

EDITORIAL COMMENT

What Picture Will We Leave Behind?

by Matthew Royal

Students at FSU recently passed a small milestone in their time here, finishing yet another semester of studies. By the Monday following the end of the semester, most students had returned home for winter break. Even this soon after the semester's end, the daily trials of pursuing an education — homework, exams, papers, and essays — were little more than memories in the minds of our students; and of course, these memories reminded some of the work yet to come in the spring semester.

Most of us were anticipating a few weeks of rest. We would, for a while, have time to spend with our families and our friends, and time to pursue other interests which might not be easily integrated into our schedules during the semester. I imagine that my first appointment during the semester break, then, was not typical. I was privileged, on the first Monday of winter break, to attend the funeral of a friend.

Privileged? Yes, that's exactly what I mean — privileged. I realize that isn't usually the initial response to a funeral. Funerals, you say, are bleak and joyless affairs. After all, they remind us all of our mortality, and of the fate we all share. Few

of us have the strength and perspective which allow us to dwell on such a subject without realizing how weak we are in the face of death. Yet, *privileged* is still the right word.

The man we remembered at this funeral had not lived an especially long life; fifty-four is not an advanced age by our standards. This man did not die by violence, or through some unfortunate accident; he suffered a massive heart attack early

*"Each of us has an
obligation to live life
in the best way
possible"*

one weekday morning. He wasn't killed in a war; he didn't die as a result of crime; he didn't die in an act of heroism. He met a very ordinary, unspectacular end.

All of us will die. Few of us will be remembered for the manner in which we died. Instead, each of

us has an obligation to live life in the best way possible. behind tangible evidence of our actions.

Illustrating our actions

How will we be remembered when we die? I don't believe any of us really want to be forgotten; at the same time, I don't believe we want to be remembered for our faults. Most would say that the man honored at this funeral had accomplished a lot in his life. At his retirement, he had reached the rank of Captain in the U. S. Army; afterwards, he worked abroad for many years, in Japan, Germany, and Korea. He published books and papers about his time as a Green Beret. I remember him as a coach about five years ago.

How many of us will be able to say the same about our lives? I don't mean to say we should only pursue accomplishment as if we were collecting entries for our resumes. The man honored at this funeral, I believe, earned the respect of many who met him, regardless of his accomplishments. But at the same time, we should also strive for some level of accomplishment.

Whether in our academic pursuits, in the business world, within our families, or in service to our communities, we should strive to leave

Illustrating our lives

Accomplishment will give us a feeling of satisfaction and may inspire others to persist in their endeavors. But if our accomplishments can inspire others to excel, we should then direct our efforts toward even higher goals. The value of our lives are not and cannot be measured based only on what jobs we have held, which works we have performed, and what milestones, real or imagined, we have achieved. All of us at this university have the wisdom and maturity to realize that we can and should have a deeper level of commitment than our resumes indicate. There is a more profound level at which our actions influence and inspire others. We must not allow ourselves to be unnecessarily distracted by our quest to enhance our resumes so that we forget how strong an effect our actions can have on others. We must draw a line, being certain never to harm others or otherwise compromise our values.

Making a name for ourselves is easy. The true challenge lies in living our lives so as to earn and maintain a good name and the respect such a name carries with it.

The Broncos' VOICE



The Broncos' Voice
c/o Fayetteville State University
1200 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 486-1357
email: c/o royal@fsu.fsfay.edu

Faculty Advisor Dr. Linda Barlow

Staff
Dennis Allman
Liahan Harrison
Aquila Highsmith
Shawn Johnson
Earl Moniz
William Shelton
Jamiyla Sneed

Photographer Beth Willet

Office Manager Brad Wright

Managing Editors Kathleen Barron
Roger Harris

Editor Matthew Royal

Photos in this issue are compliments of the FSU Yearbook Staff.

The Newspaper of the Fayetteville State University Community
Promoting Communication Within the Community
and the University Ideal.

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in *The Broncos' Voice* are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily represent the views of Fayetteville State University, its employees, the University of North Carolina, the *Voice* staff and editors, or our advertisers.

Submission guidelines

Submissions of editorial material, news, and letters to the editor are welcomed. Any such submissions should be typed and double-spaced, free from grammatical or typographic errors, and should include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Announcements of upcoming campus events should follow the same format as editorial submissions and should include the name and telephone number of a contact person (for example, the president of a club).

Where to submit your articles

Typewritten articles may be submitted in person at the *Voice* office in the Rudolph Jones Student Center or mailed to the address on this page. If possible, include a 3.5" 720k disk with your document. Electronic documents may be sent through email.