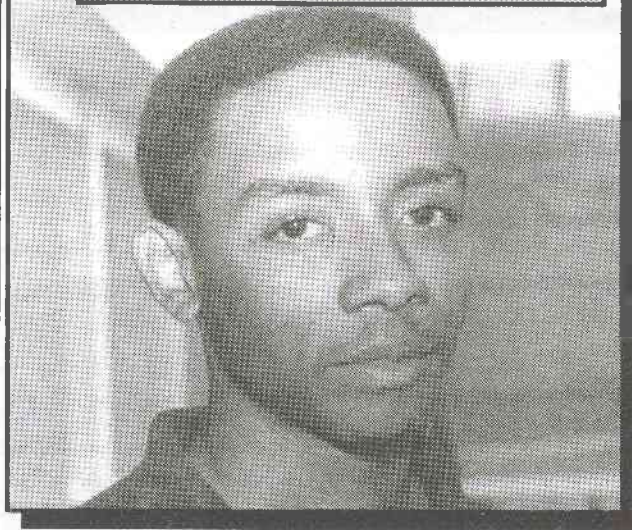


**Talk of ECSU:**

*Do you think that an economic boycott of businesses that support the Daily Advance would make people realize the impact ECSU has on the community?*

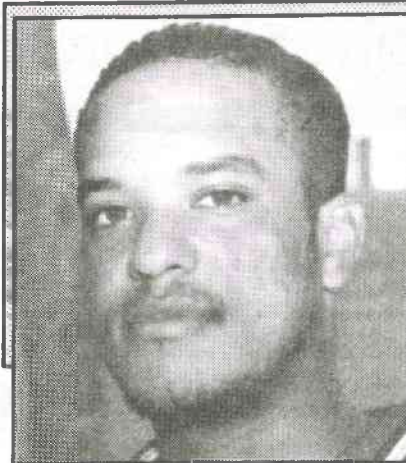
**Derrick Davis,  
Freshman**

**Yes. When people do not like to listen to the truth, money talks.**



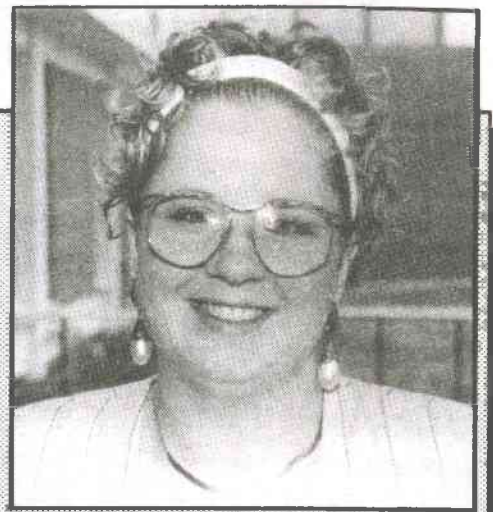
**Kirk Rivers,  
Sophomore**

**Yes. The community is not supporting ECSU. This is the second largest source of income. We should boycott because without us their economy would suffer tremendously.**



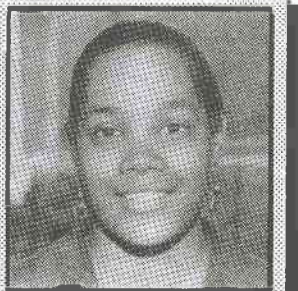
**Donna Shaw,  
Junior**

**Yes. That effort would serve some merit. The education of our future should be stressed. We must make sacrifices to improve our posterity and so should the community.**



**Jen'ee Williams,  
Sophomore**

**Yes. Action is the only thing that will make people recognize us.**



**GUEST COLUMN**

# Mother's story teaches student the secret of strength, success

**Adrienne McIntyre**

It was ten o'clock in the morning, and my mother was cooking our Saturday breakfast. I watched her as beads of sweat rolled down her forehead. Her honey colored face seemed to glisten as she leaned over the steam rising from the pot.

"Mom, what makes a woman strong?" I asked.

"A strong woman is easy to define yet so painful to become," my mother said.

I waited until she spoke again.

"A strong woman has faith in herself. She is eager to prove that she is a leader. She disciplines herself so that she can succeed at her goals."

I asked her to give me an example, and she began to tell me about my grandmother.

My grandmother was a strong woman, my mother said. She said my grandmother was practically self-educated, and, more importantly, she educated my mother on how to find strength within

*I learned that there is no excuse good enough to keep me from achieving my goals.*

herself.

"Your grandmother is my best example of a strong woman. She reared three children practically on her own. More importantly, she taught me to believe in myself," my mother said.

My mother said that when she was young she had polio, and that one leg had been shorter than the other.

My grandmother never let her use her handicap as an excuse. She encouraged my mother to stand and walk as tall and straight as anyone else. She made her practice walking straight and steady with a book on her head. She made her run and play just as the other little kids did. She made my mother believe in herself.

Eventually, all of the hard work paid off. Before the end of my mother's senior year in high school she had played a

variety of sports. She had run track, played basketball and joined the cheerleading team. She had even become captain of the cheerleading team.

She was also in the honor society, the Beta Club and served as co-editor of the school newspaper. As my mother's list of accomplishments continued, I enjoyed listening to each word and syllable.

This experience had taught my mother a valuable lesson. She learned there is no excuse for not succeeding; the only excuses are the ones you make for yourself.

My mother's story of how she overcame polio, with my grandmother's help, empowered me with its wisdom. It was a lesson about strength, overcoming adversity, and learning to succeed.

This story influenced me to dedicate my life to becoming the best at every-

thing I do.

And I have worked hard to prove this lesson to myself over the years. In middle school, I became athletic, although I had weak ankles. I forced myself to run each day. I attended volleyball camps and aerobics classes, all to strengthen my ankles. Using my mother's life story as an inspiration, I succeeded at my goal.

I played volleyball for two seasons on the school team, and I was elected most valuable player for both seasons. I had believed in myself and proven that I could succeed.

I now recognize that strength comes from believing in yourself.

From then on, I made a conscious effort to aim for success, and to work hard at becoming a stronger person. I tried hard to be like my strong mother and grandmother.

And today, thanks to the influence of my mother's story, with my grandmother's help, I still aim to believe in myself, knowing that I will succeed.