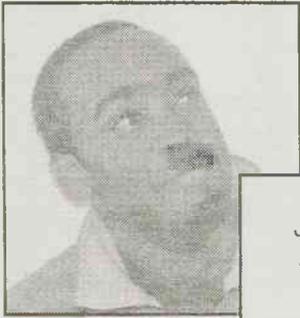


Talk of ECSU: by Laquisha Tisdal

If you were elected President of the United States, what is one thing you would change?



James Hill,
Junior

"Past Presidents have helped middle-class and rich, I would help the poor."



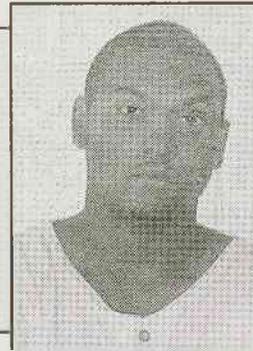
D.L. Underdue,
Asst. U.V. Center Coordinator

"I would make the Immigration Policy fairer."



Lasindra Webb,
Junior

"I would bring prayer back into schools."



Kelvin Turnage,
Junior

"I would try to enforce stricter laws on discrimination."

Community Neglects ECSU

Inger Parker

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Among the long-simmering arguments among Elizabeth City State University students during recent years has been how best to make the University more visible in the Elizabeth City community.

Like other neighboring universities, East Carolina University among them, ECSU plays an integral role in both the business and social fabric of Elizabeth City. Yet, according to some ECSU students, the city of Elizabeth City does not provide the same type of support to ECSU like Greenville supports ECU.

ECSU is one of the most intriguing landmarks of Historic Elizabeth City. The University was founded in 1891 as a result of black elegance, pride and dedication and at a time when blacks were not allowed the opportunity to attend an institution of higher learning. Through the bravery and pioneering efforts of ECSU forefathers, like Hugh Cale, blacks were given the chance to explore the world of success. The school has been a highlight for Elizabeth City for over 100 years and its students feel it should be praised accordingly.

Many speculate why the Elizabeth City community fails to embrace and recognize ECSU as a part of their rich heritage. When observing a community like Greenville, where East Carolina University is located, it is very noticeable that the town has much pride for the local University. The same is obvious for many other communi-

ties and their local colleges and universities.

Unfortunately, it seems as though ECSU lacks the same type of support from the Elizabeth City community.

For years, ECSU students have been aware of the lack of support that the community gives to the University and its students.

"It was just homecoming and no stores supported us by selling our paraphernalia," said Danielle McCain, a junior at ECSU. She adds, "I know we're a small school, but we're still in the district." McCain also expressed that Elizabeth City department stores should try to sell more ECSU products. "In Hibbit's Sports, Belk and JC Pennys they sell Georgetown, North Carolina State and Duke University sweatshirts, but nothing for ECSU," she said.

Michael Edwards, a sophomore at ECSU has a more balanced analysis of the situation. "The City is not obligated to give us special treatment, but I believe they should because ECSU and its students help to put this city on the map," said Edwards.

Many of the businesses that students feel neglect the University are local stores, restaurants and hotels that make a great deal of money from the students. Some students take on part-time jobs in grocery stores, fast food restaurants, and department stores.

In addition to working for the city, ECSU student organizations also volunteer in the community. The New Generation Campus Ministries has sponsored "Coats for Kids" drives, Sigma

Tau Delta English Honor Society has volunteered at the Albermarle Food Bank and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is active in after school programs and the "Meals on Wheels" drives. This is not an exhaustive of the community services that ECSU students provide. With all of the work and money that ECSU students put into the city, it seems as though the city at large would give the University more recognition.

Recently, however, there have been some attempts from the community to show ECSU support and form a relationship with students. During ECSU's Homecoming this year, Ms. Peggy Langly, of the Chamber of Commerce, along with her staff hung ECSU banners along Main Street. The Celebrity Golf Classic, sponsored by the City, is an event where students, members of the community and celebrities play golf together. And The Daily Advance is considering supplying newspapers to the University's bookstore for student purchase. However, students consider this endeavor as only a minimal amount of support.

Elizabeth City's city manager, Mr. Steven Harold, agrees that ECSU is a resource that is well worth the business' and the local community's targeted efforts. However, he said the students have to meet the community half way. "I would imagine that not selling ECSU products has something to do with the size of the operation," he said. Harold said that ECSU has 2,000 students compared to the 15,000 that are enrolled at ECU, which means that

ECSU does not have a large amount of alumni as ECU does and, therefore, less of their products are sold in businesses in the community. Harold also addressed student discounts. "In local stores, merchants have to know that students are going to purchase items from their stores before they can sale a product and offer discounts."

Harold encourages students to make it known that they want more support from the community and its businesses. He suggested that the Student Government Association of ECSU, along with the SGA's of COA and The Roanoke Bible College combine in order to make a strong impact.

Also, Harold suggested that the SGA's meet with Ms. Rhonda Twiddy, president of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, to discuss discount cards for students and activities that students and the community could participate in, such as bowling, basketball or tennis tournaments that the city could sponsor. "Students can also go to places like Walmart, or McDonald's and tell them about ECSU events and ask those businesses to sponsor the events, which offer those businesses more advertisement opportunities and a chance to sell their goods."

Harold believes that opportunities are there for a better relationship between ECSU and Elizabeth City. "We'd be glad to do whatever we can to bring the University closer to the community and vice versa."