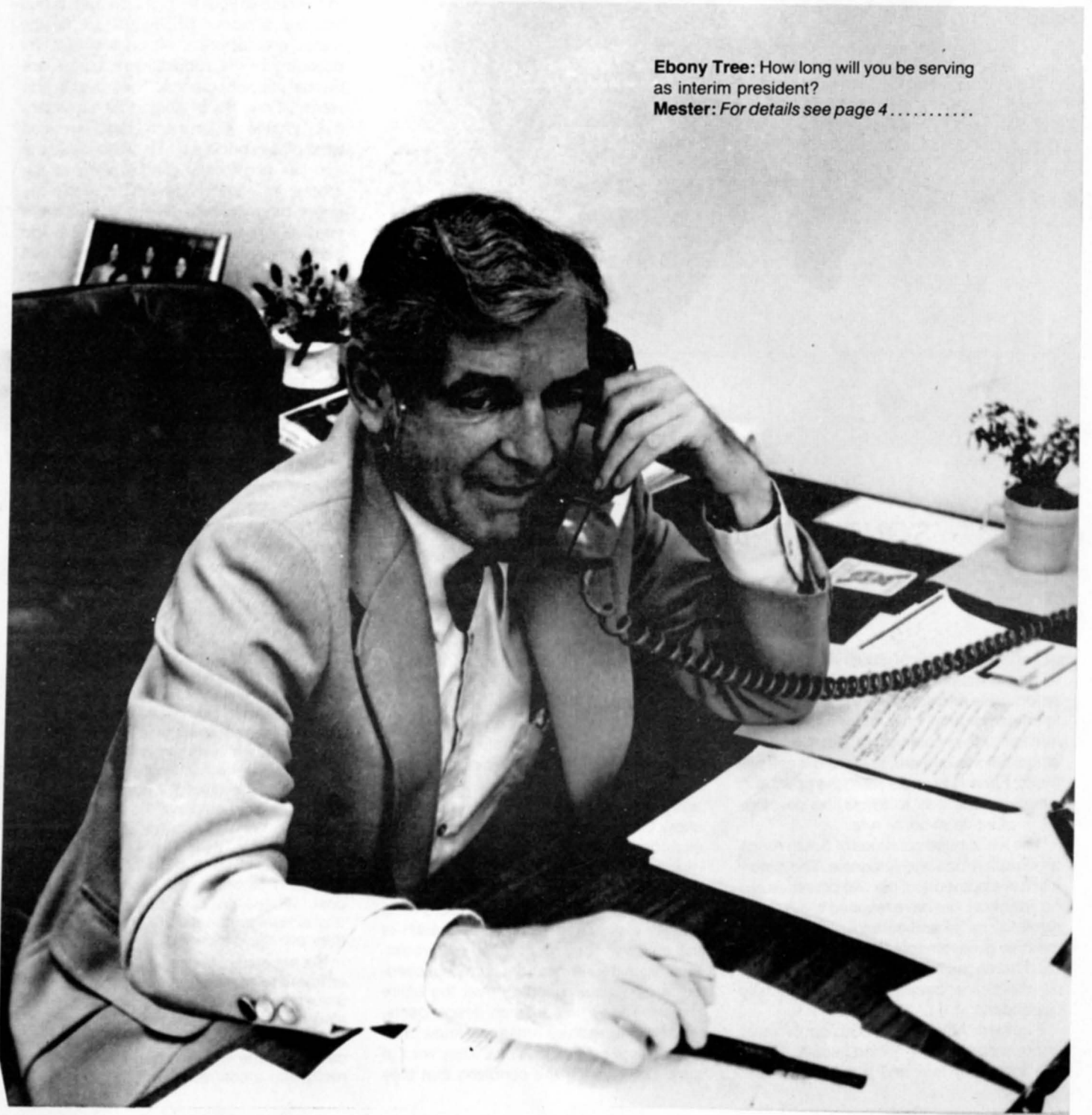


ebony tree

The News-Magazine of Bowie State College
November 1977

Ebony Tree: How long will you be serving as interim president?

Mester: For details see page 4.....





COMMENTARY: SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS

By
B. Ndanga

Today the whole of South Africa stands at the threshold of racial holocaust. The unfortunate and sad history of this subcontinent is not at all unique, for it follows the familiar tune of colonialism. But the results of this colonialism are, to say the least, pathetic. For one to understand the prevailing situation, one has to follow the development of white minority rule.

The white ruled countries of South Africa are South Africa and Rhodesia. The historical developments of the two countries are not identical, but have resulted in the same ruthless, racist and certainly fascist white minority governments. Despite the historical differences I will treat the two countries as one region, because they are mutually dependent.

Southern Africa has a total population of approximately thirty million people. Out of this total only four and a half million are

white and the rest are black. This racial composition is the sole basis of the current racial problem. The whites are in power and the blacks want to change this power structure and establish majority rule. The whites want to stay in power or at least remain in a position to control the political and economic direction of the region. To show their determination, the whites have excluded the blacks from any decision-making.

Whites first settled in South Africa in 1652. These were Dutch settlers who quickly discovered the mineral wealth of the country. They met tremendous resistance from the Africans but finally succeeded in establishing control over the entire region. Today these Dutch descendants, who call themselves Afrikaans, know of no other home but South Africa. They want to stay, but only on the condition that they

remain in power. Historical developments have shown that in order to do this the whites have to suppress the blacks. Blacks, however, have shown that they are prepared to fight for freedom. Recent riots in the cities of South Africa and the war in Rhodesia are evidence of black unrest. The whites, for one reason or another, treat the problem with little concern. Instead of making adjustments to the reality of ultimate majority rule, they have armed themselves to the teeth in preparation for the worst.

What does it mean to be black in South Africa? It means that you are a second class citizen with no political or social rights in the land of your birth. It also means that you are a source of cheap labor for the mines and factories. Although vital to the economy of the subcontinent, blacks are treated as subhumans. They are, in the words of one South African, "a necessary evil." Whites get, on the average, ten times what blacks get in pay. To be black means you live completely at the mercy of the whites for they make all the decisions concerning your life. They decide where you live, what you mean to the country, and even where you may go. This situation has raised one basic question: Where is South Africa headed?

Change has to come to South Africa if peace is to be a reality. Blacks are simply tired of white domination. They want change and they want it fast. What change would mean to the whites is the stumbling block. Whites think change would mean black rule — they are right. They think change would mean abandoning the exclusive privileges and luxuries they now enjoy — correct. Whites think black control would mean a reverse of the current situation — they are wrong. To blacks change means the end of white rule and the establishment of a society where no one race dominates the other. In short, the triumph of good over evil.

In Rhodesia the white regime is faced with certain defeat by the blacks. They (the whites) are now working frantically with the help of western powers, to establish what they term a "moderate black government." Seen through western political lenses, such a government is one which would perpetuate the current white control. This cannot be acceptable to the black population. In South Africa black unrest is at an uncontrollable rise. Black student riots since June of 1976 show how blacks are prepared to bring about change at any cost. Whites are also prepared but time and simple arithmetic are against them — they are the minority.

It is necessary for the white minority government to realize they are fighting for an unjust cause. The western powers should also realize that continuing to support the two governments is taking part in an unjust cause — one which might draw them directly into a confrontation.

SHOULD THE SUPREME COURT RULE ON THE BAKKE CASE?

by
Kelvin Davis

In 1896 the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the Louisiana conviction of Homer Plessy, a black man who was arrested for riding on a Louisiana train in a section reserved for "whites only." Eighty-one years later the high court must rule on *The Regents of the University of Southern California vs. Allan Bakke*, in which a white man was allegedly denied admission to a medical school because of a reserved section for minorities.

Allan Bakke, 36, a space engineer, applied to 11 medical schools five years ago, including the University of California at Davis. After being denied admission to the Davis medical school for two years, Bakke learned that he was being considered for one of 84 positions even though there were 100 total positions. Sixteen of these positions were reserved for disadvantaged applicants, some of whom were admitted with grade point averages below the 2.5 minimum. Bakke's average was 3.5. Bakke took his case to the California Supreme Court to argue that this system denied him his 14th Amendment right of equal treatment under the law. The California court favored Bakke, ruling that the Davis affirmative action program violated his rights by giving "preference on the basis of race to persons who, by the university's standards, are not as qualified for the study of medicine as non-minority applicants denied admission."

"Although the unconstitutional nature of the Davis program would suggest that the high court would also favor Bakke, other indicators suggest a different stand."



The Regents, the governing board of the university, decided to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court despite the opposition of a number of civil rights groups, who felt that there are substantial problems with the program and the university's involvement in this case.

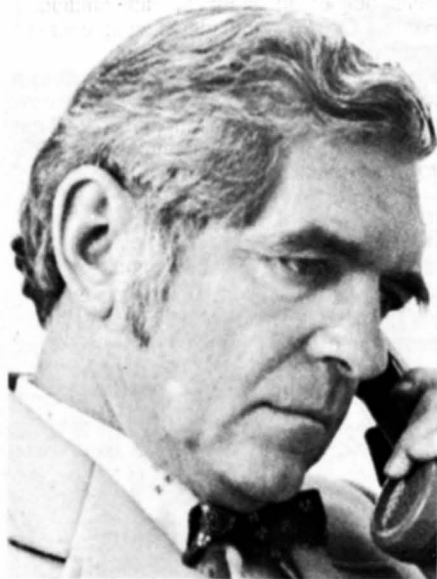
Although the unconstitutional nature of the Davis program would suggest that the high court would also favor Bakke, other indicators suggest a different stand. The Carter Administration has persistently voiced its approval and support of affirmative action. The Justice Department representing the federal government, has filed a brief and supplied oral testimony supporting its belief that the case should be returned to California to see if Bakke would have been admitted under the proper standard; a single admissions process for all. This implies that Davis relied too heavily on race in processing applications. Many critics argue that if race, sex, geographical location, economic and academic background, and other factors considered by most universities had been evaluated, Bakke's charges would not have been as valid.

The Court could find that the 14th Amendment, which does not mention race, but was passed after the Civil War specifically to protect blacks, cannot be turned against them. The Court could also uphold the university and find that racial preferences or even quotas are acceptable to increase equality. However, this would be an inadequate decision for members of female and other minority groups who re-

quire the assistance of the affirmative action programs.

While the Supreme Court considers the Bakke case, questions have been raised regarding the effectiveness of affirmative action. Initiated by the executive order of President Lyndon Johnson, AA requires that all employers who receive federal money undertake programs for the advancement of women and minorities. Enforcement of AA, however, has been limited. Only fifteen of nearly 40,000 businesses and not one university have lost a federal contract for discrimination. Indeed, some of the problems of AA, the failure of the SBA programs (Small Business Administration) to help minority business, and the Medicaid scandals, have been blamed on the lack of top level interest under the Nixon and Ford Administrations.

Although the Carter Administration has toughened enforcement of AA, the question has been raised by the Bakke case as to how long minorities, especially the black community, can hope to have the protection of government. The support of a pro-Bakke ruling suggests a feeling that non-anglo-saxon Americans are receiving more than their share of the American dream, at a time when the job market is becoming more competitive. The Anti-Bakke faction extends its interest beyond the immediate ruling on the case. Great interest is placed on how this decision will affect affirmative action and the people who utilize the programs.



Ebony Tree Interview: Edmund Mester

A conversation with the Interim President of Bowie State College

by
Byron Dobson and Kelvin Davis

Mester: The mergers of several departments really took place before I arrived, but the Dean (Wallace) explained the whole thing to me and I agreed to what she was doing. The basic reason was declining enrollment. We would have had to dismiss faculty whereas if we pooled the two departments and have a Math guy teach a science course, we could keep it balanced. What disturbance there was about it was the fact that it was not submitted to the full faculty. It was discussed by the Dean with the department heads and she had a right to assume that it was talked over with the members of their departments. In my judgment, it was absolutely the right thing to do.

Ebony Tree: Having served as Executive of the Board of Trustees, what do you think of the future of Bowie State College?

Mester: I think it has a very great future. I'm not saying that to please you or whoever reads your newspaper. Just stop and think where Bowie is. It's located in the largest county in the state of Maryland, which has 700,000 people. We've got \$50 million dollars worth of construction on this campus. We've got a library with three and a half acres of floor space, we've got a new administration building, and the Martin Luther King building, with one of the finest auditoriums in the state. We've got a strong faculty. We've got a great Math Department, a great Psychology Department. We are the only institution in the world that offers a masters degree in Adlerian Psychology. This summer we had eight Israelis on this campus. They were so impressed that they've asked us to come to Tel Aviv to establish a center for them.

Ebony Tree: The majority of the students here do not really understand how you were selected to serve as interim president. Could you elaborate?

Mester: When Dr. Myers announced his wish to retire in May, that faced before the Board of Trustees which is the governing body of this institution, the requirement to find a new president, male or female, black or white. You can't do that in the short period from May to August. So the Board asked me as Executive Director, if I would come down here and be the interim president. I gave it serious thought and said, Yes, only with the clear understanding that I would be president in fact, not just in name. If you need a caretaker, you can find somebody on that campus, but this College as I saw it from Annapolis, had some problems.

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have been
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Ebony Tree: Has the Search Committee designated any specific time limit on finding a new president?

Mester: They are supposed to report to the Board of Trustees by March. If they found someone or a person they were really satisfied with and that person was available January 1st, I'd leave January 2nd. If they don't find anyone until January 1 of 1979, I hopefully would stay until then.

Ebony Tree: What do you feel have been your achievements since coming to Bowie?

Mester: I think that I've put together an administration that is first rate. I brought back Bill Mumby, Joe Brandon, Herb Thompson, our new Public Relations man, and kept others. We had some very definite priorities. I had gone to the dorms and the dining hall and thought these places were terrible. We put the maintenance crew to work this summer like they've never been to work before. I talked this all over with the SGA Officers; we weren't doing it in secret. At the same time we were meeting with the administration and decided that in order to solve these problems, it has got to be a complete joint effort. We need a strong recruitment plan. We met with Dr. Gretta Henry who is president of the Alumni Association and she is leading a charge to get more students.

Ebony Tree: Are you thinking of applying for the job?

Mester: No, sir, I'm not.

Ebony Tree: Has there ever been talk by the Board of Trustees about a possible merger with the University of Maryland?

Mester: No, sir, not in the ten years that I was Director of the Board of Trustees was there any talk of a possible merger.

Ebony Tree: What has the reaction been from the Faculty members of those certain departments?

Mester: Questions have been raised as to the procedure, not really to the substance of the merger. The Dean and I have met with the entire Faculty and answered to the best of our ability those same questions. Procedurally we may have been a little weak, but certainly we feel that we made the right decision.

Ebony Tree: The question of enrollment continues to come up. How will Bowie, as we know it, change, if the problem increases?

Mester: There is concern among legislators and the Executive Branch about Bowie. They do want us to have more students. This school is not going to close down. We are going to demonstrate that we've got a product that people out there want to buy. If we get the message across, we'll have the students.

Ebony Tree Staff

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Ebony Tree: Recently there have been two mergers of academic departments and an evaluation of the curriculum of another. Is this indicative of a present threat to the accreditation of the school?

Ebony Tree: Are you thinking of applying for the job?

Mester: No, sir, I'm not.

Ebony Tree: How long will you be serving as interim President?

Mester: I agreed with the Board of Trustees that I would stay here as President until they had found the person in which they have confidence. When I came here on June 2, the Board appointed a Search Committee and that committee has met but I don't know how far they've gone.

Ebony Tree: If there happened to be a great influx of students, where would we house them?

Mester: We won't be able to house them. We (Board of Trustees) are trying once again to get money from the state for more dormitory research. This is the third year and they've turned us down for two years. We have to get our share of students from the county.

Ebony Tree: Some students feel that you have neglected them by not holding a Formal Convocation introducing yourself and outlining your objectives.

Mester: I have no problem at all calling a convocation. I just assumed that somewhere there would be a convocation of the student body but you indicated to me that is not a tradition.

Ebony Tree: There has been a major concern about the new library not being fully open on the weekend. Could you explain this?

Mester: Yes, sir. That library was planned on the basis that we would have 4200 F.T.E. (full time equivalent) students and we have 1925 now. Our budget is given in accordance with how many students we have. The answer to our problem is to get more students.



Ebony Tree: I have heard of expressed interest in a nursing major. Is there any possibility of that?

Mester: I've talked with Dean Wallace about that and I told her that it was something to explore very carefully. Nursing education is very expensive, very heavy on the sciences, a lot of time in hospitals. There are three nursing programs in D.C., three in the Baltimore area. First of all, let's find out what the market is. How many baccalaureate nurses do we need? What are the costs? If we do go into the nursing business, can we expect the state to fund us because if we had to charge the student the cost of a nursing degree, we're not going to get it. There is a tremendous interest here however.

Ebony Tree: Please explain the turnover in the Art Department and explain why Mr. White is no longer Chairman of the Art Department.

Mester: I tried to explain to the Faculty that I recognize that department heads play a dual role as part administrator and part Faculty. I feel that the department head must meet three criteria: (1) he has to be competent, (2) he's got to have a commitment to this school, (3) he has to be loyal to the program and the needs that have to be done there. I felt that Mr. White would be better off being a full time faculty member.

Ebony Tree: Do you feel that convocation is an S.G.A. tradition?

Mester: I'm simply saying that I didn't know the procedure. I just assumed that there would be a convocation.

Ebony Tree: What type of programs or new majors would you like to see implemented at Bowie?

Mester: In both the graduate and undergraduate level I think we should offer degrees in Public Administration. Let's take advantage of where we are. We've got a growing county, we've got 27 municipalities in this county alone, all with town managers, personnel officers, budget directors, looking for this kind of education. There is a tremendous market out there. I would like to see us expand in computer science, engineering, and business. Another department with great possibilities for us is Art and Theatre.

Athletic Fees: Do You Get What You Pay For?

by
Byron Dobson

The Ebony Tree interviewed A.C. Jordan, Bowie's Athletic Director to ask him about our athletic fees: where do they go and are we getting our money's worth?

Bowie's athletic department, according to Jordan, will receive approximately fifty eight thousand dollars this year. These funds come from the "student fee" which is forty dollars per student and also gate receipts which never total over four thousand dollars.

Unfortunately for Bowie, the fifty eight thousand dollars allocated to the sports program has to be shared. Jordan stated that the coaches' salaries take up about twenty thousand dollars. The remaining problem would appear to concern constructing a solid program with the remaining thirty eight thousand dollars. But the football budget alone is twenty seven thousand dollars. This includes the coaching salaries.

Beyond the football program there are women's basketball, women's volleyball, and men's basketball teams to be funded. Mr. Jordan feels that there is a quality women's basketball program. However, he does not feel that we have attracted the women needed to have a quality volleyball team. Up until this year, Jordan expressed a similar attitude toward the men's basketball team. Jordan emphasized that "we are going to have to attract students who are going to stay here for four years." The present basketball team does not have one senior or junior.

Bowie State College has an excellent physical education building. One of the main features of the James Complex is the modern swimming pool. So why is there no swimming team? Jordan states that, "We don't have the money to develop a program. I don't feel that we should try a half-way program. We have the same problem that most black schools have and that is we

don't produce many black swimmers. These are some of the things that we haven't gotten around to." Besides the absence of a swim team, Bowie also lacks having a quality track and field team. Jordan said, "It takes a heck of a lot of money to compete in the various relays and tournaments which we don't have."

It was obvious that the solution to some of the problems would be to get more money immediately. One method of generating that money is through the development of the Booster's Club. Jordan states,

"One of the major problems facing the program is poor attendance at events."

"I think that this club can be and is one of the means of building up the athletic program and also I think it's a means of attracting students to the college." He added, "In regard to our athletic program, the amount of money that we spend in our entire athletic program is about the same amount of money that one of the major college coaches will get in a year's salary. Most black schools will spend more on their football program than we do on our entire sports program."

One of the major problems facing the sports program is poor attendance at events. Although the football and basketball games are free to Bowie students, there is still a poor showing in attendance. Jordan emphasized that there has to be more student support at the games and also stressed the need for more faculty support. Students don't support the football games because there are no other activities planned on the weekend to make the students want to stay here, according to Jordan.

With the low enrollment continuing and economic factors in mind and that further economic constraints coupled with student apathy where does the future lie for Bowie's sport's program. Jordan is optimistic. He said that Bowie does not have the potential of becoming a football power, but can become a college that can play representative football.

As for basketball, Jordan stated that this year our basketball team is going to come a long way, it's going to take a little time, because most of our players are freshmen and sophomores who are good on the court as well as in the books. This is going to be helpful.





The New Honors Program: Where Excellence Is Academic

By
Marie Givens

Bowie State College's increased emphasis on academic excellence is reflected this Fall in a newly created activity called the Honors Program.

At the luncheon honoring the 16 freshmen chosen to start the program, DeanCarolynn Reid-Wallace told them they would help the College realize a longtime dream of Bowie State College's faculty and staff.

"We are putting the College's best resources into a central reservoir," she said. "You are that reservoir. We want you to prove that Bowie State College can produce the finest people this nation can produce. A dream not yet realized is the beginning of new hope for our country . . . and it is the beginning of a renaissance for Bowie State College."

Dr. Virginia Guilford, coordinator of the Honors Program, said it has two principal goals: to foster excellence in scholarship at the freshman and sophomore levels, and to develop a group of freshmen and sophomore students who can serve as academic models.

A broad curriculum has been designed to challenge the abilities of the Honors students and stimulate their quest for knowledge, and they have a seminar room in the library designated for their use. But Dr. Guilford made it clear they will swim in the mainstream of campus life.

"Although we have begun to structure an honors concept for students like you whose academic backgrounds indicate that they can benefit from a more rigorous general education curriculum, we do not intend to isolate you and to create an elite group within the institution," she said.

"We desire not only to challenge you to reach your intellectual peak but to have you directly and indirectly present this same challenge to your peers, thereby contributing to the institutional goal of a total campus quest for academic excellence."

Dr. Guilford urged the Honors students to become involved in all aspects of the campus program, share experiences with their peers and make suggestions for enhancing student development in general.

"Remember 'no man is an island entire unto itself'; nor is the Honors Program designed to exist as such," she said. "You will only realize your potential by excelling academically and adjusting socially."

Other than their demonstrated academic abilities and potential, the 16 students represent a variety of backgrounds, interests and special skills. One of them, William Stewart, was the starting quarterback of Bowie's football team through the first four games this Fall.

The students and their chosen majors are:

Wayne Carter, Engineering; Sandra Fair, Science; Laurie E. Gilmore, Business Administration; Milton Hargrove, Education/Human Services; Kim Hawkins, Business Administration; Pamela Hay, Business Administration; Randy McRae, Business Administration; Sabrina Pinkney, Engineering; James Price, Political Science; William Stewart, Engineering; Clarence Tucker, Science (Veterinary); Garfield Waltz, Business Administration; Katherine Washington, Social Work; Carol White, Business Administration; Neca E. Williams, Psychology; Jonathan Yates, Science.

Bowie's Boosters

More than 160 alumni and friends of the College joined the newly formed Bowie State College Boosters Club in its first few weeks of operation.

And they contributed more than \$3,000 to the drive to raise funds for Bowie State College athletic programs and student athletes.

The instant success of the drive has prompted Club and College officials to redouble their efforts to expand the membership — and the Club's financial resources. If you are not already a Bowie Booster, you can take advantage of the application blank on this page and send it with your check for membership(s) to the Booster's Club.

The Club was formed at the instigation of President Mester for a dual purpose — to bring about closer ties between the College and surrounding community, while at the same time increasing financial support for Bowie State College athletic programs, which receive very little State funding.

Roy I Dabney, a bank manager and President of the Prince Georges County Chamber of Commerce, agreed to serve as President of the Boosters Club, and Robert C. Reid, Editor and Publisher of the *Bowie Blade*, signed on as Vice President.

These two community leaders have worked tirelessly to make the Club a success. Each furnished the College a long list of persons to contact for membership and followed through personally on these contacts.

Some of those responding contributed well above the \$15 per person requested for membership. Bob Hall, Inc. of Upper Marlboro, distributor of Anheuser-Busch beer, gave \$500. Dr. J. Alexander Wiseman, Professor Emeritus and Bowie State alumnus, donated \$100. Several others contributed \$25 to \$50.





EVENTFUL HOMECOMING PLANNED

By
Marie Givens

A full program of activities ranging from cultural events by foreign students, to dances, pep rallies, and a parade are planned for Bowie State College's Homecoming "77" week of November 2nd - 6th.

Calvin Willmore, Chairman of the Homecoming Committee, expressed the theme as "unity, self determination and awareness on part of the students, alumni association, and all others concerned."

"Cultural Day"

The foreign students will kick off the festivities with a "Cultural Day" on Wednesday, November 2nd. That evening, a play, entitled "Happy Birthday Black America" will be presented in the MLK Arts Center.

On Thursday, November 3rd, the new William E. Henry Administration Building will be dedicated at 11:00 a.m. in the commons area of the building. That evening there will be a concert featuring "The Moonlighters" at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the CAC.

"Pep Rally"

On Friday, a pep rally will be held at 8:00 p.m. in the MLK auditorium followed by a "Dollar Disco" held in the James Gymnasium from 10:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m.

"Homecoming Parade"

On Saturday, the Homecoming Parade will start at 12 noon in the parking lot of the MLK building. The Alumni Association will have a hospitality area in the McKeldin Gym from 12 noon until 7:00 p.m. The parade will consist of floats representing the different clubs and organizations on campus. All entries will be judged on creativity, appearance and theme. There will be first, second and third place awards.



Miss Bowie, Myra Green

"Football Game"

The Homecoming game against Fayetteville State begins at 1:30 p.m. Bowie will be treated to a dynamic halftime show featuring the Fayetteville State Marching Band, crowning of "Miss Homecoming", the parade of floats, and a parachute jump, featuring parachuters from Fort Meade. Immediately following the game there will be a Greek-CIO "Block Show" behind the Student Union.

"Dusk To Dawn Dance"

That evening the Annual Dusk to Dawn Dance will be held in the James Gymnasium from 10:00 p.m. to 4 a.m. The dance will feature "Brainstorm," "Jungle Rock," and "Pleasure." Student tickets are \$5.00 and outsiders are charged \$6.50.

"Gospel Evening"

On Sunday, a gospel evening is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This enjoyable evening will conclude Homecoming "77" festivities.

These activities, sponsored by the Student Government Association hope to exemplify just one aspect of the total commitment they have to the students here.

