

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. 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.

Downward Spiral in the Music Department

As the semester wears on it becomes increasingly evident that there are serious problems in the Music Department.

Too many instructors are coming and going, creating a confusing atmosphere for many of the students. The students are not getting a fair shake or even their money's worth.

Three popular and talented instructors have left the department within one year—Dexter Allgood, Willie McElroy, and R.J. Johnson. Students say these instructors had made the biggest and best impression on them and the department. Now they're gone.

In addition, one individual hired as a replacement withdrew the day he was to begin working.

It has been said that a power struggle exists in the department and funds are not being placed in the neediest areas. This may or may not be true but one thing is apparent: a problem exists and it must be pinpointed and solved, if the music department is to live up to its potential as a viable, creative force on campus.

Morale in the Department is reflective of the stock market - in a downward spiral. Apathy is spreading to the point that many students say they feel abandonment. Students feel if ECSU doesn't give them what they need in their major, why stay?

The recording studio, slated to open this past June, failed a state inspection twice, and now cannot open before January, 1990.

For students who have enrolled in hopes of gaining experience on that equipment, years will have passed without their expectations being realized.

The ECSU Marching Band has performed gallantly amid the storm.

Band members displayed courage in facing the green and gold at the Fish Bowl. After that embarrassing situation, many band members were so upset and disappointed that they stopped practicing. Band members met with Chancellor Jenkins twice, seeking a solution to their problems. Hopefully, that meeting will lead to a fresh start that's badly needed.

On behalf of the students, and all others who truly care for this historic institution, let's straighten this tangled web. Perhaps an investigation or maybe an overhaul is needed.

If steps are not taken to solve the dilemma, the students will continue to be the big losers.

Let's work together to find a swift solution so the Music Department can maintain and build on the excellent success it has enjoyed in the past.

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.



Willie Moore Bertie, NC

"A name change would help in getting a job. It would be more readily recognized on a resume. It's no big thing in the name, because it's already been changed several times."

Edmund Roush Manteo, NC

"To tell the truth, the name should change. It'll help the school grow because the UNC system is recognized nationally. It would draw more students and better teachers."

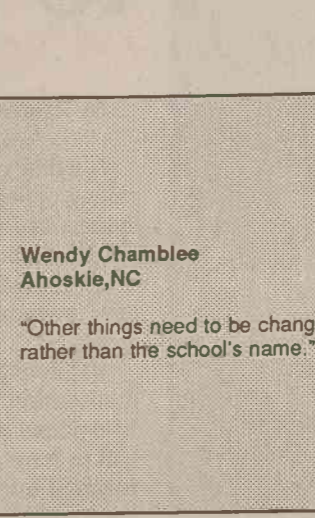
Talk of ECSU:

Should ECSU's name be changed to UNC-EC?



Angela Harvey Durham, NC

"I feel there's nothing wrong with the name UNC-EC. It sounds more prestigious and people would perceive the university differently."



Wendy Chamblee Ahoskie, NC

"Other things need to be changed rather than the school's name."

Guest Columnists

ECSU: name reflects pride, history

By Becky Overton

Although many people have been more than happy to point out the advantages of changing this university's name from Elizabeth City State University to The University of North Carolina, I am strongly opposed to this change.

Many may ask, "What's in a name?" My answer to that is: "The history, the heritage, the pride of a people!"

Elizabeth City State University was founded on March 3, 1891 by the North Carolina General Assembly, establishing a Normal School for training teachers of the Black race to teach in common schools. The Bill was sponsored by Hugh Cale, a Black representative from Pasquotank County. In 1937 the General Assembly raised from two-year Normal School to a four-year teachers college, officially changing the school's name to Elizabeth City Teachers College. Thus the Assembly added

the training of elementary school principals for rural and city schools to the college's mission.

In 1948, The Association of Colleges and Schools, an organization of Black institutions, recognized the college as an "A-rated" institution. In 1961 it was granted full membership in the Southern Association of College and Schools. The name was officially changed to Elizabeth City State University in 1963 by the General Assembly.

The college first began in rented quarters with 23 students, two faculty members, and a budget of \$900. Today, the University has a student body of 1600 plus, 829 acres of land, more than four dozen buildings and a \$20 million annual budget.

As you can see the history of Elizabeth City State University is an award winning story of struggle.

Elizabeth City State University is looking forward to the future as it moves towards its Centennial, and what better way to celebrate it than as

Elizabeth City State University? If the name is changed—in the hearts of its students, former and present—it will not be a Centennial, but merely the first year celebration of The University of North Carolina.

Elizabeth City State University is one of the few remaining predominantly Black institutions. Many Black adolescents do not feel that they have great chances of success. Giving them a chance to attend a predominantly Black institution is giving them a chance to see that they were not meant to lead a life of crime, poverty and drugs. It is giving them a chance to see that there is meaningful life beyond high school, and a chance to see that high school is not the end but the beginning of a life full of the benefits of knowledge.

Predominantly Black institutions seem to be the only place where minority students can learn that Columbus did not discover America, but merely visited an unknown land where Native Americans lived. It seems to

be the only place where minority students can learn the Blacks fought in the Revolutionary War in what was known as the "Black Regiment," and that Blacks fought in the Civil War for justice that they themselves did not receive. Moreover, predominantly black institutions seem to be the only place where minority students can learn that Blacks fought in both World Wars to save a democracy that could not save them, and which did not grant them equal rights and benefits.

I told my friends, "Go to Elizabeth City State University; there you are more than just a number. I told my friends, "Go to Elizabeth City State University where knowledge about your ancestors comes in abundance. And once again I told my friends, "Go to Elizabeth City State University and support one of the few remaining predominantly Black institutions. Now all I tell my friends about is the anger that I feel that once again we will be forced to fight and struggle for something that is rightfully ours."

Blacks: Wake up and smell the coffee; we need to be ready to meet the world

By Reggie Carson

Afro-Americans have endured constant struggle through the first 25 years of the hundred year dash toward total freedom. Today, many Blacks say, "Freedom, I have Freedom." In the slave sense, my fellow brothers and sisters, yes, we are free.

If freedom has been truly obtained why was a Black murdered at Howard Beach? Why was a Black rape victim, Tawana Brawley, persecuted by her rapist, the media and by society?

Yes, you say we are free, but the headlines about the Labor Day Greekfest incidents could have been changed from Virginia Beach to Johannesburg, South Africa. Neo-Nazi Skinheads stalk the streets with nothing in their minds but to catch a so called "nigger" and beat his head in.

Many of our Black brothers have gone off to wars—from the Revolutionary War to Viet Nam—to fight for America, and returned home from the battle to find no jobs.

In 1863, the Afro-American was freed from his bondage under his slave masters through the Emancipation Proclamation. But he wasn't given the land to make that freedom meaningful. He was left penniless and illiterate in an unknown land, not knowing where to go or what to do. So, Emancipation for the Negro was freedom—freedom to hunger, freedom to live in the rain, and famine. Emancipation meant no shelter, only the rain and stars, and no land to cultivate.

What it was, was freedom and famine at the same time and it's a wonder how we taught ourselves how to read and write and speak so well.

Some may say, "This is the 80's and the 90's are around the corner." But we can't speak for tomorrow, my brothers. Do you think the majority who holds onto the ever powerful dollar is willing to be equal and share half with his Black brothers and sisters?

What many of us need to do is wake up and smell the coffee! We are college educated men and women striving to face the real world. We need to be mentally equipped to meet it head on instead of having it striking us head on. These are little things we need to think of. Once you make it over the hump, don't run ahead quite yet. Stop and help another brother or sister up with you. Uplift them and strive forward along side of them.

Too many of us are worried about taking what another brother has, not knowing that the majority has it all

and decides how much of his pie that brother can have. Remember, a successful brother is only as successful as the Black community around him. If a brother has a Mercedes-Benz, and a \$200,000 home and locks himself and his mind away from the ghetto then he's not successful; he's blind, because he forgot. And forgetting where you came from is exactly what the majority wants us to do.

This land of America is just as much ours as it is the White brother and sisters. Before the majestic words of the Declaration of Independence were written by Thomas Jefferson, we were here; before the beautiful words of the Star Spangled Banner were written, we were here. So keep on keeping on and forever sing "We Shall Overcome."

Dear Liz...

Dear Liz,
 Help! I have a problem with a domineering boyfriend named Eric. He's always trying to tell me what to do, when to do it and how to do it. My parents had control before college, now I want to be in control of my decisions. But my boyfriend thinks he knows best.

I've tried talking to him but he says he's just trying to show me the way.

How can I get it across to him that I love him but I want to make my own decisions? What can I do?
 Controlled Love

Dear Controlled:
 You need to take the "proverbial bull by the horns" Set him down and express how much his domineering behavior bothers you. Love is a shar-

ing of emotions, lifestyles and finances. This means you may be helpful in solving his problems and he yours; however, neither of you must take total responsibility for the others' welfare. Love is learning to grow and develop together and he must allow you the freedom to grow, too. If you truly love each other you have something wonderful to build on. Show him a copy of this and talk!

Liz
 Dear Liz,
 I have been dating Wanda for 2 years and we are very close. My problem is that I can't keep my hands off her! I really love her and want to make love to her but she is still fight-

ing me. How can I show her that I am serious and will take care of her? I'm getting tired of cold showers. And all my buddies are doing it; why can't I?

Hurting Harvey
 Dear Hurting Harvey,
 Making love isn't everything. If you love her you will wait until she is emotionally ready. So when you go to see her, zip your hands off and leave them in the glove compartment of your car. This way your hands will stay clear of her hot spots and it will reduce the chance of lovemaking. You may also find the library helpful in information relating to this serious problem and how to handle it!
 Liz