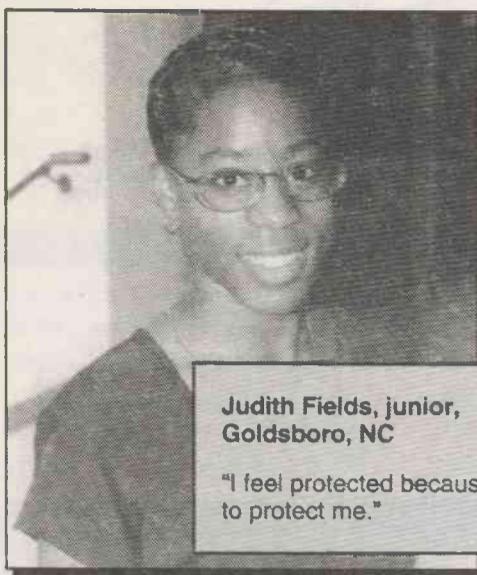


# Talk of ECSU:

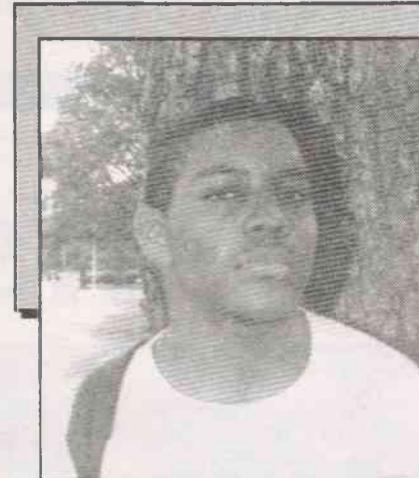
by Sonya Holley

*In light of the recent shooting on campus, how safe do you feel here?*



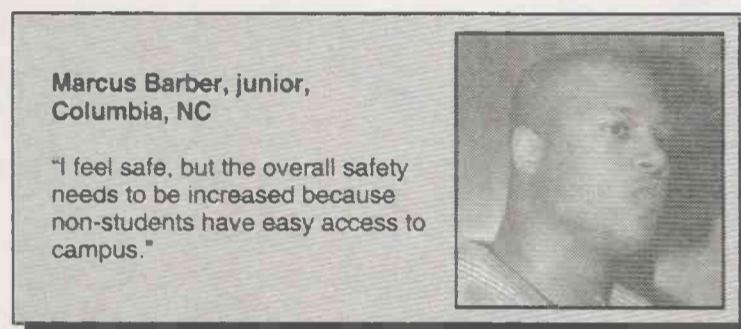
Judith Fields, junior,  
Goldsboro, NC

"I feel protected because God has promised to protect me."



Jonathan Bonner, freshman,  
Bethel, NC

"I still feel safe. I don't usually get scared, but I have become more cautious."

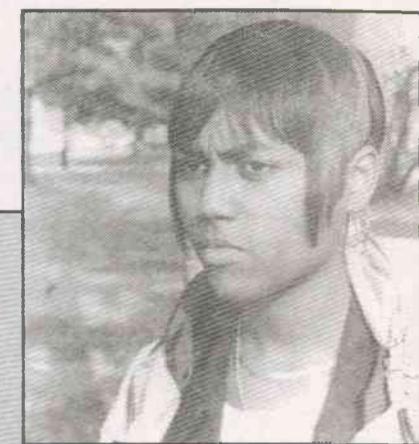


Marcus Barber, junior,  
Columbia, NC

"I feel safe, but the overall safety needs to be increased because non-students have easy access to campus."

Tamika Dickens, freshman,  
Witakers, NC

"I don't feel safe because I feel that there is a lack of security on campus."



Photos by Jamie Jordan

## GUEST COLUMN

# Education is the key to helping people overcome problem of 'enemy formation'

by Hope Jones

In Atlanta, Georgia a five-year child saw a mentally handicapped person walking through the mall with another individual. As soon as the young child saw the disabled person she turned to her mother and held on very close to her. When the child's mother turned and asked what was wrong the child responded, "He's ugly... and he scares me."

Many of us in today's society have difficulty accepting people who are different in some way from ourselves, whether they are disabled or from a different race. Some even have the tendency to hate and fear people who are unlike themselves. Psychologists call this process "enemy formation."

How can we, as a nation, solve the insidious problem of enemy formation? How do we stop the hate and fear embedded in our hearts?

We must begin with education. Through education, we can gain "an informed understanding of the origins of differences in basic belief systems," in the words of Kay B. Forest.

By studying our past we will begin to understand the complex biological

relationship we all share.

The latest research by several notable microbiologists suggests that all contemporary humans, regardless of race, share a common ancestor.

In his book, *People of the Lake* anthropologist Richard Leaky writes: "From the eastern shores of Lake Tukana there is the famous—some say infamous!—skull known numerically as 1470, the most complete skull of a human ancestor who lived close to 2.5 million years ago; and recently the lake-shore deposits have been persuaded to part with a number of remarkably advanced skulls of individuals who lived there around 1.5 million years ago.

"These discoveries," wrote Leaky, "have had an important impact on our view of a particularly critical period of our history, the time when some of our ancestors left their native Africa and began to colonize the rest of world."

Leaky's research supports the idea that all contemporary people evolved from a single ancestor. If this is true, each of us shares a common kinship, regardless of gender, race or creed. We are all limbs on the same tree, sharing the same roots.

As a society, it is vital that we are aware of our deeply rooted history and our true identities. We must understand and have full knowledge of ourselves as people. We then have to look at ourselves as individuals and examine what makes us different and unique. After doing so, we will begin to learn about other societies, communities, and even individuals. We must take all of our gained knowledge and instill it in our children, families, and our communities. We must teach our children that it is acceptable to be different and we must educate them about our common history, teaching them of our similarities as well as our differences.

By learning about the complex web of human history, they can finally begin to see that it is not ugly or scary to be different.

We can contribute to this process by curriculum changes, offering more courses that stress cultural and ethnic diversity. Government-funded TV programs for children can help educate young people about cultures and ethnic groups outside their own experience. This will make them more aware

of the value of all human beings and help eradicate fear and hate.

We must also teach children not to hate, and that intense feelings of discomfort and disconnection from others are harmful. It is wrong to despise, disfavor, or dislike others who are different in some way.

Finally, we must help them learn to accept themselves.

It is difficult to accept people who are different when we are uncomfortable with ourselves. It is not always easy to understand and value others who are not like us. Many people hate and fear others without realizing what they are doing.

We must attempt to look beyond external differences and accept others for who and what they are, regardless of skin color, ethnic origin, religious belief or gender.

A scan of the headlines shows humanity's tragic failure to do this—in places like Rwanda, Croatia, and the Middle East.

And yet the survival of our very civilization may depend on our ability to do this—accept and even love those who are different from ourselves.