

THE OPINION PAGE

THE COMPASS

Editor..... Robin Sawyer
 Managing Photographer..... Richard McIntire
 Production Manager..... Craig Avondo
 Advertising Manager..... Donna Gregory
 Photographers..... Richard McIntire
 David Joyner
 Leamon Pearce
 Graphics Consultant..... Diane Patterson
 Staff Artist..... Kevin Cruz
 Staff Writers..... Chad Allen
 Nicholas Allen, Karen Blanchard, Virginia Blount, Uchenna Bulliner, Darryl Brown,
 Tyrone Chapman, Dwayne Collins, Lisa Gregory, Joy Innis, Beverly Johnson,
 Eric Jones, Florestine Jones, Pacquin McClain, Travis Manuel, Richard McIntire,
 Becky Overton, Sylvia Purvis, Miracle Perry, Johnny Reid, Kimberly Robinson, Mike
 Stone,
 Cheryll White.
 Staff Writers..... Mark Morris
 Mike Stone
 Chad Allen
 Editorial Assistants..... Samantha Epps
 Eric Jones

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.

A Quality Library?

A University cannot provide its students with a quality education without also providing them with a quality library.

What is a quality library? A quality library exists, first of all, to serve the people who use it. ECSU students are asking that the G.R. Little Library serve them more effectively. They want the library to be open longer hours, lower fines for overdue books, longer check-out periods for borrowing books, and more up-to-date books and research materials.

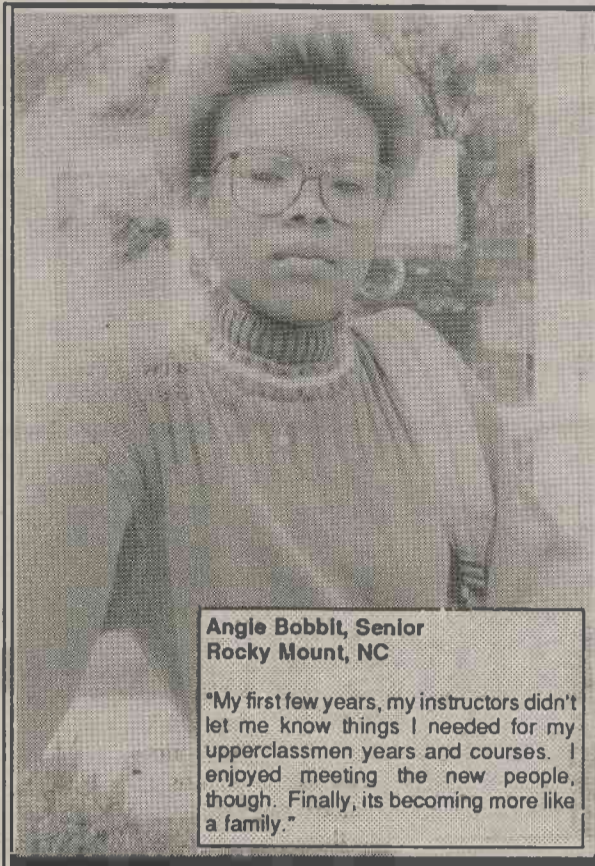
A quality library is a smooth-running library, with an efficient system for keeping track of fines, and the books themselves. ECSU students are asking that they not be fined unfairly when they are late with books, and that books are readily available when they need them. Students are asking that they receive a grace period for overdue books, and they are asking to feel that someone will be receptive to their problems when they feel they have been treated unfairly by the library.

A quality library has up-to-date research materials and books on a diverse array of subjects. The world is changing so rapidly that much information published only a few years ago has already become outdated. ECSU students are asking for modern books and materials to help them keep abreast of today's world, with its explosion of new technology, knowledge and research. ECSU students want to enter the work force as competitive as possible; and they want to be able to depend on the library to help make them competitive.

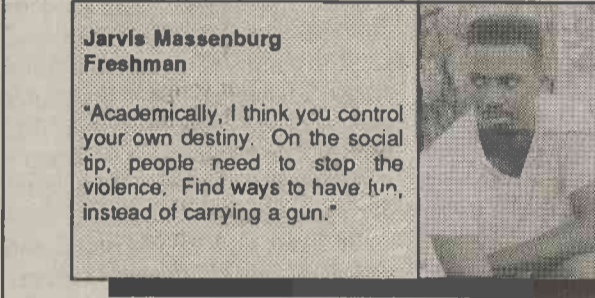
A quality library offers its patrons a quiet place to study and learn. ECSU students who are serious about learning are asking that their library be quiet and orderly, and not a social center.

ECSU students are asking for a quality library. We believe this is a reasonable request.

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.



Angie Bobbit, Senior
 Rocky Mount, NC
 "My first few years, my instructors didn't let me know things I needed for my upperclassmen years and courses. I enjoyed meeting the new people, though. Finally, its becoming more like a family."



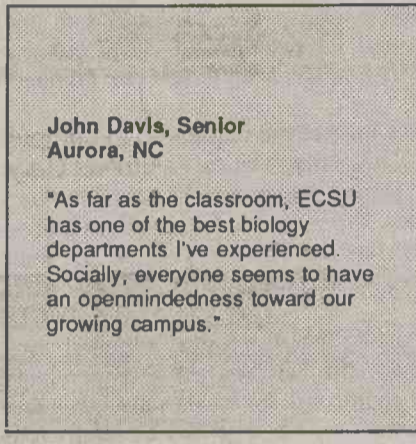
Jarvia Massenburg
 Freshman
 "Academically, I think you control your own destiny. On the social tip, people need to stop the violence. Find ways to have fun, instead of carrying a gun."

Talk of ECSU:

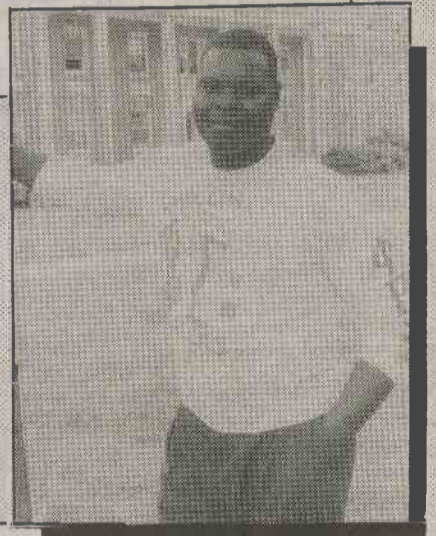
How would you sum up the 1988-89 school year?



Loretta Johnson, Freshman
 Marion, Indiana
 "Actually its been real good. The people are friendly and my grades are great!"



John Davis, Senior
 Aurora, NC
 "As far as the classroom, ECSU has one of the best biology departments I've experienced. Socially, everyone seems to have an openmindedness toward our growing campus."



GUEST COLUMNISTS

Black is beautiful to ECSU graduate

By Cornelius F. Warren

America has developed a unique culture through the individual and group contributions of all its citizens. We have been enriched by this multi-racial blend.

Recognition and appreciation of these groups should be based, however, on accurate knowledge. America has limited, and, in some cases, nonexistent information about the role minorities have played in the development of our country.

In the almost 400 years of the black man in America, there has not been and accurate, detailed history of his existence. There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the greatest is no one at the time thought it significant enough to preserve.

What of the history and contribu-

tions of Chicanos, Asians, Europeans, Indians, Hispanics, Jews and others who call America home? Yes, America will never be the truly democratic nation it claims to be until all people are treated equal.

A common thought among many blacks: "We don't have our history because they will not give it to us." While I am one of the first to admit to the inequalities of our society, I believe that the blame, if anyone is at fault, rests on the shoulders of blacks. No one felt our history was significant enough to record it in detail.

The contributions of Black Americans is significant and noteworthy. Yet most are virtually unknown to most blacks and Americans in general. This is attributed, but not limited to, misrepresentation during certain

periods of American history. Sometimes our achievements were overlooked entirely.

We must not be ashamed be of our history. We must be proud of who we are as well as our ancestors' accomplishments. True, they were slaves, but they overcame that. We as a people have come a long way from slavery in 1919 to a presidential candidate in 1988. But we still have a long way to go.

Black studies are only offered at a handful of colleges and universities, to include the traditionally black ones. Rarely do they exist at the elementary and high school level. I feel this is in part due to the blindness and recalcitrance of the white educational system. Black studies are needed now more than ever.

Until all Americans understand the importance of their mixed culture, we will never be "the sweet land of liberty...where all men are created equal."

We are all God's children and He commands us to "love one another." In order to love, we must understand. As Whitney Young, Jr. said, "Together, blacks and whites can move our country beyond racism."

The first step is to study black history. This, in turn, leads to a deeper awareness of our accomplishments and struggles.

Remember the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: "Black is beautiful, and it is so beautiful to be black."

Cornelius Warren is a 1987 graduate of the ECSU ROTC program.

How can we eat and get to the caf on time?

By Sylvia Purvis

It's 11:30 and you have 30 minutes before your next class. "I guess I'll go get a bite to eat from the cafeteria," you say to yourself. So you grab your books and walk to the cafeteria only to find a line of about 20 students standing outside of its double doors.

The students are cursing and banging on the doors because they, like you, have 12:00 classes. How are we supposed to eat and get to class on time? When we are finally admitted into the cafeteria we have to wait in

another line about five more minutes because they aren't prepared.

This leaves us with 15 minutes (on a good day) to get your food, eat and get to class. This is virtually impossible because there is another line which is the "all famous" cold cut line with two workers serving sometimes "molded bologna" on stale bread going at a rate of .02 miles per hour.

Why don't you wait and eat after your 12:00 class? you ask. Well I can't because I have a 1:00 class and even if I didn't the workers make sure

that they shut the lines down on time if nothing else. I, like many others have been virtually turned away from the lines because as they say "Go back, we've finished serving." And with the stares some of the workers give you, if their eyes could kill we'd all probably be dead by now.

Why are they getting over on us like this?

Sometimes I feel we're in Ethiopia because it's funny when you're sitting in class and the student behind you has a stomach eruption. You just look at him and say, "Yeah, you missed the

cafe too didn't you bud?" and the poor thing looks embarrassed and nods his head yes.

In my opinion we have a cafeteria staff of underworked and overpaid employees. No! It's up to us to make the changes.

Maybe some people say I'm being too harsh but look at what they're doing. The dishes are never clean and the workers are always crabby. Not all of them, of course, but as they say, "One rotten apple can spoil the whole bunch."

I rest my case.

LETTERS

Students too depressed Reader says textbook to study in their dorms article is off the mark

To The Editor:

ECSU officials should renovate the dorms so that students can get a better education. The purpose of college is to get a good education to make it in the real world. How can students get a good education if they have to study in depressing dorm conditions? Students are too depressed to study after a visit to the bathrooms in the dorm. The toilets won't flush half of the time. Also half of the showers don't have shower curtains. The sinks are stopped up with food and hair.

Students also have difficulty studying in the rooms. They are too small. There is not enough space in the closet for your clothes. There are also in-

sects in the rooms. Ants and roaches will get in your food even with the bag closed.

Students are not used to living in these conditions. Students either go home every weekend, or go outside to find other activities besides staying in their rooms to study, which deprives them of the education they are supposed to be getting.

The parents pay too much money for their children to be living in such depressing conditions. As much as tuition costs, I'm sure the school can afford to renovate the dorms.

Corliss McCabe

To The Editor:

The March 3rd article dealing with textbook shortages was way off the mark. First the administration was quoted to the effect that the orders were based on departmental requisitions; but then the article stated that they depend on the prerequisite numbers. From all appearances, they use a crystal ball instead.

The headline stated that there was a new system in the works. But all Dr. Caldwell actually said was that the problem was under study. I have been told that the problem was under study for the last five years.

The alternative is to sell the textbooks to the students. Students could

resale the general education textbooks to keep the net cost down to about the same as the rental fee. They could then keep the textbooks in their major so that they could refer back to them.

Only a small minority of colleges use a rental system because it is antiquated and inefficient. It is time that ECSU faced the current realities.

Mr. Michael R. Worthington
 Assistant Professor, Business

To The Editor:

It has been brought to my attention that some of your readers were upset with my quoted statements in your last Compass. I apologize to the readers. My concern is to have a smooth operation that is productive to all. Pedro Holley
 Manager, University Stores

