

Perspective

By Rhonda Holmes

*From time to time we will publish reactions to topical issues of importance to the campus community. In this first Perspective column, writer Rhonda Holmes gives her Perspective on race relations on our campus.

"People have trouble getting along with people not like themselves."

— Dr. J. McClenon
ECSU Sociology & Anthropology
Professor

I agree people do have problems getting along with people who are dif-

ferent from themselves. Some people just stay away, some live with it, and others deal with it. When I say deal with it, I mean that they take matters in their own hands and either try something negative or positive to help them cope with that particular person's difference. The positive way to handle this situation would be to get to know this person, then their differences would not matter as much. The negative way is to commit acts of racism through racist words and/or actions.

Many of us have been subject to racism one or many times in our lives, therefore, it is nothing for-

eign. Yet, we have learned to live with it. All of you who are reading this article have lived to graduate from high school and are now in college therefore it is safe to say that most of you have seen or experienced racism.

The question I would like to ask is, do you think racism exists on ECSU's campus? I asked students around campus and many replied that they did not feel that racism was a real problem on our campus. A honors freshman, Madana Marshall, stated, "I don't think that there is racism on campus because of the fact that this is a predominately black college."

Others such as Amy

Morgan, a computer major, have said that they have not personally experienced or seen racism on ECSU's campus. I have to agree with both of them Racism is not a problem that ECSU has to face on a large scale.

I feel that because this is a small university occupied by blacks, that there really is not a threat of any racial tension. Therefore, in the lue of months such as Black History Month, we should feel proud to have a campus that cooperates well with the minorities. This cooperation is the reason why racism is not a huge problem on our campus.

"I had heard that service saves lives, but I didn't expect it to be so literal."



After finishing school in California, Sean Whitten joined AmeriCorps to do something different and to learn more about himself. He built houses, taught kids—and even saved a life. While on assignment in the Smoky Mountains, Sean rescued a hiker who had been lost for four days in below-freezing weather. "Through AmeriCorps, I learned it's impossible to help others without realizing the impact it makes on you."



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