

R.J. Walker

Bits

and
Pieces

from

the Editor's Desk

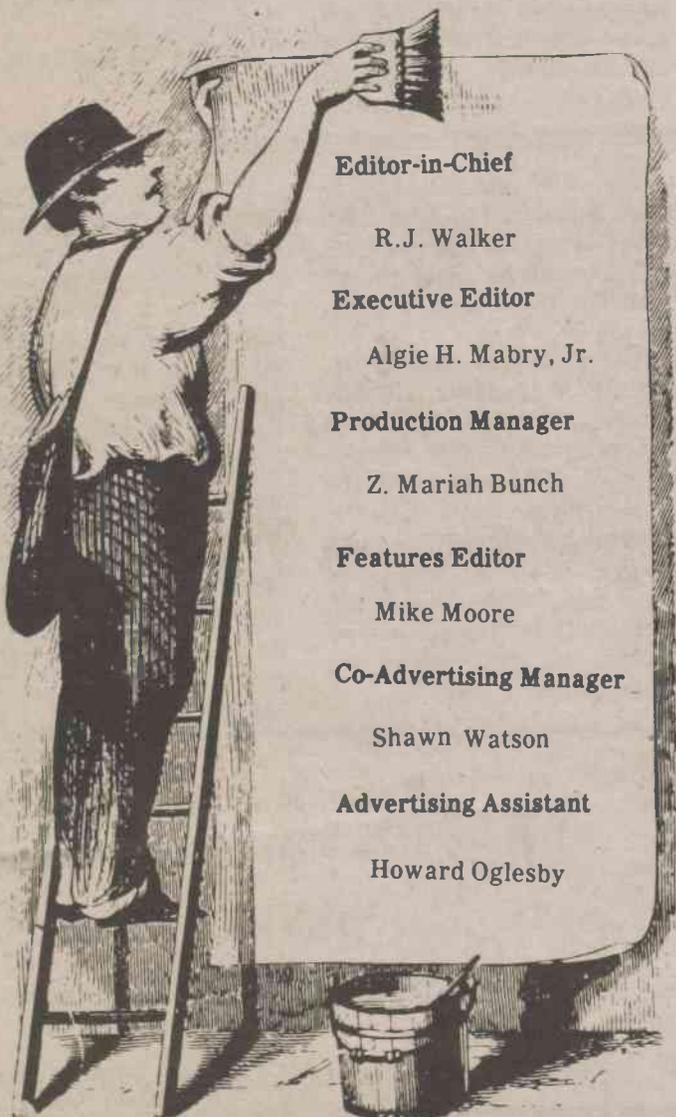
What's up? How was your summer? Welcome and so forth. It's that time of year again when I'm supposed to welcome you back and wish you a very successful year. Well, Hi and have a chilly year!

Last year proved to be a very successful year for the COMPASS and many tell me I have a very hard act to follow, but with my very dedicated staff and the help of you dear people out there I don't have a worry in the world. Of course we'll have a successful paper, but you all know me. There's gotta be some fun and games in the process.

My Assistant Editor is Algie H. Mabry Jr. and we get along like Sylvester and Tweety, so you can imagine the chaos that will accompany the entire production of the COMPASS. I would now like to officially name my new staff "Idiots II on Review."

So be Cool and use your time wisely like by reading that fantastic paper called the COMPASS. So bye now gotta say Chow!

R.J. Walker



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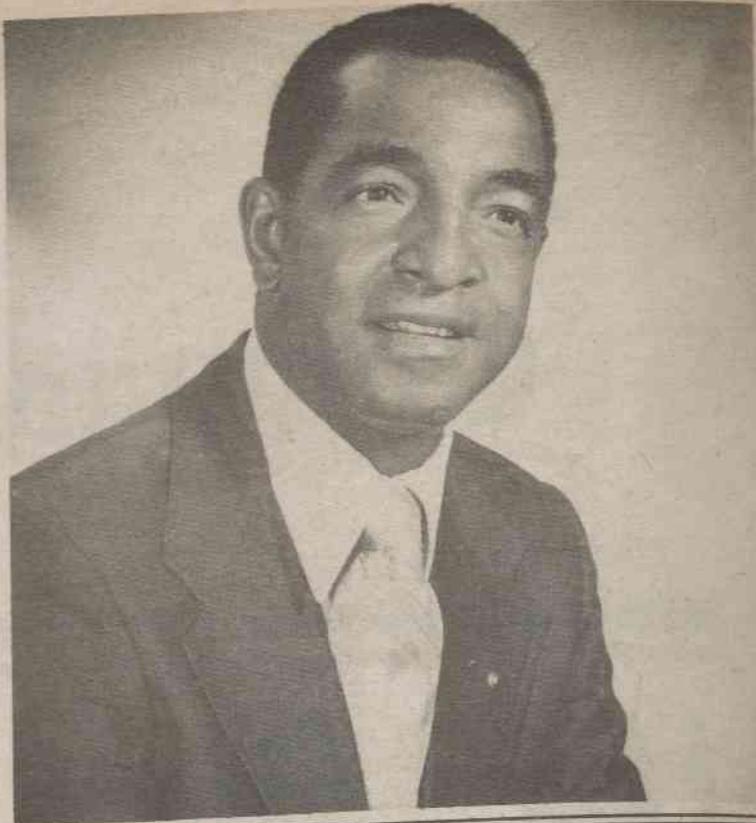
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A Tribute To An Author

by
Algie H. Mabry, Jr.



As a resident of the state of Virginia, I was fortunate to experience something that will always have a place in my heart. On Monday, June 27, 1983, I witnessed a passing of a resolution in the State Legislature in Raleigh honoring a great man. This great man was the late Dr. Marion D. Thorpe, past Chancellor of our University.

I was amazed and marveled to hear the testimonies coming from both Black and White politicians of this state. Not only did they honor and pay tribute to Dr. Thorpe for his memory, but implored that we carry on in his legacy to promote excellence at our University as well as in our individual lives.

Despite all the flowers that were placed on his grave, all the tributes bestowed upon him and the memorials erected in his honor, will those who remain breathing and the air of this blissful life carry on with his dreams?

Will his dreams become "deferred" as Langston Hughes once said "drying up like a raisin in the sun" or will his dreams become a part of the morals and aspirations of our lives? Will we carry on or will we cease?

Dr. Thorpe began writing an introduction to a book that many thought was fictitious as well as difficult. Ironically to those who thought otherwise, this book was real in its essence and meaning.

At the end of his introduction God quietly placed a comma. This comma represented a pause in his life. According to Webster a comma is "a punctuation mark that is usually a pause or interval." God left it to us to pick up the pen and continue writing after the sudden pause in Dr. Thorpe's life.

Unexpectedly we became co-authors of a book that is intended to be a bestseller. Will this book be among the few on the top 10 book lists or will it be pushed back behind other books on those dusty library shelves?

As we proceed in writing, we must produce quality characters. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, are just among a few professional roles that should be found on our pages. Our characters should be three-dimensional and always the protagonists.

Never doing wrong to their brothers should be the main priority of the characters that we produce.

After establishing what our characters will be like and what we hope that they will become, we must prepare our characters for the plot. Informing our characters of the obstacles and trials that they will face is one of the main responsibilities of the writer.

The setting should be one that is constantly changing

From our school days here at ECSU, our models should venture out to graduate schools, to places of employment, and most of all, into the "real world."



Columnist's

Corner

by

Zelene M. Bunch

HI!

For those of you that don't know me, I'm the staffer who collects the COMPASS' reader contribution columns. Those columns are so you can tell me what you want everyone else to know.

Vikings in the News is a column devoted to the accomplishments of past and present Vikings. Did a friend get accepted for grad school? Tell us about it! Has an alumnus a new job? Let's flaunt our accomplishments!

As i' twere is the literary section. We will print poems, short stories, essays, photos, art, or any of your creative work.

Sound Off!!! is the place where you can air your beefs, praise someone or something, or just be heard. Keep your comments decent, though, OK?

Rumor has it... is a little column of one-liners about any subject. We reserve the right to not print those that could be misunderstood or that are offensive. Other than that, anything goes!