

## EDITORIAL PAGE

To the Editor:

A couple of weeks ago, someone asked that I write an article for the Compass. The topic suggested was minority students at ECSU. I accepted the suggestion and began to interview minority students (ages 18-35), getting their responses to such questions as, "Why did you choose ECSU?", "How do you feel as a minority student here?", and "Do you participate in extracurricular activities?" Most of the responses were the same. They chose ECSU for convenience. They had not experienced any attitudes or reactions connected with their minority status, and they (except for the football

players) had not participated in extracurricular activities due to the lack of both time and communication. It seems that off-campus and commuting students find out about meetings either after they have taken place, or not at all. For instance, last year I discovered on a Tuesday, by word-of-mouth, that pictures had been taken for the yearbook on the previous Monday!

Throughout my interviews, however, something just did not seem right. I could not pinpoint the disturbance at first. I just knew I was not very interested in writing this particular piece. Then I

realized the problem — the topic was all wrong. ECSU is striving for greater minority enrollment and involvement. That is fine. However, I personally believe the only way to be a successful minority student is to forget you are a minority and be a successful student, period. By stressing the minority issue, a definite separation is being made. Then a situation of "segregated integration" occurs.

The problems cited to me by the students (lack of communication, organization, and announcements) are not "minority" problems, they are "student" problems. We should all think of ourselves

as ECSU students, not minority or black students. It is only by being a unified student body that we can achieve the goals for which ECSU has been, is, and will be striving.

I believe every student should give their best efforts toward helping ECSU and be proud of the institution. After all, it is your university.

If you think something should be changed about ECSU in order to improve it, fine. Then make the suggestion and do what you can to carry out this change. I have overheard several students complaining about the university. I agree with the cliché "words are cheap."

Stop all that jaw-action and do something. Otherwise, stop complaining.

From doing this article, I have definitely learned some problems which need to be cleared. They are all connected with communication. Students (particularly off-campus and commuting students) need an organized way of learning about meetings of various groups and organizations. For instance, some students do not even know we have a school paper, let alone where to find it or how to join the staff. Now that we have been alerted to some student problems, let us see what we can do to eliminate them. You can help!

By Susan Fitzgerald

To the editor:

I must begin my letter by saying I love ECSU. Prior to coming here all I could hear was people buzzing about the great institution this school used to be. They were always saying how badly the school has gone down. Well for those

non-believers, I'd like to say: "Baloney, Fooley."

Since my enrollment here at ECSU, I've learned so many valuable lessons, and I don't believe I would have acquired this knowledge at any other institution. I have grown to know and understand many of our problems

here, and I am trying fullheartedly to add to the solution. I only wish I could share my enthusiasm with more students here at ECSU, and help them to realize the future of our school is very promising.

Before any of you go out

and say, ECSU "ain't this" this institution is made of the student body, so if this university ain't this or that, what are we the students, saying about ourselves? Our very being means we know ECSU has something to offer, and I don't believe anyone is here against their will.

Let's keep this in mind; be for real and love our school. Respect the reason we are here, because it takes all of us together to make it, and keep it, one university under the grove," sho 'nuf under the groove.

Lillian Vaughan

## New Academic Program Meets Needs Of Students

By Orlando Gregory

Elizabeth City State University, in an effort to ease the cumbersome problems encountered by students during their first two years of study, has instituted the Division of General Studies. The program now provides an opportunity for students to sample various areas of study before becoming formally committed to a definite major.

The new program enables students to withhold decision on selecting a major until completion of their sophomore year. This approach gives a student the chance to obtain valuable experiences necessary to make a wise decision about a major.

The Division of General Studies under its director, Mrs. Helen M. Caldwell, complements the curriculum by

providing a means whereby students may improve their basic skills. As a means for meeting the specific needs of the students who traditionally enroll, ECSU has established an academic Skills Center which is designed to improve the student's basic educational skills. A team of specialists in mathematics, reading, speech, and writing provides direct academic counseling to students in laboratory settings.

Instructing and Counseling at the Center are: Mrs. Faleese Jenkins - Mathematics; Mrs. Deborah Mosley - Speech; Mrs. Vivian Armstrong - Writing; Mrs. Bonnie Ghee - Reading.

Elizabeth City State University is a pioneer in establishing a Division of General Studies, which encompasses the first two years of its academic curriculum. Programs of similar format

are being considered by several other institutions throughout the country.

Of all the institutions interested in this type of program, Harvard University, according to the March 1977 edition of Chronicle of Higher Education, adapted its version of the program under the name of Core Curriculum for 1978. ECSU, however, instituted its program during July of 1977, one year prior to Harvard.

Even though the program has existed for only one year, it already has been considered a success by Mrs. Caldwell. The program, which is functioning on a moderate budget, could be greatly improved. "This program", says Mrs. Caldwell, "which certainly has the full support of the administration, will be very beneficial to the educational careers of students who enter."

## Cartoon Rap

By Lola Yelverton



Frankie, what happened? Was it football? No man, I fell in the hole in front of Blas, trying to get away from a security cop.