

EDITORIAL

Hello Mighty Vikings!

By **Artelia Covington**
Editor

It's a brand new year with new ideas, new faces, and new challenges. I trust that this semester has been a good one for each of you. I am hopeful that everyone had a wonderful summer and that you were making your university proud. I had a wonderful summer. I got the opportunity to do something I have always wanted to do- intern with a nationally known magazine. For those of you who did not know this, I interned with Emerge magazine, the print arm of BET this past summer. And let me tell you it was an absolutely amazing and a wonderful learning experience. While interning there I got a chance to see how a professional magazine is run and how they do business. Since doing the internship and working with some seasoned journalists like George Curry and Flo Purnell, I have a different perspective about journalism and I even walked away with some new ideas I wanted to put in place here at our paper. Some of the new things you have

to look forward to this year is a health column, a financial column, and a host of other surprises. Once again I have taken on the task of trying to be your eyes and ears as editor of your Compass. I will admit that it has not been an easy task, but who said that everything good for you must be easy? The Compass staff has some new faces and some returning ones, each of them with the same idea in mind to report the news at any cost and to report it to the best of their abilities. I will admit however, that sometimes we make mistakes, but it is all apart of learning and growing and each of us should be familiar with that. One of the most important things I was able to take away from my experience this summer is that whatever your niche is do it, and do it well. Don't be afraid to experiment with new things and above all- don't ever think you are above criticism (a lesson I had to learn the hard way). At any rate, I hope you enjoy your year and leave here just a little bit more informed than when you first got here.

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	335-3273
Albemarle Hope Line	338-3011

EDITORIAL

I'm Black and That's Good.

By **Artelia Covington**
Editor

In my African-American Literature class we had a discussion about color and the issues African-American people have with color and hair and themselves. And my professor posed this question to us: Could we honestly say I'm Black and That's Good and mean it.

Some of us said we could but that there would be some however's or what ifs. I myself could not honestly say it without drudging up all of the issues that I deal with that relate to color. So I decided to do what I think any thinking and capable person would do, I gave it some thought and weighed the pros and cons of the issue.

I thought about my second grade teacher who told me that all African people (black people especially) were descended from monkeys. I thought about my high school guidance teacher who never recommended Duke or Carolina to me because she thought I'd be happier at a historically black institution where I would fit in. And then I thought about the way I treat my own black brothers and sisters.

I have to be honest, it was not easy for me and it was quite appalling and painful. But after some deep soul searching and begging forgiveness from God, I realized that after much painful reflection and deep thought I can now say "I'm Black and That's Good." You see, I discovered that it is not about what people think of me or what standards I must adhere to in order to get my foot in the door, my foot is already in the door and I am sitting at the table and rubbing elbows with the likes of some people you would not believe.

As I write this I am thinking about Mrs. Ida B. Wells, an outstanding, proud and not to mention top-notch journalist, and I am reminded of the obstacles she faced to be a journalist. This woman risked her life to make people aware of the social ills black people faced on a daily basis and who should held accountable. This also brings to mind Mr. James Weldon Johnson, who some of you may attribute the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing, " a man who refused to bound by labels and color and was proud not only to be who he was but was proud to come from a people who were proud of who they were and what they were. And then there is my personal favorite, Mr. Langston Hughes, an accomplished playwright, poet and novelist in his own right, who dared to challenge the thoughts and beliefs of the social order of the day just to prove a point. That point being: not only is being black good, it's wonderful. In this day and age when no one is especially happy or comfortable with who they are, I am proud and amazed of these pioneers of the African-American spirit who weren't afraid, couldn't be persuaded, and who paved roads upon which the likes of even me could now travel. I do not doubt that had they lived to see what their contributions had done for our race no doubt would they have been proud of what we were able to do. It is because of W.E.B.Dubois and Booker T. Washington that we had Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, it is also because of Sojourner Truth' and Phillis Wheatley that we have Toni Morrison and Alice Walker and even because of Hiram Revels we have Jesse Jackson. Now do you see why I am so full of emotion and pride? Now do you understand why I gave this a lot of thought. It is because of wonderful and beautiful people like Langston Hughes and Ida B.Wells that I can even write this editorial with any amount of knowledge about writing or even journalism for that matter. And it is for these persons sacrifices and trailblazing that I can now say with pride and immense emotion: "I'm Black and That's Good."

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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