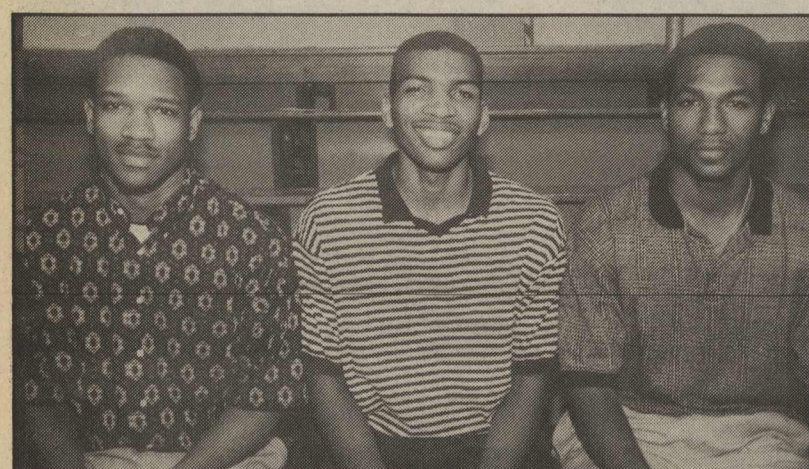
Division champs!

The above members of a team called "Slo-Motion" won "B" division honors in the East Central Community College men's intramural basketball league competition. Pictured are (kneeling from left) Mack Stubbs, Walnut Grove; Joe Green, Conehatta; Marc Hill, Heidelberg; Bobby Moss and Brian Sistrunk, both of Carthage; and (standing from left) Shad Sanders and Anthony Palokas, both of Carthage; Jason Smith, Union; and David Jones, Madden. The ECCC intramural program is directed by Mike Anderson.



ECCC intramural champs

"West-Side Riders" won top honors in the men's intramural basketball league championship held at East Central Community College in Decatur. Team members include (kneeling from left) Karlos Kincaid of Louisville, James Rushing of Meridian and Joe Triplett of Carthage; and (standing from left) Letrail Cistrunk of Louisville, Stacey Williams of Forest and Timothy Overstreet of Carthage. Mike Anderson serves as intramural program director.



Receive post season honors

These members of the East Central Community College basketball team received various honors following the 1996-97 campaign. From left are Maurice Jones of Forest, All-Star, honorable mention All-State; Maurice Bowie of Morton, All-Region, All-State and All-Star; and Darrick Massey of Forest, All-Star. Warrior head coach Marty Cooper was selected to lead the South squad in the annual MACJC All-Star Classic scheduled April 3 at Northwest Miss. Community College in Senatobia. East Central finished the season by posting a 15-11 record.



Walking for charity

The second annual Walk-a-Thon for Cystic Fibrosis was recently held on the East Central Community College campus in Decatur and was sponsored by the Association of Student Nurses (ASNEC). Approximately 50 college personnel and students participated in the fundraising event which netted \$750 to help fight the congenital disease.

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Tournament runners-up

"NWO" captured second place honors in the men's intramural basketball league competition recently held at East Central Community College in Decatur. Team members include (kneeling from left), Brad Cosgrove, Sam White, Justin Griffin and (standing from left) Ben Myers, Seth McCoy and Mark Nance, all of Philadelphia. The ECCC intramural program is directed by Mike Anderson.



ECCC dorm council

Serving as members of the East Central Community College Dorm Council for 1996-97 are (seated from left) Amy Gomillion, Walnut Grove; Stephanie Taylor, Forest; Shannon McDonald, Decatur; Tera Agee, Brandon; and Amy Spears, Lena; and (standing from left) Bart Gregory, Louisville; Ben Myers, Philadelphia; Ryan York, Walnut Grove; Robert Earl Shephard, Morton; Mike Donovan, Stonewall; and Kenneth Bell, Walnut Grove. Not pictured are Toshika Wraggs, and Kelvin Knowles, both of Louisville; Lori White, Little Rock; Ryan Stokley, Morton; Russell McCann, Decatur; Matt Eakes, Philadelphia; and Asif Iqbal, Forest.



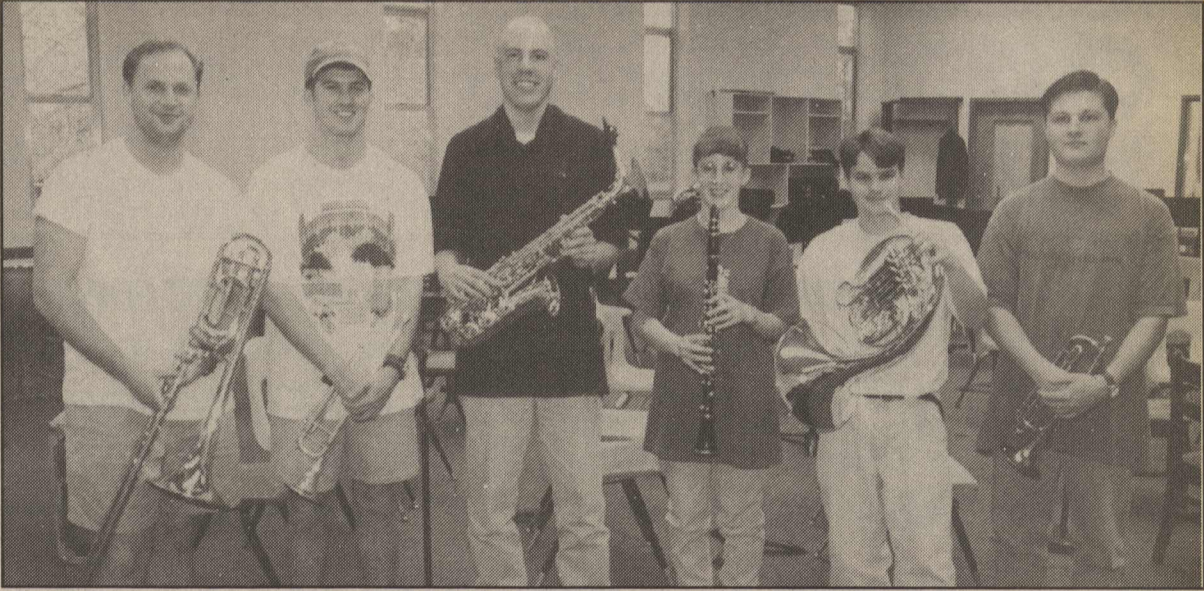
Receive HOSA honors

Various honors were received by the above surgical technology students at East Central Community College following competition in the District HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Contest held recently at Meridian Community College. Award winners included (seated from left) Nicole Hodge of Union, fourth place, Surgical Technology Skills; Valerie McMullan of Newton, first, Surgical Technology Skills; Ginger Stovall of Philadelphia, fifth, Surgical Technology Skills; and Mavis Johnson of Forest, fourth, Prepared Speaking; and (standing from left) Jamie Sanderson of Preston, third, Surgical Technology Skills, and Geneva Houston of Meridian, third, Extemporaneous Speaking. Students winning first, second and third place honors advance to state competition scheduled in Biloxi. Janice Jacobs serves as surgical technology instructor.



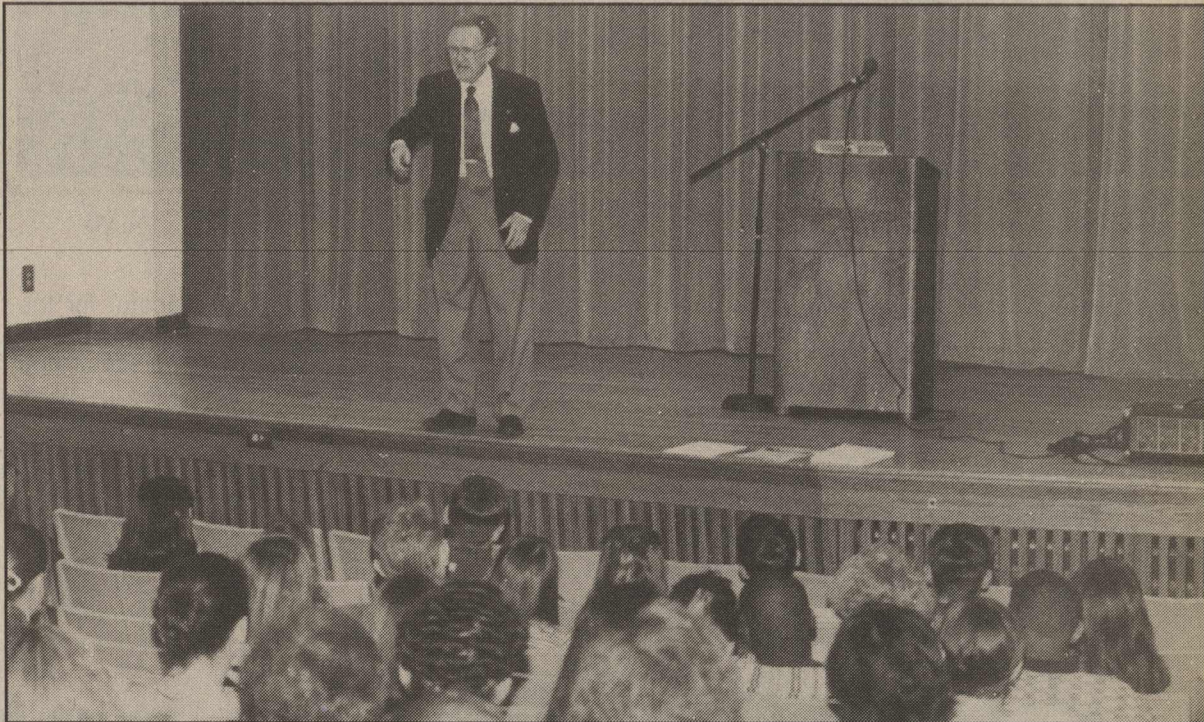
Receive state honors

The above East Central Community College students received various honors at the Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference recently held in Jackson. Award winners and their respective areas of competition included (from left) Christina Miller of Decatur, fourth place, word processing; Adella Rainer, also of Decatur, fourth, Accounting I; and Tonya Williamson of Ludlow, fourth, public speaking. Miller was also elected state reporter and was chosen for Who's Who in Phi Beta Lambda. She will attend the National PBL Conference scheduled in Anaheim, Calif., July 5-8, 1997. Not pictured are Stephanie Taylor of Forest, third, economics; and Regena McCraw of Walnut Grove, fourth, computer programming.



ECCC'S All-State band members

Among members of the 1996-97 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State Band are the above East Central Community College musicians who include (from left) Jeremy Swindle of Union, Josh Bamberg of Decatur, Matt Eakes of Philadelphia, Dawn Ward of Little Rock, Jason Jones of Union and Stacy Carter of Noxapater. Not pictured is Jason Alford of Philadelphia. The ECCC Band is under the direction of Thomas W. Carson and assistant Johnny May.



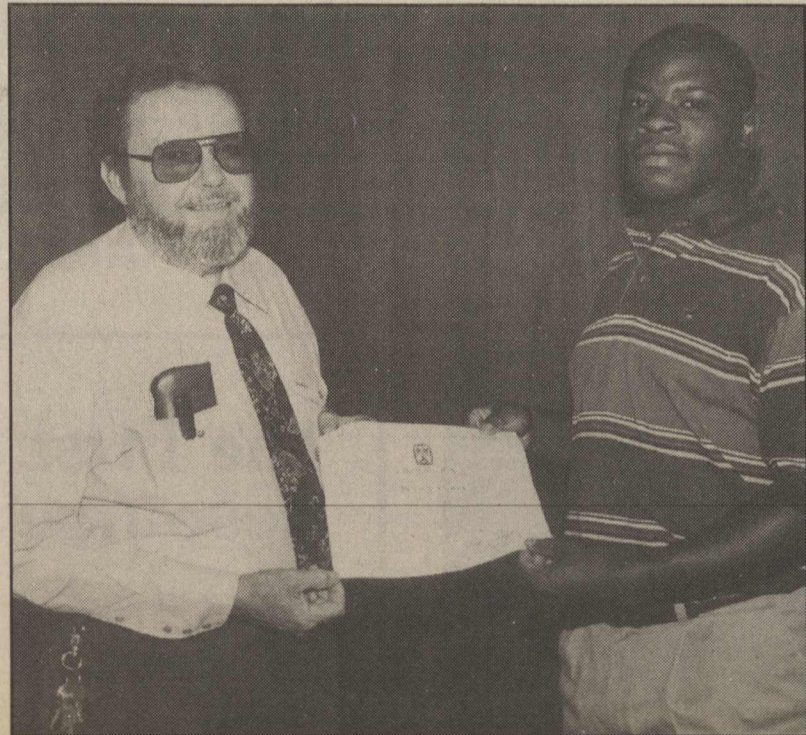
Alman addresses students

Dr. Rex Alman, former executive director of Weems Community Mental Health Center in Meridian, recently spoke to students at East Central Community College during a special program held in the Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium. Dr. Alman, a regular speaker on the ECCC campus, stressed the importance of believing in oneself, having faith in one's abilities and maintaining a positive attitude. He also told the over 200 in attendance, "If you can't change a certain situation, at least change the way you look at the situation!" In addition, Dr. Alman expressed concern that the "biggest problems" facing young people today are alcohol and drug abuse. For adults, he added, the biggest problem is depression. Dr. Alman was introduced by psychology instructor Mrs. Alice Pouncey who annually invites the popular speaker to the ECCC campus.



Donates to ECCC project

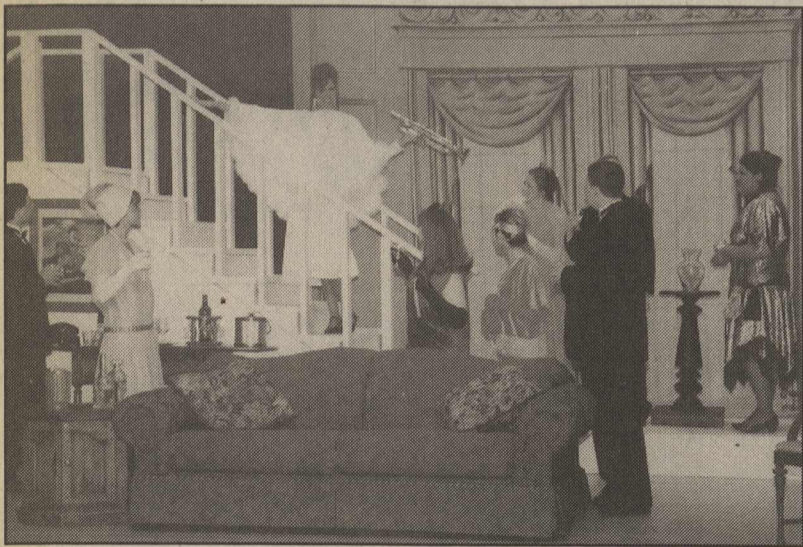
Members of the New Directions organization at East Central Community College in Decatur recently purchased an "ECCC brick" with proceeds earmarked for the College's new "Welcome Home" project. Sponsored by the College's Office of Development and Alumni Relations, this endeavor involves the construction of an archway/electronic marquee at the campus entrance. The club's \$50 donation will help create an archway that existed for almost three decades but was torn down to make room for additional parking. The new structure, estimated to cost \$30,000, will include a computerized electronic marquee to announce campus events. Pictured during the presentation are (from left) Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations; Sammy Sullivan of Union, New Directions president; Kelly McCoy of Carthage, reporter; and Bill Lovett, ECCC psychology/speech instructor who serves as club sponsor. New Directions, an organization composed of nontraditional students, is one of many clubs and organizations which have contributed to the "Welcome Home" project. For more information contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, ECCC, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 323.



State VICA officer

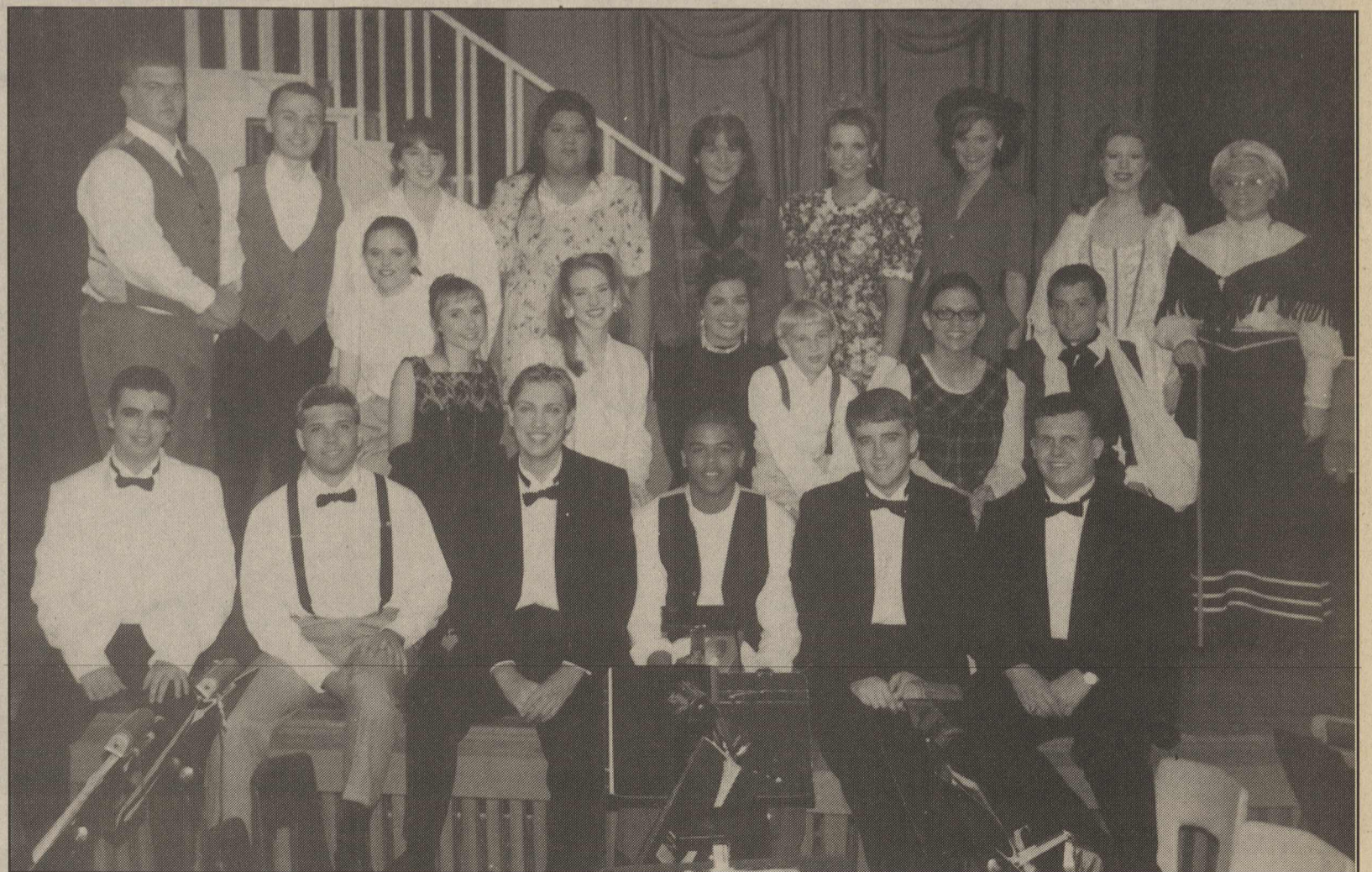
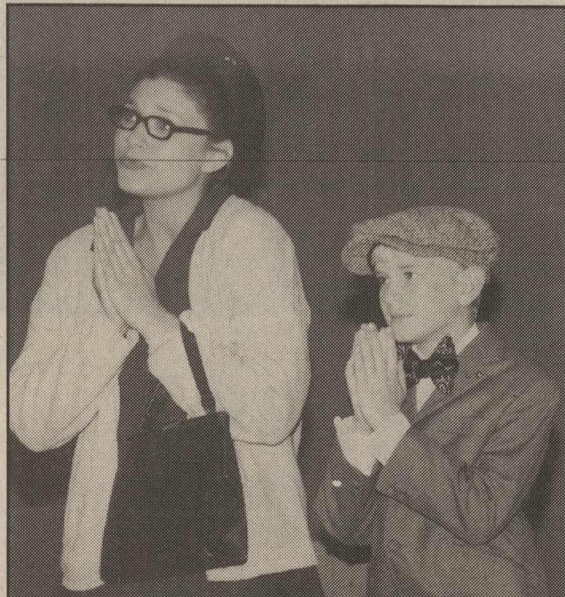
Sophomore Melvin Knowles (right) of Louisville was recently selected vice president of the Mississippi VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) Chapter for 1997-98 following elections held at the organization's state meeting April 14-16 in McComb. Prior to running for state office, Knowles, whose major is air conditioning and refrigeration, was required to complete both levels of a post-secondary professional development program. He is shown receiving a certificate of completion from Al Bailey, ECCC VICA instructor, who provided assistance to the outstanding student in helping him qualify for the state position.

Scenes from the ECCC Players production of 'Mame'

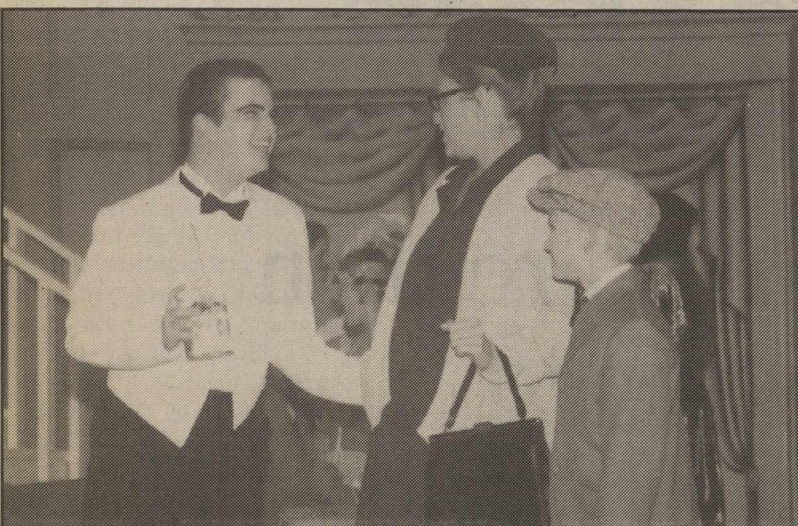


Mame proves to be the ultimate party girl of the 20s.

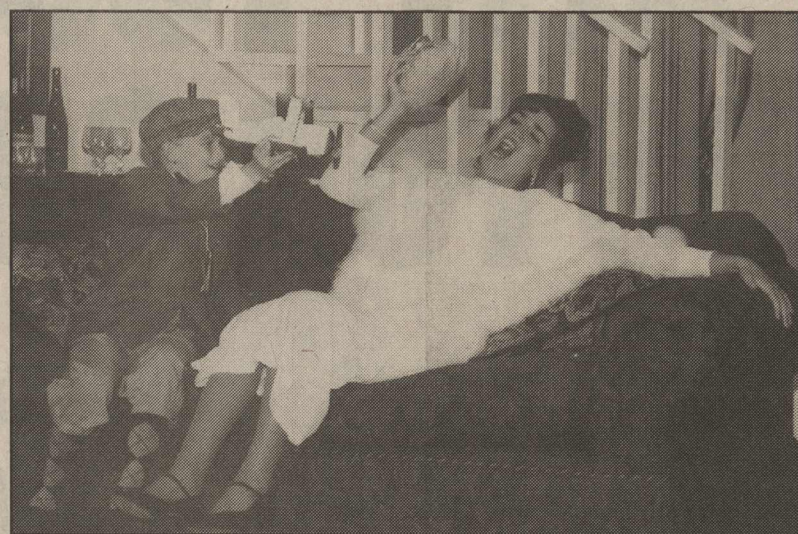
Agnes is sent to take young Patrick to his only living relative, Mame Dennis.



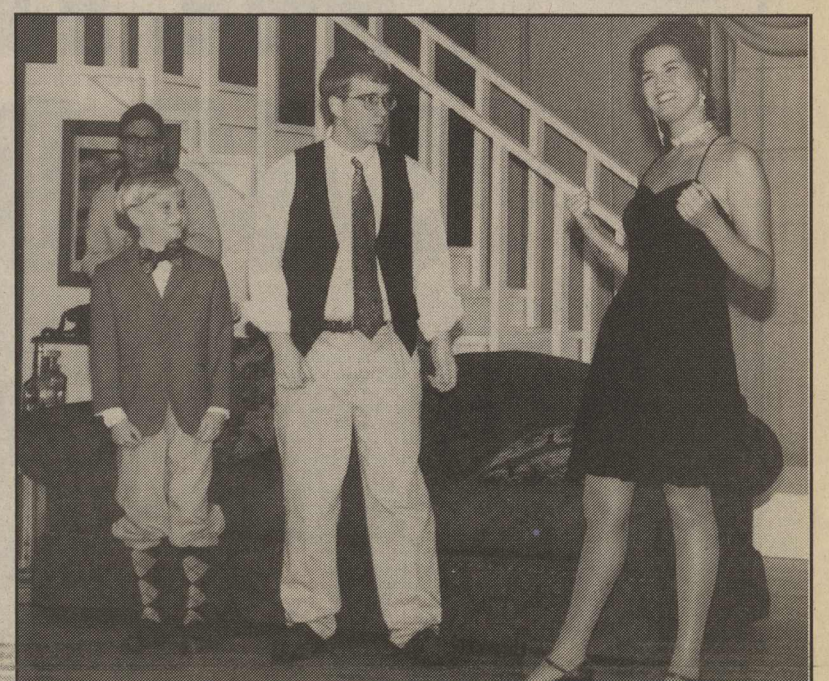
The cast of 'Mame'



Mame welcomes Agnes and Patrick to the party!



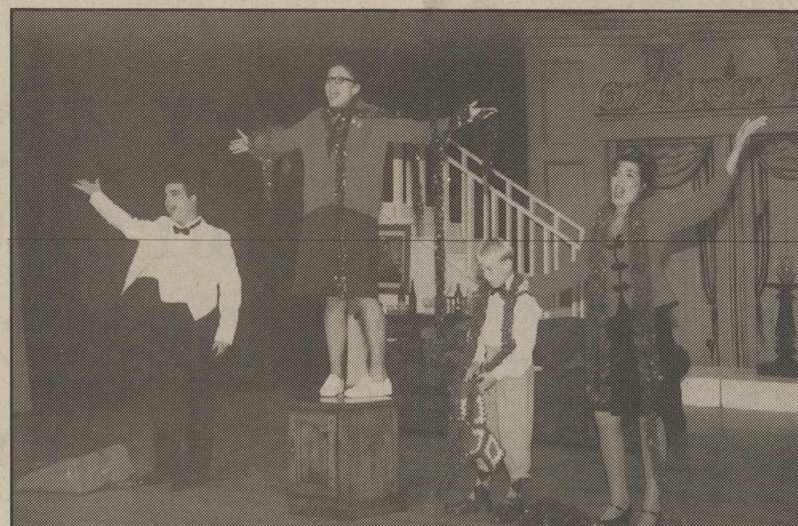
Mame sees that having a child is no easy matter.



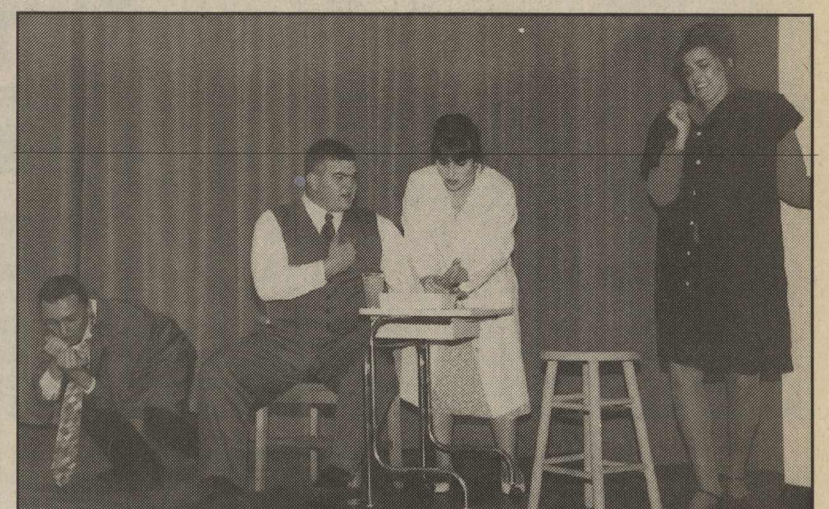
Mame believes Patrick should experience life to the fullest.



Patrick tells Mame that she's his best girl.



Christmas comes early to the Dennis home.



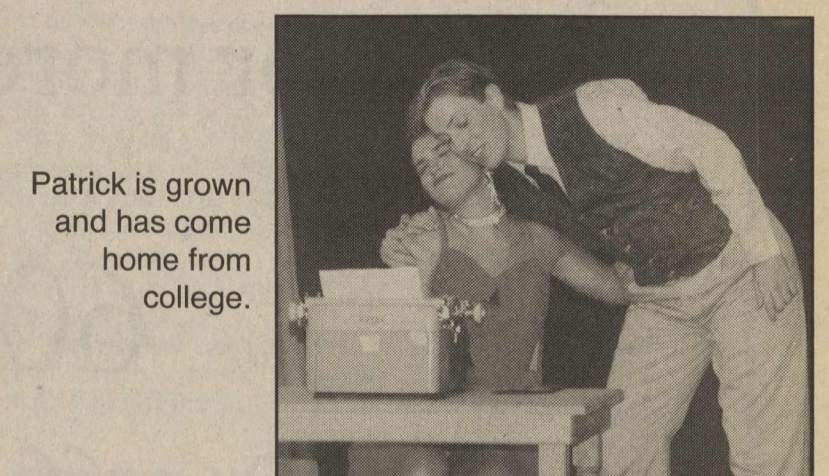
Mame discovers she's not quite ready for work in the salon.



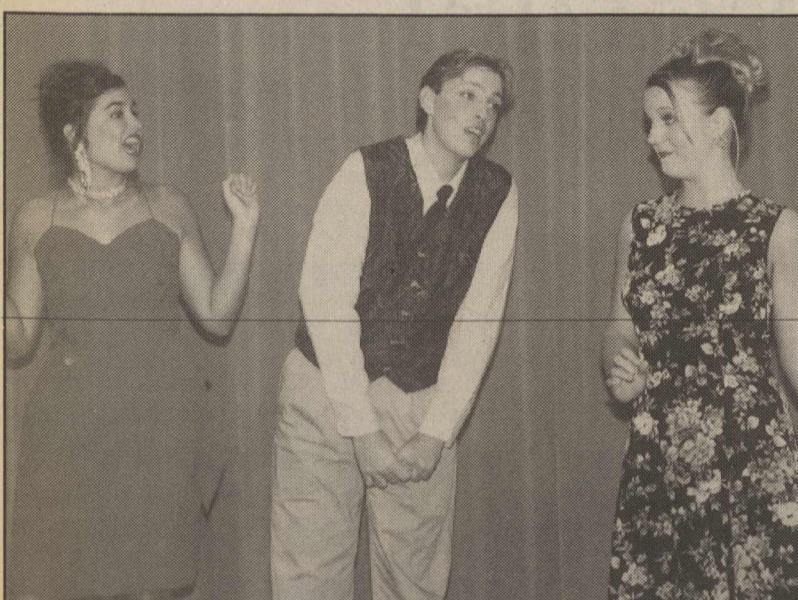
Everyone watches for Mame in the 'Fox Hunt.'



The plantation salutes mame.



Patrick is grown and has come home from college.



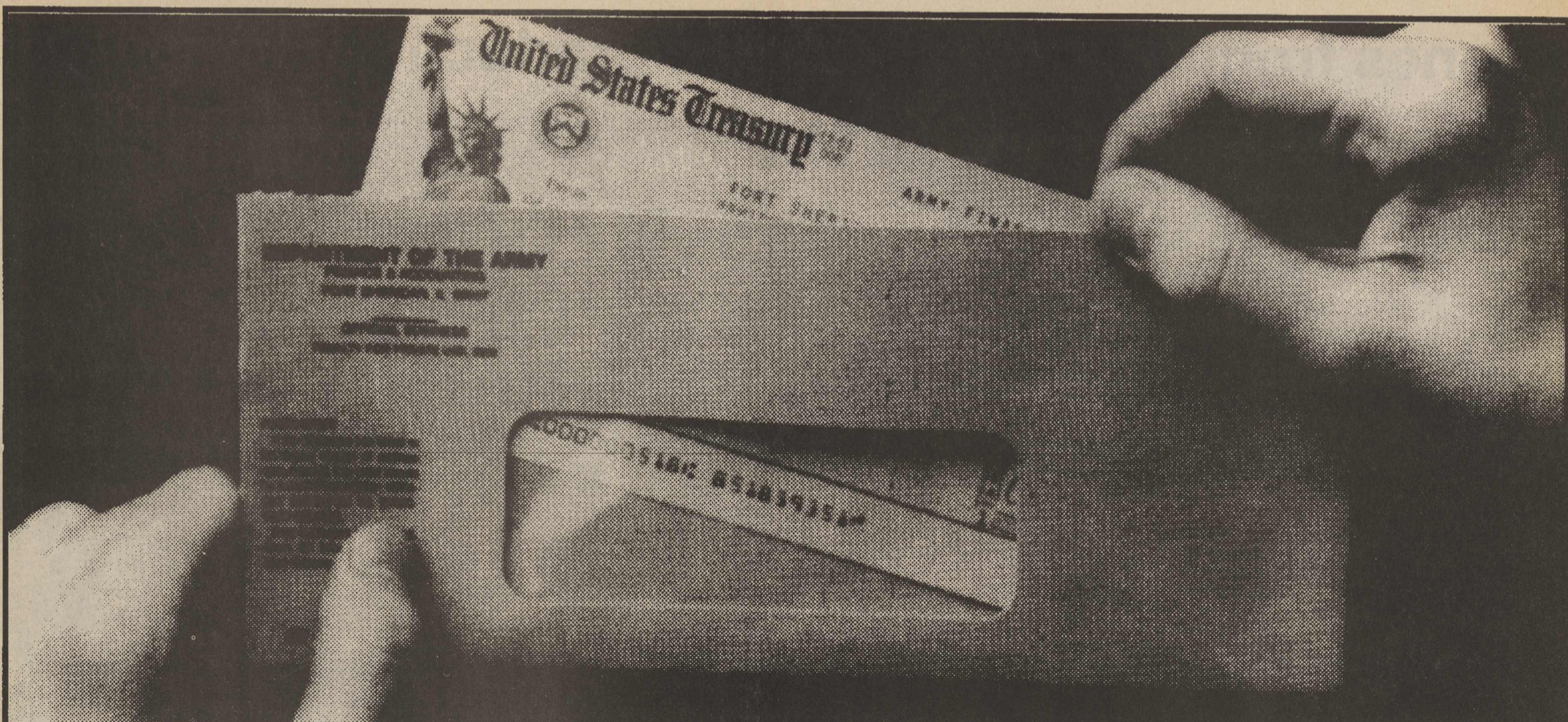
Mame disapproves of Patrick's new love, Gloria.



Mame "unintentionally" drives Gloria and the Upsons away.

Mame will always be Patrick's "best girl."





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Volume 52, Number 1

A Student Publication of East Central Community College

September 19, 1997

ECCC names new staff members

East Central Community College has added several new members to its staff. They are:

NATALIE VANCE

Natalie Vance of Decatur was recently named Basic Skills Specialist at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

Vance, who began her duties on July 14, 1997, previously served as counselor/teacher for the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) at Newton County and Lake high schools. She also served as ECCC women's tennis coach the past two years.

In addition, she is a former teacher/coach for the Plano (Texas) Independent School District. In all, she has nine years experience of full-time secondary teaching experience and four years of teaching job skills and basic skills for JTPA students. She also has experience in administering the Test of Adult Basic Education, a requirement for the basic skills specialist position.

A graduate of South Natchez High School, Vance received an associate of arts degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College; a bachelor of science degree in physical education from Mississippi State University; and a master's degree in secondary education from the University of North Texas in Denton. She has completed additional studies at MSU.

She is married to Mickey Vance, plant controller at La-Z-Boy South in Newton. They have two children, Jordan and Savannah.

MARY HANSON

Mary Hanson of Philadelphia was recently named to the new position of Director of the Learning Skills Center at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

The Learning Skills Center is a tutorial lab for students who need or want supplemental instruction. The Center includes two components: a computer-aided instruction lab and tutoring by peers, faculty and community volunteers.

Hanson, who began her new duties on July 7, 1997, previously served in the same capacity at Paris (Texas) Junior College since 1982. She is also a former Learning Skills Specialist at PJC. In addition, she previously taught English and reading for various Texas Independent School Districts. In all, she has over 30 years experience in the field of education.

A graduate of Woodrow Wilson



Mary Hanson



Neal Holliman



Karon Scott



Natalie Vance

High School in Dallas, Texas, Hanson received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and a master of education degree in reading from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She has completed additional coursework at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas; East Texas State University in Commerce, and Paris Junior College.

KARON SCOTT

Karon Scott of Philadelphia has been named computer technology instructor at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

Scott, who began her duties August 1, 1997, previously served as mathematics instructor at Philadelphia High School.

A graduate of Meridian High School, Scott received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Mississippi University for Women. She completed additional coursework at Mississippi State University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

She is married to David Scott, a supervisor with BellSouth. They have three children: Angela, Greg and Cliff.

NEAL HOLLIMAN

Serving his first year as assistant coach is Neal Holliman of Aliceville, Ala. Holliman will be responsible for coaching infielders and serving as hitting instructor.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Holliman was a pitcher on the 1996 Meridian Brakemen professional baseball team.

Holliman is a graduate of Pickens Academy in Carrollton, Ala., where he was a standout member of the football and baseball teams.

See **STAFF**, page 3

'Welcome Home in '97' theme of ECCC Homecoming

Plans are in full swing for the annual Homecoming celebration scheduled Oct. 18 at East Central Community College in Decatur.

The theme of this year's observance is "Welcome Home in '97," to coincide with ground breaking ceremonies for the Welcome Home project. Sponsored by the ECCC Alumni Association, the new project involves the installation of an electronic sign welcoming students, visitors and alumni to the Decatur campus.

The structure will be built at the main College entrance and features a re-creation of the archway that greeted campus visitors for almost three decades—from 1951 to the late 1970's. The archway will include

an electronic marquee that will continuously display campus events.

Over \$20,000 of the estimated \$30,000 needed for the project has been raised, with the remaining balance expected to be pledged by Homecoming. Donations may be made by calling 635-2111, ext. 323.

Reunion groups scheduled to be honored this year include members of classes ending in "7," from 1937 to 1997. Special "diplomas" will be awarded to members of the 1947 group in recognition of their 50-year reunion.

Anyone with information on individuals in these classes is urged to contact the College.

Other Homecoming reunion

activities are scheduled for the Alumni Band, members of the 1947 football team and all former Fashion Squad participants.

The 1997-98 college term marks the 25th anniversary of the Fashion Squad, and sponsor Mrs. Alice Pouncey announced a fashion show featuring the former models will be held to commemorate the silver anniversary on Friday, Oct. 17.

For more details former squad members should contact Mrs. Pouncey at ECCC.

A highlight of the annual celebration is the recognition of "Alumnus of the Year," "Alumna of the Year," "Academic Instructor of the Year," "Vocational-Technical Instructor of the

Year," and new members of the Athletic Hall of Fame. They will all be honored during luncheon activities beginning at noon on Saturday, Oct. 18 in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

Following the awards luncheon, East Central and Gulf Coast will meet on the gridiron with kickoff set for 2:30 p.m. in Warrior Stadium. A reception will be held in Mabry Cafeteria following the game.

Homecoming week activities begin the week of Oct. 13 with the annual tennis and golf tournaments.

For more information regarding Homecoming '97 contact Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, ECCC, Decatur, MS 39327, phone 635-2111, ext. 323.



Brenda Whatley-Kirby

Whatley-Kirby named educator of the year

Brenda Whatley-Kirby of Forest was selected Nurse Educator of the Year by Meridian area nurses who also chose the East Central Community College instructor as a delegate to the State Nurses' Convention scheduled on the Gulf Coast in October.

In addition to her selection as a state delegate, Whatley-Kirby will serve as program presenter at the annual conference. Her presentation will focus on recent research that she conducted as a thesis requirement on the health complications associated with the Practices of Dirt-Eating Adults in east central Mississippi.

For the second consecutive year, Whatley-Kirby will serve the Mississippi Registered Nurses as a representative to the House of Delegates of the American Nurses' Association in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Whatley-Kirby is employed as skills/computer lab instructor for ECCC's Associate Degree Nursing program. She recently received a master of science degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She and her husband, Bob, reside in the Clifton community near Forest.

Student Education Association meets

The East Central Chapter of the Student Education Association held its first meeting of the 1997 school year on Sept. 2. The slate of officers selected at this meeting included the following:

President, Zachary Sanders; vice-president, Angela Hayes; secretary, Crystal Gee; and reporter, Melissa McWhirter.

Ms. Judy Baird from the Mississippi Teacher Center will serve as guest speaker for the October meeting. Students should consult the student handbook for a schedule of meeting dates.



Lucille Wood

Wood honored for service

Lucille Wood, East Central Community College instructor and former coach, has completed a ten year tenure as Region 23 Director for women and was honored recently by the Region 23 coaches and athletic directors at the Mississippi Coaching Clinic in Jackson.

Wood, a long-time tennis and basketball coach at East Central and Copiah Lincoln community colleges, is credited with being a leader in getting women the opportunity to participate in varsity sports and to receive scholarships. In 1953-54, while coaching tennis at Copiah-Lincoln, Wood, along with Bill Oaks from Hinds and Curtis Davis from Gulf Coast, set up the first tennis organization for the state.

In 1975, she was elected president of the State Junior College Women Coaches. This was the first year scholarships were given and basketball was recognized by the Mississippi Community/Junior College Association. Wood coached the first all-star basketball game in 1977-78 and was chosen "Coach of the Year" in 1978-79 by the Mississippi Association of Coaches.

Wood served on the national Tennis, Track and Field Committee and was chairperson of the All-American Committee for a number of years. For eight years she was chairperson of the Slow-Pitch Softball Committee where she represented the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) at the National Softball Tournament and headed the All-American Committee for softball.

In 1990, she was one of two people in the nation that received the Certificate of Service award by the NJCAA. She was honored at a recent NJCAA meeting in Phoenix, Ariz., for many years of devoted leadership in the NJCAA. The Women's Division gave her an autographed softball and she was honored by the softball and basketball coaches at the Region 23 tournaments.

A player and coach at East Central, Wood was inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986 and the

Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building was named in honor of Wood and former East Central All-American basketball player Denver Brackeen.

Including the two years Wood played basketball and tennis as a student, she has played an active role in junior/community college athletics for 43 years.

Katie Herrington, basketball coach at Jones Junior College, will replace Wood as Region 23 Director for Women.

ECCC library goes on-line

East Central Community College's Burton Library has two projects currently being implemented that will greatly impact the way service is provided to users and the information that will be available to them.

"The first project," said Ann Burkes, head librarian, "is our SIRSI system which allows us to have an on-line catalog, an automated circulation system and the ability to complete inventory by scanning the bar codes of books on the shelves."

The system is graphics-based and therefore provides a very colorful and user-friendly screen for the catalog. "While several other community colleges in our state are using the SIRSI system, ours is one of the first graphics-based systems to be used in Mississippi community colleges," Burkes added.

The other project being imple-

mented is the MAGNOLIA project. "When available, which should be just after Labor Day, this service will enable our users to have access to full-text articles in several thousand periodicals, journals, newspapers and pamphlets as well as citations to thousands of additional articles."

The information will be available on the Internet and can be accessed by anyone who has Internet service at home," said Burkes.

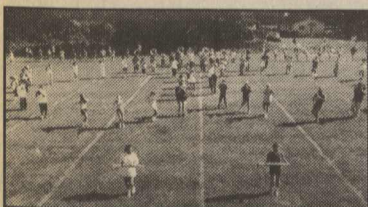
Through these new projects services provided by Burton Library will be greatly enhanced and additional information will be provided to strengthen the teaching/learning processes at the College.

For more information regarding services available at Burton Library, contact Ann Burkes, head librarian, ECCC, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph. 635-2111, ext. 219.

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Students express opinions about the death of Princess Diana



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ECCC's LPN graduates

this edition of The Tom Tom

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Collegians chosen for 1997-98 school year

Page 3

ECCC's Wall O'Sound increases membership by 25 percent



EC students write on . . .



Was the picture worth it?

By **MARISA MCGEE**
The Tom Tom

Imagine living your life under the constant flash of uninvited cameras. Imagine living under the constant badgering of reporters. Now imagine dying under these same circumstances.

This was the life, and death, of Diana, Princess of Wales. Yes, the paparazzi were arrested, but does that erase the untimely demise of one of the world's most beloved people? This should be a lesson for all news

reporters and photographers.

True, it is their job to keep the world informed, but some take it to an extreme. Tabloid paparazzi, like those who chased Princess Diana, were not after the latest breaking story in the news world, but instead were trying to get a juicy pic to print on the front cover of "The Globe!"

Princess Diana devoted much of her life to charitable organizations and good causes. It is a terrible shame that she lost her life at the hands of those whose sole intention was to exploit her.

New laws needed to protect the privacy of public figures

By **RHETT RIVERS**
The Tom Tom

As people all over the world mourn the death of the well-loved and deeply respected Princess Diana, many questions regarding the accountability of the photographers are being asked.

This tragedy could very well be the milestone in the creation of more strict laws regarding the rights of the media to harass public figures. Although freedom of the press is necessary to a degree, we must consider the rights of people, especially the right to privacy. When public figures are forced to run from photographers at speeds of up to 110 mph, something is wrong.

Even more, when a great humanitarian loses her life while fleeing

from reporters, something must be done.

Although people do have the right to be informed, laws need to be enforced to protect the rights of the people.

Regardless of the amount of alcohol in the driver's bloodstream (which is still being debated) he would not have been driving nearly as fast had overly ambitious photographers not been chasing them.

Obviously, if more had been done to protect Princess Diana from the press, she might still be alive.

As the wealthiest and most powerful people in the world join together to mourn, they are also asking many questions. Hopefully, they will be able to find some way to limit the harassment of the media and make sure this does not happen again.

Equality in the nation

By **TRACY GADDIS**
The Tom Tom

All men are created equal. Under the Constitution of the United States, this statement is held to be true and unbreakable. Although the President of the United States has the power to govern, I don't believe that entitles him to any special privileges in the sexual harassment suit filed against him due to this equality of individuals.

Equality was established by Congress on June 11, 1866 in Article XIV, Section I, which was ratified on June 23. This article states that all persons born or naturalized in the United States shall not have their privileges or immunities taken by the state in which they reside or shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law and shall also receive equal protection of the laws. Therefore, if President Clinton is granted the right to postpone his trial until his Presidency is complete, then I feel that will be a

violation of the law as well as a violation of Paula Jones' rights, the longer the trial is postponed, the more likely any witnesses will be able to recollect the facts surrounding the suit. Perhaps this is why Clinton is so adamant about getting a postponement.

In the past, there have been times when a President received preferential treatment. Those times are in the past and should not influence the decisions made in this case which should not be considered with favoritism. Bill Clinton should be treated like any other person and therefore be unable to "bend the law" because of his status. The judge, according to the Constitution, should not have the power to grant Mr. Clinton's wishes for a delay in the trial.

The lawsuit filed by Paula Jones should face the same constraints as every other lawsuit. Paula Jones and Bill Clinton were created equal. Why then should Clinton be granted a delay which can only jeopardize Jones' chance of winning the suit?

Excessive noise on campus

By **ERIC LIND**
The Tom Tom

There has apparently been a problem with loud noise on some parts of the campus this week. This noise will not be tolerated! Excessive noise is a "Class C" offense and is subject to a \$25 fine. In addition, loud noise may also be punishable by torture. Repeat offenders will be taken to the old gym and be forced to listen to Elvis or R.E.M. until they agree to sign an affidavit promising to avoid loud noise in the future.

Alright, maybe I did make up the part about the torture, but excessive noise is annoying. Most people define excessive noise as any noise that disturbs others which is a very vague definition.

I personally find the sound of fingernails running down a blackboard or my alarm clock going off at 7 a.m. disturbing, and I am rather disturbed by my roommate's singing in the shower. However, neither of these would be classified as excessive.

It seems to me that other people in my dormitory are having difficulty understanding what excessive noise is as well. I would like to clear this matter up for them, and anyone else who is confused.

Excessive noise includes the following:

1. Getting up at 4:30 a.m. and sharing the joy that you feel inside by singing in the hallway.
2. Screaming down the hallway that your ex boyfriend's cousin is marrying your half sister and she is on the phone.
3. Having the music in your car up so loud that people on campus think there's an earthquake, even though you are on South Campus.

4. Listening to Lil' Kim full blast at midnight. Even if she is terrific, people need to sleep sometimes.

Now that I have clarified the definition, there really shouldn't be a problem any longer. Each student has the good judgment to gauge how loud he or she is being and whether or not that noise level is appropriate.

If you find there are some "slow learners" in your area however, you might try some duct tape. I find that this always works best on my little brother.

Mosquitos cause concern

By **SHERIE BRADFORD**
The Tom Tom

Mosquito-borne St. Louis encephalitis is causing anxiety for tourism-based Orlando, Fla. There have been no reported cases in humans of the virus. This virus can be fatal.

Mosquitoes carrying this virus have been reported in the central part of Florida. A medical officer has stated, "There is some risk, but it is relatively low." The only way a person can be infected is to be bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus. This viral infection is most likely to strike the elderly. The first diagnosed breakout happened in 1933 in St. Louis.

While Florida has had 364 reported cases from 1964-96, Mississippi isn't far behind with 337 reported cases. The recommended prevention is to wear insect repellent and long sleeves and slacks, especially at dusk and after dark. This is the time these insects like to feed.

Is the public partially to blame for Princess Diana's death?

By **DEANNA BANKSTON**
The Tom Tom

"I always thought the press would kill her in the end." These were the words of the Earl Spencer, Princess Diana's brother, only hours after her tragic death.

Similar words and accusations have since flowed from millions of mourners around the world. Diana, adored by many as the "Queen of Hearts," was killed when her car, being chased by seven zealous photographers, crashed at an extremely high speed.

These photographers are being heavily questioned, and the public is blaming them for the death of their beloved Diana. However, I am forced to question the role that each of us who are so quick to point our fingers played in her untimely death.

At the age of 20, young Diana became royalty when she married Prince Charles of England. From that day on, her life became a center of attention for much of the world.

Her face became the world's most recognizable as those who photographed her became rich. Dolls were made to imitate her, dresses and fashions were created to match hers, and various things were inscribed with her name, and we, the public chose to absorb it wholeheartedly.

To us, Diana was the perfect symbol of beauty, grace, and charm combined. Her life, however, was constantly intruded upon. She could not enjoy the ordinary things of life that we so often take for granted. Opening a window to enjoy fresh air was not an option for the Princess.

A simple shopping trip was out of the question. Even a routine trip to the gym was bombarded by the unmerciful press.

While we presently condemn the paparazzi and the role their actions played in the death of the Princess, we must be honest with ourselves and contemplate the

potential role that we may have held in the accident.

For who among us has not stood in line at the grocery store and bought, or at least been tempted to buy, an exploitive magazine with Diana's face on its cover?

Regardless of the accompanying headline, we were fascinated with private aspects of Diana's life and were intrigued to purchase it. Because the public is so consistently preoccupied with the lives of celebrities like Diana, the photographers and reporters see their behavior merely as jobs.

In fact, three weeks before the accident, pictures of Diana with Dodi Fayed sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Who are we kidding? Somebody somewhere bought the magazine that published these pictures. Somebody somewhere got pleasure from the intrusion upon Diana.

Likewise on the night of her accident, somebody was trying to do the same thing. Without regard for her feelings or her life, somebody wanted to profit by taking away her privacy. Unfortunately, somebody will probably become wealthy if those pictures are ever released, but it was Diana who paid the ultimate price.

Tragedy is hard regardless of when or to whom it happens. In each tragedy, however, there most often lies a lesson to be learned. Perhaps in this tragedy, it is a lesson that should have been learned long ago. People, regardless of their social status or their prestige, are still people.

Celebrities deserve their privacy. And, we, the general public owe every human being that much. So, if we can learn anything from Diana's death, it is to have the decency to respect those like her. We must not support the greedy paparazzi who think they are entertaining the public. We must walk away from intrusive magazine pictures and juicy headlines. Otherwise, Diana's blood will forever be on our own hands.

Voices reign at ECCC

By **NIKKI PEDEN**
The Tom Tom

The 1997-98 choir is starting the year off with an excellent group of talented singers. Every year the choir grows larger. This year there are seventy-seven member, all of whom receive at least partial scholarships. This is outstanding participation from East Central students.

The choir will perform in a choir conference held in Jackson in the city auditorium set to be held on Feb. 20. The choir will be performing a rather difficult piece entitled, "The Forum Requiem."

Concert choir official elections were held at the beginning of the semester. The president is Michael

Donovan. Serving by his side as Vice president is Shelia Oliver. The choir reporter is Nickie Peden. Melissa Alen and Tori Jordan were both elected to serve as librarians.

The show choir, The Accents, also held elections at the beginning of the semester. Their president is Holly Hamrick of Newton. The vice president is Crystal Cooley of Hickory. Ashlea Renfro of Morton was elected secretary. Amanda McMillan will serve as the Accents publicity officer.

The other Accents include: Kelly Alexander of Little Rock, Leslee Carter of Decatur, Mike Donovan of Stonewall, Daniel Fulton of Carthage, and Brad Wailey of Hillsboro.

Collegian roster set for 1997-98 school year

After two days of grueling auditions, the big decisions were finally made. Forty-seven people auditioned for the various sections and positions involved with the Collegians. There were some tough decisions to be made because of the many talented students that auditioned, but Mr. Tom Carson took a beep breath and did what had to be done.

Vocalists breathed a sigh of relief when they saw their names posted on Aug. 26, the morning after their auditions. Scott Huston, Shaun Lloyd, Shelia Oliver, Tori Jordan, Marci Hollingsworth, and Beckie Fulton will all be gracing the stage with their beautiful voices.

The rhythm section is excited about this year's music and is sure that this year's show will be fun for everyone. Chas Evans will be taking the stage on guitar. Andy Stewart will be right next to him with his bass. Keyboards will be played by Sarah Whitesell. Chris Duett will rock the stage on percussion.

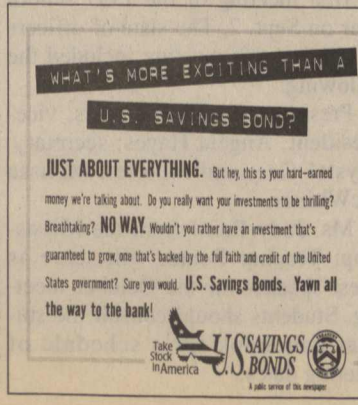
Josh Bamberg and Jeff Densit on trumpet will be accompanied by Jason Alford on saxophone and Stephen Spire on trombone to complete the wind section.

Unloading equipment, running the stage, sound, and lights will be taken

care of by the technical crew. This year's techs include: Nathan Shaw, Jason Wallace, Jason Nowell, Jay Smith, Stacey Carter, and Matthew Bell. This year there will be a great group of students.

Motivation and determination is a must because this year the Collegians are hitting it off with an early start. Their first performance will be p.m. Oct. 14. They will perform for the gala opening of the Bonita Lakes Mall in Meridian.

Their next scheduled performance is the annual campus fall concert on Nov. 24. This tell-tale show is free so everyone should come out and support the 1997-98 ECCC Collegians.



World shocked by death of Diana

By **VICKIE MCGEE**
The Tom Thom

The world was shocked on August 31, 1997 when the death of Princess Diana appeared on every news report worldwide. The death of the Princess has left billions of people sad, angry, and empty.

Diana's death has caused billions of people sadness. They are not only sad because they have lost a beautiful, intelligent, and sincere woman, who could have walked into anyone's home and fit in, but they are sad for her two sons Prince William and Prince Harry.

These two children have lost the most special and strongest companion in their lives, their mother. The sadness of the world was shown by the millions of people who attended the funeral and the billions of people worldwide that tuned in to watch the funeral.

Not only are the people sad, they are angry. They are angry at the

tabloids, photographers, and the paparazzi.

The paparazzi has been hit hard. They have been ridiculed and criticized in almost every possible way. They have practically been blamed for her death. How could any sane person snap pictures of someone dying? The paparazzi are not the only ones being slapped in the face with this question but the tourists and the people living there as well.

Mainly, the people are left feeling empty. The people of her country have lost someone that they admired and loved. People of the United States have felt the same loss. Princess Diana was a person full of charm, love, and caring.

She showed each of these traits through her work but most importantly through her sons. There will definitely never be another woman who will be able to touch so many hearts and lives as Princess Diana did.

Better late than never

By **JUSTIN JONES**
The Tom Tom

The media has focused a great deal of attention on Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit against President Clinton recently. The question being so hotly debated is whether or not the suit should be allowed to proceed now while Clinton is still in office or whether the trial should be postponed until Clinton's term of office is over.

I personally believe the trial, currently set for May, should be postponed. While I might not be aware of all the facts in this matter, I do believe there are some circumstances which should be respected.

The United States is a major power in the modern world. If our President is involved in a criminal suit or anything which reflects negatively on this country's reputation, how can we continue to demand the respect of the rest of the world?

The charges brought against the President apparently happened while he was the Governor of Arkansas. Why then did Ms. Jones not file her suit at that time rather than waiting

until Mr. Clinton became the President of the United States? Was she less harassed by a governor?

The publicity which this matter has received until now and will continue to receive in the future is another factor to consider. Not only will adverse publicity harm Bill Clinton's reputation, but it will also harm the reputation of this country as well.

The people of our country can't respect a leader that leaves himself open to speculation about wrongdoing of any kind. Neither will leaders in other countries view him without suspicion.

Personally, I don't have much for Bill Clinton, but he is the President of the United States. The presidency is not just one person, it is an institution which should be "protected at all costs." A matter such as this should not be allowed to tarnish that institution.

As for Paula Jones, she is entitled to her day in court, but she should be facing Bill Clinton, civilian, as the defendant rather than Bill Clinton, the President. This is one time when later rather than sooner is better.

Phi Theta Kappa on the go

By **JAKE JENKINS**
The Tom Tom

Although we've been back in school just a few weeks, our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has already been busy traveling for the chapter well before the semester started.

During the weekend of July 10-12, several of us went to the Mississippi/Alabama/Louisiana Regional Honors Institute (better known as Mini-Honors) at Huntington College in Montgomery, Alabama. Chapter members who attended were Rhett Rivers, Justin Miles, Amy Gomillion, Amy Spears, Krisan Risher, and myself, along with our chapter advisors, Dr. Shelby Harris and Mrs. Ann Buries.

Also riding with us were two Phi Theta Kappans from Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Eta Omega Chapter. Over the course of our stay, we were able to hear many interesting speakers from our region, all speaking on this year's honors study topic: "The Family: Myth, Metaphor, and Reality." On the first night, we were treated with an informative by Dr. Tanea Stewart who is a Mississippi native and nationally known actress, on the African-American family. This mixture of entertainment and information discussed family issues such as heritage, the value of education, a strong family unit, and faith.

The next morning, we heard a speech by Judge Sonny Ryan. Judge Ryan is an Alabama judge who spoke of legal issues and the family. Unfortunately, many people did not attend due to a power failure in the dormitory, which eliminated alarm clocks, except for the few who thought to bring a battery-operated clock.

That evening, we went to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and saw "The Merchant of Venice." Many considered this to be the high point of the institute.

On the last morning of our trip, we enjoyed folk musician Anndrena Belcher, who entertained us with "hillbilly" stories and music. She also incorporated heavy audience participation, including having everyone go to the microphone individually and tell something interesting about their family. After lunch, we said our good-

byes, loaded up the East Central van, and napped as Dr. Harris drove us safely to Decatur.

In addition to the Montgomery trip, Theta XI chapter of Phi Theta Kappa will become increasingly busy as the semester progresses. On September 6, we hosted the regional Phi Theta Kappa Conference for officers. Later in the month, we will induct new members.

For those who are freshmen this year, a 3.5 GPA is required to join Phi Theta Kappa, and membership in Theta VI chapter is something we take seriously. This past April, our chapter was ranked in the top 25 chapters of Phi Theta Kappa out of over 1,800 chapters, an achievement we reached through hard work and dedication with a healthy dose of fun on the side Kappa.

To find out more about what we do, talk to any chapter member, Dr. Harris, Mrs. Burkes, or me, and we'll be glad to tell you about Phi Theta Kappa. So, join us and have a great tie in the chapter.

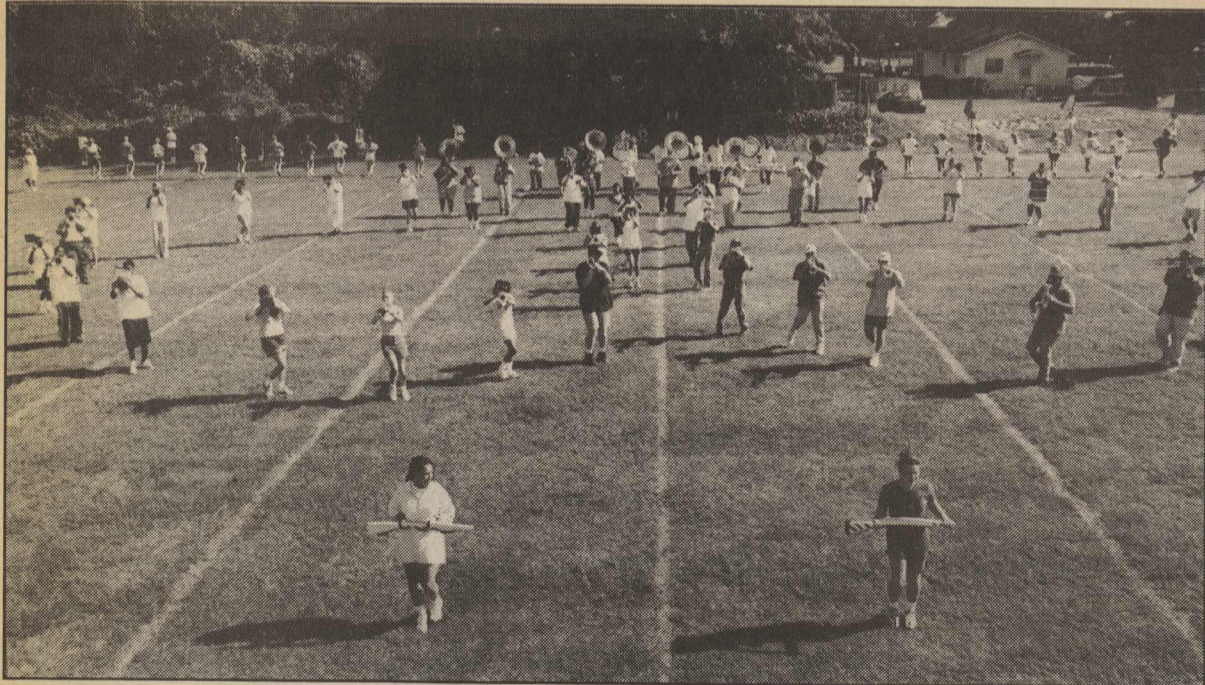
Diamond girls selected

By **SHERIE BRADFORD**
The Tom Tom

Diamond Girls for the 1998 baseball season have been selected. The new Diamond Girls are: Leslie Brackeen, Corrin Chambliss, Allison Crosby, Stacy Jackson, Kristi Jones, Jessica Jordan, Bethany Laird, Laura Ming, Kathryn Montgomery, Ginger Moore, Jennifer Pace, Amy Rogers, Natalie Vowell, Courtney Wilcher, and Amber Woods.

These girls were chosen through a panel interview. The returning members are: Brooke Knight, Adria Stamper, Kelly Alexander, Jill Ray, Julie Clanton, Leslie Nelson, Lisa Nelson, Vickie McGee, Amy Gomillion, and Sherie Bradford.

The first project for these Diamond Girls is selling homecoming t-shirts. To purchase a t-shirt, any Diamond Girl may be contacted.



East Central marching band practices

'Wall O'Sound' increases by 25 percent

By TY JANKOWSKI
The Tom Tom

The East Central Community College "Wall O'Sound" Warrior Marching Band has achieved yet another milestone this year, with a 25% increase in size over the previous year's group, from 120 to about 150 members.

The band sports a much larger brass section, and the sound quality is already showing signs of improvement from last year.

The pre-semester band camp, which was held from August 8-13, allowed the horn line, drum line, flag and rifle corps and Centralettes to

get familiar early with the music and marching drill to be performed during half-time at college football games.

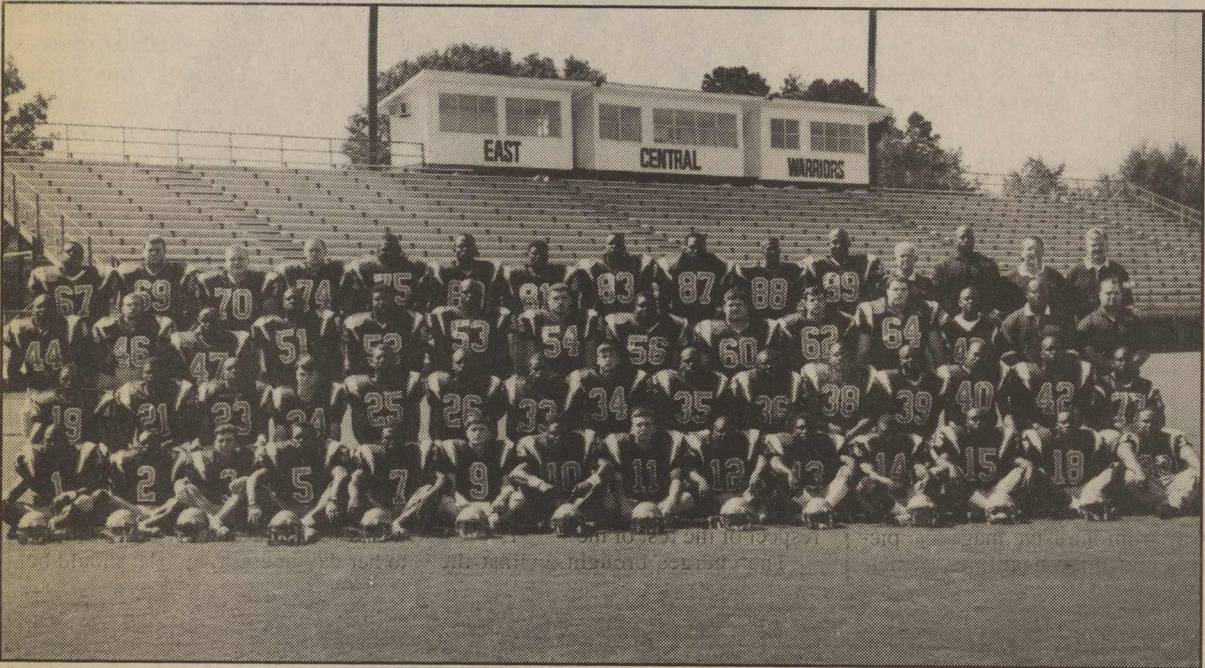
Band director Tom Carson, who has now served the music department here at East Central for over 15 years, added, "We accomplished a great deal in this year's camp, and I am very proud of how great the band has grown since I've been teaching here. This group is very talented, and they are coming together well on the field and in the music. It's going to be a very entertaining show."

The half-time performance will open with a blazing arrangement of

the Jefferson Airplane classic, "White Rabbit," and will feature many other surprises as the football season progresses.

Assistant band director Johnny May is also working diligently with the drum line on a very technical and catchy percussion variation of the Charlie Daniel's Band hit, "The Devil Went Down To Georgia," that no one will want to miss.

The 1997 "Wall O'Sound" Band promises to provide an outstanding visual and aural treat as never before, for all who witness any of their fine performances this year.



1997 ECCC football team

Members of the 1997 East Central Community College Warrior football team and their respective high schools include (first row, from left) defensive back Joseph Anders, Tuscaloosa AL; wide receiver Juan Draine, Davidson, AL; kicker Shaun Walker, Morton; linebacker William Johnson, Newton; running back Mack Pittman Bay FL; quarterback Josh Hatcher, Winston Academy; Linebacker Kenny Kelley, Bay FL, quarterbacks Mark Fleming, Leake Academy and Al Hunt, Honea Path SC; defensive back Tyrone Cole, Neshoba Central; linebacker Calvin Bailey, Union; defensive backs Jon Darby, Scott Central and Wesley Boyd, Morton; and manager, Trydick Carter Noxapater; (second row, from left) defensive backs Duane Brisbor, Holly Hill-Roberts SC and Chris Crosby and Cedric Vaughn, both of Louisville; running back Andy Sagona, Sebastopol; tight end Steward Glass, Noxapater; defensive back Jermain Boyd, Tuscaloosa Central AL; linebacker Dorsett Buckley, Union; running back Billy Singleton, Neshoba Central; defensive end Kendrick Earby, Morton; linebacker Mitchel Crouther, Carthage; running backs Jarvis Smith, Soddy-Daisy TN and Lamell Charles, Pine Bluff AK; defensive back Joey Pinkston, Forest; defensive end William Curry, Tuscaloosa Central AL; and manger Patrick Bacon, Thomastown; (third row, from left) linebacker Dejuan Clark, Tuscaloosa Central AL; linebacker Chad Neese, Neshoba Central; defensive back Dewin Moore, Noxapater; defensive linemen Delvin Rainer, Tuscaloosa Central AL; and Ken Judon, Philadelphia; offensive linemen Bo Thomas, Morrow GA; and Jason Nixon, Seminole County AL; defensive lineman Kelvin Cistrunk, Louisville; offensive lineman Greg Busby, Tuscaloosa Central AL; defensive end Jason Eason, Forest; offensive lineman Allen Clark, Noxapater; manager Terrell Smith, Thomastown; and coaches Fredrick Lyons and Chuck Maxie; and (back row, from left) offensive linemen Byron Johnson, Louisville, Brock Lillis, Neshoba Central; Adam Lowry, Louisville, Jake Wilson Foley AL; and Cherster Patrick, Union; wide receiver Horace Nash, Carthage; defensive lineman Tyquan Taylor, Louisville; tight end Undeon Hardy, Philadelphia, linebacker Jim Griffin, Tuscaloosa AL; wide receiver Anthony Hornesbuger, Noxapater; defensive lineman Kendrick Clancy, Holt AL; and coaches Willie Coats (head), Fred Tate, Terry Underwood and Timmy Coats. Not pictured is tight end Chris Arrington of Newton.

The practices have begun

By PAULA CRAWFORD
The Tom Tom

As the summer vacation comes to a close, East Central campus begins buzzing with activity as athletes begin practice sessions. Exercise count-offs can be heard throughout the campus.

Because their season starts Sept. 4, football players are the earliest to begin practice. They started practicing Aug. 12 with two-a-day practices before school started. With 24 returning sophomores, Coach Coats is very excited about this year's team. He says that they are tired of practicing and ready to meet their opponents.

ECCC cheerleaders, the football team's biggest fans, are also busy practicing alongside the team. Workouts including gymnastics, dancing, and stunting have kept the cheerleaders mighty busy. The '97 squad is made up of nine sophomores and five freshmen.

Nov. 1 seems far away, however, the Lady Warrior basketball team is wasting no time as they eagerly prepare for their upcoming season. Presently the team is in fitness and

conditioning training. Coach Pace has very high hopes for this year's team. Pace stated, "They do not have a lot of experience, but they have good size, good shooters, speed, and most of all good attitudes."

Coach Cooper's EC Warrior basketball team is looking great. They are in preseason conditioning, which includes running, lifting weights, and agility drills. Their team is young, with only five returning sophomores, but excited about this year's upcoming season.

The Lady Warrior softball team's season actually begins next spring, but Coach Anderson and the ladies intend to be very prepared. They will be practicing twice a week with lots of drills and a few fall pre-season games.

FALL SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 13—"Play Day" at Hattiesburg
Sept. 26—Mary Holmes at home
Oct. 20—Mary Holmes at West Point.

Not to be left out, coach Clark's baseball team is conditioning and

See **PRACTICE**, page 4

★ Staff

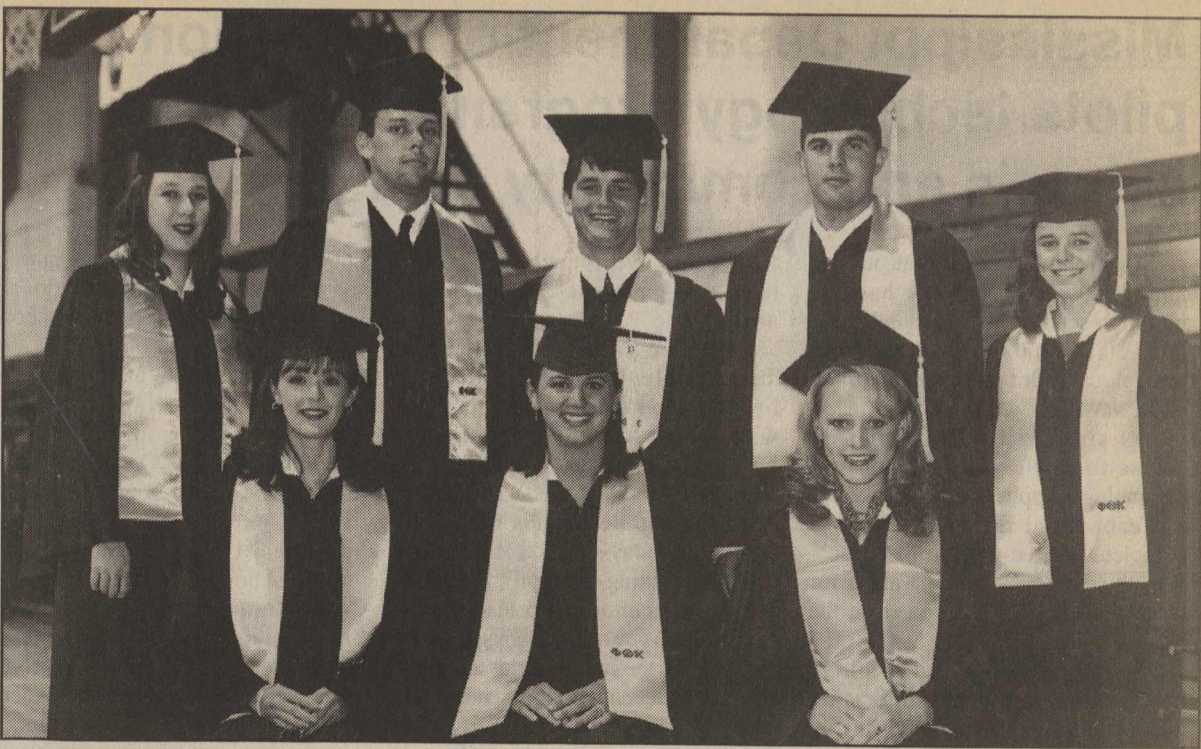
A three-year letterman in football, he was an All-County and second team All-State selection as a quarterback. He was a four-year letterwinner in baseball, excelling as a pitcher, third baseman and hitter.

During his senior campaign, Holliman posted a 16-1 mark on the mound with an earned run average of 0.69. He batted .642 and hit five home runs. In recognition of his outstanding performance, he was named Alabama Independent Schools Association "Player of the Year" in addition to his selection as All-State and All-County. He was also voted the team's most valuable player.

He continued his baseball career at Alabama Southern College, followed by one year at Berry College in Rome, Ga., and his senior season at the University of West Alabama in Livingston. He was a starter all four years at third base.

Holliman received a bachelor's degree in physical education from UWA in December, 1996.

He is the son of Charlie and Pam Holliman of Aliceville. His grandparents are Ryna Hayes and Betty Holliman, also of Aliceville.



NJCAA Academic All-Americans

These former East Central Community College student athletes were recently named National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-Americans for the 1996-97 college term. Recipients of the prestigious honor must have lettered in one or more sports recognized by the NJCAA and earned an accumulated grade point average of 3.6 or better on a 4.0 scale. Students selected Distinguished Academic All-Americans posted a 3.8 GPA or above. Honorees and their respective sports areas include (seated from left) Jennifer Musgrove (Distinguished) of Carthage/Leake Academy, basketball; Tara Hall of Philadelphia/Leake Academy, basketball; Amy Moore of Noxapater, softball; and (standing from left) Tara Renaud of Carthage, tennis; Joe Green (Distinguished) of Conehatta/Leake Academy, basketball; Jason Lee Frith (Distinguished) of Morton, tennis; Ben Myers of Philadelphia/Neshoba Central, golf; and Stephanie Taylor (Distinguished) of Forest, tennis. The outstanding group will be featured later this year in JUCO REVIEW, the association's national publication.



ECCC'S LPN graduates

Above are 1997 graduates of East Central Community College's Licensed Practical Nursing program who were recognized during the annual pinning ceremony held Aug. 8 on the Decatur campus. Pictured are (front row, from left) Shela Massey, Noxapater; Dawn Nelson, Philadelphia; Amy Yates, Lawrence; Jennifer Lee, Philadelphia; Janette Grant, Forest; and Peggy Branning, Philadelphia; (second row, from left) Ruth Franklin, Union; Annette Chapman and Amber Grady, both of Newton; Melanie Patterson, Philadelphia; Teresa Sharp, Morton; and Amy Smith, Pearl; (third row, from left) Susan Amis, Forest; Denise Fleming, Union; Miriam Rivers, Newton; and Paul Pryor, Forest; and (fourth row, from left) instructor Sandra Thomas, Chunky; Ron Permenter, Forest; instructor Kathy Buckman, Bay Springs; and David Ezell, Union. Following the ceremony a reception was held in the Gold Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

Adoption. Is it for you?

Adoption is one of the most unselfish acts a woman can make for her child.

Putting the child's welfare in front of your own feelings is a true act of love.

This love is hard love – hard to decide, hard to do and truly caring.

Adoption involves placing a child legally and permanently with a family who will raise the child as their own. With our agency birth mothers are active participants throughout the process. Birth mothers select families for their child, and may meet them if they wish. We provide our birth mothers with photographs and letters from the family as the child develops. At our agency birth mothers always know they are welcome, appreciated and admired.

Adoption is far from an easy way out. It is a difficult decision to make. Our services try to provide clients with support services before, during and after the placement of a child.

We at Mississippi Children's Home build relationships, that will last a lifetime. We are genuinely concerned in creating dreams, and hope. . .

If you are pregnant and need someone to talk to please call Nancy Miller of Sharon Williams at 1-800-388-6247.

Mississippi Department of Education pilots technology programs for high schools and community colleges

Vocational-Technical Education is introducing 21st century technology into high school and community college classrooms across the state through two pilot programs currently under way.

Six sites will test a two-year course for high school students in Technology Applications.

Teachers at the test sites will complete a three-week training session this summer in preparation for the introduction of the course in the fall of 1997.

On the community/junior college level, a three-hour course in Science and Technology was tested during the 1996-97 academic year at three locations: Holmes Community College in Goodman, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier, and Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. It will be offered at three additional locations in the fall of 1997: Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, Pearl River Community College in Poplarville and East Central Community College in Decatur. The course is expected to be offered at all 15 community colleges by the fall of 1998.

Both courses emphasize student-centered teaching and provide introductions to current and emerging technology in the physical and biological sciences, ranging from computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-integrated manufacturing

(CIM) to microcomputer assembly, laser and fiber optics, and bio-technology.

They are part of the statewide Tech Prep Initiative started in 1993 by the Department of Education, with the support of the Mississippi Legislature, which is implementing curricula to teach Mississippi students the high-tech skills needed to succeed in today's marketplace.

These cutting-edge programs use the latest technology to teach technology. This moves Mississippi to the front of the national classroom in innovative teaching approaches. Students work in teams and groups. They learn via computer software and programmed modules that provide self-guided instruction and hands-on activities. The curriculum for both courses was developed by the Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) for Vocational and Technical Education at Mississippi State University.

"If our students are to succeed in the complex technical world they will enter when they graduate from high school or community college, they need to understand and be comfortable with a variety of technologies. The RCU has worked with the state to design courses that give students hands-on experience which will let them solve problems by applying knowledge in a technological context," said Dr. Therrell Myers, Associate State Superintendent of

Education who oversees the state's vocational and technical education.

Pilot locations for the high school Technology Application courses are: the secondary school at Hinds Community College's Rankin Center, West Point Vocational Complex, Winona Vocational Complex, Senatobia-Tate County Regional Vocational Center, Choctaw County Vocational Complex, and the secondary school at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Long Beach Center.

The state has committed approximately \$125,000 to the development of each site, with local communities covering the cost of preparing classroom space to house the high-tech equipment. After one year in test, the new program will be fine-tuned and offered as a replacement for Diversified Technology, a less sophisticated course currently being taught at 53 locations around the state.

The community college Science and Technology course also is being funded by the state through its Office of Vocational-Technical Education at a cost of approximately \$116,000 per college. The course provides such a strong introduction to physics and computer science, it is being offered to vo-tech students and to traditional community college transfer students who can apply credits from this course to a four-year degree program at most Mississippi state-run universities.

Mississippi Opera opens 53rd season with Bizet's *Carmen*

Our 1997-98 season opens Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Jackson's Thalia Mara Hall with one of the world's most popular works. *Carmen*, tantalizing and carefree, surrenders only on her own terms. She easily captures the most fascinating men, including the bullfighter, Escamillo, and the jealous, possessive soldier, Don Jose—leading them to inevitable destruction. Bizet's brilliant pulsating music creates music theater that truly sizzles and excites: Be there for a night of grand passion!

Appearing in the title role is mezzo-soprano Angela Horn. Horn, a native of St. Louis, received her training from the Kansas City Conservatory, Saint Louis Conservatory, and the Music Academy of the West. She is a 1995 graduate of the Juilliard Opera Center and currently resides in New York City.

Ms. Horn made her debut last season as Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Pitti-Sing, in *The Mikado*, and the Third Lady in *The Magic Flute* with the New York City Opera. In addition to performing *Carmen* with Mississippi Opera, Ms. Horn will sing the title role with New York City Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Tenor Ian DeNolfo will make his debut with Mississippi Opera as Don Jose. Mr. DeNolfo is the winner of the 1996 Lauritz Melchior Helden-tenor Foundation Award. He has also been the recipient of a 1992 Opera Index Award, the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition Finalist Award and was a finalist of the 1990-91 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Mr. DeNolfo holds a Bachelor of Music from the Juilliard School and was awarded a Master of Music in Opera from the Curtis Institute of Music in 1993.

During the 1996-97 season, Mr. DeNolfo sang his first Radames in *Aida* with Opera Burlington. He sang his first Don Jose in concert version of *Carmen* with Orchestra London in Canada and his first Erik in *The Flying Dutchman* with Michigan Opera Theatre. During the 1994-95 season, Mr. DeNolfo made his debut with the Deutsch Oper Berlin as Macduff in *Verdi's Macbeth*, returned to Basel for performances of *La Boheme* and appeared as Roldolfo in *La Boheme* with the Dresden Opera. He also sang the tenor solos in the Dvorak *Stabat Mater* at the Tonnhalle in Zurich and in the Bruckner *Te Deum* in Spoleto, Italy under the baton of Steven Mercurio.

Critically acclaimed for her clear and expressive soprano voice, Jamie Baer will perform the role of Micaela. Highlights of her operatic career include *The Marriage of Figaro* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *Don Giovanni* with L'Opera de Nice, *Don Pasquale* with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, *La Boheme* with the New York City Opera-National Company and *Die Schweigsame Frau* with the Santa Fe Opera. Ms. Baer has also sung at Carnegie Hall for their concert version of *Louisiana Purchase* and in

the PBS Great Performances "*Ira Gershwin at 100*."

Ms. Baer is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where she was a student of the late Jan DeGaetani. She also studied at the University of Minnesota and the Aspen Music Festival. Ms. Baer has been extremely involved in opera education with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Virginia Opera and most recently her own company "Opera without Horns" which she developed for private schools in Manhattan.

Baritone Thomas Barrett will make his Mississippi Opera debut as Escamillo. A native of Virginia, Mr. Barrett is a graduate of Indiana University where he won a full scholarship to study with basso Nicola Rossi-Lemeni. He is the recipient of several awards, among them a Sullivan Foundation Grant, the Richard Gaddes Award from the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and the Lotte Lehmann Award from the Music Academy of the West.

Mr. Barrett made his Santa Fe Opera debut as Guglielmo in *Così Fan Tutte* this summer and will appear as Don Giovanni's Leporello with Florida Grand Opera before

returning to his native Virginia to join Roanoke Symphony in Brahms' Requiem. Barrett has more dates as Escamillo in Indianapolis next spring and will take part in Dayton Philharmonic's performances of Beethoven's Ninth.

Mississippi artists in supporting roles include Dr. Chandler Thompson as Mercedes, Annadaire Ingram as Frasquita, Patton Rice as Zuniga, Phillip Hill as Morales, Gregory Smith as El-DanCairo, and James Longmire as El Remendado.

Carmen will be conducted by former Mississippi Opera artistic director and University of Southern Mississippi graduate Carroll Freeman. Clinton native and Mississippi College graduate Robert Lyall will conduct.

Tickets are now on sale and can be charged by phone at 960-2300 or may be bought at the Mississippi Opera administrative office, 201 E. Pascagoula Street, Suite 105, in Jackson. Discounts are available for groups, senior citizens and students.

Carmen is sponsored in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, Arts Alliance of Jackson and Hinds County and Deposit Guaranty.

ECCC hosts tech prep training

Great things are happening in Tech Prep in the East Central Consortium. This past summer East Central Community College was the site for two training sessions for high school teachers. In the first four-day session, vocational teachers from the East Central District, as well as other community college districts in Mississippi, studied methods for providing meaning-centered, contextual curriculum, instruction, and ways to facilitate transition from school-to-work or school-to-college-to-work.

In a later four-day workshop, high school biology teachers from a cross the state trained in applied teaching methods such as cooperative learning, multiple intelligences, and alternative assessment.

Mrs. Maudean Sanders assisted personnel from the Mississippi Department of Education with a special technical training session which

was held at the Forest-Scott County Vocational-Technical Center. Over 150 people from vocational centers that work with Tech Prep schools attended this training.

Fashions for girls: eclectic and edgy

Classic designs updated with a modern twist, is how one fashion designer describes the look for girls and young teens this year.

According to teen and preteen trend setters, the individual style of young girls is celebrated by fashions with choices for dressing up, dressing down and going to school.

"Young girls are being presented with many options by fashion designers. This season we will see a gradual return of classic designs updated with a modern twist," commented designer Elisheva Rothstein.

Tried and true American sportswear is updated with novelty treatments. There are hand-embroidered patterns on denim, zip-front jumpers, boot cut jeans and the welcome return of corduroy in coordinating styles. "Chocolate" is considered the hottest new color. Pant styles in denim and corduroy vary from boot leg to wide leg to carpenter.

Velour is back from the seventies but with a twist. The iced velour look adds the necessary modern age flavor to this retro look.

Fashion with a new spin, influenced by pop culture, pop art and even pop music, is just the style for today's modern young women.

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Carthage sophomore named Homecoming Queen

Laura Gill of Carthage was recently selected Homecoming Queen at East Central Community College in Decatur and will be honored during half-time ceremonies of the Warriors' football game with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College on Saturday, Oct. 18. Kick-off for the division matchup is set for 2:30 p.m. in Warrior Stadium.

Gill, a sophomore elementary education major and graduate of Leake Academy, will receive her crown from ECCC President Dr. Eddie M. Smith. She will also be presented a bouquet of roses from Karen McRae, also from Carthage, who was last year's titleholder.

Gill is the daughter of Lavon and Judy Gill of Carthage.

Serving as her escort is sophomore Shad Sanders, a business administration major, who is also from Carthage and a graduate of Leake Academy. His parents are Joey and Joanne Sanders of Carthage.

Chosen as Maid of Honor is Kamonica Craig of Louisville, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major.

Craig, a Dean's List scholar, serves as vice president of the Student Body Association and is a member of the Lady Warrior basketball team, Warrior Corps and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau. During her freshman year, she was selected a Homecoming maid and a freshman class favorite.

Her parents are Victoria Craig and Robert Earl Hoskins of Louisville.

Serving as Craig's escort is sophomore Gilberto Venzen of Eastman, Ga. Venzen, whose major is advanced carpentry, is a member of the Warrior basketball team. He is the son of Iris Aloyo of Eastman, Ga.

Sophomore maids are Sherie Bradford of Forest, Paula Crawford of Philadelphia and Krisan Risher of Sebastopol.

Bradford, a secondary education major, serves as Captain of the Diamond Girls and is a member of The Tom-Tom staff.

The Scott Central High School graduate is the daughter of Larry and Patsy Bradford of Forest.

Serving as Bradford's escort is sophomore Brian Hardy of Philadelphia. Hardy, a graduate of Philadelphia High School, is a member of the Warrior baseball team. His major is elementary education.

He is the son of Bobby and Pam Hardy of Philadelphia.

Crawford, whose major is pre-dentistry, serves as secretary of the

Student Body Association and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Warrior Corps, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and The Tom-Tom staff. She is also a football cheerleader.

A graduate of Neshoba Central High School, Crawford is the daughter of Don and Lynda Crawford of Philadelphia.

Serving as Crawford's escort is Brian Sistrunk of Carthage. Sistrunk, whose major is business administration, is a graduate of Leake Academy. His parents are Debra Gainey of Carthage and Vinton Sistrunk of Sebastopol.

Risher, a business administration major, serves as president of Mu Alpha Theta, vice president of Fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa and treasurer of the Student Body Association. She is also a member of the Warrior Corps and Fashion Squad. In addition, she was selected a beauty her freshman year.

A graduate of Sebastopol High School, Risher is the daughter of "Shot" and Tam Risher of Sebastopol.

Serving as Risher's escort is sophomore Raland Burks of Hickory. Burks, a secondary education major, is a graduate of Newton County Academy. His parents are Butch and Joann Burks of Hickory.

Freshman maids are Denise Chapman of Newton, Danna Dye of Morton, Ronit Frey of Louisville and Jennifer Pace of Decatur.

Chapman, an elementary education major, is a member of the Lady Warrior basketball team.

The Newton High School graduate is the daughter of Ellen Faye and the late James Andrew Chapman of Newton.

Serving as Chapman's escort is freshman Timothy Overstreet of Carthage.

Overstreet, whose major is basic carpentry, is a member of the Warrior basketball team. A graduate of Carthage High School, he is the son of James and Beverly Overstreet of Carthage.

Dye, whose major is pre-pharmacy, is a member the concert choir, Warrior Corps, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and the Centralettes, the dance line for the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

A graduate of Morton High School, she is the daughter of Leon and Charlene Dye of Morton.

Serving as Dye's escort is freshman Chris Stokley of Morton. Stokley, a poultry science major, is the son of Roger and Sheila Stokley of Morton.

Frey, a liberal arts major, is a member of the Centralettes.

The Louisville High School graduate is the daughter of Ed and Lisa Frey of Louisville.

Serving as Frey's escort is freshman Luke McMahan of Carthage. McMahan, a pre-med major, is a graduate of Leake Academy. His parents are Sandra and Steven McMahan of Carthage.

Pace, a pre-med major, serves as freshman class treasurer and is a member of the Warrior Corps. In addition, she is a cheerleader for the football and basketball teams and is a member of the Diamond Girls.

A graduate of Newton County High School, she is the daughter of Sammy and Virginia Pace of Decatur.

Serving as Pace's escort is sophomore Dan Gressett of Lake. Gressett, whose major is liberal arts, is a member of the Warrior baseball team.

The Lake High School graduate is the son of Ruth Rucker of Lake and Larry Gressett of Newton.

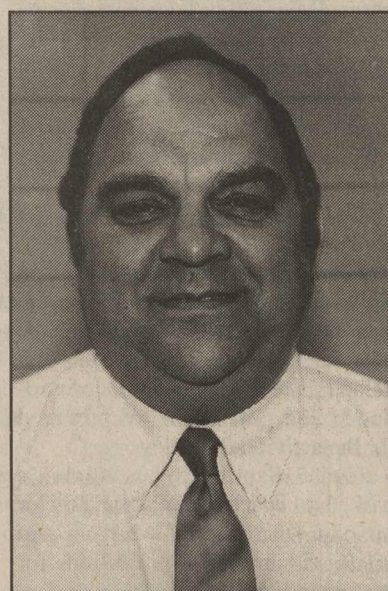


Above are members of the 1997 East Central Community College Homecoming Court who will be presented during halftime ceremonies of the Warriors' football game with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College on Saturday, Oct. 18. Kickoff for the division matchup is set for 2:30 p.m. on the Decatur campus. Pictured are (first row, from left) Maid of Honor Kamonica Craig of Louisville, and Queen Laura Gill of Carthage; (second row, from left) sophomore maids Paula Crawford of Philadelphia, Krisan Risher of Sebastopol and Sherie Bradford of Forest; and (third row, from left) freshman maids Danna Dye of Morton, Ronit Frey of Louisville, Jennifer Pace of Decatur and Denise Chapman of Newton.

Norcross selected 'Teacher of the Year'

Bill Norcross of Union, automotive mechanics instructor at the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Vocational-Technical Center, a division of East Central Community College, was recently named "Teacher of the Year" for the Mississippi Association of Vocational Educators, Trade and Industry Division. With his selection, Norcross will represent Mississippi at the Region IV American Vocational Association meeting scheduled in Dallas during April, 1998.

Norcross has been a member of the vo-tech staff since 1994, and cur-



Bill Norcross

rently serves as advisor for the Center's VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) chapter.

Prior to joining the vo-tech faculty, Norcross served 22 years in the U. S. Navy, retiring in 1990. While in the Navy he was a mechanic and a hydraulics and frame technician. He also served as maintenance department supervisor for several squadrons and was an air frames/hydraulics shop supervisor.

A graduate of Appomattox High School in Virginia, Norcross has completed additional coursework at ECCC and Mississippi State University. He received certification as an auto mechanic from the National Occupancy Competency Training Institute (NOCTI).

He receives additional training by attending the General Motors Training Group Workshop held each summer in Memphis, and participated this past summer in the Tech-Prep Internship Program at U. S. Motors in Philadelphia.

Norcross is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church where he serves as Director of the Royal Ambassadors. He is also a member of the Union Volunteer Fire Department.

He and his wife, Kathryn, have one son, William Sean, and a daughter, Dana Michele.



Enrollment tops 2050!

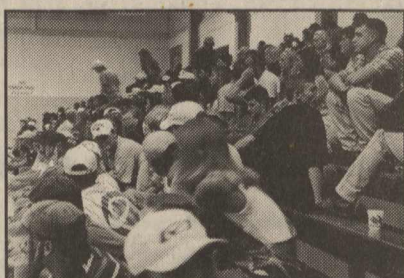
A record 2052 students are enrolled at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1997 fall semester, and to help illustrate the record total are sophomore members of the Warrior Corps who are shown at the College sign located on the front of campus. The 2052 mark is a 12 percent increase compared to last year's previous record of 1828 students who registered during the 1996 fall term. Pictured are (from left) Suzane Warren, Leake Academy; Patrick Bacon, Thomastown; Joni French, Forest; Ashlea Renfro, Morton; Adria Stamper, Newton County Academy; Deanna Bankston, Union; Amanda Moore, Carthage; Krisan Risher, Sebastopol; Justin Miles, Nanih Waiya; Kamonica Craig, Louisville; Brian Sistrunk, Leake Academy; Brian Hardy, Philadelphia; Cyrus Ben, Neshoba Central; Brian Shaw, Forest; Richard Blackburn, Newton County Academy; Paula Crawford, Neshoba Central; Amy Gomillion, Leake Academy; Tarita Williamson, Neshoba Central; and Alex Lee, Lake. The Warrior Corps is an organization composed of a select group of students who assist in recruiting and serve as hosts for various College events and activities. Academic counselor Michael Alexander serves as sponsor.

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Pearl shooting heartbreaking

By DEANNA BANKSTON
The Tom Tom

My heart began to beat rapidly within my chest. Chill bumps popped out all over my body, and a sick feeling crept into my stomach. I had just heard the news of the shooting at Pearl High School: That morning's outburst of violence that left two students dead and six other teenagers wounded has shocked our state and attracted national media attention.

As someone studying to become a teacher, I find the news extremely heart-breaking. As someone with a younger brother still in high school, I find it very frightening. But, more than anything, as a human being, I find it saddening.

No doubt, we have all begun our school days gathering in a common area chatting with friends. This usual morning conversation time circles around the week's big game, someone's break-up or make-up, or a big test scheduled for that day. I dare say the conversations ever hold any more serious tone than that.

Likewise, the Pearl High School students had probably begun their day in that very same way on the morning of Oct. 1. However, their world was about to become literally shattered. As I heard the news, I immediately began to feel sorrowful for those students. Now, I feel pain not only for those hurt, but I also ache for all those who attend school at Pearl for they have now lest their sense of security.

Security, in the emotional sense, is an essential part of happiness and success. I never once considered my high school a danger zone. I never even felt threatened. The only thing I remember fearing in high school was a Calculus test.

Nonetheless, this very same incident could very easily have occurred at my high school. It could very easily occur anywhere. Violence has gotten out of hand in every aspect of our society.

However, we are not helping matters. And, I hesitate to say that installing metal detectors and stationing security guards will help matters a great deal either. While

these preventive measures are good, they do not attack the root of the problem. If violence is ever going to be stopped, if we are going to make this world a safer and happier place, we have to change our attitudes. Instead of teaching self-defense, we must begin to teach understanding.

We must begin to show love and patience and genuine care for people if we plan to curb violence.

In short, while I agree with punishing those who do wrong, I must say that we can not expect society to behave well and stop violence if we ourselves do not show respect for others. So, today, let's each make the most of the time God has given us. In light of this tragedy, let's learn to appreciate the life God has given us and the lives He has given others around us.

Take time today to smile at a stranger or pat a friend on the back. Make the most of your days, and in doing so, help to make this world, as violent as it seems, a better place. And, maybe, just maybe, the cycle of violence will be a little less detrimental because of you.

The freshman experience

By ANTHONY JIMMERSON
The Tom Tom

So far, the freshman experience here at East Central has been pretty interesting. Aside from the fact that we are all really away from home for the first time, this has been a very rewarding experience for me. For instance, since I've been here I've noticed that the women are a lot more plentiful and some are even better looking than in high school.

Now, I realize that the girls who read this are going to say so what, but the guys know what I'm talking about. And Freshmen how many of you have had a "restaurant" or a pool hall or a weight room a few hundred feet from your door?

And I have to admit, a two

o'clock curfew is great for a school night.

Guys how many of you have been able to see a girl almost any time you want without having to worry about running into her parents?

Ladies, how many of you could wear these little things that you call clothes if your parents were around? Don't get me wrong. I don't have the slightest problem with clothes – as a matter of fact, I love them!

College courses are a lot different from high school courses. When I was in high school, we sat in every class for about an hour a day, and even if you didn't have any more classes you could not leave until three o'clock.

But here at E.C. I go to classes two or three hours a day and I'm

finished. lunch at my high school was pretty bad at least down here we have a choice between the cafeteria and the grill.

As far as things to do around here, there aren't many. I spend most of my time and money in the pool hall. As a matter of fact if you go in there, there is an 89% chance that I'll be there. For the guys and girls hanging out in front of Jackson Hall is the activity of choice.

For me, being a freshman here at East Central has been very rewarding. I've gotten closer to old friends and even made a few new ones. I've learned the value of money and how to make it last.

We're out on our own facing new problems everyday and overcoming them. We're all driving down the highway of life, and from here, there is no turning back.

Pearl shooter not insane

By RHETT RIVERS
The Tom Tom

Everyone is talking about the horrible murders that took place at Pearl High School recently. Without doubt, these crimes are the worst that any Mississippi High School has seen in a very long time. Even though we cannot bring the two girls back, we, as a society, can take action that could prevent something like this from ever happening again. Anyone who stabs their own mother to death and then takes the lives of two teenage girls deserves the death penalty and soon.

Defense lawyers will surely enter

a plea of temporary or permanent insanity and try to reduce the sentence to the minimum. True enough, anyone who commits a crime like that cannot be a mentally stable or secure person. However, a person does not lose responsibility for their actions just because they are extremely angry.

This young man was not insane, he was simply mad and decided that he would destroy three other people who did not live their lives the way he wanted them to. Since they did not give him the love or attention that he demanded, he killed them.

When I think of a person who is truly insane, I picture a person who is really struggling with all mental faculties. A person in this condition

would not be able to go to school and sit in a classroom and think about what he was going to do. Anyone who can go through the routine as he did is not insane but simply a murderer. The point of all of this is to establish the fact that no excuse exists for what happened at Pearl High School.

In my opinion, a trial is not even really necessary. There is no reasonable defense that can be presented on his behalf. The defense lawyers in this case have their hands full and are forced to come up with some absurd plea such as "temporary insanity" or something similar. I only hope that the judge and jury realize the absurdity of such a plea and sentence the killer to death.



Students pack the bleachers in Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building for "Midnight Madness."

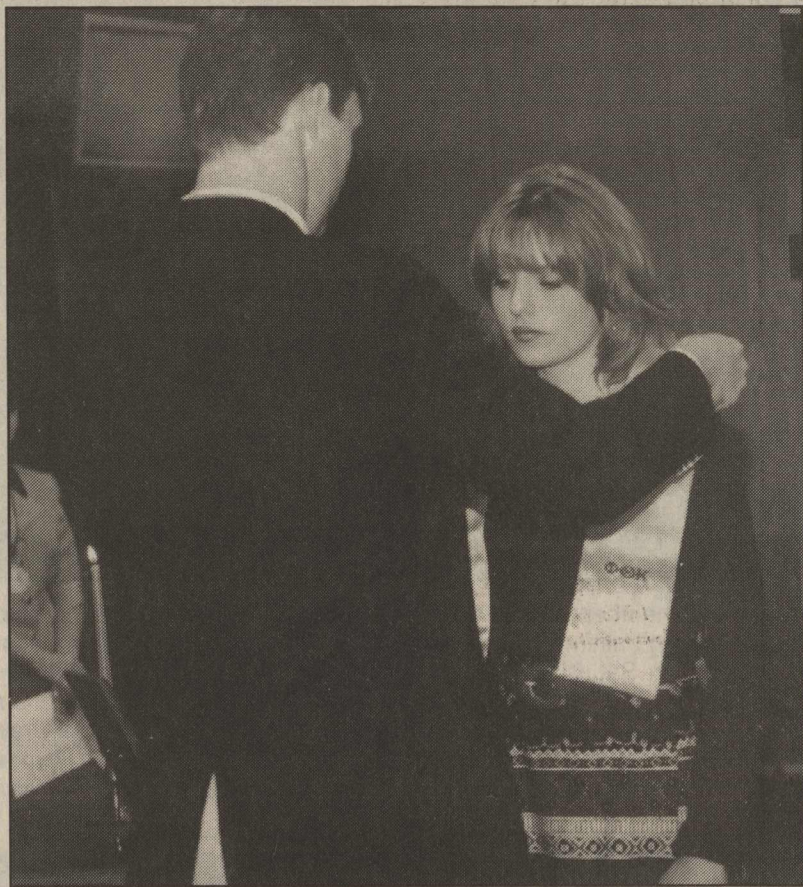
Brain dead pregnant woman is keep alive

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

A twenty-year-old pregnant woman in New York lays brain dead after collapsing in her home with cerebral hemorrhaging a month ago. She is kept alive by a machine breathing for her.

Luckily, her heart is still pumping on its own which nourishes the fetus. The heart of a brain dead person normally lasts only a few days but through a miracle the woman's heart has been beating for more than 7 1/2 weeks.

The fetus is now 24 weeks. Doctors say if the fetus can make it to 28 weeks, the survival will be more than 90%. There are less than a dozen of these cases known. Although one life will shortly be gone, thanks to advancing medical technology another life will be saved.



Vickie McGee receives the Phi Theta Kappa honors stoll from Justin Miles during the Theta Xi induction ceremony.

More on Diana

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

Dozens of flowers still pour in outside the Kensington Palace. Prince William and Prince Harry are back at their boarding schools where they have received more than 300,000 condolence letters. In Althorp, where Diana is buried, 15 bouquets are laid daily.

Although London is back in its normal routine, the hurt, pain and loss still lingers in the streets of London. Many feel London will never be the same. How could it after such a devastating blow?

Though it is hard to believe, something positive has come out of this untimely death. The Royals have become warmer, tabloids tamer, and tributes more sane, according to Sunday's *Clarion Ledger*.

The saying, "Something good comes out of something bad" has been proven true. It is just sad it had to be the death of one of the most loved women of the world. The fact is Diana is dead but she will live forever in the hearts of everyone that loved her.

Nineteen inducted into Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Theta Xi Chapter inducted nineteen students who met requirements for membership in Phi Theta Kappa based on 3.5 overall GPA from spring semester.

The following students were inducted on Sept. 25 in Burton Library:

Pamela Atkinson, Donald H. Faulkner, Barbara A. Fulton, Jason Hailey, Marissa Lee McGee, Vickie McGee, Rodrick Moore, Heather Munn, Joi Savell Owens, Priscilla Vowell Sanders, Sophia Dawn Sanders, Rebecca Sikes, Christopher Stewart, Donna Strickland, Ken Thrash, Brandon Tucker, Mary Warren, Madonna Watkins and Penny White.

Mrs. Burkes welcomed the guests. Dr. Eddie Smith gave the response and told of the accomplishments of the Chapter and encouraged them to participate in the chapter activities. Dr. Phil Sutphin remarked on the outstanding academic record of the

group and commended them for their scholastic success.

All nine Chapter officers helped with the induction ceremony. Brian Shaw, president of Theta Xi Chapter led the inductees in the pledge which admitted them into complete fellowship of the Society. "Repeat after me, I do solemnly promise on this the 25th day of September, 1997, to uphold the standards of Phi Theta Kappa, and to make this object and aim foremost in my mind, and I do solemnly pledge allegiance to my fellow members and promise to aid them in all worthy endeavors."

Each signed the oath as a new member of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Dr. Harris and Mrs. Burkes congratulated and welcomed them into the Chapter and charged them to explore always for truth and to dedicate themselves to the cultivation of the well reasoned life, a prelude to service and honor.

Team performs for Midnight Madness

By JENNIFER PACE
The Tom Tom

What could be so important that it would cause college students to be out after curfew? The answer of course is "almost anything." This particular occasion however, was the first official practice for the 1997 Warrior basketball team.

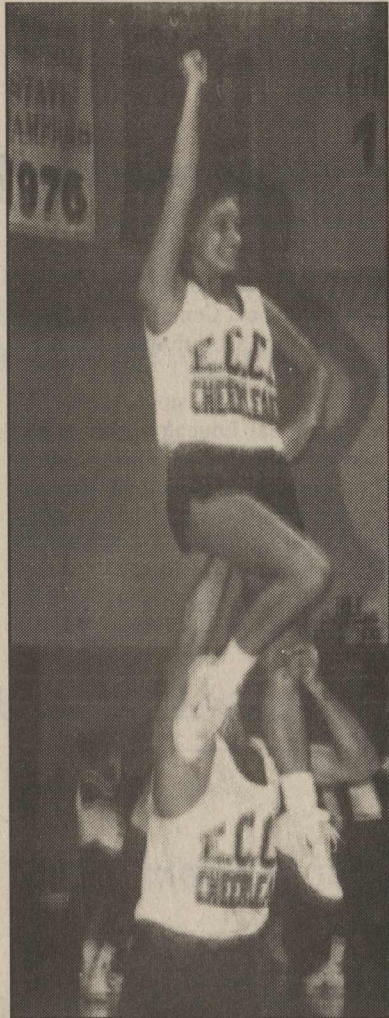
Although basketball teams may begin strength and conditioning activities early in the semester, they cannot begin actual practice until Oct. 1 according to the NJAA guidelines.

On Sept. 30, students gathered in the gym for refreshments, music and lots of visiting with friends beginning at 11 p.m. At midnight, the basketball cheerleaders were then introduced and got the crowd prepared for the activities to follow.

Coach Sammy Pace, women's basketball coach and athletic director introduced the Lady Warriors and briefly discussed his projections for the upcoming season.

"We've had a good recruiting year, and we look forward to another winning season," Pace said.

Then Coach Marty Cooper, men's basketball coach introduced his team who entertained those on hand with agility drills, slam dunks and a short scrimmage. Student spectators also participated in a number of contests including a lay-up contest, free-throw contest, three-point contest and a half-court shooting contest.



Nichol McKee and Jeremy Nowell do their part to get the spectators ready for Midnight Madness.

Prizes were awarded to the winners.

A complimentary breakfast was served to students after the evening's activities. While midnight madness is a relatively new event at East Central, students already agree that one would have to be "mad" to miss it!

President's council holds first meeting

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

On Monday, Sept. 29 the President's Council held their first meeting. The Council is a group of students who are the leaders in the club or organization they belong to.

Several faculty members also attend these meetings. The first meeting turned out very well. There were reports given by the students on their organizations and the faculty also gave updates of the college. Officers were elected and they are as follows:

President, Richard Blackburn; vice-president, Angela Hayes; and secretary, Amanda Moore.

Class officers elected

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

On Sept. 23 and 24, class officers for the freshman and sophomore classes were elected. They are as follows:

SOPHOMORE CLASS
President, Brian Sistrunk; vice-president, Suzanne Warren; secretary, Vickie McGee; and treasurer, Raland Burkes.

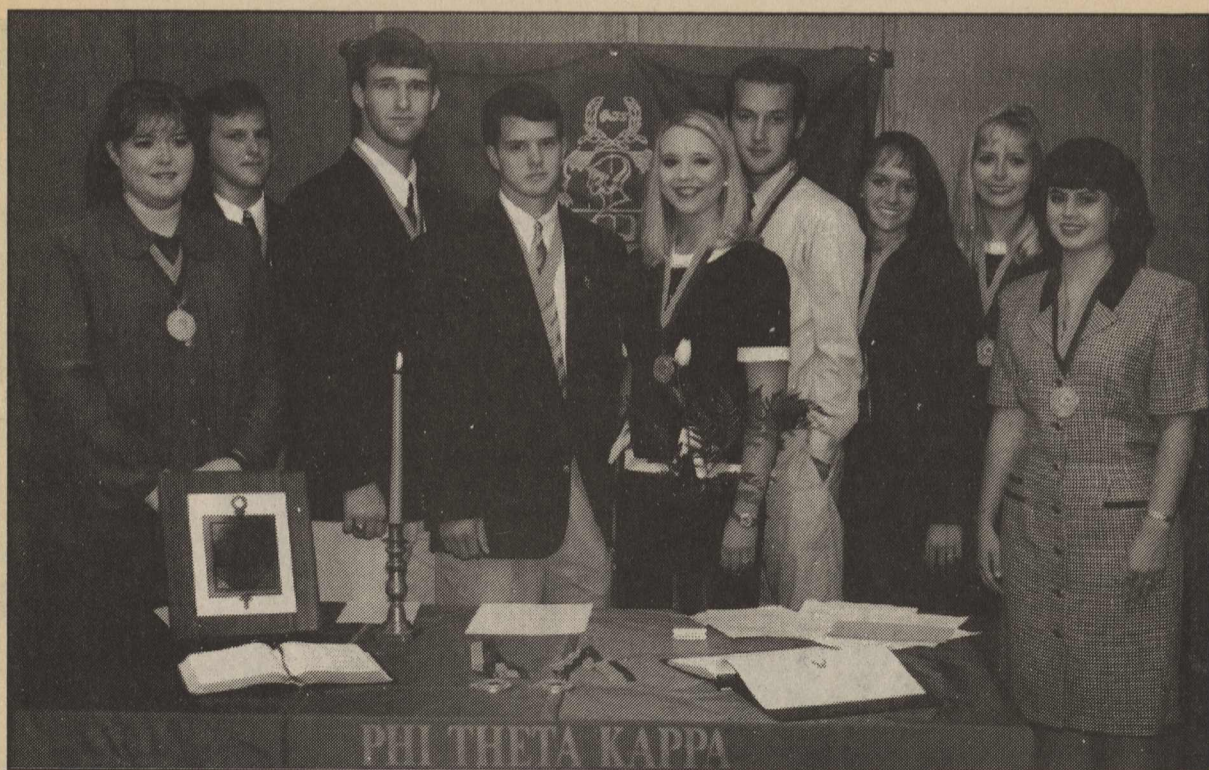
FRESHMAN CLASS
President, Philip Smith; vice-president, Ragan Mitchell; secretary, Crystal Gee; and treasurer, Jennifer Pace.

The statistics of drinking and driving

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Each year 3.5 million people are injured in over 800,000 car crashes?
- On an average weekend night, one out of every ten drivers are drunk?
- One out of every two Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related wreck?
- The #1 cause of death in teenagers is wrecks and more than half of these deaths are caused by drunk drivers?
- Seventy-five percent of deaths between the ages of 16 and 24 are due to car accidents due to the excess use of alcohol?



Theta Xi officers

Theta Xi Chapter officers of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for the two-year college for 1997-98 are Amy Spears, historian; Jake Jenkins, reporter; Justin Miles, treasurer; Brian Shaw, President and MS/LA regional secretary; Amy Gomillion, vice-president for scholarship; Rhett Rivers, vice-president for service; Deanna Bankston, secretary; Krisan Risher, vice-president for fellowship; and Ginger Greer, vice-president for leadership. The advisors of the chapter are Ann Burkes, head librarian; and Dr. Shelby Harris, chairman of the mathematics division.

Fashion Squad observes 25th reunion

Alice Pouncey well remembers how the East Central Community College Fashion Squad had its beginning on the Decatur campus. Pouncey, an ECCC faculty member since 1969, recalls that eventful day:

"It was in the fall of 1973 when a sophomore home economics major from Carthage came into the home economics department and asked me about East Central starting a modeling group. The conversation with this student provided the spark of what has become 25 years of Fashion Squads at East Central."

Pouncey and her former Fashion Squad members are among special groups being honored at the College's Homecoming celebration scheduled Saturday, Oct. 18. Actually, activities marking the squad's silver anniversary and final year of existence, begin Friday, Oct. 17, when a fashion show featuring the former models and their children will be held in Huff Auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. There is no charge for admission and a reception follows in the Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building.

Pouncey, who continues to serve as Fashion Squad sponsor and psychology instructor (the College no longer offers home economics), recalls that the first group of models was compiled of the economics majors and girls from the five-county district who were "reigning queens," such as Miss Hospitality, Junior Miss or the "Miss" whatever from her town. Pouncey added: "We had 17 models the first year. The group met and decided to be called the Fashion Squad. The first show was a Christmas Fashion Show for members of Delta Kappa Gamma teachers' society."

During the first few years of organization, Pouncey said students were allowed to tryout by adding their names to a list. Later, prospective members went through an interview process in addition to having tryouts on stage. In 1977, East Central became the first junior college to add modeling to its curriculum. Pouncey and Dr. Brad Tucker, then dean of instruction, submitted the course description to the Mississippi Junior College Association which approved the class as a credit course.

Since that time, students who wanted to become members of the Fashion Squad enrolled in the Introduction to Modeling Class and also participated in tryouts. Pouncey said former squad members served as judges, with 15 to 20 new members selected each year.

In addition to presenting fashion shows, Pouncey said squad members serve as one to the "recruiting teams" on campus. She explained: "Our fashion squads have modeled at many high schools in the district and surrounding areas. We also modeled for various civic and community club organizations, such as Federated Women's Clubs, teacher groups, Farm Bureau Ladies, Garden Clubs, and Homemaker Clubs both local and district meetings. Due to the large number of requests from outside groups, we soon had to limit our shows to district schools or events on campus."

In reflecting over the type of fashion shows her squad members have presented over the years, Pouncey said there were several presentations that were "quite different" from a typical school fashion show.

Some of the "different" shows included "all cotton" presentations as

well as a "Made in Mississippi" show, both of which were given to district homemaker clubs. Pouncey said the "Made in Mississippi" show included everything from hunting clothes such as camouflage coveralls, hats, vests, and gloves, to work clothes for men and women. "Even a blanket was used in the show by one model who draped the material over her arm," she added.

Pouncey commented that one of the favorite shows her models anticipated each year involved ECCC's fall dinner theater presentation. Squad members modeled clothes from area merchants and presented the new fashions following the dinner and intermission.

Another anticipated event was the spring fashion show held every other year. She recalled the show's early beginnings.

"This show actually started out as a Bridal Show in the mid-70's, with fashions being modeled for McRae's at their Meridian store. Later, we added our own Bridal Show on campus. I well remember the time we went to the McRae's store in downtown Jackson on Capital Street for the selection and fittings of gowns, when a tornado warning was issued for that area. So we all went into the store's basement until the danger of a tornado was over."

Pouncey also remembers the time her squad members were selected to film a television commercial for

Roosevelt State Park in Morton. The filming was done in February for the commercial which was to be shown in the summer. "Even though it was a warm day for February, it was still too cold for girls to be wearing swim suits, and some had a tough time trying not to look like they were freezing to death. But everything worked out okay and the commercial came out fine," she said.

Now that the fashion squad is in its 25th and last year, Pouncey said she has many fond memories of working "with so many outstanding young people." She made the following comment: "In looking back over the years, I have really enjoyed seeing young girls grow and develop over the two-year period they went to school here."

Not every girl was a "beauty"; not every girl was an 'A' student. But I hope that with the experience of being a fashion squad member and going on stage in front of large groups of people, that each person developed self-esteem and became more confident in her abilities as they matured into adults. It's really been a pleasure to watch so many former squad members become successful."

The 1997-98 ECCC Fashion Squad will be modeling at this year's dinner theater presentation of "Harvey," scheduled Nov. 13-15, and at the Spring Fashion Show planned in April.

New Warrior Corps members selected

New members of the Warrior Corps, the official student host and recruiting group for East Central Community College, have been selected for the 1997-98 term.

Members from Leake County include Mark Fleming and Casey Lewis, both of Leake Academy; Linzy Gressett and Mandy Sanders, both of Carthage; and Courtney Wilcher of Edinburg.

Newton County members include Janet Harrison and Lori Darsey, both of Newton County Academy; Cody Fisher of Union; and Marci Hollingsworth and Jennifer Pace, both of Newton County High School.

Members from Neshoba County include Andrea Robertson, B. J. Morrow and Justin Long, all of Neshoba Central; and Philip Smith and Jonathan Mills, both of Philadelphia.

Those from Scott County include Amanda McMillan and Allison Crosby, both of Lake; Cassy Thrash of Sebastopol; Tiffany Frith, Danna Dye and Justin Rogers, all of Morton; and Misti Harrell and Vickie McGee, both of Scott Central.

Members from Winston County include Ginger Moore of Noxapater, Laura Ming and Anthony Jimmerson, both of Louisville; Virginia Stokes and Ragan Mitchell, both of Nanih Waiya; and Amber Woods, Natalie Vowell and Josh Hatcher, all of Winston Academy.

Returning members include Patrick Bacon of Thomastown; Amanda Moore of Carthage; Brian Sistrunk and Suzanne Warren, both of Leake Academy; Amy Gomillion of Walnut Grove; Jason Alford and Brian Hardy, both of Philadelphia; Cyrus Ben, Paula Crawford and TaRita Williamson, all of Neshoba Central; Deanna Bankston and Billie McCune, both of Union; Richard Blackburn and Adria Stamper, both

of Newton Academy; Emily Bullock and Brooke Knight, both of Newton County; Joni French and Brian Shaw, both of Forest; Alex Lee of Lake; Ashlea Renfore of Morton; Krisan Risher of Sebastopol; Kamonica Craig and Christal Vanlendingham, both of Louisville; and Justin Miles of Nanih Waiya.

The Warrior Corps is sponsored by Michael Alexander, Academic counselor.

ECCC awarded Hardin Grant

East Central Community College in Decatur has been awarded a Phil Hardin Foundation grant to establish a Faculty Excellence Endowment, announced Mark Porter, president of the Meridian-based organization.

Porter said the award is a one-for-two matching grant for up to \$25,000 a year for three years and a total of \$75,000. To receive the Hardin funds, the College must raise from private contributors \$50,000 a year for three years, for a total of \$150,000. Contribution to the recently established "Investors in Excellence" annual fund are designated for the Hardin project.

In accepting the Hardin grant, Dr. Eddie M. Smith, ECCC president, said the College "is grateful to the Board of Directors of the Phil Hardin Foundation for this award." Dr. Smith added, "I am confident that the alumni and friends of East Central Community College will put forth every effort to help us reach the overall matching goal for this endowment."

Dr. Smith said earnings from the endowment will be used to fund advanced enrichment experiences for

See GRANT, page 4

'Welcome Home in '97' theme of ECCC Homecoming

Recognition of outstanding alumni and faculty members, the induction of new members to the College's Athletic Hall of Fame, and reunions of former Fashion Squad and Warrior Band members, as well as members of the 1947 football team and all classes ending in "7," highlight Homecoming activities scheduled October 17-18 at East Central Community College in Decatur. The theme of this year's observance is "Welcome Home in '97'."

Recipients of the annual Alumni Association honors include State Representative Richard L. "Dick" Livingston of Pulaski, "Alumnus of the Year;" ECCC adjunct faculty member Carol Farish Vickers of Decatur, "Alumna of the Year;" chemistry teacher Dr. Richard Fisher, "Academic Instructor of the Year;" and computer technology teacher Brenda Johnson, "Vocational-Technical Instructor of the Year." Those selected for the Athletic Hall of Fame are Tommye Williamson Alfonso of Gulfport, Lester Baucum of Wiggins and James L. "Creep" Nelson of Newton.

In observance of the Fashion Squad's 25th anniversary, a fashion show will be held Friday, October 17, featuring the former models and their children. The special program begins at 7 p.m. in Huff Auditorium and there is no charge for admission. Alice Pouncey, Fashion Squad sponsor, said over 90 former members are expected to participate in the fashion show. Following the program a reception will be held in the Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building. The 1997-98 term marks the final year the Fashion Squad will be offered at the College.

Also scheduled on Friday is a banquet meeting for members of the 1947 Warrior football team. Activities for the team reunion begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Gold Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

The annual Alumni/Student Golf Tournament will also be held on Friday, and begins at 4 p.m. at Decatur Country Club. The nine-hole event is divided into two areas of competition: a senior division for those age 55 and older, and a junior category for golfers under age 55. Trophies will be awarded to each division winner.

The annual Alumni/Student Ten-

nis Tournament is scheduled the week of Oct. 13 on the College tennis courts. Competition includes women's and men's singles and doubles divisions, plus a special division for those over age 35.

A full day of Homecoming activities is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18, beginning with registration of guests from 9 to 10 a.m. in front of the Sullivan Student Center.

Various reunion groups will meet beginning at 10 a.m. according to the following schedule: 1947 Warrior Football Team - Room 60, Newton Hall; Fashion Squad (25th Anniversary) - Conference Room, Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building; Alumni Band - Band Hall, Vickers Fine Arts Center; Class of 1937 (Diamond Anniversary) - Lounge, Vickers Fine Arts Center; Class of 1947 (Golden Anniversary) - Auditorium, Vickers Fine Arts Center; Class of 1957 - Music Library, Vickers Fine Arts Center; Class of 1967 - Faculty Room, Burton Library; Class of 1977 - Conference Room, Burton Library; Class of

1987 - Reading Area, Burton Library; and Class of 1997 - Faculty Lounge, Newton Hall.

Members of the Warrior Club, all former ECCC athletes and other supporters of the College's athletic program will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 60 of Newton Hall.

The Alumni Luncheon begins at noon in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria, during which time various honorees and reunion groups will be recognized.

East Central and Gulf Coast will battle on the gridiron beginning at 2:30 p.m. The presentation of the Queen and her Court is scheduled during halftime ceremonies, followed by a performance of the Warrior Wall O'Sound Marching Band.

Following the game, a reception will be held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

For more information on Homecoming '97, contact Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, East Central Community College, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 323.



Donates blood

Courtney Wilcher of Edinburg receives reassurance from United Blood Services personnel during the annual Fall Blood Drive. Despite the look on her face, Courtney found the experience relatively painless and a definite "good cause."

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION
BY GOVERNOR
KIRK FORDICE

Whereas, Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, was founded in 1918 in the State of Missouri and has been officially recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges since 1920; and

Whereas, with headquarters in Mississippi since 1935, Phi Theta Kappa is now the largest and most dynamic honor society in the world, with more than 1 million alumni members and inducting more than 75,000 active members on more than 1200 college campuses; and

Whereas, Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunities to students for individual growth and personal development in scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship; and

Whereas, Phi Theta Kappa has developed 400 scholarship partnerships with senior colleges and universities to provide more than \$28 million in transfer scholarships for two-year college students; and

Whereas, Phi Theta Kappa has formed a partnership with USA Today and the American Association of Community Colleges to provide annual recognition for 60 outstanding students and \$50,000 in scholarships; and

Whereas, Phi Theta Kappa has earned nearly \$4.2 million in grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Phil Hardin Foundation, the Mississippi Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities; and

Whereas, the State of Mississippi recognizes the quality of education provided by Mississippi's community and junior colleges; and

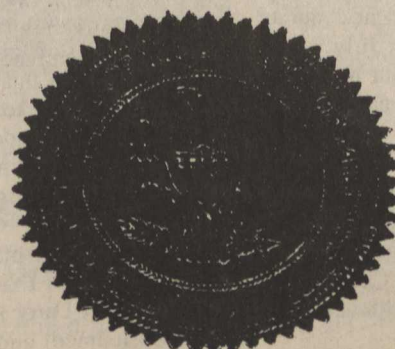
Whereas, the State of Mississippi is proud to claim a high-quality state community/junior college system that is the oldest in the country; and

Whereas, Phi Theta Kappa will now provide its many services and opportunities from the beautiful new Center for Excellence, located at the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi;

Now, therefore, I, Kirk Fordice, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 12 through October 18, 1997,

PHI THETA KAPPA WEEK

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

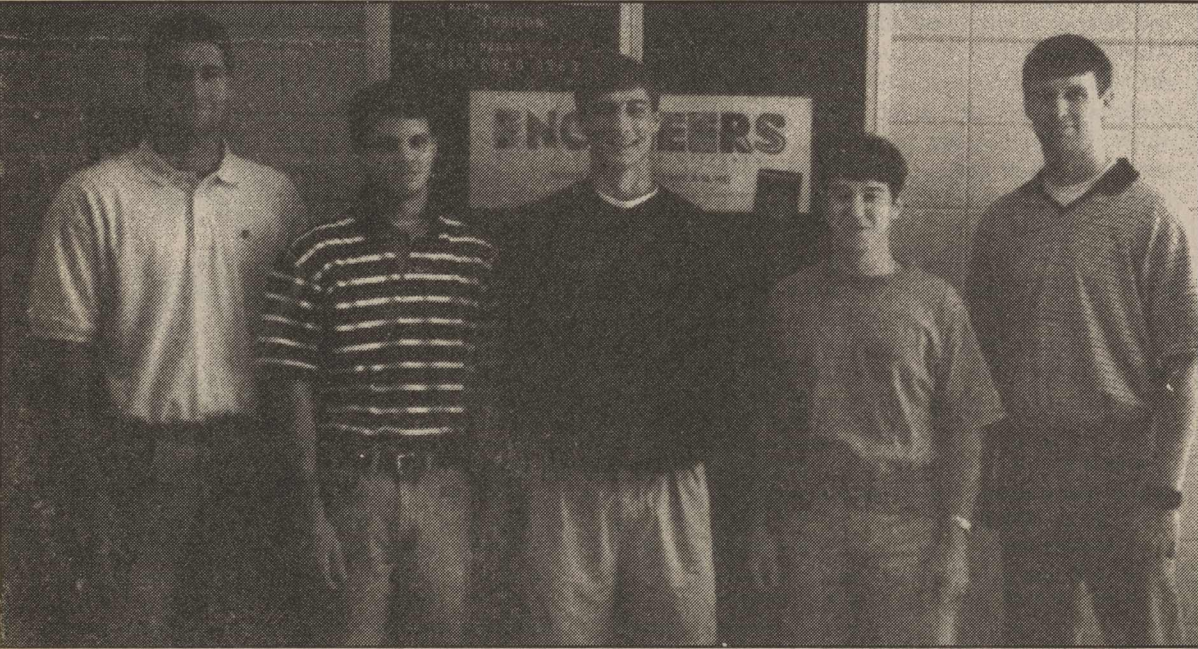
DONE in the City of Jackson, in the two hundred and twenty-first year of the United States of America.

Kirk Fordice
KIRK FORDICE
GOVERNOR



ECCC celebrates Native American Week

These students were among those celebrating Native American Week at East Central Community College Sept. 22-26. Pictured are (from left to right) first row, Loretta Jenkins, Marsha Thompson, both of Conehatta, and Roberta Billy of Carthage; back row, Charity Waller, Sarrica Anderson, both of Conehatta, Ryan York of Standing Pine, Bryant Henry, Norma Bacon, both of Philadelphia, and Craig Willis of Red Water. Students are shown in the entrance to Burton Library displaying Native American items such as baskets, beadwork, and dresses. Gail Wood, assistant librarian, serves as sponsor of the Native American Club.



Alpha Alpha Epsilon officers

Alpha Alpha Epsilon, "The Engineers", Delta 4 Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers at East Central Community College recently elected officers for 1997-98. From left are, Ben Fulton, secretary/treasurer; Brian Shaw, president; Ken McMillon, reporter; Tripp Gaddis, social chairman; and Justin Miles, vice-president. Dr. Shelby Harris, chairman of the mathematics division serves as advisor. The chapter was chartered by NSPE in 1963.



PBL officers elected at ECCC

These students were recently elected officers of Phi Beta Lambda, the organization for business students at East Central Community College. Pictured (left to right) are Roberta Billy, reporter, and Amy Spears, secretary/treasurer, both of Carthage; and TaRita Williamson, president, and Chad Anderson, vice president, both of Neshoba Central. Ms. Elizabeth Breland serves as sponsor.

ECCC awarded grant for fitness trail

A new fitness trail will soon become a reality on the East Central Community College in Decatur, according to a recent announcement by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. State officials said the College will receive federal and state grant monies to help complete the project, which also depends on financial support from private contributors.

College President Dr. Eddie M. Smith said grant approval means the government will fund up to \$20,000 of the \$40,000 project, scheduled to be built on the north end of the campus between the softball field and College pond. He added the mile-long trail will be paved, lighted and handicapped-accessible. The trail will also include handicapped-accessible exercise stations along the way. In addition, plans call for paving the road to the trail and adjacent parking lot.

Dr. Smith stressed that the trail will be open to College personnel,

students, and to the general public as well. Among community co-sponsors for the trail are the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce, the Decatur Lions Club and the Town of Decatur. Various individuals have also contributed to the project.

Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the College, said those who want to contribute to the fitness trail project may do so by designating their checks for the "Investors in Excellence" annual fund, which began in July, 1997. "The sooner we raise our half of the \$20,000, the sooner we can finish the project.

We have already received numerous contributions for the fitness trail but have not yet met our goal. I certainly want to encourage our alumni and other friends of the College to be a part of this very worthwhile project," Hogue said.

For more information contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, East Central Community

College, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 323.

***Grant**

faculty, in such areas as technology training and professional development seminars.

Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the College, said, "I certainly want to encourage our alumni, administration, faculty, staff and student body to participate in this matching fund project by giving to the EC annual fund. It is a tremendous honor to be selected to receive the Hardin grant. The grant will be a great benefit for the ECCC faculty."

For more information regarding the "Investors in Excellence" annual fund, contact Larry Hogue, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, East Central Community College, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext 323.



Native American Club officers

These students were recently elected officers of the Native American Club. Pictured are (from left) Roberta Billy of Carthage, president; Marsha Thompson of Conehatta, vice president; Loretta Jenkins of Conehatta, secretary; Ryan York of Standing Pine, reporter; and Sarrica Anderson of Conehatta, treasurer. Gail Wood, assistant librarian, serves as sponsor.

★Honorees

(Continued from page 7)

study program that assured the academic success of the team. But her help and encouragement surely had its effect on the team.

When Vickers is not busy with tutoring or working with the ABE/GED program, she is busy as the Director of the Mississippi Quilt Search Project, a massive volunteer project to locate and document quilts that were made in Mississippi prior to 1945. The information from the quilt project will be stored in the state archives in Jackson.

Vickers said, "I probably spend 20 hours a week working on this project." The group has two search days left and is now working on publishing a book of their findings titled Mississippi's History in Quilts. To date they have documented over 1700 quilts.

In addition, she has somehow found the time to write a children's book, "The Llama's Pajamas." She hopes to publish this book in the spring of 1998.

Vickers is past president of Delta Kappa Gamma (teacher organization). She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mississippi Quilters Association at Decatur United Methodist Church. She was selected STAR Teacher three times at Decatur High School and was also chosen Regional STAR Teacher. She was selected Outstanding Young Educator in 1974 and chosen Presidential Scholar Teacher in 1983.

While she was at Decatur High School, she coached Mike McMullan of Decatur to the Boys' State

Spelling Championship and later to National Competition in Washington, D.C.

She was selected one of five teachers in Mississippi to attend a writers' workshop at Martha's Vineyard and she has had several articles published in various education journals and literary magazines.

In addition, she has served as a delegate to the Mississippi Methodist's Annual Conference and she and her mother, Mrs. Obe S. Farish, were invited to quilt at the Mississippi Pavilion during the New Orleans World's Fair.

She is married to Ovid S. Vickers, II, who retired from full-time teaching duties following 40 years of service to ECCC. He continues to write a weekly newspaper column for the *Union Appeal* and the *Scott County Times*. They both enjoy traveling and spending time with the grandchildren. They also support each other in their writing efforts. Vickers said laughing, "The biggest fights we have are when I try to change something she's written." They both critique one another's work.

The Vickers' have three children Mrs. John (Nona) Creel of Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Jim (Harriet) Laird of Raymond; and Ovid Vickers III of Decatur. They also have three grandchildren: Jon and Carol Creel and Hannah Laird.

Since Vickers graduated in 1958 there have been a few changes at ECCC. She said, "Some of the changes at EC have been dramatic. Some have been slow. The changes have been more in numbers and

amount of facilities and not in the philosophy of the College that the student comes first. I've been close to the College all these years and I find that teachers still have the same commitment to their students they had when I was here.

East Central has been a dominant force in my life since I first came to the College in 1956. It provided a firm foundation for my continued college work. East Central is where I met my husband. It also provided a place to rear my children in a good environment and for the last 10 years it has provided a professional place for me to work. I could never do as much for East Central as East Central has done for me and I mean that."

Homecoming
activities
get
under way
Friday!

Adoption. Is it for you?

Adoption is one of the most unselfish acts a woman can make for her child.

Putting the child's welfare in front of your own feelings is a true act of love.

This love is hard love – hard to decide, hard to do and truly caring.

Adoption involves placing a child legally and permanently with a family who will raise the child as their own. With our agency birth mothers are active participants throughout the process. Birth mothers select families for their child, and may meet them if they wish. We provide our birth mothers with photographs and letters from the family as the child develops. At our agency birth mothers always know they are welcome, appreciated and admired.

Adoption is far from an easy way out. It is a difficult decision to make. Our services try to provide clients with support services before, during and after the placement of a child.

We at Mississippi Children's Home build relationships, that will last a lifetime. We are genuinely concerned in creating dreams, and hope. . .

If you are pregnant and need someone to talk to please call Nancy Miller or Sharon Williams at 1-800-388-6247.

ECCC names new instructors



Lisa Gorgas

Gorgas selected ADN instructor

Lisa Finnegan Gorgas of Newton was recently named Associate Degree Nursing instructor announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

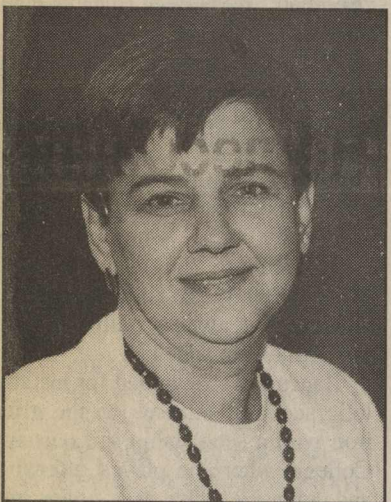
Gorgas, who joined the ECCC staff on Aug. 1, was previously employed at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian where she served as charge nurse on the Cardiac Care Unit. She is also a former staff nurse/charge nurse on the Cardiac Telemetry Unit. In addition, she is a former staff nurse on the Oncology/Orthopedic Unit at Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian.

A graduate of Newton High School, Gorgas attended East Central Community College and received an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College and a master of science degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She holds membership in the Mississippi Nurses Association.

Her husband is Dan Gorgas, quality manager at ESCO in Newton.

She is the daughter of Pat and Mamie Finnegan of Newton.



Lila Hunt

Hunt selected speech/theater instructor

Lila Hunt of Brodnax, Va., was recently named speech/theater instructor announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president. She began her new duties on Aug. 1.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Mrs. Hunt served the past five years as assistant professor of psychology and speech at Southside Virginia Community College in Alberta, Virginia, where she was also an English and theater instructor. One of the highlights of her time at Southside occurred this past May when she took a group of students to New York where they performed a play she wrote, *Still Full of Mystery*, at the St. Moritz Hotel.

She is a former communications instructor at Forrest Park Community College in St. Louis, Missouri. In addition, she has teaching experience on the high school level, having served as English and drama instructor for the Arlington (Texas) Independent School District and Fox High School in Arnold, Missouri.

Mrs. Hunt has experience as a professional writer and had the NASA film contract for two years. In addition, she has written for various organizations including Native American Services, Essex Corporation, Martin Marietta Manned Space Systems and Management Services, Inc., all located in Huntsville, Ala. She received various honors from NASA for special projects and research associated with work at Marshall Space Flight Center.

A graduate of Patoka (Illinois) Community Unit High School, Mrs. Hunt received bachelor's degrees from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and the University of Texas in Arlington, and a master of arts degree from St. Louis (Missouri) University. She has completed addi-

tional coursework at Kansas State University in Manhattan and Alabama A&M University in Normal.

Mrs. Hunt has a son, Stephen Menteer of Jackson; a daughter, Mrs. Gerald (Adrienne) Latshaw of Brandon; and two grandchildren, Will and Katie Latshaw.



Laura Hammons

Hammons selected English instructor

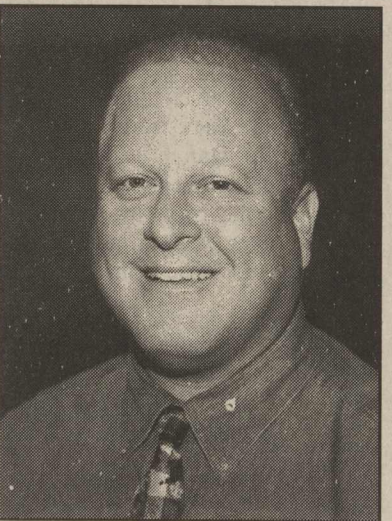
Laura Hammons of Brandon has been selected English instructor announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

Hammons, who began her duties Aug. 1 served as English instructor at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a former teaching assistant at Mississippi College in Clinton and the University of Mississippi in Oxford and was an adjunct instructor at Belhaven College.

Having worked in various political campaigns in Mississippi and around the nation, she was also a campaign consultant in 1992 for the Utah Gubernatorial Campaign and worked for many years for National Management Associates based in Washington, D.C., as national project director.

A graduate of Brandon High School, Hammons received the bachelor of arts degree from Belhaven College and the master of arts degree in English from Mississippi College. She has taken additional coursework at the University of Mississippi.

Hammons is the daughter of Vernon Hammons and the late Elizabeth Hammons of Brandon.



Scott Geltzer

Geltzer named food services director

Officials with ARAMARK Campus Services recently named Scott Geltzer as food service director. Geltzer succeeds Jack Shaw who now serves in the same capacity at Marshall University in West Virginia.

Prior to his new assignment with ARAMARK, Geltzer was location manager at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, where he was responsible for planning, directing and coordinating food service activities at the 7,000-student university.

He is also a former assistant food service director at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, and food service director at Camp Rockmont, North Carolina. In addition, his experience includes service as Student Manager and Crew Leader at Florida State University. He also worked the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Geltzer holds an associate of arts degree from Sante Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida, and a bachelor of science degree in real estate from Florida State University.

He and his wife, Renee, have a son, Jacob, age one. They are expecting a second child in March.



Wendy Buchanan

Buchanan selected ADN instructor

Wendy Buchanan of Meridian was recently named pediatric nursing instructor for the Associate Degree Nursing program announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

Buchanan, who joined the ECCC staff on Aug. 1, previously served as Nursing Service Supervisor at Riley Hospital in Meridian where she is also a former staff/charge nurse for the ICU/CCU unit. In all, she has 10 years experience as a registered nurse.

A graduate of Clarke Academy in Pachuta, Buchanan received an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College, and bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi. She was selected Outstanding Graduate Student in the USM-Meridian nursing program in 1997 and was chosen District 16 Nurse Researcher of the Year for 1997.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Buchanan of Quitman.



Brandi Parkes Baucum

Baucum joins ECCC staff

Brandi Parkes Baucum of Newton was recently named to the Accountant II position announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

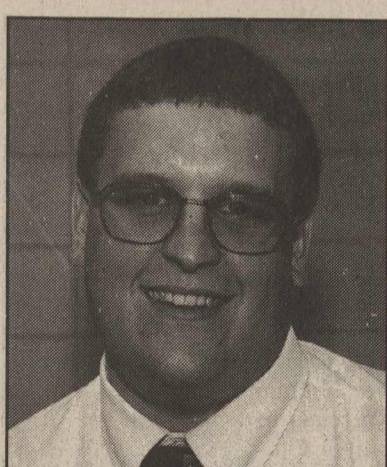
Prior to joining the ECCC Business Office staff on Sept. 10, Baucum served as office manager at R. Kirk Thames Company, Inc. in Newton.

A graduate of Newton County High School, Baucum received an associate in arts degree from East Central Community College, where she received numerous honors. A President's List scholar, she was named to the 1993 Hall of Fame and was selected ECCC's HEADWAE (Higher Education: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Student of the Year. She was a member of the Scholars' Bowl team.

In addition, she served as president of the Presidents' Council; vice president of the Warrior Corps; treasurer of Phi Beta Lambda; and captain of the Diamond Girls. Baucum was chosen a sophomore class favorite and was homecoming maid the same year. She also received the freshman math award presented during Awards Day activities.

Baucum continued her education at the University of Mississippi, where she received bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy. An honor student, she is a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society and was the recipient of the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship in graduate school.

She is married to Jamie Baucum, who is employed at Southern Pine Electric Power Association. She is the daughter of Brenda Parkes of Decatur and the late Nicky Parkes.



Jason White

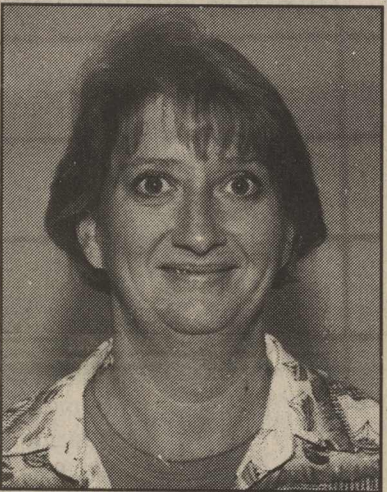
White selected instructor at PNC Vo-Tech

Jason White of Morton was recently named Diversified Technology instructor at the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Vocational-Technical Center, a division of East Central Community College, announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College President.

White, who began his duties Aug. 1, previously served as temporary physical education teacher at Morton Upper Elementary School. He also served as an intern in the computer lab at the University of West Alabama.

A graduate of Morton High School, White received the associate in applied science degree in electronics from East Central Community College and the bachelor of science degree in technology from the University of West Alabama.

White is the son of Nollie and Dixie White of Morton.



Lynette Kilpatrick

Kilpatrick named instructor at PNC Vo-Tech

Lynette Kilpatrick of Philadelphia was recently named Allied Health Instructor at the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Vocational-Technical Center, a division of East Central Community College, announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

Kilpatrick, who began her duties Aug. 1, previously served as school nurse for the Choctaw Tribal Schools. She is also a former staff nurse with Laird Hospital and Laird Home Health in Union and with Neshoba County General Hospital in Philadelphia.

She received the Associate Degree in Nursing from Meridian Community College. A graduate of Neshoba Central High School, she also attended Hinds Community College.

Kilpatrick is married to Willis Kilpatrick, a pharmacist with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. They have three children: Will, 13; Zach, 11; and Jessica, 7. They attend Philadelphia Elementary School.



Lisa McMillin

McMillin named business tech. instructor

Dr. Lisa McMillin of Louisville has been named business technology instructor announced Dr. Eddie M.

Smith, College president.

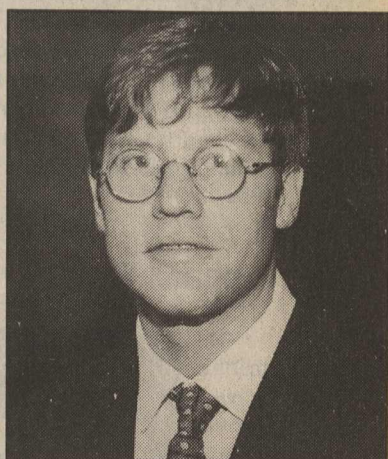
McMillin, who began her duties Aug. 1 previously served as a sales representative for TEMTCO Steel in Louisville. She has been an adjunct faculty member at ECCC since 1985.

A graduate of Winston Academy, McMillin received a bachelor of science degree in business education, a master's degree in vocational education and a doctorate in technology and education from Mississippi State University.

She is married to Jamie McMillin, an appraiser with McMillin Realty. They have three children: Jay, 12; Paul, 10; and Barbara, 5.

master's degrees from Delta State University.

She is married to Truman Moore, retired high school coach and history instructor. They have two children: Amanda, a sophomore at East Central; and Donna, a freshman at East Central.



Todd Eldridge

Eldridge selected technical assistant

Todd Eldridge of Meridian has been selected Library Technical Assistant announced Dr. Eddie M. Smith, College president.

Eldridge, who began his duties July 28, previously served as Video/Multimedia Producer at Mississippi State University in Starkville, where he also served as research and curriculum unit artist and worked in the Department of Art Gallery.

A graduate of Meridian High School, Eldridge received his bachelor of fine arts degree and his master of science technology degree from Mississippi State University.

He is married to the former Marsha Rhodes of Louisville. They have a son, Jacob.



Surgical technology

By AMY MASSEY
The Tom Tom

Most people are confused on what surgical technology is, or what a surgical technologist does. Some people may blow off Surgical Technology as a job opportunity, when they are unsure of what it is and what they do. When you blow off an opportunity for that reason, you may be overlooking a job that is right for you.

For those of you who are unsure like I once was, I'll try to explain it to you. A brief description of a Surgical Technologist responsibilities are:

Making sure the OR room is well equipped for surgery, getting needed supplies for each surgery, may assist in transport and positioning the patient, performs surgical hand wash plus puts on sterile gowns and gloves in a unique way, gown and glove the surgeon, and draping the patient.

Some duties during surgery are: provide direct patient care, pass

instruments, supplies and equipment to surgeon, may retract tissue, cut sutures, identifies and cares for specimens during surgery, prepares and passes medications to surgeon. Some after surgery duties may be: Assist with dressing, cleaning the patient, getting OR ready for next case.

I only listed some duties, but enough I hope to give you a good idea. Yeah, it's a lot of hard work, but it's a lot of fun too.

If you enjoy helping people, and you don't think you have a weak stomach, but most importantly have a willing heart, then this may be the job for you. Come and check us out.

We are in the Bradford J. Tucker Building, up the stairs. Just ask Mr. Dempsey (Voc. Counselor), Mrs. Jacobs (ST instructor), or myself (ST student), and one of us will be glad to give you more information.

There is a wide variety of job opportunities also, more than even I was aware of. So come see us, we'll show you around, and tell you all about it. Hope to see you soon!

ECCC names Homecoming honorees

Recipients of the annual Alumni Association honors include State Representative Richard L. "Dick" Livingston of Pulaski, "Alumnus of the Year;" ECCC adjunct faculty member Carol Parish Vickers of Decatur, "Alumna of the Year;" chemistry teacher Dr. Richard Fisher, "Academic Instructor of the Year;" and computer technology teacher Brenda Johnson, "Vocational-Technical Instructor of the Year." Those selected for the Athletic Hall of Fame are Tommye Williamson Alfonso of Gulfport, Lester Baucum of Wiggins and James L. "Creep" Nelson of Newton.

Dr. Richard Fisher

He's the instructor that has always been accused of writing very fast. Some even say while he's giving notes he writes on the chalkboard with one hand and erases with the other.

But if you've taken chemistry at EC in the last 20 years you know it doesn't matter how fast he writes, Dr. Richard Fisher is very dedicated to his work and very effective as an instructor. In honor of his dedication to his students and to East Central, Dr. Fisher is being honored as the 1997 East Central Community College Academic Instructor of the Year.

Dr. Fisher said, "I don't write very fast. I think I write at a normal speed. But if students learn to take notes fast they will be better off when they get to a university."

It's no surprise that Fisher became a chemistry instructor. His father was a chemist for many years and his mother was a teacher. He said, "I liked chemistry. I (as a child) always had labs in the basement (of the house)." As for teaching, Fisher said he liked the idea of having the summers off.

Fisher was an instructor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of North Carolina's School of Medicine before participating in a senior fellowship at Cambridge University in Oxford, England. Fisher said, "After the fellowship ended I was not ready to return to the United States so I took a position at the University of London (England)." After that he was a senior lecturer in nutrition in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Melbourne.

In 1971 Fisher returned to the United States to take a position at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. He later returned to the University of North Carolina and in 1975 became a Laboratory Coordinator in Organic Chemistry at the University of Southern Mississippi.

While at USM, Fisher heard about the position opening at East Central Junior College. He said, "I heard about the position and I decided I would come take a look at the place."

It must have taken just one look for Fisher to decide ECCC was the place to be. He became a chemistry instructor at the College in 1977 and last spring was honored for 20 years service.

Fisher recalled some interesting moments with his students:

"One day a student placed a large, rubber spider on the floor in the front of the classroom. I was at the board writing, as I often do, and when I turned around the spider was there and I screamed. The students were really amused.

"One student came in before exams and asked me what present I would like for a good grade. I told him a red Ferrari. The next morning I came in and there was a little red sports car on my desk." Fisher got his red sports car and the student made an "A" on the test.

Fisher has taught many students in the last 20 years at East Central. He said the main thing that has changed with students is that there "are just more of them." He added, "It's good to see students do well and then hear about them later."

When asked about this special recognition, Fisher said, "It's an honor. There are nice people to work with in our department. They are easy to work with and that makes the job easier."

Fisher is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Australian Biochemical Society and the Mississippi Academy of Science. In addition, he was a member of Dietitians Registration Board of Victoria. This body, which is composed of eight members, is concerned with the registration of prospective dietitians in

Victoria. The Board also makes periodic inspections of hospital dietary services and must approve the curriculum of any teaching institution which offers courses in dietetics and nutrition for student dietitians.

In his spare time Fisher works with amateur radio. He has his professional operator's license and has several friends in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire that he talks to on occasion. I fact, if he had to choose another career it would be as a ship's radio operator. Fisher said, "I could work six months on the ship and make as much money as I do teaching a full year. Then I would have six months off!"

Fisher is a graduate of Cornell University where he received a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a minor in bio-chemistry. He earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Brenda Johnson

Brenda Johnson always thought she would love to teach. So when she heard about the opening at East Central, she applied. She started teaching in 1983 and has been there ever since. Now, in 1997, she is being honored as the East Central Community College Vocational-Technical Instructor of the Year.

When Johnson graduated from Neshoba Central High School, computers were becoming very prevalent. The computer technology program had only been established one year when she came to East Central as a freshman. Johnson said, "I heard about computers and they were exciting to me. So I thought I'd really like to work with them."

After enrolling at ECJC, Johnson spent two years in Mrs. Sara Griffin's classes learning the world of computers. During summers and during her sophomore year at EC she worked part-time for Molpus Lumber Company in her hometown, Philadelphia. "They were planning on getting a computer," said Johnson, "so while I was at EC, myself and another student who was also working at Molpus began writing all computer programs for payroll, accounts payable, and other business related applications."

After graduating from East Central, Molpus Lumber hired Johnson to work full-time. She was employed there 10 years before she returned to East Central. She said, "I really enjoyed working at Molpus. I learned a lot from them about business principles, which helped me tremendously when I started writing business related programs."

In 1983, Johnson applied for the computer technology position at ECCC. Now, after a variety of students and ever-changing technology, she is still at EC doing what she loves most.

She said, "I enjoy working with students. I enjoy students of all ages. There's such a difference in teaching your traditional college student versus your nontraditional student. But they're all a joy to teach."

Johnson said one of the thrills in the area that she teaches is to see a student go out into the job market and become successful. She said, "Having students come back to see you or call you and say, 'Can you send me an employee?' is quite rewarding."

"One of the hardest things about teaching," said Johnson, "is that technology changes so quickly. You're always learning new things." But on the other hand, Johnson added, "you never get stalemate in what you're teaching because you are constantly changing and updating your curriculum."

To improve instruction and keep up with technology, Johnson attends workshops held by the various professional organizations of which she is a member. They include Mississippi Educational Computing Association (MECA), Mississippi Business Education Association (MBEA), Mississippi Association of Vocational Education (MAVE), and the Mississippi Community/Junior College Faculty Association. In addition, Johnson attends the annual vocational conference and does a lot of studying on her own. She has also taken additional coursework at Mississippi State University.

In addition to her classes, Johnson enjoys working with Phi Beta Lambda, the business organization for students. She has taken students to several national conventions. Many

have placed nationally in computer programming and computer concepts. Last summer Johnson was recognized at the PBL National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., for 10 years of service to Phi Beta Lambda.

Johnson is also responsible for helping write the standardized curriculum for the Computer Technology Program and has served on the secondary writing team for Computer Technology. In addition, she recently participated in the Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System Workshop where she helped develop occupation specific assessments for the Computer Technology program.

For 14 years Johnson has been doing a job she always knew she would love. The first day, she said, was "terribly frightening." But as the years have gone by she feels so comfortable and has no plans of changing her career.

Commenting on her recognition Johnson said, "It's quite an honor. There are probably other people more worthy than I am. But I really am pleased. As I said, I love teaching vocational-technical education and seeing students go out into the job market and become successful. So it's such a thrill to be honored as instructor of the year in vocational-technical education."

Johnson is married to James Johnson of Philadelphia, owner/operator of Southern Construction and Inspection. They have two children, Jessica and Andy, both students at Neshoba Central. They attend Spring Creek Baptist Church where Mrs. Johnson is a discipleship training teacher and a former Sunday School teacher.

Tommye Williamson Alfonso

Mrs. Tommye Williamson Alfonso was a standout performer on the 1934-35 and 1935-36 Lady Warrior basketball teams. She helped lead East Central to the state championship and an undefeated season during her sophomore year. The Lady Warriors only lost one game her freshman season. That year she was voted best girl athlete in the annual Who's Who elections. On both teams Mrs. Alfonso served as team captain.

In addition to playing basketball, she participated in softball and track. But basketball was her love.

"The biggest thing in our lives back then was playing and winning basketball games. Competition was always tough but Coach (Marguerite) Dacey made sure we were always prepared to play," Mrs. Alfonso said.

Obviously the highlight of her basketball career at East Central was the win over Wesson (Copiah-Lincoln) for the state championship. "I don't remember a lot about the game but it was played in Wesson and there was a great crowd there to watch the championship," she added.

Regarding Coach Dacey, Mrs. Alfonso said she was a "great person."

"Miss Dacey was my idol. I spent as much time with her as possible. She was truly interested in us and loved us," she said.

In addition to her accomplishments as women's basketball coach, Coach Dacey is also credited with writing the words to the ECCC alma mater. After serving two years at East Central, the Biloxi native coached at Belhaven.

Mrs. Alfonso said she has many fond memories of her time at East Central, to which she referred as "two of my happiest years." She also described the freshman and sophomore years "as the last two years of complete freedom" before one starts feeling the pressure to enter the workforce.

The Duffee native recalled having four roommates, one of which was Nan Husten Kennan of Rose Hill, who was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. Mrs. Kennan was a guard on the championship team and Mrs. Alfonso played running center. Also on the team was Mrs. Alfonso's sister, Lena, who played forward. Back then, women's basketball included three divisions—two guards, two forwards, a jumping center and a running center.

When they and other teammates were not playing basketball, they did what they could to have fun, especially since there were limitations on dating.

She remembered the dance group Coach Dacey not only formed but also transported in her red convertible (and rumble seat!) to various programs. "It (the dance group) was about the only way we could get out of the dorm. We (there were six girls) performed a pep dance at American Legion meetings and other events. But the real fun came after our performances. We soon learned if we split up and scattered about the building we could dance with the fellows and Coach Dacey couldn't get us together to leave! Those were just wonderful days," she said.

During one "dancing" episode, Mrs. Alfonso recalls a not too wonderful result:

"We were really not allowed to dance at all on campus, not even girls dancing with girls in the lobby. We could not even go through the same dining room door as the boys. Well, one day when our dance group was about to end practice in the gym, some of the National Guard boys came in for their drills and we stayed and danced with them. Of course we got caught, and General Pat Wilson, who was then the football coach and guard commander, was obviously very upset. I thought I could smooth things over by taking him some flowers which he promptly threw in the waste basket. He told me the next time we danced with his boys in the gym to make sure somebody watches from the door!"

"Actually," she added, "Captain Pat (as he was affectionately called) was a great person, and he and his wife did a lot of wonderful things to help everybody."

Her sophomore year not only saw Mrs. Alfonso continue to excel as an athlete but she also served as a cheerleader for boys' basketball and football.

"It was such a great honor to be selected a cheerleader. After our games I would quickly change into my cheerleading outfit for the boys' game. I really enjoyed being a basketball player and then having the opportunity to also cheer for the boys. Of course being a football cheerleader was also a special time," she added.

During her sophomore year she also had the opportunity to coach, serving as an assistant at Decatur High School as part of her scholarship requirements. "This was an excellent experience for me. I can't remember winning any games but it was fun. All I had to do was walk across the street to the high school and do something I love," she commented.

Following the Lady Warriors' state championship season, the Mississippi sportswriters and coaches selected Mrs. Alfonso and Jimmie Dew from Moorhead Junior College (Mississippi Delta) to receive scholarships to attend Lambert College, then a prestigious college for women athletes, especially basketball players. But Mrs. Alfonso decided against the offer and began teaching and coaching girls' basketball at Suquelandale, located in Lauderdale County. She also served as an umpire for various boys' and girls' tournaments held on weekends.

She later began employment with the Department of Housing in Oak Ridge, Tenn., but soon left to return to Newton County as teacher and principal at Center Ridge, a tenth grade school in her native Duffee. In 1946 she went to Gulfport to organize a summer recreation program and later took the job on a full time basis. She started her family in 1949 and resigned the position.

She later began working with her husband, Carl, who was in the real estate business. He began Alfonso Realty in 1957 and operated the business for 35 years until his retirement at age 65 in 1992. Their daughter, Carlene, took over the business at that time and continues to operate the company, now known as Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty, Inc. Offices are located in Gulfport, Biloxi and Orange Grove, with another location scheduled in Pass Christian later this year. Carlene served as president of the Mississippi Association of Realtors last year. She is married to Walter Ketchings, who is also involved in the business. They reside in Pass Christian.

The Alfonsos have another daughter, Margaret, an attorney, who is married to District Attorney Cono Caranna. They have a daughter, Amanda, who is 17 and has Down syndrome. Margaret is in private law practice in Gulfport and is a former assistant district attorney. She serves on the board of the Cheshire Homes and is active on the board for the Society for Retarded Citizens and Goodwill Industries.

Mrs. Alfonso continues to be active in community work, and currently serves as a member of the

Gulfport Women's Club, Garden Club, Arts Club, Gulfport Yacht Club Auxiliary and Eastern Star.

She remains interested in sports, especially tennis, basketball, baseball and football. She also enjoys reading, sewing, crabbing and fishing in the bayou.

She said she is "very honored" to have been chosen for this Athletic Hall of Fame and looks forward to returning to the Decatur campus.

Lester Baucum

Unlike most athletes, Lester Baucum had the opportunity to participate in sports for three years while attending East Central. He was an offensive and defensive lineman on the 1954, 1955 and 1956 Warrior football teams. A three-year letterman, Baucum's teammates elected him permanent team captain prior to the 1956 campaign.

A former standout at Newton High School, Baucum transferred to Decatur High School his senior year and, since the high school was part of the College back then, he was eligible to play junior college ball.

When asked about highlights of his football career as a Warrior, Baucum, like many of his teammates, mentioned East Central's 13-7 win over top-ranked Hinds during the 1955 season.

"Hinds had Jim Taylor and Earl Leggett, who both became All-Americans and All Pro, and other outstanding athletes that year. We were the only team to beat Hinds that season," Baucum recalled.

What was the Warrior game plan going into battle?

"We were just loose," Baucum laughingly replied, "and the reason we were loose was that our bus broke down in Forest on the way to Raymond and we really did not know if we would even make it to the game! But actually, we got fired up because of all the press attention Hinds got. The sportswriters said Hinds could not be beaten and we wanted to prove them wrong."

Baucum said another factor involved in the Warriors conquest of Hinds was that the EC defenders were able to determine where the Eagles planned to run the ball thanks to a certain player on the Hinds team.

"They had an end that really gave away where they were going each time by the stance he was in. We would then communicate where the play was going by giving foot signals to each other. As you might expect, we had a great time at that game," he said.

Another highlight involved an East Central game with Northwest—a contest Baucum said the players were "very much" determined to win, as he explained:

"We all spent the night before the game in the Northwest gym and about 1 a.m. some of us went swimming in a pool at the gym. And, of course, the coaches caught us. We didn't have a choice but to win that game!"

Baucum said he was especially proud of the fact that the Warriors defeated archrival East Mississippi all three years he was on the team by a combined score of 89-7. During Baucum's three seasons, East Central had its best record in 1955 with a 6-4 mark.

"Playing Scooba (East Mississippi) was such a big rivalry that we could not play on either campus. All three games were held in Meridian," Baucum recalled. He said part of the reason for the intense rivalry probably was that then Warrior coach Clayton Blount earlier served at East Mississippi, and that the Lions' head coach at that time was the legendary "Bull" Sullivan. "Coach Sullivan could really make everybody want to tie into him," Baucum said. He added, "I played senior college ball (Louisiana College) with one of Coach Sullivan's former players and what he told me that Coach Sullivan put them through, the press would not print it because they would think it was a story."

In recalling games played throughout his ECCC career, Baucum also reminisced about some of their practice sessions:

"Back then we went out for practice every day just to see who could whip whom—because it was all about blood and guts. If a player had the determination and could hang in there, he could make the team and keep his scholarship. I remember we had a line coach who thought practice was not over until you had

somebody's blood on you or you drew blood on somebody else. And, he added, the only players allowed to have noseguards were those who had broken noses. "I got to wear a nose-guard," Baucum admitted, "because I had a broken nose. In fact, my nose got broken four times—twice at East Central and two times at Louisiana College!"

Although their workouts were sometimes "unbearable" Baucum said he held a lot of respect for his ECCC coaches, Billy Ray Lindsley served as head coach Baucum's first year on the team, followed by Clayton Blount the next two seasons. It was Coach Lindsley who encouraged Baucum to come out for the team.

Baucum said Lindsley was a former Marine drill sergeant and would "go one-on-one with players—and whip them every time—if things were not going well in practice." He said Coach Blount "loved every player he ever had and still does. He was a good coach and a good recruiter."

In addition to experiencing several highlights as a member of the Warrior football team, Baucum also met and dated his future wife—Eugenia Carleton of Forest, who was a football cheerleader for the 1956 season. In fact several of Baucum's teammates dated and later married cheerleaders from Forest. Those couples include John and Jobyna (Scales) Rushing, Charlie and Etolle (Brown) Brown and Earl and Bobbie (Jones) Marshall.

In addition to playing football, Baucum served as manager of the baseball team and driver of the basketball bus.

Baucum recalled having "a lot of fun times" with friends at East Central, and added, "I enjoyed every bit of it. There was no down time. In fact, I enjoyed EC so much I talked the coaches at Louisiana College into letting me stay in Decatur my final semester instead of having to report to them for spring training."

Although there were not many "hangouts" for college students then, Baucum does recall everyone enjoying Betty's Kitchen located in Decatur. "The girls were allowed to go there but they had to walk—not ride—or they were shipped home. Girls were just not allowed to get in a car without supervision. And whenever they went, whether it was Betty's Kitchen, the theater or what, Miss (Erma) Barber (dean of women) was always waiting on her girls," Baucum added.

Baucum was awarded for his athletic accomplishments on the gridiron with a scholarship to Louisiana College, where he played offensive and defensive tackle as a junior, and offensive guard and "jake man" (noseguard) his senior season. At East Central, Baucum played offensive guard and defensive tackle, and sometimes switched to center.

He had a successful career at Louisiana College where he was named game captain on several occasions. Baucum said a coaching change occurred his junior year and the team went 4-6. That season he had more playing time than anyone on the team. During his senior campaign they won nine games.

Baucum graduated from Louisiana College in 1959, receiving a bachelor's degree in physical education and social studies. He later earned a master's degree in school administration from Mississippi College and a specialist degree in the same area from the University of Southern Mississippi.

After graduating from Louisiana College, Baucum began his coaching career at Leakesville High School in 1969, serving as assistant football coach, head track coach and teacher. The next year he was named head football coach, and continued to serve in that capacity in addition to being head track coach and teacher the following two years.

He continued his coaching and teaching career at Pelahatchie High School, serving from 1962-66. In 1963, he was named Football Coach of the Year in the Capital Athletic Conference. Prior to Baucum's arrival at Pelahatchie, the football team had won one game and tied one over a four-year period. After posting a losing season his first year, he led the Chiefs to four straight winning campaigns.

Baucum later moved into school administration, serving 17 years as principal of various schools, including East Central High School in Jackson County, Sand Hill Attendance Center in Greene County, Jefferson High School in Jefferson County, Stringer High School in Jasper County and Stone High School in Stone County. During his tenure at Stone High, Baucum served as president and vice president of the

★Honorees

Gulf Coast Conference; president of the Deep South Athletic Conference; president and vice president of the District 8 Mississippi High School Activities Association; president of the Stone County Teachers Association; board member (two terms) of the Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals; and board member for the State Beta Club.

He later completed a 10-year service as administrative assistant and federal programs coordinator for the Stone County School System until his retirement in 1992.

Since his retirement, Baucum and his wife spend a lot of time traveling the continental United States (they've traveled in all 48 states) and visiting their grown children—Paige Booker of Wiggins, Leslie Baucum of Clewiston, Fla.; and Lance Baucum of Wiggins and their families. Paige, a teacher at Stone Middle School, is married to Perry Booker and they have two children: Taylor and Hannah. Leslie, a plant pathologist for U.S. Sugar, and his wife Heather have a son, Carleton. Lance, a yard foreman for Carpenter Pole and Piling, and his wife Natasha have two children, Carey and Blake, and are expecting a third child.

Regarding his selection to the Athletic Hall of Fame, Baucum said, "It is a tremendous honor and hard to believe. Linemen usually don't get recognized and don't expect to, but I'm very touched by this award."

Baucum said his induction is "especially meaningful" for him and his family, as he joins his late brother—Billy Wayne Baucum—who was posthumously named for the prestigious honor in 1987. Five of the six Baucum brothers attended East Central on an athletic scholarship.

James L. 'Creep' Nelson

A former Warrior standout quarterback and baseball pitcher/first baseman during the 1952-53 and 1953-54 school years, Nelson said he is "very, very appreciative" of his selection to the Athletic Hall of Fame.

"I really don't know how the process works but I've got to thank the person who nominated me. I don't know what the criteria is and I feel undeserving of the honor. But I guess I fooled somebody anyway, didn't?" Nelson said.

Although statistics were not available for those years, Nelson was regarded as an effective signal caller and led the Warriors to a winning season (6-5) his sophomore year. He was a two-year letter-winner in football and baseball.

Nelson recalled how he decided to attend to East Central, following a standout career in football, basketball and baseball at Newton High School:

"Probably the only reason I went to EC to play football was that Coach Billy Ray Lindsley had left Newton to be an assistant coach at East Central. In passing one day, he mentioned that I should come to EC and play quarterback. That he would suggest that was really something, because I only played quarterback my junior year at Newton High School. The other years we ran the single wing and the only reason I played quarterback was because of an injury to starting quarterback Pepper Thomas, who dislocated his shoulder in a scrimmage with Forest a week before the season began. With just a week's practice, I played the quarterback position that year then we went back to the single wing my senior season and I played wingback, I guess I had played enough pass and tag in physical education classes that Coach Lindsley knew I could throw the ball. So because of his encouragement I went to East Central and tried out for the team."

Nelson admitted when he got to East Central, he was not quite prepared for the type of workouts the team experienced.

"I don't know how they do it now, but back then coaches tried to run you off, really, to see if you were going to stay in there and take it. I can remember very vividly one particular morning practice when the temperature must have been 105 degrees in the shade and we were doing four-count leg lifts. The sun was bearing down right on us and sometimes the coaches would let you put your legs down after four counts and sometimes they would start over. I can remember thinking to myself, if I didn't have to face all the critics in

the Newton pool halls, I'd leave this place right now! Practice was tough, and it was quite an adjustment. When I played high school ball I knew I would get to play because we didn't have but about 18 players on the team. I hustled in high school, but I didn't have to hustle like I did in junior college. It was entirely a different game," he remarked.

Nelson, who played his first year under then head coach John Grace and assistant coach Lindsley, and the second year for head coach Clayton Blount who was assisted by Grace and Lindsley recalled one of his best games as a freshman was against Holmes, a game EC won by a 27-6 margin.

The Warrior offense had not been functioning well even though the Warriors had a 3-0 mark going into the Holmes matchup. Nelson had gotten word he would start at quarterback against the Bulldogs and he responded by throwing three touchdowns in a 27-6 victory. Nelson said he was looking forward to the following week's game with Southwest but to his surprise and disappointment, he did even get to play a down against the Bears!

"Actually," Nelson explained, "I had a unique situation in that we had four quarterbacks that year (Joe Todd, George Ball and Tom Cheney) and we shared signal calling responsibilities."

What also stands out to Nelson is some of the talent that he witnessed in the junior college league. Nelson said Earl Leggett of Hinds was among the best.

"In my 50 years of watching junior college football Earl Leggett was the best player I have ever seen play the game. He weighed about 250 pounds and could run a 10.5 hundred yard dash. One instance I remember involved a freshman tackle—Tom Nichols of Tennessee—who thought he could block Leggett without having double-team help. For the Hinds game, the coaches changed the blocking scheme to double-team Leggett on our kickoff returns. Nichols questioned the coaches on this and remarked that he did not need any help blocking Leggett. When Hinds kicked off, Joe Taylor received the ball on our 10-yard line and Leggett flattened him on about the 15. Guess who was not able to block Earl Leggett by himself?"

Nelson was the starting quarterback his sophomore season and led the Warriors to victories over Mississippi Delta, Northeast, Holmes, Southwest, Marion Institute and Col. Lin.

He also had a successful career as a two-year member of the Warrior baseball team. One game in particular stands out to the former hurler.

"We played baseball where Scott Hall is now, and there was a barn past the outfield where the nursing building is located. I was pitching against East Mississippi and mistakenly threw a hanging curve at a batter who hit the ball out of the ball park and it landed right on the backside of a mule in the barnyard. It was quite a funny sight," Nelson remarked.

In addition to pitching, Nelson also played catcher, first base and just about any other position where he was needed to play. He was also an effective hitter, with approximately a .300 batting average both years.

Although participating in sports was a big part of Nelson's time at East Central, what really stands out is the assistance he received from the administration, faculty and staff.

"What I remember most about East Central is that I might have fallen through the cracks had it not been for a lot of people there, because I was like a lot of 18-year-old freshmen at that time who were not ready to put the time in that was needed to be academically successful. I'm probably one of those who should have served two years in the military prior to going to college. However, the Korean War was going on at that time and although football was tough, it was easier than being shot at by North Koreans!"

Following graduation at East Central, Nelson continued his education at Delta State where he was a reserve quarterback on the football team and a starting pitcher on the baseball squad. He posted a 5-2 record both years on the mound.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physical education from DSU, Nelson began his coaching career at Newton High School where he led the football, basketball and baseball programs from 1956 to 1974. One of the highlights of his coaching career came in 1963, when he led the Tiger football team to its first Choctaw Conference championship. He was also twice chosen Coach of the Year in baseball and received the same honor one sea-

son as football head mentor.

During part of the time Nelson served as coach he was also principal at Newton from 1971-75. He had earlier received a master's degree in school administration from the University of Southern Mississippi, and later completed additional coursework beyond the master's. But he later left the school business and was employed nine years for a savings and loan company. He returned to school administration in 1983, serving a second term as principal until 1986, when he was named Superintendent of Newton Public Schools. Nelson recently announced his retirement from the post, which takes effect on June 30, 1998.

In addition to his work as a school administrator, Nelson still finds time to devote to professional organizations and community activities. He is a member of the Legislative Council of the Mississippi High School Activities Association and the East Central Mississippi Association of School Superintendents. He is a member and former president of the Newton Chamber of Commerce, Newton Lions Club and Newton Country Club. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Newton where he serves as assistant Sunday School teacher.

Nelson said he plans to spend most of his retirement time playing golf, a Nelson family tradition, and following his favorite sports teams, one of which is East Central, as he is often seen at football and basketball games.

The Nelson family, all ECCC alumni, includes his wife, the former Mary Bath Whatley, who has served 23 years as secretary for Newton High School; their two sons, Joel and Steve, both of Newton; and daughter, Anna Marie Massingill of Meridian. Joel is employed at Newton County Bank and is married to the former Vicki Humphreys. They have two children, Kurt and Melandie. Steve coaches and teaches at Newton High School and is married to the former Angie Hudson. They have a daughter, Mary Catherine. Anne Marie, a housewife, is married to Dr. Scott Massingill and they have two children, April and Allen.

In reflecting over a career that spanned over 40 years, Nelson made the following comment:

"Two things stick out to me as far as my career is concerned. I've never had but two jobs in my life. I first worked for the Newton School System 18 years, then worked for a savings and loan company for nine years. When I left the savings and loan, the Association's Board of Directors passed a resolution complimenting me on the job I had done. And then the Newton School System, where I had previously served, wanted me to come back. So I didn't burn any bridges and was able to go back to NHS. I guess the highlight of my career was getting to serve as superintendent of the school district that I love, because to me that is the ultimate job situation."

Richard L. 'Dick' Livingston

Richard L. "Dick" Livingston, who has served in the Mississippi House of Representatives since 1972, regards his selection as *Alumnus of the Year* to be "a very special honor."

"It really made my day when I was notified of the award. I was certainly surprised and to say I'm appreciative is just not enough. I am very, very pleased and happy that this could happen to me and I appreciate being nominated for such a great honor that I will always remember and cherish. I've never received any thing that I am prouder of than this award because I think so much of East Central Community College," Livingston said.

A staunch supporter of public education, Livingston has been a member of the House Education Committee since beginning his service in the Legislature, and currently serves as sub-committee chairman. Although his main focus concerns community and junior colleges, Livingston also spends a lot of time providing support to other institutions of higher learning and secondary and elementary education.

Among legislation that Livingston can be credited with helping pass include The Education Reform Act of 1982, Sixteenth Section Land Reform, The Educational Enhancement Act of 1992, The Workforce

Educational Act of 1994 and The Adequacy In Education Act of 1997. As sub-committee chairman on the Education Committee, he handles all Sixteenth Section legislation and all matters that affect the school employees insurance program for employees of the public school system, community and junior colleges and local public libraries. He represents the House of Representatives as an advisor to administration regarding the massive insurance program.

He said he is "very pleased" that the Legislature has increased its support of education over the past few years.

"We have seen more emphasis placed on education, especially for support of our community and junior colleges, because that is where most of our children start their college experience. For many, if they don't get the first two years on the community and junior college level they never get the next two years or whatever degree they are going for at a university," he said.

Regarding his feelings toward education, Livingston said: "When you hash out all ideas about what should be done to make this world a better place to live, it's obvious when you get down to the nitty gritty of the matter: educating our people is the most important thing outside our religious faith. If people can think they can tell the difference between fact and fantasy. If they have never had the opportunity to learn, then they are subject to being led in the wrong direction, East Central Community College and our other two-year institutions are doing such a super job giving our children the opportunity to think, and the right direction in which to follow."

Livingston added: "I and many other legislators have worked extremely hard to see that our community and junior colleges are financed well and continue to meet the challenges that new technology and new times always bring. The community and junior colleges have done this and have performed very well. And I have to say, of course I'm partial, that East Central is out front of the pack as far as I'm concerned. Others may have different ideas but EC is a special place for me, and has been since I went there as a freshman in 1958-60.

The Scott County lawmaker said he has "many fond memories" of his years spent at East Central, which were 1958 to 1960.

"What I remember most was the good feeling that existed on campus not only between students but also with the administration, faculty and staff. I just don't know how to describe it, but anyone who went there would certainly know what I mean. College is such a great time in a young person's life and East Central makes it even more enjoyable," he said.

Livingston said several instructors had a definite influence on him while he was a student at East Central.

He mentioned Mae Pennington, who taught English and literature, as one of his favorite instructors. He laughed when he recalled his feelings the first time he went to her class.

"You can imagine how much most of us country boys really cared about literature. We had never before studied Shakespeare and as far as we knew it was some kind of fishing tackle! But Miss Pennington was the type teacher who could get you interested in what she was talking about. I recall her telling us about *Dante's Comedy* and you could just visualize everything she was describing. As a result of her excellent teaching, probably hundreds, if not thousands of young lives were effected by her," Livingston said.

He also has praise for former English and speech instructor Ovid Vickers.

"Mr. Vickers was a great teacher and showed us the right way and wrong way to do things in making a speech. Of course that is very helpful to me with my work in the Legislature and other places where I do public speaking," he said.

Former ECCC president Arno Vincent, who led the institution when Livingston was a student, presented words of advice to the then teenager that he still remembers today:

"Mr. Vincent spoke in chapel one day about moderation. He knew that some students were going to drink alcohol and do other things they probably should not do, and his message was not to condemn anyone but to suggest if they were going to do something like that, to do it with moderation—don't go overboard. I'll always remember that chapel program and the message that Mr. Vincent presented to the student body."

One of the campus highlights that stands out to Livingston concerned a

field trip sponsored by then biology/botany teacher Frank Leatherwood. Livingston said Leatherwood, who liked to study snakes, had promised the class he would catch a snake for them that day. He said most of the students really did not think they would see a snake on the field trip, but to their surprise—and especially for Mr. Leatherwood—they did indeed come across a snake, but not the type snake they expected. Livingston explains:

"This particular snake we found had a big blue bream in its mouth and was a very large cotton mouth moccasin. Obviously Mr. Leatherwood decided not to catch a snake that day."

While at East Central, Livingston served as assistant dean of men and was involved in various campus activities. He attended East Central for two years and then transferred to Millsaps College where he played football and received a bachelor's degree in 1962. The former Morton High School standout quarterback played end at Millsaps and experienced two successful campaigns.

Following graduation from Millsaps, Livingston was employed with the GE Credit Corporation for three years. He was later named football coach and secondary teacher at Morton High School where he served from 1966-71. He then worked for Scott County Schools in the Migrant Program from 1971-75 and during this period he was elected to succeed his father, the late Elwin B. Livingston, in the Mississippi House of Representatives. When Rep. Livingston completes his current term in 1988, it will mark 48 years of continuous service by Livingston and his father.

Livingston said his father was a "big influence" in his life.

"I had made up my mind when I worked for the Morton School System that I saw politics as a way to get involved. I had helped my father campaign and really enjoyed meeting people and learning about their needs. I am very appreciative and grateful to everyone for honoring us with their vote and support throughout the years," Livingston said.

While continuing his service in the Legislature, Livingston also served as a loan officer and vice president at Bank of Morton from 1976 to 1980. Since 1985 he has operated his own real estate and appraisal office in Morton.

In addition to previously mentioned assignments in the Legislature, Livingston serves as Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee and is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, serving as Chairman of several sub-committees; House Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Education and Community Colleges and House Public Buildings, Land and Grounds Committee.

Other government-related activities in which Livingston is involved include his membership in the Southern Legislative Conference, Council of State Governments, National Conference of State Legislatures and Advisory Committee for the state employee insurance program. He is also legislative liaison for the Museum of Natural Science Foundation.

He also serves on the board of directors of the ECCC Alumni Association and Southern Pine Electric Power Association, and is a member of the Morton Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Morton Lions Club, Friends of the Library and Mississippi Farm Bureau.

Livingston is a member of Independence United Methodist Church.

His hobbies include hunting turkey, deer and squirrels. He also serves as football game announcer for Morton High School.

He is married to the former Martha Ann Waggoner of Forkville, who Livingston credits for much of his success. "She runs the office, the household and I cannot say enough about how much I appreciate her," he added. They have five children: Mrs. Mark (Lee Ann) Palmer of Morton, who works at the family's real estate office; Mrs. Dan (Marsha) Barnes of Ludlow, who teaches English and speech at Morton High School and is an ECCC alumna; David Livingston of Morton, who also works at the family business; Rori Barnes of Morton, a registered nurse at Scott Regional Hospital; and Jennifer, a student at the Rankin County campus of Hinds Community College. Rep. and Mrs. Livingston also have two grandchildren, Blake Barnes and Beth Barnes.

Carol Farrish Vickers

Carol Vickers always thought she wanted to be an English teacher. So with a little help and encouragement, the former Carol Farrish enrolled at East Central Junior College and began her journey towards an English degree.



Carol Farrish Vickers

Vickers, a Winston County native, remembered a conversation she had with L.D. Furgerson, now deceased, who was the College's Registrar. She said, "I had been out of school a couple of years after graduating from (Noxapater) high school. I talked with Mr. Furgerson and he encouraged me to come to school."

Because she wanted to be an English teacher, Vickers signed up for Miss Una Harris' freshman English class. Vickers said, "Miss Harris had the reputation for being tough and fiery and very demanding."

It must have been fate that put Vickers in that English class because Harris was a big influence on her. She said, "She (Harris) just knew so much. I felt like I learned so much from her. It made me want to hold the same standards she held for her students. I really considered her my mentor."

Vickers also recalled another instructor who had an influence on her. "Paul Carpenter, who taught history, opened up the world of ideas to me. I was raised in a small, rural town where I never had any big thoughts. He taught me that you can think bigger than your surroundings," said Vickers.

Vickers also made some lifelong friends while she attended East Central. She and Dr. Shelby Harris, Chairman of the Mathematics Division and math instructor at the College, started together in 1956 and have been friends for the last 40 years. She was one of Harris' friends who helped him around the campus when he decided he was overweight and fasted for seven days, which caused him to be so weak he needed assistance in getting about. Vickers and Harris work together organizing groups for foreign travel. They are planning a trip to Italy and Greece in Spring, 1998. She has also remained close friends with Dr. Milton Matthews who just retired as head of Chapter Funding for the State of Mississippi.

After graduating from East Central, Vickers took a secretarial job in Mr. Furgerson's office to try and save some money to go back to school. She said, "There was no such thing as loans or financial aid."

She was able to return to school and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Upon graduation from USM she was employed at East Central as secretary to former president Arno Vincent. She continued in this position through the presidency of Dr. Douglas Montgomery and through a part of Dr. Charles Wright's tenure as president. She began teaching in the Newton County School system in 1966. Vickers was an English instructor at Decatur High School from 1966 through 1982. She received her master's degree from USM in 1971. From 1983 until her retirement in 1992, Vickers was an English instructor at East Central Community College and served as the College yearbook sponsor for several years.

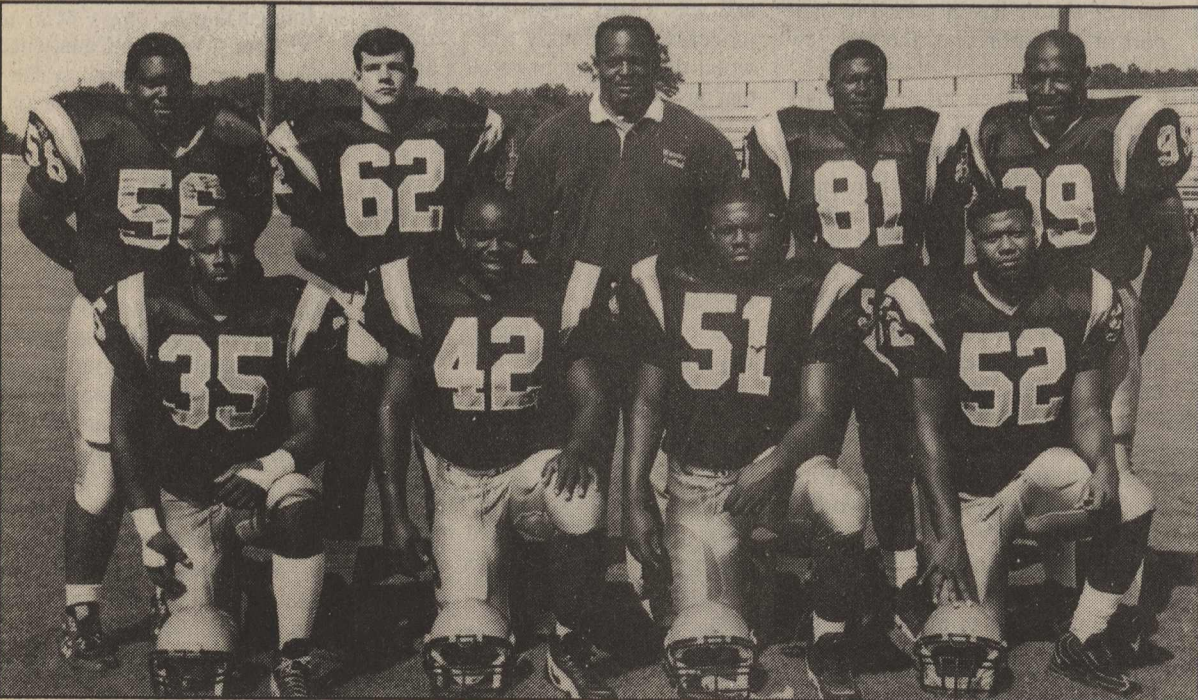
Vickers said, "When I retired I knew that I couldn't give up teaching cold turkey. It would be like an alcoholic trying to quit drinking." So when Gene Davis, Director of Adult and Continuing Education at ECCC, approached Vickers about teaching a GED (General Education Development) class two mornings a week she jumped at the chance.

"I have always been a person who related to the underdog. They need somebody to serve as a cheerleader for them to tell them 'you can do this'. More than instruction, I think that's what I do; try to build their confidence to the point where they can pass the GED," said Vickers.

For the past five years Vickers has tutored the men's basketball team. "I feel like by providing East Central athletes with the extra help they might need has been a way that I could help repay East Central for the things it has done for me." The East Central men's basketball team has had a 100% graduation rate in the last five years. An humble Vickers was quick to say that it was not because of her teaching, but because of Coach Marty Cooper's excellent See **HONOREES**, page 4

Sports

The Tom Tom supports our team



Defensive linemen

Defensive linemen on the football team for the 1997 campaign include (kneeling from left) Kendrick Earby of Morton, William Curry and Delvin Rainer, both of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and Ken Judon of Philadelphia and (standing from left) Kelvin Cistrunk of Louisville, Jason Eason of Forest, defensive line coach Fredrick Lyons; Tyquan Taylor of Louisville and Kendrick Clancy of Holt, Ala.



Defensive backs

Defensive backs on the football team for the 1997 campaign include (kneeling from left) Joseph Anders of Northport, Ala.; Calvin Johnson of Newton, Jon Darby of Forest, Duane Brisbon of Cross, South Carolina; and Chris Crosby of Louisville; and (standing from left) Cedric Vaughn of Louisville, Jermaine Boyd of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; defensive backs coach Timmy Coats, Joey Pinkston of Forest and Edwin Moore of Noxapater.



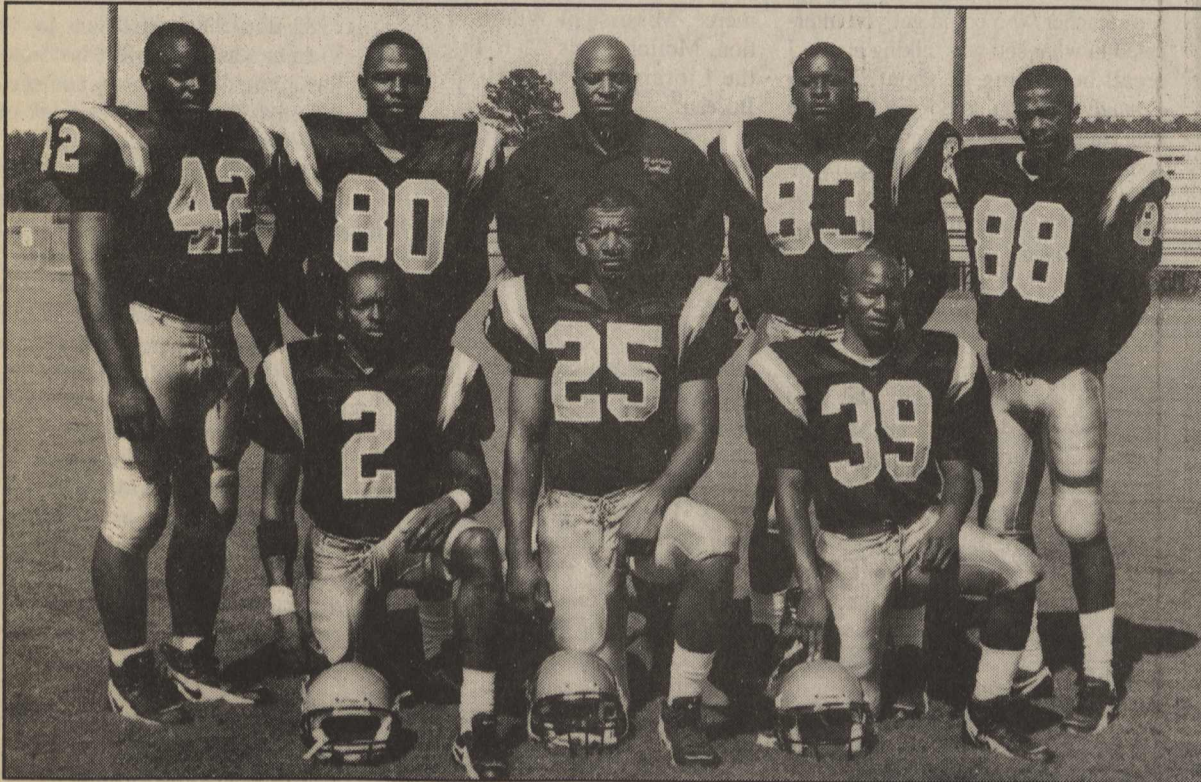
Quarterbacks, backs

Quarterbacks and running backs on the football team for the 1997 campaign include (kneeling from left) Mack Pittman of Panama City, Fla.; Josh Hatcher and Mark Fleming, both of Philadelphia; and (standing from left) Al Hunt of Honea Path, South Carolina; Andy Sagona of Sebastopol, quarterbacks and running backs coach Willie Coats, who also serves as head coach; Billy Singleton of Philadelphia and Jarvis Smith of Soddy-Daisey, Tenn.



Linebackers

Linebackers on the football team for the 1997 campaign include (kneeling from left) William Johnson of Newton, Kenny Kelley of Panama City, Fla.; and Calvin Bailey and Dorsett Buckley, both of Union; and (standing from left) Mitchell Crouther of Carthage, Dejuan Clark of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; linebackers coach Terry Underwood; Chad Neese of Philadelphia and Jim Griffin of Northport, Ala.



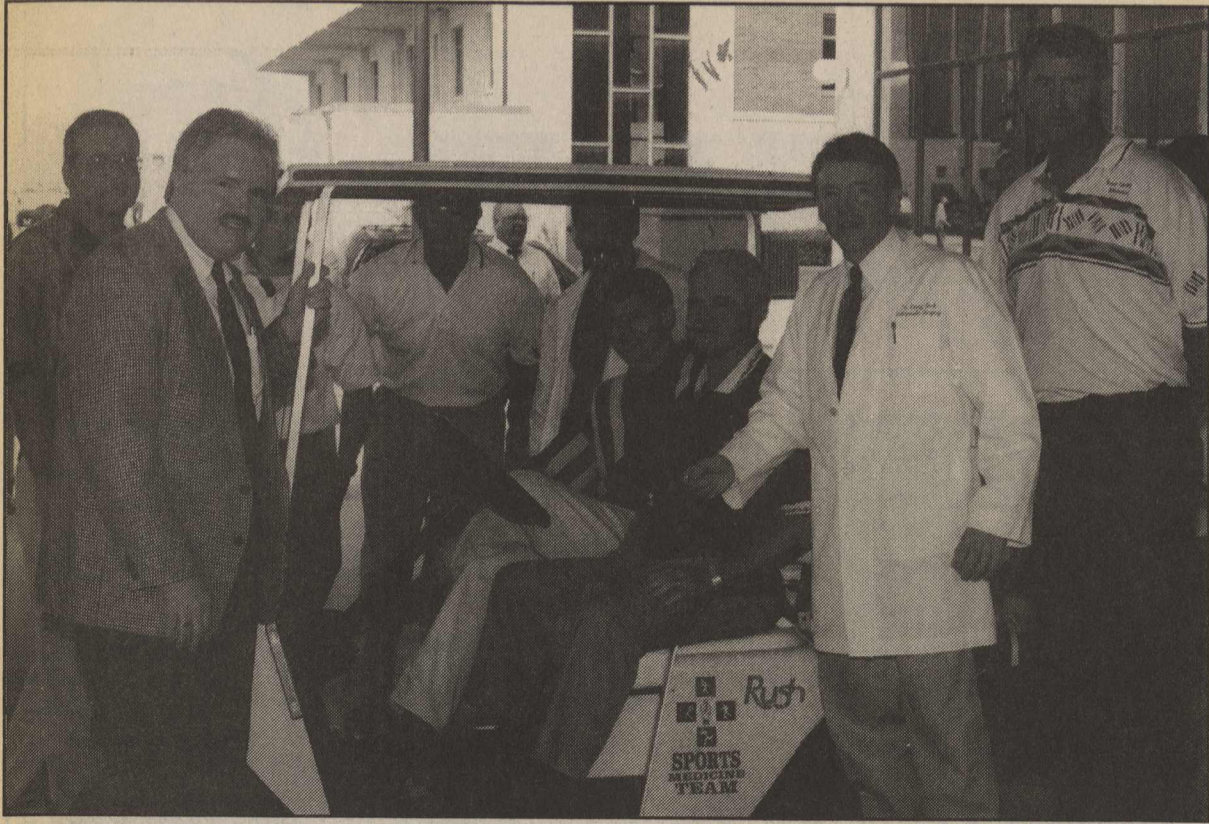
Receivers

Wide receivers and tight ends on the football team for the 1997 campaign include (kneeling from left) Juan Draine of Mobile, Ala.; Stewart Glass of Noxapater and Lamell Charles of Pine Bluff, Ark.; and (standing from left) William Curry of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Horace Nash of Carthage, wide receivers/tight ends coach Fred Tate; Undeon Hardy of Philadelphia and Anthony Hornesbuger of Noxapater.



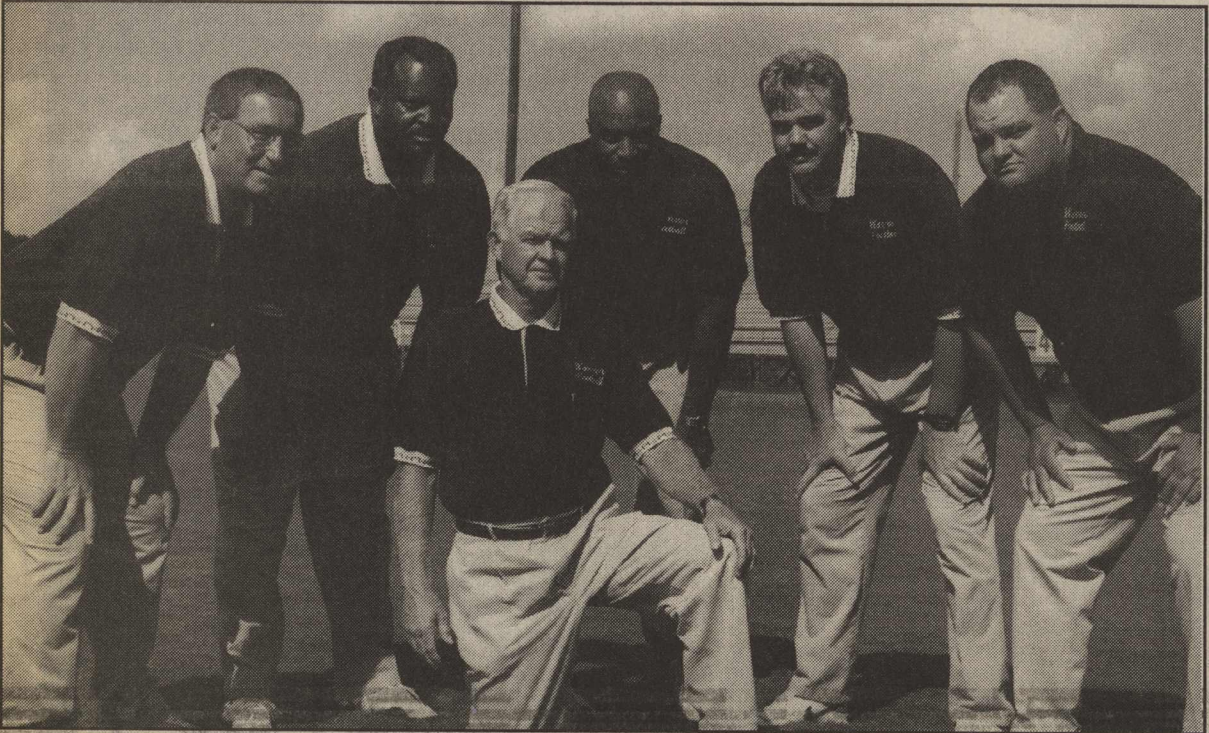
Offensive linemen

Offensive linemen on the football team for the 1997 campaign include (kneeling from left) Bo Thomas of Morrow, Ga.; Jason Nixon of Dothan, Ala.; Gregg Busby of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Allen Clark of Noxapater and Byron Johnson of Louisville; and (standing from left) Brock Lillis of Philadelphia, Adam Lowrey of Louisville, offensive line coach Chuck Maxie; Jake Wilson of Foley, Ala.; and Chester Patrick of Union.



Donates cart

Dr. Sonny Rush of the Rush Sports Medicine Team in Meridian is shown presenting keys to a new golf cart to head football Willie Coats who accepted the vehicle on behalf of the College's athletic department. East Central was one of several area colleges and high schools that were presented golf carts from Rush officials during ceremonies recently held at Rush Foundation Hospital. Also shown are (from left) ECCC representatives Dr. Eddie M. Smith, president; Jamie Clark, head baseball coach; Neal Holliman, assistant baseball coach; Mike Anderson, women's softball coach and intramurals director; Dr. David Pomierski of Rush; Joey McLeod, Rush Sports Medicine trainer assigned to East Central and area schools; and Sammy Pace, ECCC athletic director and women's basketball coach.



Football coaches

Football coaches for the 1997 campaign include head coach Willie Coats (kneeling) and assistants (standing from left) Terry Underwood, Fredrick Lyons, Fred Tate, Timmy Coats and Chuck Maxie.

HOSA

By MISTY BURRELL
The Tom Tom

HOSA, Health Occupation Students of America, was established in 1993. This organization is composed of Surgical Technology students and Practical Nursing Students.

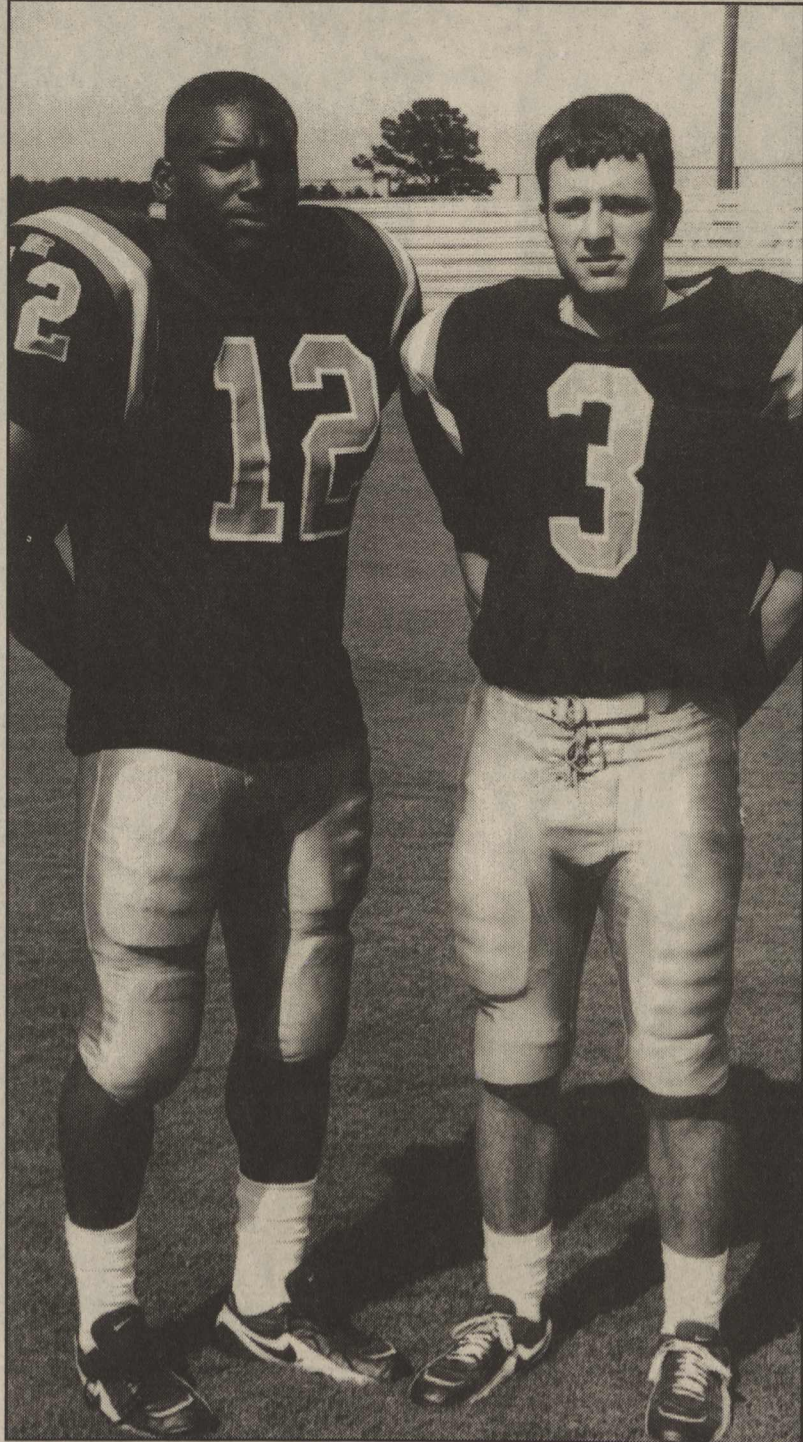
A few of HOSA's community projects will include: collecting canned foods for the Happiness Hill's girls home in Union, and playteaching the children at the childcare center here on campus. HOSA is planning a Halloween bake sale Oct. 30 as well as selling afgans through Nov. 1. Later, in the Spring of next year, HOSA will also be having a softball tournament. These fundraisers are going to help send HOSA students to district, state, and national competition.

At these competitions, HOSA students are given the opportunity to compete in their area of training. In June 1997 National Competition was held in Anaheim, California. At this competition there were 13 E.C.C.C. students representing the state of Mississippi. National Competition had representatives from all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. HOSA offers several leadership opportunities.

These opportunities can be taken advantage of by becoming a state officer. Rochell Reed and Valorie McMullan former E.C. Surgical Technology students have served on Executive Board of Mississippi State HOSA. These students said the leadership skills they obtained from serving as a state officer are skills they will use for a lifetime.

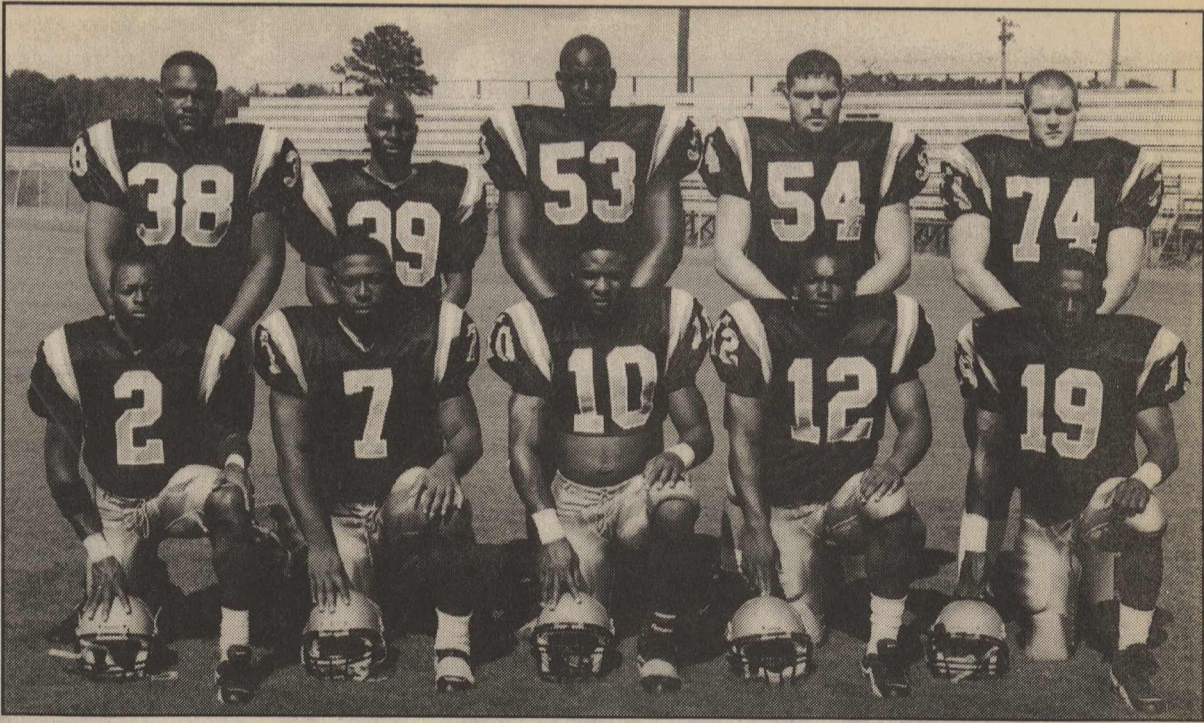
HOSA organization is open to all students majoring in the medical field, including Associate degree in nursing and medical office students.

We are off to a very busy start and are looking forward to a wonderful year.



Kicker, punter

Sophomore Al Hunt (left) of Honea Path, South Carolina, serves as punter in addition to his duties as quarterback 1997 football squad while sophomore Shaun Walker (right) of Morton handles placekicking and kickoff duties.



ECCC Warriors

These out-of-state student athletes are members of the football team for the 1997 campaign. Kneeling from left are wide receiver Juan Draine of Mobile, Ala.; running back Mack Pittman and linebacker Kenny Kelly, both of Panama City, Fla.; quarterback Al Hunt of Honea Path, South Carolina; and defensive back Duane Brisbon of Cross, South Carolina. Standing from left are running back Jarvis Smith of Soddy-Daisy, Tenn.; running back Lamell Charles of Pine Bluff, Ark.; offensive lineman Bo Thomas of Morrow, Ga.; offensive lineman Jason Nixon of Dothan, Ala.; and offensive lineman Jake Wilson, of Foley, Ala.



ECCC cheerleaders

Serving as cheerleaders for the Warrior football team are, front row, from left, Paula Crawford of Philadelphia and Leslie Brackeen of Hickory; second row, Jeremy Nowell of Nanih Wayia, Amy Clark of Chunky, Nichol McKee of Little Rock and Bill Johnson of Hickory; back row, Crystal Cooley of Hickory, Alex Lee of Lake, Jennie White of Newton, Steve Woitt of Carthage, Michael Scarborough of Philadelphia, Brandy Ulmer of Newton, Ryan White of Newton and Jennifer Pace of Decatur. Sponsor of the group is Mrs. Virginia Pace of Decatur.

1997-98 Basketball Schedule

Nov.	1	Saturday	Southern-Shreveport (Women 11 a.m., Men 1 p.m.)
	3-4	Mon./Tues.	Jones Tournament (Women only)
	3-4	Mon./Tues.	Northeast Tournament (Men only)
	13	Thursday	Bishop State (Women 5:15 p.m., Men 7:30 p.m.)
	17	Monday	East Mississippi
	20	Thursday*	Bishop State
	21	Friday	Mississippi Delta
	24	Monday	Southern-Shreveport (Women 5:30 p.m., Men 7:30 p.m.)
	25	Tuesday*	East Mississippi
Dec.	2	Tuesday	Pearl River
	4	Thursday*	Southwest
Jan.	3	Saturday*	Mississippi Delta
	6	Tuesday*	Gulf Coast
	8	Thursday*	Holmes
	12	Monday	Hinds
	15	Thursday	Jones
	20	Tuesday*	Co-Lin
	22	Thursday*	Pearl River
	26	Monday	Southwest
	29	Thursday	Gulf Coast
Feb.	2	Monday	Holmes
	5	Thursday*	Hinds
	9	Monday*	Jones
	12	Thursday	Co-Lin
	16-19	Mon.-Thurs.	South State at Pearl River
	23-24	Mon./Tues.	State Tournament (TBA)
March	2-5	Mon.-Thurs.	Region 23 Tournament

*Home games: Women 6 p.m., Men 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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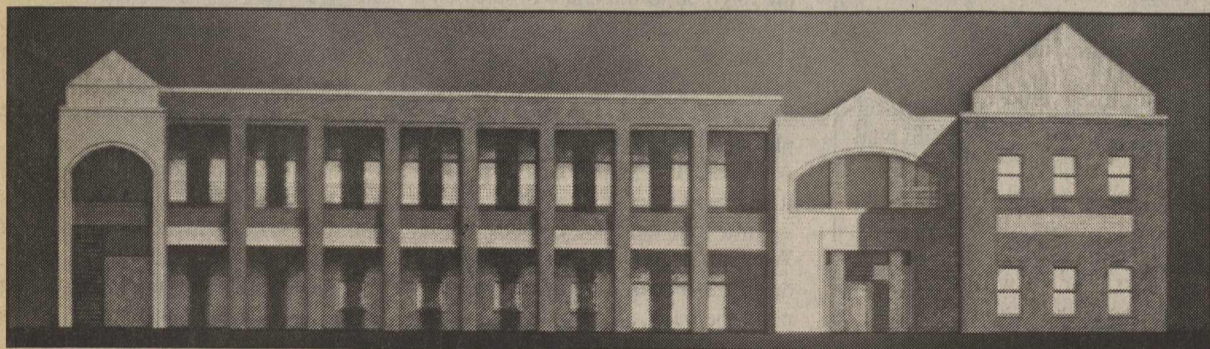
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New ECCC Student Center—Above is an architect's depiction of the new Student Services/Student Union Building planned for construction. Designed by JH&H Architects in Jackson, the 35,000-square foot structure will be completed in two phases at a estimated cost of \$3.5 million. Phase one involves the construction of office space for the Student Services Staff, which includes the dean of students, director of student life, academic counselor, recruiter/Tech Prep Career Center director, director of financial aid, college nurse and office personnel. Construction of the first phase, which also includes a commons area, should be completed in early 1999. The second phase includes the addition of office space for the director of admissions, records and research and staff, along with a food court, game room, workout area, student lounge, bookstore and post office/public lockers. Construction of phase two is estimated to be completed in the year 2000.

Griffing-Porter sings at East Cenral—A Review

By OVID VICKERS
The Tom Tom

To enthrall an audience (a predominantly college-aged audience) with a program of classical songs in an age when the word "diva" is not a part of most vocabularies is quite an accomplishment. Soprano Kimberly Griffing Porter did just that from the moment she walked on stage until

her encore Monday night, Nov. 10, in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Center at East Central Community College.

Porter, who was accompanied throughout the program by Carol Joy Sparkman, an obviously gifted pianist, opened her program with a recitative and aria by nineteenth century Italian composer Vincenzo Bellini. One got the feeling during

this selection that Porter was evaluating her audience, for she seemed a bit hesitant to add the slightest gesture or to exhibit the full range of her vocal prowess.

It was during the singing of three songs by Franz Liszt that Porter exhibited her considerable talent as a singer. Her rendition of "In Liebeslust," "Dubist wie eine Blume," and "Oh! Quand je dors" was flawless, and the audience responded with generous applause.

The third song group of the first half of the program consisted of three songs by the English composer Sir William Walton. Walton composed songs ranging from the very serious to bucolic comedy. This comedic quality was most evident and was handled well by Porter when she sang "Old Sir Faulk" from the larger work "Scopina" composed by Walton in 1940.

Porter returned to the stage after intermission to sing four airs by Francis Poulenc. These four songs are sometimes sophisticated and sometimes simplistic. Porter sang "Air Grave" with the seriousness the number required, and she was vocally playful when she sang "Air Vif," the "Lively Air." These four songs were sung in French, and it is always interesting to note how beautiful a song will sound when rendered in French, Italian or German, but when translated into English, as these songs were in the printed program, something is lost in the translation. The same is true when songs written in another language are sung in English.

Four pieces by James Sclater helped to make this a well rounded program of nineteenth and twentieth century vocal music. The four songs which Porter sang under the general title "But Love Is Not A Simple Song" were beautifully sung and a delight to hear.

As her final number for the evening Porter chose "Glitter and Be Gay" from "Candide" by Leonard Bernstein. The song provided the opportunity for the audience to hear music by the American composer who is most often thought of as the composer of the Broadway musical "West Side Story."

"Glitter and Be Gay," being written for the theater rather than as a concert piece gave Porter an opportunity to break her usual concert stance and "act out" a song with gestures and facial expressions.

At the conclusion of the program and after returning to the stage three times to bow and accept the apparent adulation and appreciation of the audience, Porter chose to sing a selection which many will remember from the motion picture "Room with a View." The song "O Mio Babbino Caro" from "Gianni Schicci" by Puccini.

Kimberly Griffing Porter did not come to the East Central Community College stage without extensive preparation and a growing list of concert appearances. The Mississippi native received her Bachelor of Music Degree from Boston University. While in the Boston area, Ms. Griffing Porter performed extensively with area orchestras. Consequently, she was contracted as a soloist in

ECCC to name buildings honoring various individuals

Two buildings on the East Central Community College campus in Decatur - and one yet to be constructed - have been named in honor of various individuals following action by the college's Board of Trustees at its October meeting.

The original campus gymnasium will now be referred to as The Founders Gymnasium; the front classroom building on the South Campus is now Richard C. Ethridge Hall; and the new women's dormitory will bear the name of Erma Lee Barber. The new facility, officially named Erma Lee Barber Hall, will be constructed on the South Campus during the 1998-99 College term.

The recommendations were made to the Board by the Committee to Study and Recommend Names for Campus Buildings and Facilities, chaired by ECCC President Dr. Eddie M. Smith. Ceremonies to officially commemorate the naming of the buildings will be held at a later date.

Constructed in 1930 and still used for intramural and other activities, the old gym has been named in tribute to Dr. Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Hunter, James "Jim" McDonald Thames, and the many others who were instrumental in the establishment of East Central Junior College.

Dr. Hunter, an original Board of Trustees member in 1928 and prominent Decatur dentist, and Thames, who was appointed to the Board in 1931, are recognized for having been the most instrumental people in the effort to establish the College in Decatur.

According to statements made by W. C. Mabry, also an original Board of Trustees member, Dr. Hunter "did more than any other person in carrying out the plans and work necessary for the completion of East Central Junior College in Decatur." Dr. Hunter and Mr. Thames co-signed the note for the funds to build the first gymnasium on the fledgling college campus.

Dr. Hunter also donated the pine timbers that were used as the floor joists in the construction of the gym. Those timbers came from land that Dr. Hunter owned and subsequently lost as the Great Depression took its toll on the economy of Newton County and the nation.

In addition to Dr. Hunter and Mr. Mabry, other original Board members were L. Q. C. Williams, J. M. Rivers, M. J. Scarbrough and R. A. Armstrong. They are also recognized for their efforts in having the college located in Decatur.

Dr. Ethridge is in his thirty-seventh year as instructor at East Central, where he teaches honors history and other history courses in addition to serving as Chairman of the Division of Social Science, Business

Administration and Education. He has received numerous commendations throughout his teaching career, the most recent being his selection as the College's Outstanding Humanities Faculty Member for 1997.

In recognition of the annual observance, Dr. Ethridge presented a lecture on "Understanding Mississippians: Heirs to Puritanism" which was held in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium on Oct. 28.

Dr. Ethridge was also honored by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development at the University of Texas at Austin in 1995, where he was among other college instructors who were presented medallions for excellence in teaching.

In addition, he was named the College's HEADWAE instructor (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) for 1990, a designation by the Mississippi Legislature in recognition of outstanding college teachers. That same year he participated in the annual Lamplighters' Conference which pays tribute to outstanding community and junior college instructors.

Dr. Ethridge was chosen Academic Instructor of the Year for 1988 by the ECCC Alumni Association, and was elected Outstanding Teacher in

1964 by a vote of the College's student body. He has also been listed in Outstanding Young Men of America, Outstanding Educators of America, Personalities of the South and Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

Miss Barber served as Dean of Women at East Central from 1952 until her retirement in 1971. Prior to joining the College staff, Miss Barber was a school teacher, serving at White Oak School in Smith County, and at Raleigh, Lake, Madden, Vicksburg and Leland high schools. In 1946 she became Assistant State Supervisor of Home Economics and in 1974 she accepted the position of Social Advisor at Mississippi State College for Woman (MUW). She began her employment at East Central in 1952 when she was hired by then President Dr. L. O. Todd.

In addition to her duties as Dean of Women, Miss Barber worked with Dr. Todd and an architect in planning Newsome Hall, a second dormitory for women which opened in 1958. When this dormitory opened, she assumed even greater responsibilities. Even though Newsome Hall had a dormitory matron, Miss Barber was ultimately responsible for both women dormitories, the other being Jackson Hall. Both dorms still house

See **BUILDINGS**, page 3



Best Homecoming Sign—Students in the Associate Degree Nursing program captured first place honors with their above display in the annual Homecoming Sign competition at East Central Community College in Decatur. Other award winners included HQSA (Health Occupation Students of America), second place; and ECCC Players, third. Honorable mention recognition went to the Diamond Girls and Baptist Student Union. The theme of this year's observance was "Welcome Home in '97."




Gill Crowned ECCC Queen—Laura Gill of Carthage was crowned Homecoming Queen at East Central Community College during halftime ceremonies of the Warriors' football game with Gulf Coast held Oct. 18 on the Decatur campus. Shown crowning the 1997 titleholder is ECCC President Dr. Eddie M. Smith. Also pictured is Miss Gill's escort, Shad Sanders, and Karen McRea, 1996 ECCC queen, both of Carthage. Gill and Sanders are graduates of Leake Academy and McRea is a product of Carthage High School. East Central defeated the visiting Bulldogs by a 24-21 margin.

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SEA officers
elected

ECCC Homecoming Court—Above are members of the 1997 East Central Community College Homecoming Court who were presented during halftime ceremonies of the Warriors' football game with Gulf Coast. First row from left are sophomore maids Sherie Bradford of Forest, Paula Crawford of Philadelphia and Krisan Risher of Sebastopol; Maid of Honor Kamonica Craig of Louisville; Queen Laura Gill of Carthage; and freshman maids Ronit Frey of Louisville, Jennifer Pace of Decatur, Danna Dye of Morton and Denise Chapman of Newton. Back row from left are escorts Brian Hardy of Philadelphia, Brian Sistrunk of Carthage, Raland Burks of Hickory, Gilberto Venzen of Eastman, Ga.; Shad Sanders of Carthage, Luke McMahan of Carthage, Dan Gressett of Lake, Chris Stokley of Morton and Devlin Chapman of Newton.

See **REVIEW**, page 3

EC students write on . . .



Students attend UP general conference in Michigan

By TRAVIS MARTIN
The Tom Tom

Recently I traveled to Detroit, Mich. with three friends to attend the 1997 United Pentecostal Church International General Conference. General Conference is a meeting of 25,000-30,000 members of the UPCI.

At this Conference officials are elected such as National Superintendent, National Youth President, and other officials. Much of the time is spent deciding on where to spend Sheaves for Christ monies which support Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Tupelo Children's Mansion, Spirit of Freedom

Ministries, Bible Quizzing and many other causes. Time not spent in business meetings is spent in church services.

My friends (Travis, Chris, and Wesley) and I left on Wednesday about 1 p.m. and arrived in Detroit around 4 a.m. Thursday morning. When we got there we decided to go over into Canada since none of us had ever been there.

After we left Canada we found a hotel and decided to sleep all day because we had been on the road all night. Thursday night we went to the Cobo Center where there were people dressed in every style of suit and (modest) dress imaginable.

Casual would not be a term to describe this event. That night we

did not spend much time in the service because we stayed in the Exhibit Hall. In this area were Bible Colleges from across the U.S., Foreign Missions, Pentecostal Publishing House, Sheaves for Christ, Tupelo Children's Mansion, and many other groups supported by the Pentecostal Church. Over the next couple of days we spent most of our time here meeting new people.

One day they held a Prayer Service for the Youth Service for the Youth Division which was really great. On another night they had a Youth Service for us with fabulous preaching and singing. At all times on the lower of the Cobo was a room dedicated to prayer for anyone who wanted to pray.

We stayed at the Westin Hotel with over seventy floors and the place was packed, "No Vacancy." This hotel was the headquarters for the conference and the bottom two floors were shops and restaurants. In order to get from the Westin to the Cobo we had to ride the People Mover, which was an electronically run tram that was on a track two to three stories in the air.

Sunday afternoon we left to make it back to Decatur by Monday morning about 5 a.m. Sunday night we stopped in Kentucky to eat a real nice meal since we had a little extra money left in our budget. Overall it was a fantastic trip and next year we will be going to Greensboro, N.C. to the 1998 General Conference.

Should Woodward be freed?

By DEANA BANKSTON
The Tom Tom

As news of Louise Woodward's freedom spread throughout the country, opinions began to flare. The 19-year-old native of England came to the United States as an au pair.

This program allows young people to come to the United States on a cultural exchange to care for young children. For the parents, it's cheaper than hiring a professional or highly trained nanny, and for the young people, it's an easy way to "make it" in America. But, as this case proves, is it worth it?

In a trial that shocked the nation, Woodward was charged with murdering 8-month-old Matthew Eappen. The baby, along with his 3-year-old brother, had been entrusted in Woodward's care. Everything seemed fine.

tion the stability of the judicial system, and for that matter, the government.

If one judge can overturn the much thought-out opinion and belief of 12 people, why then do these 12 people waste their time?

Why does America bank so much on its judicial system when one person can control such a case as this? Regardless of Woodward's innocence or guilt, the fact that her conviction was overturned without another trial does something to the confidence Americans place in the government.

If this is done for Louise Woodward, can it also be done for mass murderers, rapists, and una-bombers? Where do we draw the line?

Another question that is being hotly debated in light of this trial is not a new one. If Dr. Deborah Eappen had been home with her child, would this incident have ever happened?

Why?

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

- Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?
- Why do they call it a TV set when you get only one?
- Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give their vacuum another chance?
- Why don't psychic hotlines call you right before you call them?
- Why do they sterilize the needles for lethal injection?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- Why is it that when you accidentally drop coins at a vending machine they always roll under the machine?
- Why do they call it rush hour when you are at a dead-stop in bumper-to-bumper traffic?
- Why do we park in driveways and drive in parkways?

Are air bags safe?

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

- Always wear the seat belt
- Always wear the shoulder portion and lap portion of the seat belt - Never wear one or the other
- Small children should be placed in the back seat
- Car seats should be placed in the back seat

- Do not place a rear facing child in the front seat
 - Keep seat back as far as possible
 - Drive at least 12 inches from the steering wheel
- Air bags have been credited with saving nearly 1,700 lives between the years of 1986-1996. (Consumer Reports) Although lives have been saved, several adults and children have lost their lives.
- Over a seven year period, 32 children and 20 adults have died. Half of these children were not wearing the seat belt or were not wearing the lap portion of the belt.
- If you're a person around the height of 5'4", you are a risk factor

because people with these heights normally drive close to the steering wheel. If you fall into this category, you may want to purchase pedal extensions. Nineteen of the 20 adults were mostly women with the height of 5'2".

Only four of these adults were thought to be belted properly. Many of these deaths were a result of someone not taking the time to wear the seat belt one of the most important procedures to follow. (Consumer Reports)

Remember to follow the procedures the next time you get in your vehicle. You could possibly save your life or someone you love.

Pay raise would keep teachers in state

By TRAVIS MARTIN
The Tom Tom

Today in Mississippi there is a major shortage of certified teachers to fill the many positions needed in our public school systems. In order to fill these positions the state Department of Education has had to take emergency actions. They are in need of teachers in the areas of science, math, special education, foreign language, elementary, music, speech therapy, and English.

To fill the positions needed by the public school systems the Department of Education has started issuing emergency licenses to teachers of one subject so they may teach a different course they are not trained in.

Another way to take care of this shortage is the alternate-route teach-

ers. These are college graduates without education training who can become a certified teacher by taking two tests, the Praxis 1 and the Content Mastery Exam for Educators. Expert citizens is another way they use to fill in the gaps.

School districts may hire a local expert to teach up to three class periods a day and pay them with state money if the teachers receive a one-year expert citizen license as requested by the school districts.

The Board of Education is also calling retired teachers back to the classroom to help with the shortage of educators. These retired teachers may only work 120 days and still receive their retirement check. The least popular way is hiring college graduates with no training or credentials.

Districts will try to hire someone with a background closely related to a field of teaching. This solution is called long-term substitutes or limited service teachers. Even with all of these "solutions" there is no way to replace the value of real certified teachers.

There will always be a need for teachers due to the lack of incentives. The love to work with kids and teenagers does not help support a family's needs, although it is a great reason to teach.

Teachers need to be given a pay raise because other fields are catching our teachers because of the great difference in salary and benefits. If Mississippi would raise the incentive level it has for teachers, there would not be such a shortage of certified teachers.

Harvey-A Review

By OVID VICKERS
The Tom Tom

Mary Chase's great white rabbit took to the stage once again on Thursday night, Nov. 13 when the East Central Community College Players opened their 1997-98 theater season with a dinner theater production of Chase's venerable play "Harvey."

Although the play was not written to be performed in the round, director Lila Hunt has managed to stage the show as a circle theater event in the Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the East Central campus.

The three-act comedy "Harvey" was first produced on the New York stage in 1944 and was subsequently, after running for almost five years on Broadway, made into a motion picture starring Jimmy Stewart.

The play in essence is a quiet comedy detailing the problems which Veta Louise Simmons, a scatter brain, and her haughty spinster daughter Myrtle Mae are faced with in relation to Vita's boozy brother Elwood P. Dowd who has befriended an extraordinarily large and invisible rabbit named Harvey.

There is an old saying among theater professionals that one should never act with children or animals because they will always steal the scene. Well, the animals do not have to be real, for to tell the truth, it is Harvey the rabbit who, regardless of the capability of the actors, steals the show.

Director Hunt has assembled a cast of veteran and neophyte student actors who offer a delightful evening of entertainment.

Time Boswell in the role of Elwood P. Dowd understands the importance of sustaining a character throughout a production. Boswell is the kind of actor who uses his body and voice to compel the audience to hang onto his every word.

There is no question about it; Boswell sees his friend the rabbit, and because he does the audience sees the rabbit also.

Emily Bullock who has appeared in several previous East Central productions lights up the stage with her energy and ability to add just the touch of comedy her role requires.

Jessica Evans as Vita Louise seems uncertain in the play's first scene, but by scene two she has acclimated

herself to the stage and shows that she is a capable actress. Comedy is undoubtedly her forte, and she plays it well.

Ken Thrash is particularly good in the role of Dr. Sanderson. As the female member of the white-coated triumvirate who attempt to treat Dowd's hallucinations, Mandy Burt as Nurse Kelly is as efficient as one would expect a nurse to be, and Donnie Atkinson as Wilson proves to the audience that he could work well at any mental institution. As the play unfolds, it is Dr. Sanderson, Wilson and Nurse Kelly who begin to see Dowd as a rather harmless and lovable frequenter of bars rather than someone who is mentally disturbed.

The role of Judge Gaffney is ably played by Michael Scarborough. Scarborough is as judicious as the role requires him to be. The part of Dr. Chumley is played by Richard Burton. Once Burton becomes comfortable with where he is and what he is supposed to be doing, he makes the audience believe that he has indeed developed a rather harmless serum that will restore Dowd's sanity and cause Harvey to hop off into oblivion.

Mrs. Chumley is played by a newcomer Tiffany Edwards. Edwards has an appealing stage presence. She takes a cameo role and turns it into a performance that audiences will remember. The cab driver is played by Mark Suwinski. It is the cab driver who warns against the dangers of Dr. Chumley's treatments and saves the day for Dowd and also for the rabbit Harvey.

Tim Seese as the postman, Tiffany Bradford as Mrs. Chauvenet, and Amy Butler as Miss Johnson round out this 13-member cast. Although these three roles are minor, the actors do not treat them as such.

The stage crew, headed by assistant director/stage manager Ashley Hancock, helped assure the success of the production.

Director Lila Hunt is both capable and experienced, and the East Central Community College Players with this production of Harvey have demonstrated once again that New York critic John Chapman was right when he called the comedy, "the most delightful, endearing, funny, and touching piece of stage whimsy I ever saw."

East Central's production of "Harvey" continued through Saturday, Nov. 15 on the Decatur campus.

Fall festival held

By VICKIE MCGEE
The Tom Tom

The 1997 Fall Festival was held recently in the mall area of the campus. The Fall Festival was made up of games, music, entertainers, door prizes and fun. Despite the cold night, a large crowd came and joined the fun.

Games for this year's festival included: The Limbo, Best Pick Up Line, and Best Legs. Shelia Oliver won the limbo contest and Dr. Smith won the Best Legs contest. Mr. Carson did an excellent job keeping the music going.

Ashlea Renfroe, Shelia Oliver, Marcie Hollingsworth, Shawn Lloyd and the gospel choir entertained the audience with several songs. Door prizes were given throughout the night. Fall Festival T-shirts were sold. If anyone would like a shirt, you may still purchase one in the Student Services for \$10. This year's Fall Festival was a great success.

Students need a fall break

During the spring semester, all students look forward to spring break because it gives students a break in the middle of the semester. However, Thanksgiving holidays are just before the end of the fall semester.

So this means that students get their first fall holiday after 12-14 weeks into the school year. This makes the fall semester seem longer and more stressful because the only break that students have to look forward to comes at the end of the semester only a week before exams.

I think that some type of fall break should be held in October maybe even around Halloween to give students a break from the many weeks until Thanksgiving holidays.

This would boost student morale and cut down on some of the very typical "burnouts" that students experience. In fact, this was the purpose of spring break, but whoever had the idea for spring break didn't feel like we needed one during the fall. I feel that this would do wonders for the fall atmosphere.

Fellowship time for students

By SHERIE BRADFORD
The Tom Tom

The Wesley Foundation is an organization that allows students to gather together to be ministered to, and have fellowship time with each other. The Wesley Foundation is a Methodist organization, however students of any denomination are welcome.

The Wesley Foundation is under the direction of Brother John Travel-

by. This group offers various activities. One of these activities is the "Lunch Bunch." The "Lunch Bunch" begins every Tuesday at activity period and lasts throughout C period. Students are invited to come for a devotion time and also to have lunch.

The meals and devotional speakers are provided by community churches. The Wesley Foundation is located on South Campus in the old Newton County band hall building. This is also where "Lunch Bunch" takes place.

World should concentrate on solving problems, not creating them

By AMANDA MOORE
The Tom Tom

As I watched NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw on Tuesday, Nov. 17, my mind began wandering, not to things such as where my next vacation would be spent or who won the NFL game Monday night, but to things such as, "Is there really someone in the world who has no more value for human life than to create an arsenal full of chemical weapons which could be detonated at a moment's notice?" and "Who in their right mind would perfect weapons which could wipe out the entire human race?"

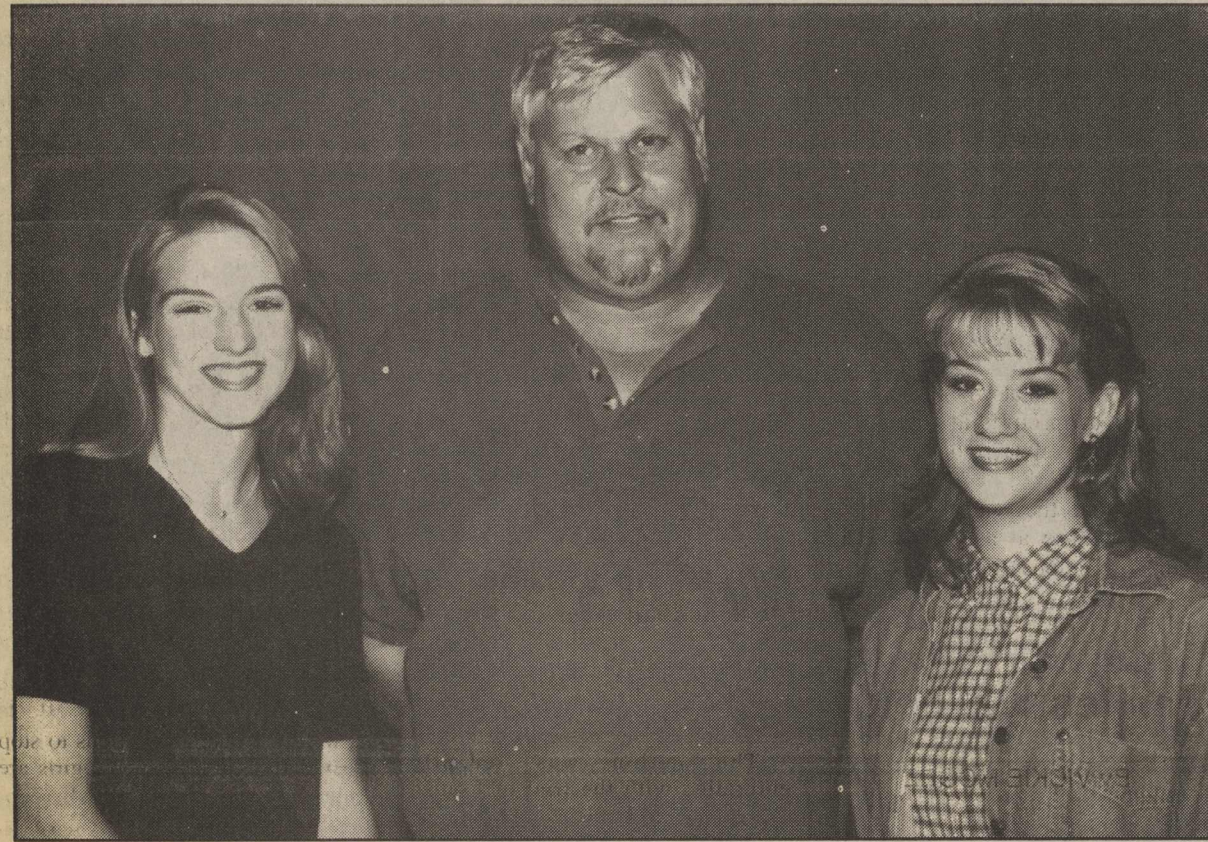
I'm sure everyone, at one time or another, in the past few weeks has heard of the problems United Nations inspectors have had in examining Saddam Hussein's arsenals which house chemical weapons. I never really stopped to think about the importance of these procedures until I watched the previously mentioned newscast. It was reported that among the chemicals in these weapons was Anthrax, which becomes deadly within one week of exposure, and - which could wipe out the entire population of the world TWICE.

I don't know about you, but these facts made me stop and think. What could we do, if anything to remove these threats? We, as citizens can only hope that the United Nations, along with the United States, can successfully examine and remove these weapons from this madman's arsenal.

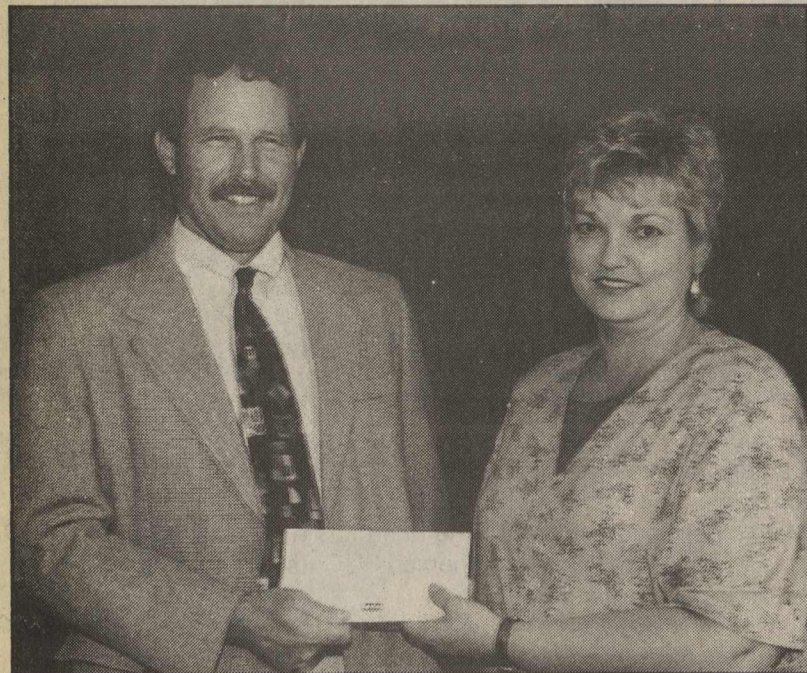
Just think, what a better world we would live in if those who have the God-given ability to formulate the combinations of chemicals which are so powerful would use this ability to solve problems such as homelessness, starvation, pollution and crime.



Harris Establishes Scholarship—Dr. Shelby Harris (left), Chairman of the Math Division and longtime math instructor at East Central Community College in Decatur, is shown presenting a check to College president Dr. Eddie M. Smith which will be used to establish the Dr. Margaret Mosal Memorial Scholarship for Leadership. Also shown is Larry Hogue, Director of development and alumni relations at the College. The scholarship honors the late Mrs. Margaret Mosal of Canton, longtime executive director of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college headquartered in Jackson. Dr. Harris established the scholarship after he was presented a Mosal Leadership stipend by Phi Theta Kappa at the organization's 1997 International Convention held in Dallas. Dr. Harris matched the amount of the stipend he received to establish the award, and interest from the total investment will be used to provide an annual scholarship for freshman Phi Theta Kappa members who exemplify the hallmarks of the honor society — scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. Recipients of the award will be selected by advisors of East Central's Theta Xi chapter and will be recognized during Awards Day held each spring semester. Ann Burkes serves with Dr. Harris as chapter advisors.



ECCC Players Elect Officers—These students were recently elected officers of the East Central Community College Players, a student organization for those interested in dramatics. Pictured are (from left) Emily Bullock on Newton County, president; Donnie Atkinson of Philadelphia, vice president; and Marcie Hollingsworth of Newton County, secretary/treasurer. Speech and theater instructor Lila Hunt serves as sponsor.



Tucker Receives ECCC Scholarship—Linda Tucker (left) of Philadelphia is a recipient of a nontraditional student tuition scholarship to attend East Central Community College in Decatur. Tucker, whose major is licensed practical nursing, is shown receiving the award from Michael Alexander, academic counselor. The scholarship is available to qualified Mississippi residents age 23 or older, at the time of initial enrollment, who enroll full-time at East Central. For more information contact the Dean of Students' Office, East Central Community College, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 204.

Phi Theta Kappa conducts AIDS awareness programs for students

By JAKE JENKINS
The Tom Tom

During the month of November and the first part of December Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa had many things planned.

Listed here are the activities that we were involved with through the end of the semester.

On Nov. 24, we conducted the AIDS awareness program at 7 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium. This was similar to the program we presented at the MS/LA Regional Leadership Conference in

September, only this time it was for all East Central students, faculty and community members.

On Monday, Dec. 1, Theta Xi conducted an AIDS simulation in conjunction with Ron Davis's anatomy and physiology class. This illustrated to students just how easily the AIDS virus can be transmitted.

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, we presented an AIDS program in conjunction with our Associate Degree Nursing program through the state Department of Health during activity period.

★ Buildings

female students.

Miss Barber is also credited with producing the first student handbook, which was published in the mid-1950's when Mr. Arno Vincent served as College president. The publication has now become a standard item issued to all incoming ECCC freshmen.

In addition, Miss Barber was known to provide financial assistance to many coeds so they could complete their coursework at the College. She also spent countless hours counseling with students. Once when asked what she thought contributed to her success in working with young women, Miss Barber replied, "I never broke a confidence."

She also encouraged those she supervised to attend church and to conduct themselves in a manner befitting their family, their college and their role as young ladies in Mississippi. She often spoke at dormitory meetings and to individual students concerning the importance of developing high personal principles and moral character. Miss Barber still resides in Decatur and is approaching her 92nd birthday.

★ Review

New York City's famed Carnegie Hall. She then toured the Middle East and South Africa performing in the great concert halls of these regions.

Since returning to Mississippi, Griffing Porter has toured Europe and the Middle East, appearing as a principle soloist in several festivals. Her most recent engagements have included a two-week concert engagement of Australia. Currently, she is a member of the Mississippi Arts Commission's Touring Artist Program.

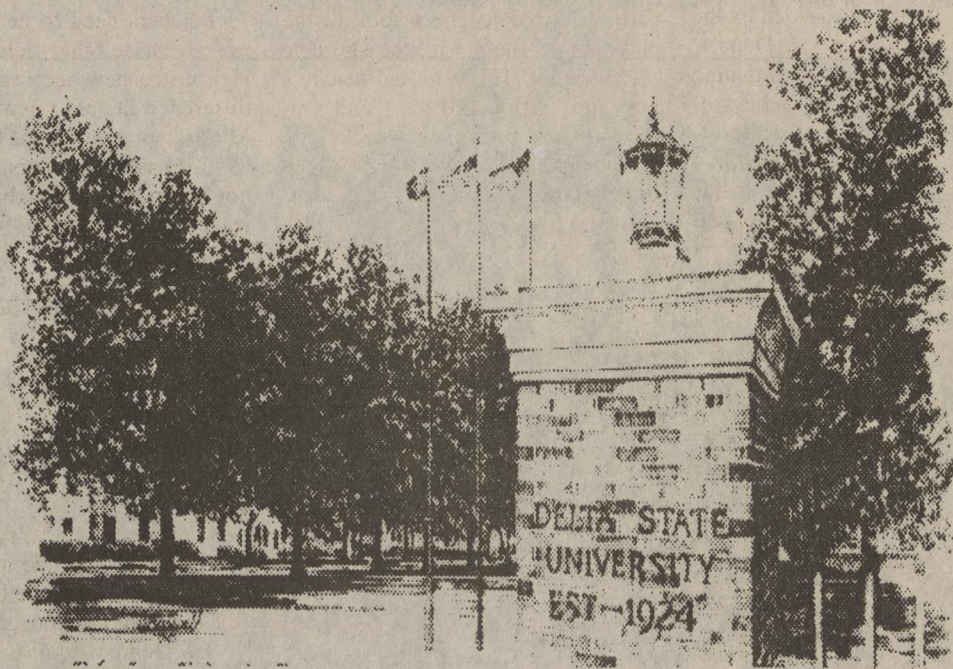


Present Concert—The Collegians, a pop/rock vocal and instrumental group at East Central Community College presented their fall concert Monday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. The talented musicians performed hits by Fiona Apple, Puff Daddy, Sugar Ray, Lee Ann Womack and other popular artists. Members include front row (from left) Stacy Carter, Winston Academy; Matthew Bell, Choctaw Central; Nathan Shaw, Neshoba Central; Shaun Lloyd, Morton; Scott Huston, Newton County; Jason Wallace and Joseph Nowell, both of Louisville; and Mingo Tingle and Jay Smith, both of Newton County; back row, Chas Evans, Newton County; Andy Stewart, Neshoba Central; Chris Dueitt, Greene County High School in Leakesville; Sarah Whitesell, Scott Central; Shelia Oliver, Marci Hollingsworth and Tori Jordan, all of Newton County; Beckie Fulton, Leake Academy; Stephen Spire, Union; Jason Alford, Philadelphia; Jeff Denson, Morton; and Josh Bamberg, Newton County. Not pictured is Thomas W. Carson, director of bands at ECCC, who serves as Collegians director/guitarist.



ECCC Peer Tutorial Group—These students are members of the Peer Tutorial Club at East Central Community College. They offer tutorial services in math, English, sociology, biology, accounting, chemistry and physics. Pictured are (seated) Amanda Moore of Carthage, Charity Waller of Newton County, Kara Loper of Leake Academy, Yolanda Moore of Newton and Valarie Sam of Carthage; standing, Laura Tadlock of Lake, Janet Harrison of Newton County, Rod Moore of Nanih Waiya, Brian Shaw of Forest, Justin Miles of Nanih Waiya and Suzanne Warren of Leake Academy. Mary Hanson, director of the Learning Skills Center, serves as sponsor. For more information contact Ms. Hanson at ECCC, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss. 39327, Ph 635-2111, ext. 329.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY



Tuition, Fees, Room, Board & Laundry
\$2377 per Semester, exclude books

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS

ACADEMIC or PHI THETA KAPPA

Phi Theta Kappa members or students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher may receive a **Full Tuition Scholarship for four semesters**. Recipients must have completed at least 54 semester hours of acceptable academic credit from a community college. This scholarship also waives out of state fees.

DEPARTMENTAL

One scholarship per department (both academic and nonacademic) per community college will be awarded upon receipt of a recommendation by the community college department chair to the coordinating Delta State University department chair.

These scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,200, payable \$300 per semester for four consecutive semesters, and may be stacked with Phi Theta Kappa / Academic scholarships.

For further information, please call:

OFFICE OF SCHOOL RELATIONS & RECRUITMENT
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY Cleveland MS 38733
1-800-GO-TO-DSU or (601)846-4655



SEA Officers—These students were chosen officers of the Student Education Association at East Central Community College. Pictured (from left) are Zach Sanders of Neshoba Central, president; Angela Hays, vice president and Crystal Gee, secretary, both of Carthage. Not pictured is Melissa McWhirter of Clarkdale, reporter. The SEA gives students practical experience in teacher-teacher and teacher-student relations. Lucille Wood, education and physical education instructor, serves as sponsor.



ECCC Diamond Girls—Members of the 1997-98 East Central Community College Diamond Girls, a group of students who provide assistance during the Warrior baseball season, include first row (from left) Natalie Vowell of Winston Academy, Corrin Chambliss of Louisville; Leslie Brackeen and Kristi Jones, both of Newton County; Amber Woods of Winston Academy; Amy Rogers of Louisville and Jill Ray of Leake Academy; second row, Allison Crosby of Lake; Leslie Nelson of Neshoba Central; Laura Ming of Louisville; Ginger Moore of Noxapater; Kathryn Montgomery of Southeast Lauderdale; Jessica Jordan of Edinburg; Adria Stamper of Newton County Academy and Amy Gomillion of Leake Academy; and top row, Vickie McGee of Scott Central; Lisa Nelson of Neshoba Central; Kelly Alexander and Stacy Jackson, both of Newton County; Sherie Bradford of Scott Central; Bethany Laird of Newton County; Courtney Wilcher of Edinburg and Jennifer Pace of Newton County. Lanette Hannah, recruiter/director of the Tech Prep Career Center, serves as sponsor.



25th Reunion of ECCC Fashion Squad—The 1997-98 school year marks the 25th reunion of the East Central Community College Fashion Squad. To celebrate the occasion, present and former members participated in a fashion show during Homecoming activities recently held on the Decatur campus. Those present included (front row, from left) Sandra Fredrick Byram of Sebastopol; Vicky Marshall of Corona Del Mar, Cali.; Mary Gilmore Quinn of Louisville, Pam Newell Keith of Decatur, Alice Pouncey of Decatur, director; Lynn Harkins Tripplett of Kosciusko, Denice Rector Boutwell of Forest, and Lucy Duncan Brewer of Philadelphia; second row, Brandi Parkes Baucum of Newton, Sylvia Griffin Payton of Riverdale, Ga.; Lisa Haralson Jordan of Terry, Rita Gayle Smith Roush of Fairhope, Ala.; Jamie Adcock Calvert of Louisville, Cyndi Robinson of Decatur, Lisa Parker Howard of Carthage, Nancy Heard Campbell of Huntsville, Ala., and Pam Holly Lofton of Philadelphia; third row, Suzanne Barnett Eady of Brandon, Darlene laacs Vaughn of Conehatta, Jeridean White Harrington of Louisville, Carla Parker of Philadelphia, Cissy Johnston Gilbert of Forest, Tracey Williams Vance of Union, Teresa Lepard Crosby of Canton and Amy Pouncey Lewis of Wesson; and back row, Barbara Hare Freeny of Carthage; Linda Arnett Taylor of Louisville, Sonya Fedrick McDonald and Tonya Trapp Nowell, both of Decatur; Krisan Risher of Sebastopol, Nick Pouncey of Mobile, Ala. ; Crystal Cooley of Hickory, Michelle Davis of Decatur, Twyla Kemp Foster of Carthage, Linda Jones and Angie Crosby Clark, both of Lake; and Julie Clanton of Lawrence.

BSU Fall Retreat

By MARISSA MCGEE
The Tom Tom

During the weekend of Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 East Central's Baptist Student Union had its annual fall retreat. In attendance were the BSUs of East Central and Northwest Community College. EC took eighteen students to the retreat at Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Kosciusko.

The weekend retreat was centered around a study on spiritual gifts. The study was presented by Larry Garner, who has written a study course on the subject. The music was provided by Ed Theus, associate BSU director at Northeast Community College.

During free time, students went canoeing and participated in the ropes course. It rained most of the weekend, but many took advantage of it by playing flag football in the mud afterward. The weekend was a terrific opportunity to meet students from another community college in our state.



ECCC Flag Corps—These students are members of the flag corps for the 1997 Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College. Pictured are front row (from left), LaPatse Lemon and Roberta Billy, both of Carthage; Tawanna Hunter of Union; Sissy Greer of Carthage; Ruth Royston and Paula Tullos, both of Union; and April Crocker of Newton County; second row, Gwen Owens of Newton County; Amanda Savell of Neshoba Central; Stacey Woodard of Louisville; Amanda Burt of Neshoba Central; Christy Pearce of Newton County; Sissy Wilkerson of Morton; Melissa Knowles of Scott Central and Shar'lee Ingram of Carthage; back row, Marquitta Harper of Carthage; Heather Moody, Natalie Chandler, Bridget Green and Nickie Peden, all of Louisville; and Amy Duncan of Neshoba Central. Not pictured are Yulonda Amos of Union; Lakeisha Davis of Newton; Lotoya Loper of Scott Central; Misty McCurdy of Morton and Laura Tadlock of Lake. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



Participate in Warrior Wall O'Sound Marching Band—These students from Leake County are members of the 1997 Warrior Wall O'Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are first row (from left) Betina Latiker of Carthage, Britt Cooper and Brandi Atkinson, both of Leake Academy; Courtney Wilcher and Teresa Moore, both of Edinburg; Amy Watkins of Carthage and Beth Gainey of Leake Academy; second row, Jessica Jordan of Edinburg and Roberta Billy, LaPatse Lemon, Sissy Greer, Shar'Lee Ingram, Marquitta Harper and Donna Moore, all of Carthage. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



ECCC Rifle Corps—These students are members of the rifle corps for the 1997 Warrior Wall O'Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College. Pictured are (from left) Chantel George of Neshoba Central, Jessica Wright of Forest, and Brandi Rush, Joni Hicks and Lynn Allison all of Neshoba Central. Not pictured is Katie Mathis of Neshoba Central. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



ECCC Band Members—These students from Neshoba County are members of the 1997 Warrior Wall O'Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are first row (from left) Amanda Savell, Joni Hicks, Brandi Rush, Quanta Hill, Chantel George, Lynn Allison, and Amanda Burt, all of Neshoba Central; second row, Matthew Bell of Choctaw Central; Jennifer McWilliams of Philadelphia; Josh Herrington, Jessica Worrell, Nathan Shaw, and Stan Chesney, all of Neshoba Central; and Jason Alford of Philadelphia; third row, Eric Rush of Neshoba Central; Elijah Ben of Choctaw Central, Charles Lightsey and Pamela Atkinson, both of Neshoba Central; Christina Mann of Philadelphia and Greg Chitwood and Tywan Stafford, both of Neshoba Central. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



ECCC Drum Majors—Cheryl Watkins of Lake (left) is drum major of the 1997 Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College and Tiffany Edwards of Scott Central is serving as assistant drum major. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



ECCC Band Members—These students from Newton County are members of the 1997 Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are first row (from left) Tami Phillips of Union, Lakeisha Chapman of Newton, Dawn Ward of Newton County, Lori Darsey of Newton County Academy, Bethany Laird and Kristi Jones, both of Newton County; Erin Craven and Julie Clanton, both of Newton County Academy; Layla Peoples and Tracy Richards, both of Newton; Leslie Carter, Tori Jordon, Kelly Alexander, Kristi Temple and Emily Bullock, all of Newton County; Dea Ann Dolan and Joey Lang, both of Union; and Jay Smith of Decatur; second row, Dan Hendon, Stephen Spire, Cody Fisher, Susan Staton and Kevin Carter, all of Union; Richard Burton, Josh Bamberg and Chas Evans, all of Newton County; Latisha Walker of Newton, William Jones of Newton County, Shanna McKee of Sebastopol, Dianne Thames and Tammy Crabtree, both of Newton County; Jason Jones of Union, Lakesha Davis of Newton, Paula Tullos of Union, and Gwen Owens, Christy Pearce and Mingo Tingle, all of Newton County; and back row, Amy Duncan of Neshoba Central, Tawanna Hunter of Union, Detra Carter, Michelle Davis, Sheila Oliver and T.J. Alexander, all of Newton County; Jenifer Thomas, Kathrin Edgar and Misty Smith, all of Union; Jermaine Jones of Newton County, Denise Overstreet of Newton, Glen Hansford, Scott Houston and April Crocker, all of Newton County; Ruth Royston of Union and Chris Qualls of Newton. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



ECCC Band Members—These students from Winston County are members of the 1997 Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are first row (from left) Amy Rogers, Corrin Chambliss and Ronit Frey, all of Louisville; Natalie Vowell on Winston Academy and Laura Faulk of Louisville; (second row) Joseph Nowell, Seretha Frazier, Laura Ming, and Leslie Miller, all of Louisville; Stacy Carter of Winston Academy; Renaldo Elchelberger, Eric Holmes, Jeffrey Wragg and Jason Wallace, all of Louisville; second row, Stacey Woodard, Nickie Peden, Natalie Chandler, Heather Moody and Bridget Green, all of Louisville. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is director of bands at the College and Johnny May serves as assistant band director.



ECCC Band Members—These students from Scott County are members of the 1997 Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are first row (from left) Tamekia Butler of Sebastopol, Tiffany Edwards of Scott Central, Danna Dye of Morton, Jessica Wright of Forest, Misti Harrell of Scott Central, Cheryl Watkins and Lasherish Anderson, both of Lake; and Mason Certain of Scott Central; second row, Stephanie Patrick of Sebastopol, Shaun Lloyd, Jessica Evans and Amanda Keeton, all of Morton; Misty Burrell of Scott Central; Lakeisha Patrick of Sebastopol, Ty Jankowski of Lake, Latoyer Loper of Scott Central, LeVar Robinson and Sissy Wilkerson both of Morton; and Melissa Knowles of Scott Central; back row, Shasta Knowles of Forest, Lori Havard and Tracy Patrick, both of Lake; Sarah Whitesell of Scott Central; and Jeff Denson, Jake Harrell, Blake Hearn and Anthony Guy, all of Morton. The band has a record 150 members this year and can be seen at halftime of all home football games. Thomas W. Carson is Director of Bands at the College and Johnny May serves as Assistant Band Director.



Outstanding ECCC Faculty Members—These East Central Community College instructors recently attended the Lamp-lighter '97 Conference held on the campus of Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. This conference is held annually to honor outstanding community/junior college instructors in Mississippi. Pictured are seated (from left) Cynthia Gaudin, Associate Degree Nursing instructor; and Linda Baucum Pierce, English instructor; second row Leesa Wilkinson, keyboard instructor; Jimmy Dempsey, consular for the vocational-technical division; and Maxine McKee, sociology instructor.



ECCC Women's Doubles Winners—Fran Jones of Forest (left) and Beth Garvin of Newton were women's doubles winners in the Annual Alumni/Student Tennis Tournament held in conjunction with Homecoming activities at East Central Community College.



Perform at Grand Opening—The East Central Community College Ac'cents and the Collegians performed at the grand opening of the Bonita Lakes Mall in Meridian recently.



The Wall O' Sound performs exhibition at State Band Festival

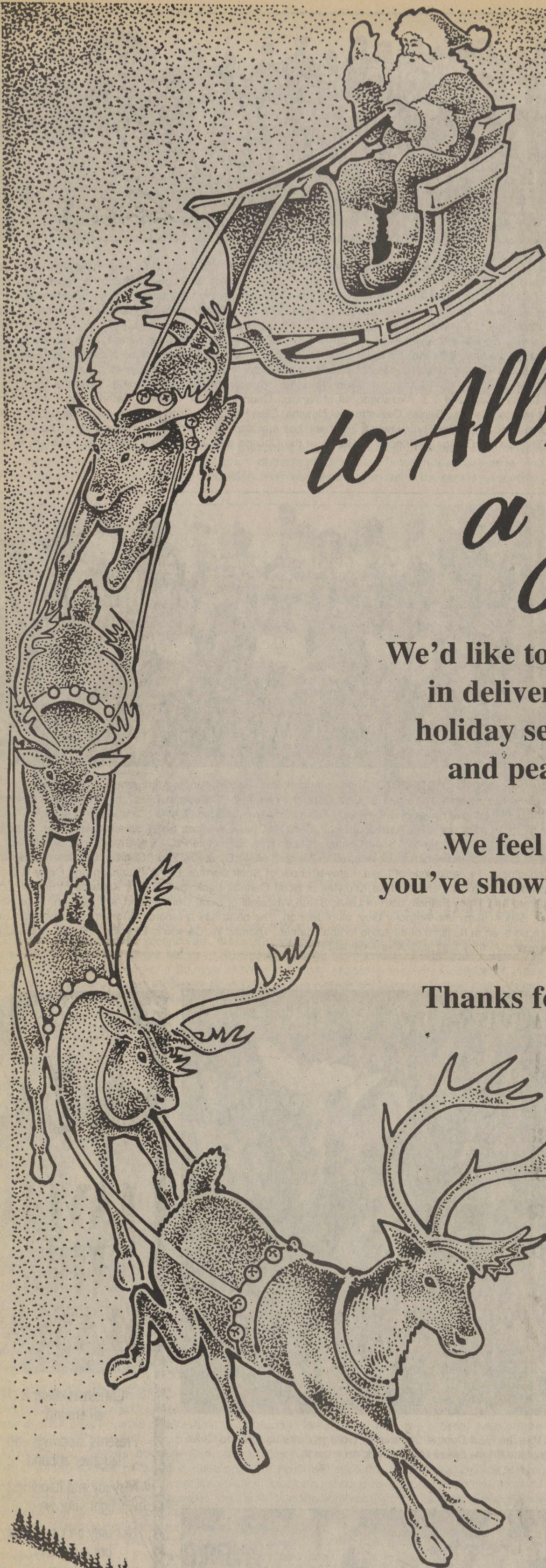


SAVOR THE SEASON

Christmas cheer is all around;
Presents, stockings and laughter abound.
May joy and happiness light your way,
Not only on Christmas, but every day.

The Tom Tom Staff





*"Happy
Christmas
to All, and to All
a Goodnight!"*

We'd like to join Santa and his faithful team,
in delivering our very best wishes for a
holiday season filled with wonder, mirth,
and peace on earth for all mankind.

We feel truly blessed by the goodwill
you've shown us, and look forward to another
year serving you.

Thanks for being behind us all the way!

*The
Tom
Tom
Staff*

