

EDITORIAL

Help Wanted

The time has come for us to select a new chancellor at ECSU. Forums have been held, radio talk shows have aired, and committees have been formed. What now?

No matter who is selected, not everyone will be satisfied with the new chancellor; however, it is important that the next chancellor will be someone who listens to students. We need someone who will make sure the needs of the students are met and that the University is working to improve their well being.

We need someone who will make sure the computer lab is operating effectively for students, that the University Center is meeting their needs, that our housing facilities are in good condition, that books arrive in the bookstore on time, and that the mailroom is available to students during posted operation hours.

We know the chancellor cannot be concerned with all of these matters. However we want a chancellor who will hold the individuals in charge of these areas accountable, thereby improving the quality of life for the students at ECSU.

Do we want someone who is going to follow and enforce University policy—even if it means getting our cars ticketed or towed from no parking zones, or having class on snow days? Yes, because these things demonstrate a dedication to carrying out the goals of this institution and maintaining campus order. We need a chancellor who is not afraid to make decisions based on what he or she feels is best for the University.

We need a chancellor who will improve the University's public image, and who will move us to a higher level of academic excellence. We need a chancellor who will see that the University is operated in a professional, business-like manner so that it will pass muster with the state auditors.

We believe Interim Chancellor Dr. Mickey L. Burnim will be able to accomplish these goals. He has already demonstrated what he calls a "no-nonsense, committed, caring approach to running this University." Based on his performance as interim, we believe he has proven he is a strong and viable candidate for the permanent job of chancellor.

LETTERS

Aquarium in Limbo... unfair to fish

To The Editor:

The lives of some fish hang in the balance while administrators make the decision whether to change the area housing the aquarium, located in the Jimmy R. Jenkins Science Complex, into classrooms. A slew of expensive equipment sits in a closed room; both are unused.

It would seem that the ten 25 gallon tanks, the 100 gallon tank, the 50 gallon octagonal tank, one nonfunctional touch tank, two sitter tanks, and a TV and VCR could be put to better use. Two of the tanks are expensive salt water tanks, but neither of these are in use, either.

Some of the tanks are now algae-filled, and are green and yellow-orange from the growth. Water-filled tanks still run, but they are empty. Only three of the fresh water tanks have any form of animal life.

ECSU was to have had a marine biology degree in place, and the aquarium would have been a perfect learning tool for these majors. The degree is yet to be put in place, and the aquarium has yet to reach its full potential.

Dr. Blackmon, chairperson of the Biology Department, says that there are not enough classrooms in the science complex, and that the room is needed for instructional space. Though it would be nice to have the aquarium, he added that tax payers were not paying for little children to be entertained. He said that it was more important for



students to be able to learn.

Most students, however, never knew about the aquarium when it was open. Members of *The Compass* staff had to be told where the aquarium was located.

At one time there were turtles, hermit crabs, fish, and other life living in the aquarium, but now all that remains are a few fish.

Recently, only work-study students have been involved with the aquarium, according to Dr. Blackmon. When it first opened, part-time help was hired through the administration, not the Biology Department according to Dr. G. Harmon, biology professor. It was after the employees left that work-study students began the task of managing the aquarium.

Many students in the Biology Department would like to see the aquarium opened. They feel it is not fair to the remaining fish, and students and faculty who do not know about it on campus.

Dr. Blackmon hopes that in the next few months a decision will be reached concerning the aquarium. Until then, the fish and equipment sit and wait.

— Tonia Polston

THE COMPASS

THE COMPASS is published by Elizabeth City State University students under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Dr. Linda Florence Callahan, Chairperson, and Mr. Stephen March, faculty advisor.

- News Editor Latisha Edwards
- Copy Editor NaKeisha Sylver
- Sports Editor Tonia Polston
- Poetry Editor Yushawnda Thomas
- Chief Photographer Jamie Jordan
- Office Manager Scott Lawrence
- Entertainment Editor Lolithia Underdue
- Advertising Manager James Perry
- Production Manager Diane Patterson
- Staff writers Sonya Holley, Angela Burrus,
Tiffany Newell, Donald Perkins, Tonia Polston,
Jon Lytle, James Perry, Tamikia Spruill,
Yushawnda Thomas, Tim Smith, Jean Samuel

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 accuracy and grammar. Because of limited space, not all letters can be published.

Twenty-two hundred copies of this publication were printed on recycled paper at a cost of 45¢ each.

KISS

*You whisper the words that stir my soul,
words that require my tongue
to stroke your ear again
with warm revelations that now find rest
in corners of my upper story.
Aggressively biting, i balance love
upon scales of whim or reason,
ever finding a nearly perfect weight.
i need to travel your spine,
making it wet with mirroring phrases.
open to me as i fall deeper, love.
open as i savor your life
found within this cavern.
COME.
COME WITH ME.
if promised i promise with this also —
A kiss.*

— David Gibson

ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association
of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate degrees.