

Freshman Dilemma

By George Bowser

The beginning student is confronted with an assortment of vexations and overpowering perplexities. Freshman students often experience difficulty in adjusting to the new life style and surroundings. The students in dormitories find themselves housed in close proximity with other young people of their approximate age but with varying cultural backgrounds, different values, different levels of motivation and ideologies.

Frequently the freshman feels that he is at "the bottom of the heap." This is elucidated by the fact that at a recent student body meeting few freshmen voiced their opinions. Later a young woman demurely replied, "I was afraid to say anything because I thought the upperclassmen might think that I was trying to be fresh because I am only a freshman." This belief is held by several freshmen. But is it not ironic that freshmen do not voice their opinions? The rules of ECSU will be here four years, while upperclassmen will soon depart. Therefore it seems proper that if these rules will govern them longer, then they should take an active part in making them.

Freshmen are on their own. There is no one to tell them when to study. No one makes them go to class. They have to learn to live with and relate to personalities that are different or incongruous to those of their family members. If they miss classes their chances of failure are increased.

There may be problems understanding teachers. Freshmen may think that teacher's methods of instruction are obsolete, and their lectures are perfunctory. One may withdraw by retreating into one's self. Or one may do as many young people do, fantasize or choose some other tension-reducing technique for dealing with a frustrating situation, or build an optimistic outlook and try to solve these problems.

The problem of choosing associates can be baffling. If you choose associates who are motivated in a direction other than academic excellence, you will be likely to experience academic failure.

Freshmen must learn that to survive they must respect the rights of others. One has to become his own man, and accept responsibilities for his own decisions. Perhaps most important of all, freshmen and all students must develop a sense of belonging, becoming an integral part of their environment.

Co-Ed Visitation

By Ms Joyce Terrell

The Co-Educational Visitation Program here at Elizabeth City State University started during the academic year 1974-75. This first program was limited to weekends only. Co-Ed Visitation cards were issued to all eligible students. Freshmen were excluded from the program.

The program was later expanded by some dissatisfied students. The students joined to form the Co-Educational Visitation Committee which drew up new policies for the program. With the help of the entire student body, it was decided that all dormitories would be included in the new program and the new hours would be Sunday to Thursday from 5 P.M. to 11 P.M. and Friday to Saturday from 2 P.M. to 2 A.M. The new program policies were finally taken through the proper channels and were approved. Students at ECSU were granted campus-wide co-educational visitation.

Co-Ed Visitation had to be limited to the four female dormitories, however, because of the lack of sufficient help to carry out the program.

"Most people on this campus are strongly for co-ed visitation and think that it is a wonderful program," one student commented.

However, as with all things, there are those who feel that the program is not completely satisfactory and could use a little improvement. Some of the arguments for and against the Co-Educational Visitation which were heard across campus are: "It gives groups, male and female, a chance to do class projects together without going to the library where quietness is stressed." "The young men and women don't seem to know when co-ed visitation

Another Voice

By Charles White

REPORTER'S NOTE: The purpose of this column is to give special attention to events and ideas on the ECSU campus. The opinions and statements of this column are those of this reporter and not necessarily those of the COMPASS.

The face of the Elizabeth City State University campus is at this time under going an amazing transistion. In addition to two access roads being paved this past summer and big renovation projects on the existing buildings, there arose out of the dirt and grass a huge athletic complex beside the swimming pool. This building is important because it is the first step in a massive building program.

The building program mentioned above continues with a new Industrial Arts Technical Center and a new Maintenance Building followed by a proposed addition to the Library.

With all this building, changing and rearranging going on, one important problem has been overlooked in the attention-getting department here on campus. The problem is housing.

What does all this have to do with the housing problem?

Well, in simple terms, there is little or no housing projected in the building program until the projects mentioned above are completed. This could take as many as four years, taking into account the availability of materials and, of course, the weather.

What does this mean?

It means, for the next few years, that we will have to make do with what we have. This means that rooms built for two people might still have to accommodate three. Also vision if you can, another entering class I like the last one. Numbering over 500, this freshman class caused a public plea for housing in the surrounding community. If a larger class entered next year, some people would surely have to be turned away. Even though a large recruitment drive for local students is in progress, it is quite apparent that we must also be respectful of those students who wish to live on campus.

I know the importance of a gym on our campus is high on the priority list, and a new industrial arts Technical Center and a new Maintenance Shop are needed sorely. But let us also remember that it is the students who make the need for the buildings and not the buildings who make the need for the students.

So the question remains unanswered, but I hope in the future there won't be a need for anyone to ask if relief is in sight for the ECSU housing problem.

Social Science Dept. News

By Elma Norman

Mr. Robert Lewis McKinnon, a 1975 graduate of North Carolina Central University with a Masters Degree in History, has joined the Department. Mr. McKinnon will teach courses in History and serve as a counselor in the BEE program at Elizabeth City State University.

Dr. Harry J. Ghee, a 1968 Elizabeth City State University graduate, supervisor of student-teachers for the Social Science Department has received his Ed.D. Degree in Social Studies Education from the University of Virginia.

Dr. Debabrata Basu, Ph.D. in Geology from Lehigh University will teach courses in Geography during the 1975-76 academic year.

begins and ends". "If the young ladies would keep the young men in their rooms and out of the halls, it would be much better." "It seems more like home-life." "There is too much noise in the dormitories." "It improves the social life of the students." "Whatever we are for or against Co-Educational Visitation, we must remember that no program can work without the support of the majority and, we as 'Vikings' can 'make or break' the program."

Welcome

I extend a warm welcome to all of you -- the members of the Viking family. I'm hoping that this year will be a fulfilling one as well as a rewarding one.

As you can see the paper is back and is well organized. The staff is full of dedicated members who will spend a good deal of their time preparing this paper. We have a new faculty advisor this year -- Mr. James Worsham. Mr. Worsham teaches News Media in the Modern Language Department and has as his goal to help make THE COMPASS a real newspaper. We're hoping that with your cooperation these issues will be circulated around the entire campus.

There are many events that will be happening this year: The Coronation Ball, Homecoming, The BiCentennial Year, and the Construction of the new gym. We hope to keep you informed about these through THE COMPASS.

Let us put forth our best effort for a new school year here at Elizabeth City State University.

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Melvin Norman



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