

EDITORIAL

Childish students treated like children

Some students are like the proverbial "rotten apples in the barrel." They are part of the statistics and that is the only significant fact about them. These rotten apples sign up for classes that they have no intention of attending. They rent and sometimes buy books that they have no intention of reading. They obtain library cards they have no intention of ever using. They have made up their minds that they will never be stimulated by the process of learning.

Every year these students are admitted to this university and other institutions. This raises several questions:

"Why are these immature students allowed to attend an institution where educational growth is to be fostered?"

"What effect will they have upon those students that are serious about their academics?"

"Isn't it obvious to someone that such students have not reached a level of maturity that is necessary for success either in college or following college?"

This year, new policies concerning the behavior of ECSU students have been enacted in an effort to control the actions of a few immature students. First let us mention two of these new policies.

(1) Any student found guilty of misconduct (breaking line, leaving trays on cafeteria tables, and other disorderly conduct) in the schools cafeteria will be subject to penalty. (2) With regard to vandalism, students are being encouraged to report guilty students.

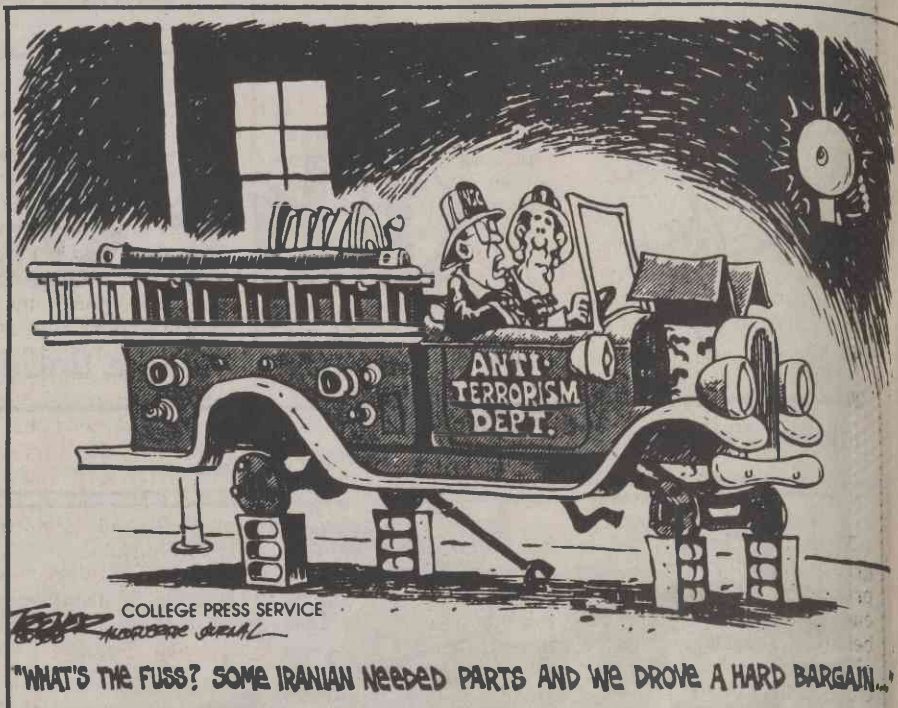
But if a college campus is the place for mature young adults that are of good moral standards, then why are there policies like these to "control" students?

Students that have problems controlling their behavior, respecting rules and regulations, and interacting with others do not belong on a college campus. They are harmful to both the university and its students. They hinder the process of learning.

New policies may help to deter the problems caused by the misconduct of some students and a new emphasis on admission standards may help to weed out some of the "rotten apples." However, the real responsibility lies with each student.

When will students realize that their education is not to be taken lightly? When will they become aware of the fact that the college campus is not one big "party scene"?

Students, and administrators, need to be alert to the problem and search together for solutions.



Urgent! I'm Mad!

I'm mad. Not because the President may have violated laws with the Iran arms deal. No, it goes much deeper than that. It goes to the very root of my existence. Yes, I'm talking about the invasion of my free time.

Here's what I have to look forward to in the months ahead.

Monday morning: The lead stories on all three morning news shows are about the Iran arms deal.

Tuesday evening: The lead stories on all three evening news programs are about the Iran arms deal.

Thursday evening: I'm watching "Hill Street Blues" and I'm just about to find out if Joyce is going to leave Furillo ***URGENT! We have late breaking news concerning the Iran arms deal.

Friday afternoon: I'm listening to the radio, just as my favorite song is announced *** URGENT! We have late breaking news concerning the Iran arms deal.

Saturday morning: I'm watching "Pound Puppies" and Cooler is about to rescue a cute puppy from the clutches of an evil dog abuser *** URGENT! We have late breaking news concerning the Iran arms deal.

By Steve Smith
Co-Editor

Saturday afternoon: My favorite college football team, The Miami Hurricanes, down by 6 with two minutes left, are driving the ball against Penn State. A score would give them the national championship *** URGENT! We have late breaking news concerning the Iran arms deal.

Sunday evening: I'm watching "All The President's Men" and John Dean is spilling his guts *** URGENT! We have late breaking news concerning the Iran arms deal.

This is why I'm mad, I don't want to know about the Iran arms sales. I only care about

my world, my TV programs and the things that directly affect my pocketbook. Let the Poindexter's of the world resign. Let our leaders do their jobs. We don't need to know what's going on in Iran, or anywhere else in the world. I don't want to know about starving people in Ethiopia; executed nuns in Central America; acid rain in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains; human rights violations in Russia; hostages being tortured in Iran; or the possibility of nuclear holocaust. If it isn't in my backyard I don't care about it.

I'm tired of the news media not respecting my constitutional right to wallow in ignorance and apathy about national and international issues. That's why we have world leaders. It's their job to worry about these things--so I don't have to. If it isn't in my backyard I don't give a damn.

I hope that when this is all over, Congress will pass a constitutional amendment forbidding the interruption of my private world.

Pro careers elusive

Proposition 48 has burst the dreams of many aspiring athletes as the college sports season has seen numerous freshmen athletes declared ineligible. Close to 550 football and basketball players will sit out this year because they did not qualify under the newly imposed NCAA academic standards known as Proposition 48. More than 70 percent of those ineligible are black.

The problem, however, does not begin in college, it begins in high school, or before.

Dreams of a possible college or pro career are nurtured even before the teen years. And to this end, the student's academics are sometimes neglected. Coaches, parents and even the school systems place more emphasis on physical development than on academics. (In one county school system in Southeast N.C., a student must pass 8th grade P.E. before being pro-

moted to the senior high school, but the student can fail English and still be promoted.) So the young athlete "prepares" for stardom often at the expense of his "book learning." But stardom never comes for most, and the young athletes are ill-prepared for making a living off the court or field. The gamble is a big one, and black athletes, looking for an out from their environments, are especially vulnerable.

By Minor Wiggins
Staff Writer

Consider these statistics.

Of the 1.5 million high school athletes, only 50,000 will play college ball.

Of the 50,000 college players each year, only 150 will make the NBA or NFL. As a matter of fact, only one out of 30 high school athletes will even play in college and only 2

out of 100 will get scholarships.

The odds are actually better for a college black athlete to become a doctor or lawyer than a pro athlete. (By the way, only 14 percent of black college athletes graduate in four years, and 31 percent graduate in six years.)

Where does Proposition 48 fit into all this? It has drawn attention to the student-athlete, to college programs, and has even placed in question the role of college athletics. The rule has been called discriminatory against the black athlete. But that's not the point here. The point here is, athletes should set realistic goals. Athletes should not restrict themselves to the pot of gold at the end of the basketball court or football field.

Athletes should be prepared to deal with life after the cheering has stopped.

When the party's over

If you think a party is not a party unless you drink something alcoholic, make sure the party is at your home. If it isn't, arrange for a non-drinker to drive you home. If you are driving and want to drink, limit yourself to one or two drinks and have the last one at least an hour before you plan to leave. Even if you are sober, drive slowly and carefully and be on guard for some other driver who may not be.

If you are a host or hostess, stop serving alcohol at least one hour before you expect your party to end. Don't let intoxicated guests drive themselves home--find a sober guest to drive them; call a taxi; or drive them yourself. If all else fails--have them spend the night.

Don't leave alcoholic beverages out or in unlocked cupboards where a small child can reach them. You may think the taste of alcohol is only enough to get a child slightly tipsy, but in fact some children die from accidental alcohol poisoning.

Former ECSU Professor Dies

T.L. Lawrence Hsu, retired Assistant Professor of English, passed away in Canton, China on November 14, 1986. Hsu had been a faculty member in the Department of Modern Languages for several years. He later chaired the English Department of a Taiwan university.

ECSU Student Killed

Darin Cole, ECSU junior, and a native of Petersburg, Va., died November 8, 1986, from injuries sustained in a car accident. He was a member of the football team, Lambda Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Honors program.

Dear readers,

We would like to hear from you. Let us know what you think of the paper. If you think we should do something differently, tell us. Any comments on what you think the paper should include are welcome. The Compass is for the students and we won't know how to better serve you without your feedback.

Letters to the editor are also welcomed. If you have a concern do something about it, write us. Just remember, that your letter must be signed and we do reserve the right to edit all material.

Send your stories, letters, comments or ideas to: The Compass, P.O. Box 815, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

The Editors

The Compass

Co-Editors.....Pam Brown
Steve Smith
Associate Editor.....Robin Sawyer
Sports Editor.....Fred Lassiter
Assistant Sports Editor.....Minor Wiggins
Photographers.....Kevin Cox
Richard McIntyre
Ron Townsend

Reporters.....Lavette Washington
Deborah Carr
Lynne Chapman
C.C. Rhodes
Warren Hicks
Production.....Steve Smith
Faculty.....Lane Hudson
Dr. Anne Henderson

The Compass has been published by ECSU students since 1959 under the Department of Language, Literature, and Communication; Dr. Anne Henderson, Chairperson. Questions and comments should be sent to The Compass, P.O. Box 815, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909.