

THE OPINION PAGE

THE COMPASS

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The Textbook Dilemma

We would be the first to say that Elizabeth City State University is a campus on the move. Not only is ECSU attracting higher quality students, the school is also dramatically expanding its facilities—witness the new science complex—and working aggressively to improve its curriculum. Word of the positive changes taking place at ECSU is, indeed, spreading over the state. And we have many, many reasons to feel that "The pride is back."

Despite these successes, the campus textbook shortage has cast a shadow over many students' experiences at ECSU. Without books, students fall behind in their courses; without books, students feel frustrated and angry; without books, students lose interest in their courses. And, ultimately, they begin to lose faith in the University itself.

Students need textbooks if they are to learn effectively. And the University must provide students with textbooks in a timely manner. To do less—even with the goal of saving the school money—is to fail to provide students with a quality education.

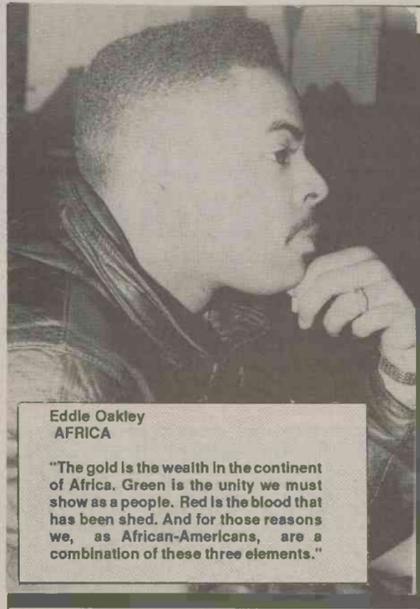
A new committee will hopefully address, and solve, this vexing problem, beginning next semester. In the meantime, we urge faculty members to show understanding and compassion for those students who have made repeated trips to the bookstore seeking books for their classes, only to find empty shelves.

Students should not be tested on material they do not have access to. We agree with Dr. Caldwell's call for "ingenuity" on the part of teachers and extra work from students. Until much needed books arrive, textbook chapters can be copied and circulated among students. And instructors can make certain that students are only tested on what has been covered in class.

This will call for cooperation, patience, and extra effort on the part of students and faculty; there is no reason why an interim solution can't be worked out.

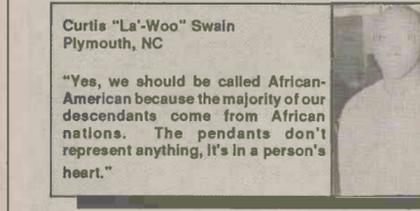
We do not mean to point an accusing finger at any one individual or group for this problem, which seems to arise as much from ineffective communication and poor organization as anything. We are truly a family here at ECSU, and, as everyone knows, no family is without its problems.

But the textbook shortage is a problem that must be solved.



Eddie Oakley
AFRICA

"The gold is the wealth in the continent of Africa. Green is the unity we must show as a people. Red is the blood that has been shed. And for those reasons we, as African-Americans, are a combination of these three elements."



Curtis "La-Woo" Swain
Plymouth, NC

"Yes, we should be called African-American because the majority of our descendants come from African nations. The pendants don't represent anything, it's in a person's heart."

Talk of ECSU:

What do African Pendants represent and is it important to be called African-American and why?



Chukundi Salisbury
Seattle, Wash.

"They represent that I'm aware of my heritage, and that I want to be affiliated with the movement. Its not that important to me to be called African-American, because I'm American and just happen to be Black. African-American would mean that my parentals of both of those countries, but my parents are both American."



Wylia Slade
Queens, NY

"I feel African pendants represent where we have come from and where we're going. I feel that we should be called African-American because that is a name we have chosen for ourselves. The white man gave us the name 'BLACK'. Therefore, we should be called African-American. The Asian-American is not called yellow, the Native American is not called Red. So why should we be called black?"

LETTERS

Beware of guys seeking one night stands

To the editor

Every year during freshmen orientation and the early part of the fall semester freshmen girls are always caught in the complex with a guy or going to a guy's room. Most of the time it is at night. Most freshmen girls have never experienced a chance to be

with a guy all night and if this is their first chance then they will take advantage of it.

Now if there was a warning to freshmen girls during freshmen orientation stating that some guys are only into one night stands and don't believe some of them when they say, "you will be my one and only as long

as we are together." They are only telling you that to be nice and not because it's true.

Every two weeks there should be at least three room checks at one a.m. and all freshmen should be told they have to leave. That would scare them of getting caught because they will not know when a person's room will be checked.

Parties in the complex after dances should stop because alcohol is badly abused. Too many under age people are getting drunk for the first time and their parents did not send them to school for that. Girls get drunk and

pass out in a guy's room and after the party some guys will take advantage of that person. Other girls get involved in the party and their dorm closes and the girl "if she is a freshman" would be scared. Most guys would tell the girl that she has to give up some ass to sleep in the same bed. Most girls would feel they have no other choice.

Now there are too many girls getting caught up in these situations and something needs to be done.

Tony Thigpen

ECSU freshmen seek a drug-free society

To the editor

In our world today, drugs and alcohol play a dangerous role. The effects of drugs on one person can lead to harm for others. A drunk driver or a drug addict can cause harm whether he is behind the wheel of a car, or on the streets robbing a store for a fix. This is a word problem that will need to be addressed until the abuse has ceased.

In order to support the pleas of "Just Say No" and "Stop Drug Abuse," the freshman class of the Honors Program has put together a campaign against alcohol and drug abuse. Through this campaign, the students of ECSU about long and short term dangers of drugs and alcohol. The principal theme for this campaign is,

STOP THE USE; KILL DRUG ABUSE! To publicize the campaign, the Honors Program freshman put up posters and flyers, as well as reserving a spot on the campus radio station, WRVS. In March they plan to have a seminar featuring guest speakers on the subject of alcohol and drugs. Also, in cooperation with the Honors Program sophomores, there will be articles appearing in the Honors Program Newsletter concerning drugs and alcohol.

The freshmen plan to get their views expressed to the fullest extent. They want each and every student to be aware of the dangers of alcohol and drugs. These freshmen are committed to fostering a drug-free society.

Cathy Thomas

'Just say no' to sex

To the editor

I read with interest the article titled "Students Say 'No' to Free Condoms."

Students that say no to free condoms should also say no to casual and recreational sex. Students, we need to review our school catalogs to make sure that sex is not listed as a competitive sport. There are no rewards for foolish decisions about not protecting your body, your life and your future.

If students must treat sex like a game then by all means try some of the following defensive moves when your resistance will fail:

- (1) Run, don't walk, to get free condoms
- (2) Girls, don't be shy about protection before he scores for your affection

tection before he scores for your affection

(3) Young men, protect your futures, protect your life-use condoms or she could be your wife

(4) She's not your wife but could have your child—please protect yourself from things are wild

Knowing when to say no is part of becoming responsible adults. Saying yes could make you popular, pregnant, infected or dead.

Let us make the right decision to get protection against infection. Please use your head or you could wind up dead.

Anne Riddick
ECSU Junior

SGA failed to do job

To the editor

I read the article about the SGA spending too much money on a band. I am disturbed with seemingly poor planning and definite lack of budgetary skills exhibited by our SGA officers.

The authority to spend money in the students' best interests rests on the shoulders of the SGA president. This person was elected and expected to perform the duties of the office to the best of his ability. This art was not his best.

All the activities planned will not interest all of the students all the time. Based on previous participation, or lack of it, the SGA officers should know what to expect from the students. A maximum amount of money should be budgeted for activities such as this one. Students funds can go toward other positive activities such as charity on campus, SGA scholar-

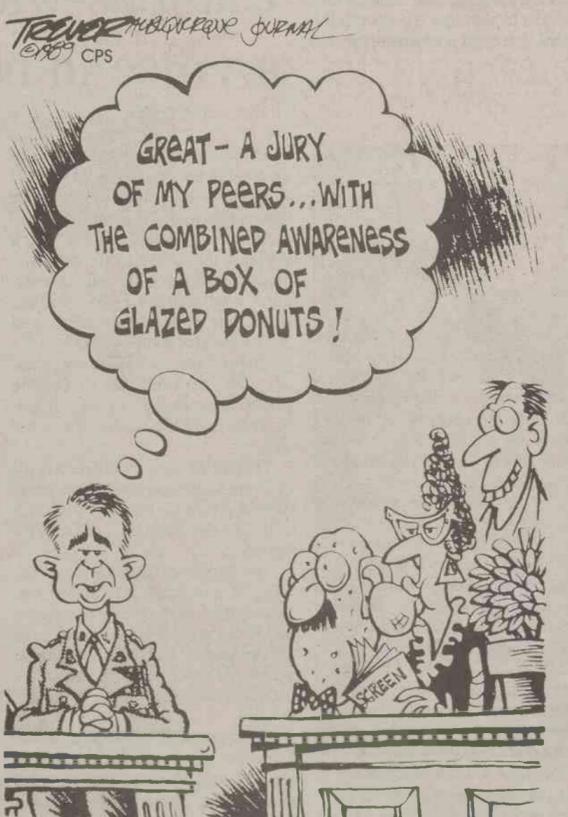
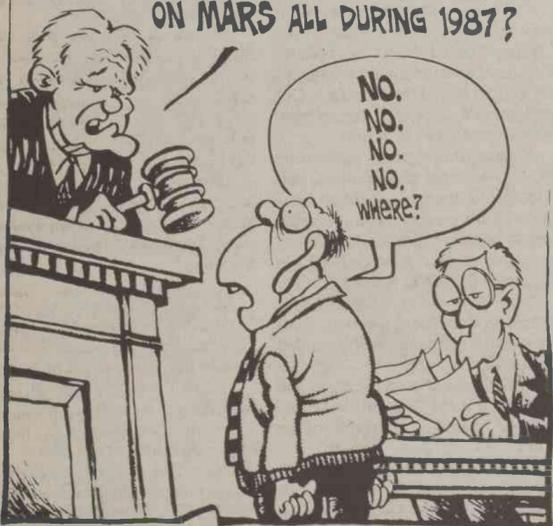
ships and providing some educational trips for students. Having a dance is fine but spending all the students money to pay for it was a very irresponsible move to make.

Being an SGA officer is not an easy job and making mistakes such as this one will not make the job any easier for those who will follow in their footsteps.

To Mr. Williams, SGA V.P., you were not speaking for the entire Student Government Association on this issue. The Student Government Association is not made up only of officers. Each registered student that paid a student activity fee is a member of the Student Government Association. The SGA officers are elected by the students they represent and these officers have a very serious responsibility to serve these students.

Anne Riddick
ECSU Junior

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF OLIVER NORTH? DID YOU WATCH HIS TESTIMONY ON TV? DID YOU READ OR SEE ANYTHING ABOUT THE IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS? HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF IRAN-CONTRA? WERE YOU ON MARS ALL DURING 1987?



The Compass welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, and relevant to issues concerning ECSU students - on a national, state, local or campus level. Letters may be edited for clarity, space, and good taste. Please send letters to Box 815, c/o The Compass, Elizabeth City State University, or bring them by The Compass office, Room 111, Johnson Hall.