

A Command Performance

Academic year 1984-1985! A stellar performance expected of a new administration. A dramatic experience for ECSU freshmen. A crowd-pleasing Student Government Association. The tickets have been purchased, and the opera glasses have been cleaned.

The opening of this academic year has prepared the stage and provided a massive audience for me. Curtains Up! Nervous I am, as I make my debut as Editor-in-Chief. Yes, I am nervous, but I also have confidence in the performance I will deliver as Editor. By the way, thank you for the applause and standing ovation.

At this point in my first performance, I would like to make some things clear. Ever since I was bestowed the title "Editor," I have studied my script, and I am aware of that which is expected of me and from me. In other words, I know what I am supposed to do, how I am supposed to perform, and lastly, when the stage is mine. More importantly though, I have learned my script to the point of recognizing my limitations and "impossible dreams."

I must agree with the Marching Viking Band when they shout out, "It's show time!" This first edition of The COMPASS is definitely showtime for me and my staff as well.

Although this paper is just getting into your hands now, it has been out for quite some time now. Why do I say this? Well, it has. News has been floating all over this campus, community and nation. We have captured portions of it for you. There is so much information and news-waving of it through our media, we are oftentimes unable to report it. If we were to give coverage on everything which occurs and affects this campus within our production dates, our paper would be enormous. This would be fine; but due to

budgetary restrictions, I know what to print, how much to print, and when to print. This situation is comparable to an actor who knows how to act, how much drama to add to his acting, and when to act. In many instances in our lives, it is not best to give everything. Save something and cause those who want to know to be suspicious.

While mentioning the actor, I would like to elaborate on the audience. Our audience is you—the reader. Congratulations! We expect and are aware that as an audience you will be a composite of many different ideas, attitudes, likes and dislikes. Because of your diversities, we are prepared for any response from you. Among you may be a few ignorant readers. (The term "ignorant," here refers to those who just refuse to realize that news is more than just peeping at Vanessa, getting so wrapped up in "Dynasty" or catching a pass.) It is because of this blind audience that we intend to educate our entire University family through our publications. In educating our family, we will be learning something ourselves. We all will benefit.

Let The COMPASS do for you what its title denotes. We strive to serve as an instrument leading our University to a competitive state and to serve as a beacon light for our campus. The quality of our paper reflects the quality of our institution. If you desire our University to be second to none, then I urge you to support The COMPASS. Our success will be a success for Elizabeth City State University as well. The COMPASS and ECSU are a union, sharing the stage and co-starring in this show entitled "Academic Year 1984-1985." Whether we receive an Emmy or an Oscar for our performance is totally dependent upon you.

I trust that you will enjoy the show!

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Promoting Promise Not Promises

The gender gap simply doesn't exist, says the National Women's Coalition.

"But opportunity does," stresses the first woman manager of a major drug company. She continues to explain why she and nearly 90 other NWC members believe there is no gender gap in the 1984 national election, at least for the Reagan administration.

Opportunity — and an intimate knowledge of what it means — is the only criterion for membership in the Coalition.

Members are drawn from the worlds of business, the professions, sports, the arts and government. Most are self-made women, who have built businesses or established themselves as leaders in their fields.

Not all of those invited to join the Coalition are Republicans — some are Democrats, others Independents — but all are speaking throughout the country

for the Reagan administration. Rochelle Helm of Annapolis, Md. was a divorcee with two small children, no car, no money and no education to find a good job 14 years ago. Now she is a top executive with the Eli Lilly Co. and knows from experience how Ronald Reagan, then California Governor, changed that state's welfare laws to benefit women. "His endorsement came before it was in vogue to be for women," she points out.

"He changed laws that discriminated against women when he was governor," she emphasizes. "He's done the same thing as President. He just hasn't spent enough time shouting about his successes."

Coalition members are doing just that, because, as one woman says, "We've decided to stand up and be counted." They emphasize that the Reagan administration is "creating opportunity, not just for special interests, but for all people."

STUDENT VOTER CAMPAIGN ON THE MOVE

Aiming to help students cast a better informed vote on November 6th, the National Student Campaign for Voter Registration (NSCVR) announced plans to organize simultaneous forums on the Presidential elections at 100 college campuses on October 21.

The campus debates, collectively titled "Showdown '84," will be held immediately before or after the nationally televised debate between Walter Mondale and Ronald Reagan. The Presidential debate also will be aired on large screen televisions during the events.

"Students are strongly concerned about the issues, but are often misinformed about the candidates' positions on those issues and the implications of those stands," observed Gary

Kalman, a senior at Clark (MA) University and NSCVR chairperson. "These forums are designed to augment this campaign's personality politics with substantive discussion of the issues."

The campus debates will feature prominent individuals analyzing campaign issues such as the arms race, the economy, civil rights, environment

women's issues, and education policy.

Co-sponsors with NSCVR of the debate include Project Vote, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, HumanSERVE, United States Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG), United States Student Association, The Difference, American Association of University Women, Public Citizen, Democracy Project, Public Citizen, Environmental Safety, and the Children's Foundation.

The National Student Campaign for Voter Registration

is a non-partisan organization which conducts voter registration and voter education campaigns across the country. A project of the student-directed Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), NSCVR was founded this February at a conference of 1500 student leaders from 42 states.

Students interested in organizing "Showdown '84" debates at their campus should contact NSCVR at 617-357-9016.

CO-ED PUNISHMENT UNFAIR

by Algie H. Mabry, Jr.

CAN WE TALK?

This co-ed visitation controversy has gone a bit too far and is out of hand. It has reached extremes and some aspects need to be brought to the public's attention. The struggle to regain co-ed visitation as it was in the past is now in progress.

Last year co-ed visitation was allowed in the dormitory rooms. After a tragedy on campus in March, co-ed visitation was erased from the minds of students. The tragedy which slapped ECSU administrators and staff in the face, revealed the weaknesses of university security.

Students returning from spring break suffered the consequences. Our punishment was the abolishment of co-ed visitation. This was done in the hopes of catching the perpetrator(s) and preventing similar future incidents. To this day, the killer(s) have not been apprehended. Why do we still have to suffer for others' crimes?

Now that we are familiar with what has happened, let's talk some more.

Many students have been caught violating this new, constantly enforced policy. Prosecuted violators are forced to move off campus. It's a shame, but not on the student's part. The administration should bear the shame. Can we call an administrative hearing fair that evicts student violators on their FIRST offense?

These students are prosecuted as though they were some kind of criminals. Whatever happened to the idea of probation or suspension on the first offense? What the administration should be worried and concerned about are the "real" criminals who cut the grass, pick up trash, and perform other maintenance jobs on our University campus. These are criminals, not students who are caught violating co-ed!

The same administration that is so apt to put a student trying to get an education off the yard because of violating co-ed, allows inmates to come and clean our university's home grounds. Whom would you feel most secure around? These inmates are the "real" criminals who have committed "real" crimes.

They justly deserve the punishments they have received, unlike our students who were caught merely violating co-ed for the first time!

Let's continue our conversation!

It is understood that co-ed is only allowed in the lobby of each residence hall. To accommodate this, \$34,000 was spent on furniture, carpet, and plants to provide the adequate atmosphere. All good and well—but where is the furniture for the Complex? How are those who reside in the Complex to entertain in their lobby without furniture? It is really amazing that the argument in the past has been that there were no funds

available to purchase the furniture needed for the Complex. It is ironic though, that in a three month period after the tragedy, \$34,000 grew on trees so that the furniture for other residence halls could be bought. These residence halls were not a part of the original furnishing plans—THE COMPLEX WAS!

The only article of furniture which can serve as a seating element for a student who resides in the complex is the bed. What if all four occupants of a suite were to move their beds in the lobby to entertain when they had visitors? What a time! What a time!

While entertaining is on the tip of my tongue, let's chat some more.

Not everyone wants to have co-ed visitation in the individual rooms just to have "counseling sessions." There are those who like studying classwork with the opposite sex and there are those who just like the company of the opposite sex. True the resident halls are not Holiday Inns or Whistling Pines, but nor are they prisons to keep members of the opposite sex from studying together or just plain socializing.

"Counseling" that was once done inside the dorm rooms is now done out on the open campus. What next? No co-ed visitation or association with members of the opposite sex entirely? Will this lead to sexually segregated classes or what? What kind of society is being sought here at ECSU?

Election '84

"Who will win in November, is a big question at the end of 1984. The race is between Walter Mondale, (D), and incumbent Republican Ronald Reagan.

Jenkins Reviews Priorities and Policies

The absentee policy, while considered too strict by some, is currently in effect at the University. Chancellor Jenkins and the Academic Affairs Committee are examining the policy's impact on student class attendance during last year. Possible modification of the policy awaits the Committee's findings.

Another policy being scrutinized is that of co-ed visitation. According to Jenkins, "There will be no co-ed visitation as we knew it in the past. All (dorm) lounges have been renovated for the purpose of visitation." There will be no bedroom co-ed visitation allowed this year.

The computer laboratory now under construction is scheduled for completion in July, 1985. Jenkins said that the computer facility will serve to complement the already existing computer program at the University.

"We (the ECSU family) have the instructors and, soon, the facilities to best serve the area's needs in computer technology," Jenkins said. ECSU is the senior institution in the area.

In an article appearing in the COMPASS in April, 1984,

The national deficit spending policy of Pres. Reagan's administration plays a key role in the Democrats' campaign against him. Of course, I've never really understood how even a deficit budget can harm the nation, when the money is used to bolster the nation's economy and military. Maybe

other nations' ability to pay for American exports with an expensive American dollar is involved.

Inflation is, however, under control in this country as Reagan promised in his 1980 campaign. Unemployment has dropped considerably in the 1980's and the national growth rate is progressing.

Mondale's expertise at executive politics stems from the office of U.S. Vice-President, which he held during the Carter administration — 1976-1980. Since Vice-Presidential powers are largely diplomatic and advisory, Mondale's views may be known, shown and discussed; but, they are untried.

Will Republican or Democrat win next month? The world will know soon enough.

Regardless of the outcome of the Presidential election, America should be the clear winner. The biggest question is: "What will America be after the election — a traditional, capitalistic democracy; or rather, a socialistic commonwealth, which is a deteriorated democracy?"

Chancellor Jenkins placed an ECSU Mass Communication Center third on a list of priorities for the University. Since the first and second priorities on the list

'85 and '86, respectively, I felt obliged to ask Jenkins about the Center. Jenkins replied, "Due to funding limitations, available monies must be committed to a single project in order to do complete justice to the chosen project." A Science Complex, according to Jenkins, is now at the top of the list.

The ECSU priority article in last year's COMPASS suggested that a science complex would attract only a small, specialized group to ECSU, whereas, a communications center would communicate ECSU's purposes, goals, ideals, etc. to all interested persons in the surrounding areas.

To fulfill ECSU's proposed goal of leading the area, as its senior institution in the years "2000 and beyond," proponents of the ECSU Communications Center strongly believe that the Center's importance cannot be ignored or minimized.

New Security Steps Taken

With a reborn consciousness for the security of residents and the campus in general, new measures involving Residence Hall security and a revised visitation policy are in effect the campus of ECSU. Primary steps taken during the summer were: all residence halls' doors secured to prevent unauthorized entrance, bars installed on the ground floor windows of Bias Hall, and peep holes placed in individual room doors.

In the area of co-educational visitation, all students should be aware of the new policy and the penalties of violating it. At the "family meetings" during the first week of school, Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, chancellor of ECSU, clearly stated the regulations concerning co-ed visitation.

The policy is an important step for the security of residents and is tailored to the needs of students with internal security in mind. A watch system similar to many community watch programs involves students to help deter would-be violators of the visitation policy.

Pamphlets containing complete details of the new visitation program policy are available in the Student Government Association office in the University Center and in the Student Service Building.

PROGRESS REPORT GOOD

The summer of '84 brought some good news and some bad news for college graduates.

The "good news" is that this summer produced more college graduate enlistees for the job market than in '82 or '83, according to an article in the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT - August 13, 1984. The College Placement Council described the enlistees as representing a cross-section of areas, including the liberal arts.

The "bad" news is that the starting salaries remain the same.

Now is the time to re-evaluate our long and short-range goals, before the '84-'85 school year really gets rolling.

We should also assess our overall academic performance, since higher education and superior academic standings reflect the current job market trends. Employers and educators will look to these assessments for future workers.

During our college years, utilization of time and available materials aid us in achieving assignment deadlines and in developing a sense of compulsory discipline.

Elizabeth City State University is affording us the opportunities to maximize our chances at successfully competing in tomorrow's aggressive job market. Conceivably, we may leave to posterity an individual legacy of "The American Dream."

In order for us to cover more news that affects ECSU and the community, the COMPASS staff encourages its readers to respond by submitting "Letters to the Editor." Submit letters to Miss Robin Beamon in the Modern Languages Department of Johnson Hall. They should be typed, or legibly written.