

# The Best and The Brightest

By MAYO CALDWELL

Traditionally, Christmas is a time of happiness and celebration, however, for the students here at ECSU, Christmas should also be a time for introspection and rededication to our growth and survival.

These are troubled times and we need to check ourselves out - objectively. We need to ascertain our strengths and our weaknesses. Along with the Christmas partying, we also need to ask ourselves questions such as, Where are we going as race and how will we get there?

In the fifties and sixties, we black people were primarily concerned with gaining our constitutional rights: equal employment, voting and educational opportunities.

We took pride in our blackness. We claimed that blackness represented strength, love and beauty. Indeed, our color was personified with attributes other than what "Mother Nature" originally intended for it to be.

Now, in order for us to survive the technologically mercurial eighties, being black will not ensure our survival. We must strive towards becoming "the best and the brightest."

How do we become "the best and the brightest"? Is there a new "best and brightest" pill that will instantly sharpen our intellectual skills? The first question is the nucleus of this editorial. The second, however, is an elementary attempt at satire (via World Literature 101).

Firstly, we need discipline. Discipline can be simply defined as putting your wants before your needs. Black students should put a higher

on studying than on dancing and partying.

Frankly, we have enough "slam-dunkers" and Sunday evening bomb-catchers. We need more chemists, mathematicians, geologists, biologists and doctors.

Why should we have to depend on white scientists to find a cure for sickle-cell anemia?

Along with discipline, we must develop our cognizant capacity to its maximum potential.

Theoretically, on a more superior level, the brain is similar to a computer. If you feed garbage into it, garbage will come out. Likewise, if you feed positive ideas into the brain, positive accomplishments will be manifested.

If you apply yourself to achieving realistic goals and give reaching that goal a high priority over your wants. If you began to read and digest all of the information that will positively effect the outcome of your achieving this goal, this process that psychologists call accommodation (new learning) will be implemented.

During slavery, guidance came from slaves who were brave, daring and physically strong.

Ministers King, Young and Abernathy led us safely through the physical struggles of the sixties. They were the "ideal" leaders for those times because they provided us with the spiritual inspiration that we needed to survive the physical confrontation.

But, brothers and sisters, if we are to survive, prosper and compete as a proud race in the future, we must be led by, "The Best and the Brightest."

# We need support

Dear Editor:

The editors from eight black universities convened to plan strategies toward fulfilling the implementation of ideas that will enhance nation-wide communication with our own constituents at black universities. The reason for the meeting was simple - to help preserve our black universities and colleges AND OUR HERITAGE.

We organized at the third annual National Organization of Black Universities and College Students (NOBUCS). This year's meeting was held November 8-11 on Howard

University's campus in Washington, D.C.

The eight editors and a few concerned on-lookers joined in a "think-tank" planning group session. During this very harmonious session (no arguing) we came up with certain variables that constituted a realistic strategy aimed at curtailing apathy that exist on the college level, especially in the area of journalistic communication.

At this meeting we wholeheartedly decided to initiate the programs we devised in the "think tank" session. Our resolution passed at the general assembly meeting

with all the schools voting unanimously YES.

We can only accomplish our objective with your help. We know that many editors did not have the funds to make the trip, others did not hear about the NOBUCS meeting do what you can to help.

Mr. Rodney Sprauve of Hampton Institute received the honor of being the Chairperson for this year. He will supply you with more indepth information very soon. Please assist us. We are all in this together.

Thank you,  
Mr. Geoffrey K. White  
Kentucky State University

# ECSU needs change

Elizabeth City State University is an outstanding university. It offers many opportunities for ambitious young people.

The University has good things about it, but yet some things could be worked on to improve our school.

To make the University better for students, it needs improvements in such areas as new dormitories for men and women, registration procedures for new students and the food in the cafeteria.

Dormitories on any college campus should be similar to a person's home environment. The environment that a student lives in will constitute the way a person will function in that environment.

The dorms for men and women at ECSU need improvement. For an example, the rooms in the men's dorms are smaller and in some cases are to crowded for three people.

In the women's dorms, such things like light switches, sockets and doors need to be repaired. The University

personnel should take these things into consideration.

I think if these things and other things that were not mentioned would be improved, the University would have no problem with students dropping out of the University.

Registration procedures for each semester and for entering freshman should be improved. The University should take in consideration that the freshman students in particular do not understand the procedures of registering.

People who do not know things get restless and give up. This what happens to freshmen who come to register for a new year or who are registering for another semester. The University should especially work on this area.

The food in the cafeteria also needs improvement. The school should take in consideration that students depend on good meals each day. This also harms a

student's brain from functioning well in college.

If a student has a terrible lunch or breakfast, that student will feel restless during the day and will tire quickly. I feel that if the University gets enough complaints from the students, they will do something to stop these complaints.

ECSU can be improved if the students as well as the administration complain enough. The areas that I have talked about should be acted upon as soon as possible.

The University should take in consideration that a way a University is run and they way each department is run, will determine student's attitudes and opinions. If they will consider this, ECSU will be a much better place for both the present students and the students of the future.

s i g n e d ,  
A Concerned Student

# Peace Corps active on EC campus

Gayle A. Plummer, a student at Elizabeth City State University and Mr. William Pierce, Director of Career Counseling and Placement were among representatives of 33 colleges and universities who convened in Atlanta November 13 - 16, as quests of the Peace Corps.

Concerned that only 4.9 percent of the volunteers who go abroad with the Peace Corps come from minority

publics, Deputy Peace Corps Director William G. Sykes invited the students and supervisors to Atlanta as part of an initiative to increase involvement of minority members.

"As a black American, I am very concerned about getting more Black, Hispanic and American Indian men and women into the Peace Corps," proclaimed Sykes, who is the former secretary

of the Maryland Department of Human Resources in Baltimore and continues in a non-paid post as president of the Maryland State Board of Education.

"You can play a unique role in providing underdeveloped countries with skilled American manpower," he told the 100 representatives from 11 eastern and southern states. "You can also help the people of the Third World

understanding of American society..."

Ms. Plummer is majoring in English with a concentration in News Media at ECSU and was chosen by the school to be its campus representative for the Peace Corps.

Each representative who attended the Atlanta conference is from a school or other organization which has a contract from the Peace

terest in helping Third World countries.

## Campus Location

On campus, Gayle will be a contact for others interested in getting information about the Peace Corps and can be located at Elizabeth City State University's Ridley Center in Room 115 between 1