

THE OPINION PAGE

THE COMPASS

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The Compass is published by Elizabeth City State University Students under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature and
 Communication, Dr. Annie 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.

A failure to serve

SGA Vice-President Clinton Williams blames the ECSU student body for the failure of the Homecoming Concert. "A building cannot stand," said Williams, in assigning blame to ECSU students, "without support."

We disagree that the students are to blame. Williams' contention that students should have shown their "support" by paying \$10 to hear a band they don't like isn't fair to students, many of whom are living on limited budgets. SGA should have shown their "support" of the students by choosing a band students want to hear.

Moreover, we feel that the entire way SGA officials have handled the Homecoming Concert shows an unwillingness to be open with the students who elected them, and whose best interests they are supposed to serve.

Although SGA had months to work on getting a band for Homecoming, they didn't announce their decision until about a week before the event. Only about 67 students attended the concert. Its failure has left SGA "thousands" of dollars in the red, which ultimately hurts ECSU students. There is no good excuse for this, in our view. A band should have been chosen earlier, and it should have been a group more popular on ECSU's campus than either EU and Roger featuring Zapp.

The problem is compounded by SGA's self-righteous efforts to pin the blame on students, who would, no doubt, be willing to forgive officials honest enough to admit their actions had been less than desirable.

SGA officials are not laws unto themselves; their job is to serve. And the Homecoming Concert fiasco reveals a failure on the part of SGA to effectively serve ECSU's students.

SGA has also refused to reveal to The Compass and ECSU students the amount of money the concert lost. SGA's refusal to reveal this information is not only illegal, it is a violation of the trust students have placed in SGA officials. That information is a matter of "public record" as defined by North Carolina law, and SGA is required, by law, to make this information public.

SGA officials were entrusted with the money they spent bringing two unpopular bands to campus for Homecoming. And they should reveal the amount of the loss to those whose interests the SGA was elected to represent: the students.

Only in dictatorships and in communist nations do governments conduct their business in secrecy, without letting the people know what is going on.

ECSU students deserve better treatment than this.

Was that fish or what?

To The Editor:

Why do out-of-state ECSU students who pay over \$3,000 a year to attend our University have to walk out of the cafeteria without being satisfied by their meals?

Some students say the meals are nutritional but not enough.

"I feel the cafeteria food should be improved because we don't get enough, and we get the same meals all the time," said Choanda Brown, a sophomore from Plymouth, N.C.

"It sounds surprising that you can't get enough to eat as well as a variety when you are paying your hard-earned money," said Sherri Newel, a sophomore from Weldon. "The food does not look good at all, that it's not very tasty. It's enough to make you lose your appetite."

Eric Harris, a junior from Portsmouth, Virginia, said, "I'm disgusted with the food as well as those two little eight-ounce glasses that are

allowed for every one's drinking pleasure."

The University should improve the quality and quantity of food available in the cafeteria. One day I was in there and they served the greatest chicken I had ever seen. This chicken looked as if it had been refried three or four times in the same grease.

I have also eaten some fish burgers which they call "a seafood burger," but I honestly could not tell whether it was fish or something they scraped from the bottom of the grill.

And what they call spaghetti looks more like noodles that have been sitting in water, with a sauce that tastes like water, too. I admit there is a little bit of meat in it, but if you didn't see it you would never know.

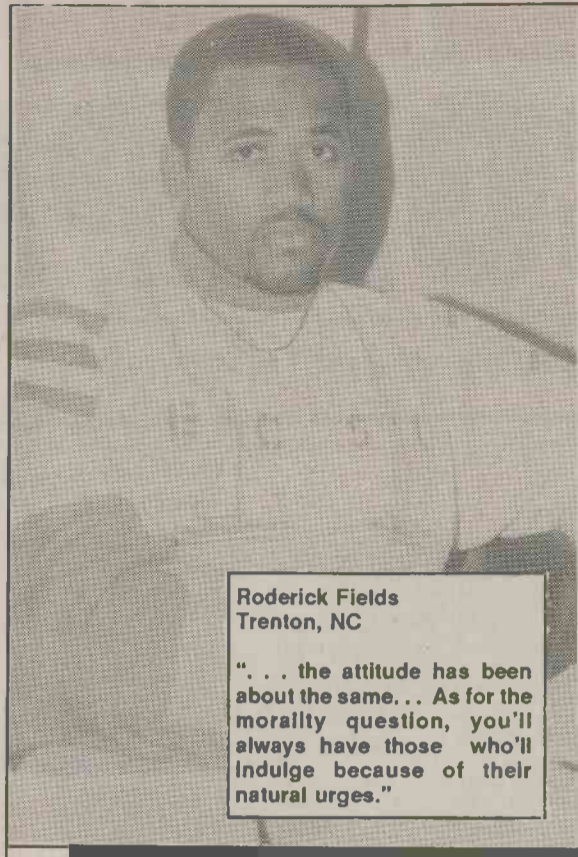
Knowing all of this we come back to the same question:

"Why?"

Eric Jones

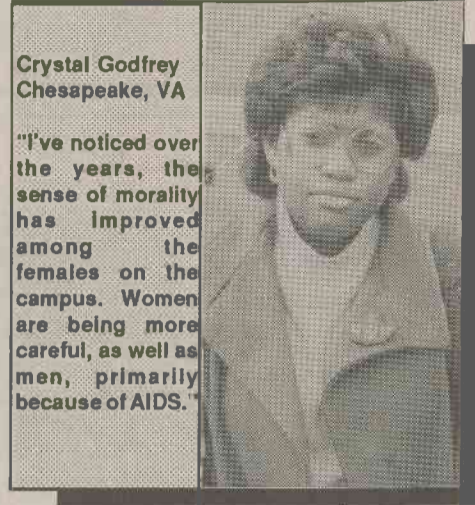
Sex: Talk of ECSU

Are the moral standards at ECSU declining?



Roderick Fields
Trenton, NC

"... the attitude has been about the same... As for the morality question, you'll always have those who'll indulge because of their natural urges."



Crystal Godfrey
Chesapeake, VA

"I've noticed over the years, the sense of morality has improved among the females on the campus. Women are being more careful, as well as men, primarily because of AIDS."

Pacquín McClain
Rocky Mount, NC

"You think you're safe, secure, when you really aren't. In a way, I feel things are a bit too free. People are making decisions but are not examining the possible consequences."



Tony Spruill
Chesapeake, VA

"This is a very moral campus. Reason being the girls and guys can interact like adults and leave decisions of this nature to themselves."



Mona New
Queens, NY

"I don't think much has changed! They don't take it seriously, like it should be. People don't tend to listen. It's dangerous out here and everywhere, as seen by various incidents which have happened on campus. Something drastic will have to happen for a change."

William Pone
Whiteville, NC

"It is simply a fact that young men and women are fulfilling fantasies they may have had while they were in high school."

Guest Columnists

Family story inspires faith, courage

By Ericka Ruffin

I still remember the day I came home from school crying. I told my mother that I wanted to become class "sweetheart," but I knew I wouldn't win because there were other girls running who looked better than me. My mom sat me down and told me a story about herself.

My mom was the first black woman to receive a secretarial job at a manufacturing company in our town. She said that my father decided he could no longer pay the bills from his salary alone and she needed to get a job. So my mom

went to the company to apply for a job. During her interview she was told that she was too qualified to work on the yard, and they didn't want to give her a desk job because the company's owner didn't feel that a minority member should hold such a position.

My mom decided to fight for what she described as a fair chance. She knew that she was just as capable as any other women of holding that position. She called the Better Business Bureau and made calls to Raleigh, North Carolina. After several weeks of calls and office visits she received a call from the manufacturing company

asking her to come to work Monday. She said she knew they had hired her because of all the work they had gotten behind in, and they didn't think she could do it.

But she worked hard day after day, and took work home. She continued to work there for 13 years.

My mom told me this story, not in the hopes that I would be like her, but to help me realize that things don't come easy in life. And even if I didn't win, there is satisfaction in giving it your best.

This story had a great influence on my life. Not only did I realize

that things don't come easy, but I instilled more courage and determination in me. There have been lots of times in my life when I was afraid to say what I felt or just stand up for myself. But after a short period of time, from somewhere deep down this courage comes back and gives me more determination to do or do things that seem impossible.

I believe that if all children have a story like mine to recall each time they are downhearted, they will be able to face any obstacle that may confront them. Without this story I never would have gotten this far in life. And I am grateful for my mother for sharing it with me.

The myth about black athletes, white schools

By Joseph D. Johnson

What four attributes do Andre Dawson, Doug Williams, Jerry Rice, Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd, Walter Payton, Vince Coleman, and Willis Reed have in common? They are all male. That's one. Black. That's two. Athletes. That's three. What's four?

Every one of them entered professional sports from historically black colleges. Namely, Florida A & M, Grambling, Jackson State, and Mississippi Valley State.

I bring that up to poke a hole in a myth. A mistaken notion that a

black athlete must attend a predominantly white college or university to be able to successfully pursue a career in professional sports after graduation.

If that myth were reality, the Andre Dawson's (the National League's MVP in 1987); the Doug Williams' (MVP for Super Bowl XXII) of this world would enjoy a rewarding college career then drop from sight. The reality is that a good athlete will get noticed no matter which school he attends. That brings up another very important point: attending from a historically black school is no less valuable--either athletically or academically--than attending a predominantly white

school.

Before I began my own business last year, I was a vice president of Personnel and Organization for Xerox Corporation. In that capacity I met and worked with engineers from Prairie View; math majors from Jackson State and Lincoln University; systems analysts from Hampton and Grambling; and a Xerox business division president, Bernard Kinsey, who graduated from Florida A&M.

And three graduates of my alma mater, Lincoln University in Missouri--Earl Wilson, the European Director of Marketing for IBM; Stan Scott and Thomas Shrosphere, senior vice presidents of Phillip Morris have also made solid contributions in the business world.

These people are certainly just as successful, and in some cases more so, than their black friends who went to predominantly white colleges or universities.

I am proud to be an alumni of Lincoln and my graduation from a black university certainly didn't hold me back, isn't holding me back, and won't ever hold me back.

What can hold blacks back is--a too frequently--their inability to get a quality education at a predominantly white college.

That's brought about because they must--deal with the race relations issues, which take time and sap energy. At a black college, race isn't an issue. Getting a good education is.

SO, WHAT'S THE SCORE...?

SENSATIONALISM-3
GERALDO-0

#6!!



CPS