

Campus News

Lady Vikings Capture CIAA Title

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As soon as the umpire yelled "play ball" in their first game of the year, Coach Janie Cofield knew this would be a magical season.

"I knew at the beginning of the year that we had a great team," said Cofield. "It just took us some time to show it."

With six of the team members still playing basketball, the Elizabeth City State University Women's Softball Team lost their first seven games.

"We felt we weren't a complete team without those players," said Cofield.

When the six players did join the team, the Lady Vikings won 12 straight games.

"That was the turning point of the season. We gained confidence and felt we could compete with anyone," said Cofield.

With the leadership of Team Captain Raquita Washington, the Lady Vikings finished the regular season with 21-9. Washington was

named to the All CIAA First Team; Nicole Higgins and Kelly Banks were named to the All CIAA Second Team.

The Lady Vikings were seated second in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Softball Tournament. In the first two rounds, the Lady Vikings defeated Fayetteville State University and Virginia Union University respectively. Johnson C. Smith University defeated the Lady Vikings (4-2) in the third round, which sent the team to the losers' bracket. By defeating Bowie State University, the Lady Vikings set up a rematch with JCSU. The ECSU Women's Softball Team capped off their tremendous season by defeating JCSU (4-3, 7-2) in the CIAA Championship. Shortstop Raquita Washington, Pitcher Lisa Harris, and Third Baseman Tavheisha Walton were named to the All-Tournament Team, with Walton capturing Most Valuable Player honors.

With most of the team returning and losing only three seniors, there is no reason why the Lady Vikings cannot repeat as champions next season.

Women's Tennis Team Services End

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What began as a dream became a reality this school year as Elizabeth City State University debuted their first ever Women's Tennis team.

Senior LaTasha Copeland was one of the first students to join the team.

"I played tennis my senior year in high school," she said. "I wanted to make history by becoming a member of the first ever team. Besides, I didn't want to go my senior year without participating in something."

With grit and determination,

Coach Eugene O'Neal's squad finished the season with a surprising 6-3 record.

"We did better than most people thought we would. Every team has its ups and its downs, but we bounced back and learned from our mistakes," Copeland said.

Copeland considers the team to be pioneers who have given young girls the drive and motivation to play tennis.

"I won't ever forget our experiences together, on and off the court," she said.

Decency and good deeds? What are those?

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A banquet honoring the students of ECSU who have earned a minimum of 24 hours of credit at ECSU with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and above was held on the eighteenth of April in the K.E. White Graduate Center. The Honors Convocation Committee of Elizabeth City State University sponsored the event.

Here is one student's account of her experience at the banquet. The student said that her husband had to work. She invited a friend to accompany her. They dropped their children off at the babysitter's house, dressed in their semi-formal attire, and headed to the K.E. White Graduate Center. They had arrived just in time for dinner and jumped in the line leading to the buffet table. After filling their plates, they searched for a place to sit. Every seat was either occupied or spoken for. They asked two ladies, both of whom they had seen servicing the buffet area, if they could please get some chairs to sit on since all of the chairs at the tables were taken. The ladies proceeded to remain rooted in their spots leaning against the door frames next to the buffet tables and looking around the room to confirm that yes, every seat was taken. The student and her friend waited for the ladies to at least direct them to extra chairs so that they could set them up themselves. The ladies did not budge. Determined to enjoy herself, because she was an invited guest, the student suggested to her friend that they sit in the back of the room. She asked the same ladies if they would please get them some silverware so that she and her friend could eat. Again, the ladies looked around to confirm that there were still no empty seats. And again they did not make a move.

The student and her friend went to the table in the back of the room. As they sat down they commented about how this round table, covered differently than the rest, looked out of place and wondered why it was there. They dismissed the query and began to eat their dinner with their fingers.

"It was a site, two women at a formal, or semiformal, event eating the dinner provided in a Cro-Magnon Man style," said the student.

Her friend spotted a different server pouring tea and asked if she would bring them silverware and drinks. The woman was kind enough to oblige.

So there they sat eating their dinner with plastic knives and forks, at an awkward table. After Chancellor Burnim's speech, two students approached them and quietly informed them that they were dining on their props. A short production was scheduled for the event; this explained the oddity of the furniture. Embarrassed, they removed their dishes from the prop and opted to leave the banquet in

lieu of standing for the rest of it.

"It was a good thing we left because as we were walking out of the doors, we heard an announcement asking everyone to turn their attention to the back of the room for a short skit," the student said.

For those of you who attended the event, you probably saw them sitting in the back of the room. The said student was the one in the white dress. Her friend, in the dark skirt, does not attend ECSU. This banquet was her first impression of our institution. Was it a good one? Not exactly.

"The food was good and I was glad I didn't have to cook that night," her friend said.

The student believes that the sponsors of the banquet had good intentions.

"I also believe that it is a wonderful idea to honor those students who have proved themselves to be academically superior," she said.

But, she, being one of those students, did not feel honored that night. She felt offended and angry. The proverbial wheels in her head started to turn. She thought about the kinds of people who attended these sorts of events. They are supposed to be ladies and gentlemen.

"Not long ago, a gentleman, upon seeing a lady with no place to sit, would offer his seat. Would this chivalrous act have been acceptable and appreciated? Yes," she said. "I would not expect someone who is in the process of eating his meal to get up and give his seat, but if he has already eaten and is just talking with 'the guys', then it is, in my opinion, appropriate."

She had also attended the banquet for the students who had earned a spot on the Chancellor's List. That time, the student had to bring her daughters with her. She had a four-month-old infant, and a two-year-old daughter. Every seat was taken, so with her baby in her arms she stood the entire time, as did her toddler daughter. What bothered her more however, was the fact that standing next to her was a woman who looked to be in her seventh or eighth month of pregnancy. Nobody had offered her a seat either.

One could go on and on about uncivil behavior occurring not only at ECSU, but also everywhere in the state and the country. But, the article must end. Decency and good deeds are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. They used to be common, everyday words. These days, if someone does a good deed, they are labeled a Good Samaritan and make an appearance on the six o'clock news.

Anybody reading this paper right now has probably already experienced an act of rudeness today. Think about the way it feels when you get treated badly, then think about the familiar phrase, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and then do it.

ECSU says "Farewell" to Retirees

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Did you ever sit back and wonder to where your favorite professor disappeared? Well, it is retirement time. Paula Bowe, the Benefits Administration for Human Resources said that during the last two years at Elizabeth City State University, 16 professors have gone into retirement and the numbers have been increasing ever since then.

In 2000, four professors retired and all were male. In 2001, one female professor and four male professors retired. Although 2002 has not come to an end, two female professors and five male professors have already retired.

A professor has to put in 30 years before he or she decides to retire, regardless of their age with

full-unreduced benefits. It does not matter how old a professor is, ECSU cannot force them to retire because it is against the law and the university can be sued. The professors who retired from ECSU did so because of desire and because they have worked more than 30 years in the school system.

"Every professor who has retired so far was great and they will truly be missed here at ECSU," Paula Bowe said.

The pension for a retired professor is 54% of whatever his or her gross monthly salary was. After retirement, at least 65% come back and volunteer services to ECSU. In the wink of an eye, there will be no more professors left at ECSU to teach. Students, be thankful, because in the next five years, you might be teaching yourselves.

The Compass

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To Inger Parker,
 Editor 2001-2002
 Congratulations on a
 job well done.
 From the Compass
 Staff 2001-2002.