

EDITORIAL

What's In A Name?

By Artelia Covington
Editor

It has been rumored that ECSU will be changing its name from Elizabeth City State University to the University of North Carolina at Elizabeth City.

As you well know, this particular rumor has been shrouded in mystery for several years and has now once again reared its ugly head.

According to a recent article published in The Daily Advance by Tara Meads, a transfer student from College of the Albemarle, "it's time for a name change."

In the article Ms. Meads states that "sometimes change is essential to the growth of any group", and she also states that while ECSU is a name synonymous with historically black universities in North Carolina, for the past 100 years, ECSU has not been known for its high academic standards.

Whoa!

Now how can that be when just last semester we ranked third and listed in *US News and World Report* as one of the top regional three liberal arts public university in the south; the ranking was based on seven broad categories they are academic quality/reputation, retention, faculty resources/class size, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate and performance and alumni support.

This editor would like to know from where Ms Meads got her information regarding the changing our name.

All one needs to do is go back and look at the current student handbook (if one wanted to refute Ms. Meads ungrounded statements) and one would find that not only is our history surrounded in achievements and wonderful leadership to boot, but that academics has been the sole mission and purpose of providing a quality

education to African-American students.

The article also went on to make accusations of low funding, misguided direction, and alleged harassment.

Well, it seems as if you would like to know whether or not these allegations have any ground or merit, then simply refer to the paragraph above and you would see that the article's accusatory accusation have no foundation or merit.

So then why write about such things?

What makes the article and the things it discusses important enough for me to want to write about it and what makes it imperative that you my peers read this?

The answer is simple: knowledge. Knowledge is the key to unlock a world of possibilities.

When BET's (Black Entertainment Television's) Real business host, Scott Mercer spoke recently one of the things he stressed was the importance of finding out as much as you can about where you are and begin able to clarify and understand each and every bit of information that you are given.

Three things he pointed out where to research, question, and understand. And fellow Vikings, we must do that if any change is to come for us. With the new millennium fast approaching, I wonder if we have all gotten so comfortable with things being the way they are, we can't be, we have to question each and everything that goes on around us, certainly what happens here at home.

This: rumor of the name change is just want under the bridge, and I implore you to please pay attention to what is happening at your university. This is your school and you have to understand that you alone have the power to catapult this school into the next millennium.

Telephone Numbers You Should Know

Emergency	911
Campus Police	335-3266
ECSU Infirmary	335-3267
Elizabeth City Police Dept.	335-4321
Sheriff's Office	338-2191
Student Counseling	335-3276
Albemarle Hope Line	338-3011

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AC's Reflection

By Artelia Covington
Editor

Well, my friends it has been a tough year. I will admit that sometimes I doubted if I would even be able to make it through to the next day without a nervous breakdown. But I have been able to gain strength and regain strength and I have been able to persevere even through the bad times. I have seen many things and I have grown a lot as a result of my new-found position as editor of your newspaper. I discovered a lot of things about myself, like the fact that when things don't necessarily go the way I think that they should, I tend to pout and rant and rave and get upset, but that doesn't do anything to solve the problem (I had to learn that lesson the hard way). The other thing I had to learn was that people are going to be people regardless of what I want from them or what I expect of them. You know, in life things don't always go the way you plan them, and I am here to tell you that it won't. But even with all of that, we still have a dynamite paper to show for it. Which lets me know that sometimes it takes things going wrong to prove to you and show others just how strong you really are. And I stand firm and with pride to tell you that "The Compass" is and will always be a force to be reckoned with. I truly enjoyed working with my peers on this paper this school year. I think that we each learned from one another and were able to bounce ideas off of the other, which is always a good thing. So, I guess you could say that in spite of it all; this experience is one that I wouldn't trade for anything. It has helped me to grow as a writer, evolve as a person and respect that there are other ideas out there that are as good as mine. So to my peers and to my advisor I say thank you for a wonderful year. I will miss you all once you leave and go forth and blaze the trail for me. It was a truly wonderful experience; one I shall never forget.

Thanks for a good year. Good luck in future endeavors.

Tee

THE COMPASS

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The Compass welcomes letters to the editor. Please send letters to The Compass, Campus Box 815, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

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