

THE OPINION PAGE

THE COMPASS

Editor.....Robin Sawyer
 Associate Editor.....Lisa Gregory
 Managing Photographer.....Richard McIntire
 Advertising Manager.....Deborah Jacobs
 Photographers.....David Joyner
Richard McIntire
Leamon Pearce
Diane Patterson
 Graphics Consultant.....Kevin Cruz
 Staff Artist.....Nicholas Allen
 Staff Writers.....Karen Blanchard, Darryl Brown, Lynne Chapman, Dwayne Collins, Antoine Davis, Shawn Everett, Beverly Johnson, Travis Manuel, Ursula McMillion, Amy Mitchell, Robin Pincus, Nancy Porter, Sylvia Purvis, Johnny Reid, Aisa Robinson, Tammy Taylor, Monique Thomas
 Sports.....Mark Morris
Mike Stone
 Editorial Assistants.....Craig Avondo, Samantha Epps, Renee Knight

The Compass is published by Elizabeth City State University Students under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Dr. Anne Henderson, Chairperson, and Mr. Stephen March, faculty advisor.
 The Compass welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be sent to ECSU Box 815, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. They may be edited for length, clarity and taste, as well as for accuracy and grammar. Because of limited space, not all letters can be published.

Is towing the answer?

Is it enough that students have to pay \$22 per year to park on campus without the luxury of reserved spaces? Obviously not. Students also have to practice creative parking because the spaces that they pay for are all too often non-existent.

Creative parking can be defined as a person's ability to find suitable parking on grass, curbs, or any hard substance that will hold a passenger vehicle while the driver is cunning and lucky enough to get away with it. No doubt many ECSU students could declare this activity as a second major.

University officials have begun to actively enforce the towing of cars that are illegally parked and or have an out-of-date parking sticker. Is this the end-all be-all answer to the parking problem? We think not. Towing a few cars a day may force more people to update their stickers, granted, and it may put an end to the most flagrant violators of parking regulations. But the policy certainly won't make more parking spaces suddenly appear.

With student enrollment increasing every year, and freshmen being allowed to bring cars their first semester of school, the problem will only be magnified as the number of students go up.

University administrators should consider if it's advisable to tow illegally parked cars when legal parking spaces are often as rare as flawless diamonds.

One solution to this problem (without implying any disrespect for nature) could be to turn some of the school's grounds into student parking areas. The open space around Bias, Williams and Butler Halls would serve this purpose nicely.

The University has included more parking spaces in its long range expansion plans, but what do we do in the meantime?

One solution would be to ensure that adequate parking areas accompany each new building. It is not enough to only add a few spaces for cosmetic purposes (as in the case of the New Administration Building). There must be some type of logical correlation between parking spaces and the number of faculty members and students that these buildings will house on a daily basis.

If taken care of now, this problem could be alleviated quickly by adding more parking lots, and the towing policy could be terminated, except in extreme cases with long-term violators, or where traffic flow is affected.

We do not mean to suggest that the University should ignore those who violate parking rules and regulations. But we believe more parking spaces, rather than tow trucks, is the ultimate answer to ECSU's parking problem.

Keep us informed ECSU student says

To The Editor

Very few commuter students knew about the bus or the fee.

University officials need to communicate more effectively to the students about upcoming campus activities. For example, many students did not find out about the recent Candlelight Services until the weekend it was held.

Another problem of communication between students and officials focuses on commuter students. These students often don't know about upcoming activities, or they learn about them too late to participate. One example of this is when ECSU students went to Norfolk; they had to pay a fee to ride the bus.

Fliers or calendars could be used to help let commuter students know about upcoming activities. Small calendars could be made for every month, listing the activities for that month. Flyers could be put on cars a week in advance to let the students know there is an activity planned for the following week.

Students who live on campus could be notified by posters hung in prominent areas.

The University should sponsor a forum to address this problem.

Angela Savage



Guest Columnists

By Velma Brown

If you thought the vice presidential debates were just another dull replacement during a strike-shortened television season or a 90-minute nap period before the late night National League playoff game, then you might have missed one of the highlights of the television and political seasons.

Vice presidential candidates Lloyd Bentsen and J. Danforth Quayle had their first and only debate recently, and unlike their running mates, produced a clear winner and made the program interesting.

To begin, this debate was held in Omaha, Neb. — middle America — an area both vice presidential candidates claim to represent. But the live audience response during the debate indicated that Mr. & Mrs. Middle America were just as uncertain about these guys as the rest of the country.

Like any good novel, movie, play or television show, the de-

Veep debates: zenith of t.v. political season

bate consisted of a fascinating plot (like which of these people would be more qualified to be president in the event his running mate was unable to fulfill his duties?). Well developed characters were present (like Quayle, Bentsen, Woodruff, Brokaw, Hume) with scintillating dialogue (such as "My grandmother told me I could be anything I wanted to be." — Quayle. Or: "We have to break the cycle of poverty." — Bentsen. Do these statements sound familiar?) Sparked by meaty questions like "In recent years what books have you read that had the most influence on you?" (Hume).

In addition to all these fine characteristics, the vice presidential debate showed us how many different shades of red one man can turn. Judy Woodruff posed an ice breaker, which asked Quayle what explanation could be think of as to why most

of the Republican leaders thought he was a hindrance rather than a help to the ticket. From that moment on, the Senator from Indiana often turned several shades of red, depending on the intensity of the question. When asked about his qualifications for the job, he turned red before telling the nation the first thing that he would do if he should become president was pray.

And we all prayed that he would never have to say his prayer.

Lloyd Bentsen, on the other hand, appeared almost robotic; not a hair was out of place. He hardly moved a muscle the entire ninety minutes and his responses were so fluid that you could almost see them oozing from his mouth. But at least he had the dignity not to turn red. And although he answered a question about a fundraising play the same way he had done

when the matter found its way to the media, his response was, "I don't often make mistakes, but when I do it's a doozie."

Surely the vice presidential debate won't go down in the annals of political history as one of the greatest, but it did make good television entertainment. It was so entertaining that it softened the blow of the Mets losing to the Dodgers in game two of their playoff series.

Probably no voters changed their minds as a result of this debate, but television viewers did find out which member of each party's ticket is the most entertaining. In fact, these two should forget this political business and find their way into the entertainment field.

That last statement was probably uncalled for, to paraphrase Senator Quayle. By the way, Quayle was the most colorful of the two, but based on political substance the more experienced Bentsen won easily.

By Martin Carter

The alleged "race riot" that took place in Virginia Beach this past Labor Day was handled poorly by Virginia police, to say the least. The "race riot" began when the expected Labor Day traffic stagnated along Nineteen and Twenty-third Streets. A black resident of New York City, who came down for the Black Greek Fraternity Festival, was playing his jeep audio system at maximum capacity, motivating onlookers to follow the jeep into a parking lot beside a waterfront hotel. The students danced and cheered around the jeep until local shop owners locked their doors, picked up weapons, and called authorities to control an alleged "race riot."

Virginia Police arrived clad in helmets, riot clubs in hand, and tear gas ready. Police blocked

Va. police mishandled alleged 'race riot'

traffic from Nineteenth down to Twenty-third Street, and they divided the main road on the waterfront in half.

When a 20-year old black man attempted to cross the street, a mounted policeman knocked him to the ground. After recovering, the man cursed the officer, and was promptly arrested. Four other officers seized the young man, and neutralized him with a stun gun.

Awhile later an older white male attempted to cross the street. Police asked him, "to please step back onto the curb, sir."

These two incidents enraged the onlookers.

Following a 20-minute standoff between students and police,

the riot squad began pushing students from the area, knocking many down. After one black female was knocked to the ground by an officer, she cursed him. He clubbed her, and in the ensuing melee, many other officers began swinging clubs, too.

Students hurled bottles and rocks at mounted officers. This prompted police to begin arresting all persons in the area. When three white males attempted to aid the police, the men were beaten by fleeing students.

The African American students and non students brought much financial prosperity to Virginia Beach during Labor Day. Linda Walker, supervisor of the Virginia Beach Visitor's Center told a reporter for the Virginian

Pilot, "Just about all our hotels and motels were full. The shopkeepers were doing very well."

However, these same customers were treated with no respect, and the least possible regard. The black consumers who spent their money--part of which helps support the Virginia Beach Police Department--should redefine their priorities. This incident dramatizes the importance of the African-American consumer dollar, and the disregard of the African American in the politics, economics and social life of America.

Blacks desire to spend their money where they will be respected and accepted. If they cannot be respected and accepted by business and other establishments, African Americans must create their own economic structure.

Campus drugs 'out of hand'

To The Editor:

Elizabeth City State University has a serious drug problem. The distribution of drugs to students and high school students is getting totally out of hand, and the University should address the problem before it gets worse.

The dorms are becoming pot houses instead of living quarters for students. All times of the night different people come in and out of the dorms, buying and selling drugs. I see and smell this happening every night before I go to bed. The problem comes when I get high off the smoke, and do not know who to point a finger at.

High schools kids are coming

to the University to buy drugs from students and go back to share it with their friends. I have seen this too much and sometimes try to stop the kids from coming back, but I have no right to tell them they can not come in the dorms or on campus.

Dances held in Williams Hall on the weekend are Heaven for high school drug dealers and drug users, as well as for the students who do drugs on campus. I have been in one of the dances when the smell of pot was all over and a cloud of smoke was covering the crowd. Non drug users who attended the dance just to have fun ended up getting a contact high.

I am tired of this, and some-

thing needs to be done about it. Anyone caught selling drugs should be put off campus and out of school. Any one caught with a substantial quantity of any illegal drug should be put out of school for one full year.

These are minor punishments for what drug dealers do to a human's life.

ECSU student's name withheld

(Editor's Note: Elizabeth City State's University's anti-drug policy is set forth in the University's Policy of Illegal Drugs. According to this manual, the University's objective is "to ensure that the University community is not compromised by the presence and/or use of illegal drugs by students, faculty or

staff members. It is in our best interests to unite to prevent drug use in our community of scholars. In North Carolina, the use of illegal drugs continues to be a growing concern. Working collectively, we have the talent and resources to win out over the temptation of drugs."

The manual further states "Elizabeth City State University will strive to have a drug-free campus which is consistent with the objectives of the Board of Governors of the UNC System...ECSU will take all necessary actions, in accordance with local, state and federal law and applicable University rules and regulations, to eliminate illegal drugs from our campus community.")