

## EDITORIAL

## A Leaking Ship

If the expression "loose lips sink ships" is true then the Viking ship has sprung some big leaks. Misinterpreted words by the captain of our ship, Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins, have kept ECSU at the center of controversy--from alleged "racist" remarks at a family meeting to a disparaging pep talk in the locker room.

ECSU's suspension of ex-basketball player Maurice Barnett for heated words uttered after a painful loss makes us wonder if Dr. Jenkins has forgotten the damage misunderstandings can cause. It wasn't long ago that the Chancellor was apologizing for his own misinterpreted words. Now recent events make us wonder if his administration is more concerned with demonstrating its power than with fairness and mercy, when dealing with those who have fallen into disfavor.

Recently a personnel review committee of the UNC-system Board of Governors overturned the firing of ECSU professor Dr. Carol Kerr on procedural grounds, saying that her rights were violated and that she didn't receive a fair hearing. While there may have been extenuating circumstances to the administration's failure to give Dr. Kerr a fair hearing, events like these raise a troubling question: Are ECSU administrators sending out warning signals to the university family that anyone challenging or questioning their authority will be issued a plane ticket home?

This is exactly what happened to Barnett following his run-in with the Chancellor. Is this leadership we're witnessing or is it an abuse of

power?

After administrators were accused of creating a racist environment, students and faculty united to defend Dr. Jenkins against a biased local press; however, we reserved the right to criticize our administrators because this is our home.

We commend the Chancellor for allowing Barnett to be reinstated; however, there is no reason why Dr. Jenkins could not have met personally with Barnett in an effort to resolve their grievances like mature adults. Like family.

We should solve our problems within the family with maturity and professionalism, instead of allowing them to become public dramas. Our university should not become publically defined by personal grievances and misunderstandings. This only adds grist to the mill of those who do not have our best interests at heart.

*The Compass* would like to commend ECSU students for standing together in the midst of controversy and for their overwhelming display of Viking spirit. We would also like to congratulate the Viking basketball team for playing vigorously throughout the season. And, finally, we encourage *all* students to vote in the upcoming SGA election. Choose candidates who will truly represent the students and, at the same time, work effectively with administrators. We need a whole lot of understanding to make up for lost time.

## LETTERS

## Locker room fuss was 'bad timing'

To the editor:

The Maurice Barnett controversy raises questions about an athlete's right to privacy immediately before and after a contest and whether or not an athlete should be held accountable for things said in the heat of the moment.

Should there be a time when athletes are protected from outside influences, including university chancellors and the press? In professional athletics the media and other people are prohibited from entering the dressing room of teams for a certain amount of time after games so that athletes can gather themselves and their thoughts for questions. For an athlete the locker room is his sanctuary, his safe haven, the place where he makes the transition from athlete to regular person and vice versa. This is a mental process as well as physical. In many cases an

athlete celebrates his triumph for a great victory or vents his frustration for a bad loss. This the one place where an athlete is surrounded by the people who understand and share the same feelings with him at that moment.

This type of situation is not peculiar to our campus. Two years ago Deon Sanders, a baseball player for the Atlanta Braves, threw buckets of ice water on a television reporter because of comments the reporter had made earlier about him. Last year a college football player got into an altercation with a visitor in the team's locker room after the person made a comment about the game which they had just lost. There is no question that Maurice was wrong for his statements to Chancellor Jenkins, but wasn't this just a case of bad timing by the Chancellor?

Reginald Worlds

## The B.M.S. Factor

I am a college student  
I be "the new generation of slaves"

pursuing degrees forming avenues  
to escalate

a 3.0 I possess

but I guess I don't get enthused

the job market has digressed

I reflect on the realm of stewards

who molded the clay into a shape

of verticality. So the torch is now  
given as a boon but the sublime  
is to "spark a new flame" and be true

to a path spoken first by the  
mother,

Look Ma, first semester, 18 hours

and I'm bringing home all A's,

curricular activities extra-in-  
tense

will be eliminated, if declines  
appear in grades.

I am a covert nerd but my  
appearance

infracts so the slack I'll catch

for the real is unheard,

"And it's a must" to alternate  
one's

dream then disapprove of in-  
crowds which

collectively, are made firm.

I treasure the females

I crystallize my role with endless  
chat

I watch for the star to shine  
and subdue (And that is ECSU...)

I germinate into a model for kids  
innovating facts so their acts

corresponds with God's will

Or deconstruct the vine that cuts

off the source to comprehend

Grapes are ineffective so they  
peel

in time the aspirations will get  
revealing

My love of fame, prominence or

black peoples healing

What about my friends now,

the disguise runs deep, associate

pals

the position and we'll stay cool

Now I will not empathize

dilemmas are created so desires

to unite

can be justified

And on the scales I pray

that my good exceeds my sins

for imbalance involves death

from which there's no escape

Eric Walton

## THE COMPASS

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