

Why did you use a camera? And other 'crazy, stupid' things

Editor's Note: Charnell Harris, The Voice Features Editor, expresses her feelings on current events, pop culture, and the general drama of our generation.

Some days I really just want to turn off the television and radio. I don't want to look through the newspaper or magazines. Why? You might ask.

Well the answer is sometimes I don't want to know about all the ridiculous, crazy and stupid things people are doing today.

SENSELESS VIOLENCE

On the Nancy Grace weekend segment on CNN, they showed a clip of a nurse at a retirement home who was supposed to be caring for a 91-year-old woman. She was beating her, literally. The incident, caught on tape, showed the nurse slapping and slamming the frail elderly woman around on the chair and in the bed. And I'm not talking little taps on the hand, but a full out slap in the face. The "caregiver" was pulling her hair and pushing her around the room. I mean the woman cannot defend herself and she has Alzheimer's disease. If that was my grandma,

well let me just be glad that it isn't, because it would this would be a totally different story. But all I want to know is why? That nurse did not have to slap her and throw her around the way she did. That was just uncalled for. On a good note however, the nurse, is being charged with aggravated assault and neglect.

BAD PARENTING

What about the woman in Ohio who was arrested for videotaping her 2-year-old daughter smoking marijuana? Really? All the "Live Above-the Influence" commercials must have gotten to her so she decided to make one of her own starring her toddler. The video shows the little girl watching TV and smoking like a pro! All while her mother is heard laughing it up in the background.

One, why would you give your child, yet alone a toddler, marijuana? Two, why would you videotape it on a cell phone? For those of you who are not aware, this is the information age. If you put it on a computer or a cell phone there is always a chance that you are not the only one who will see it. She tried to delete it off of her

phone before the cops got to her. But I am positive that I do not even need to tell you that it did not work. She is now being charged with child endangerment, corrupting others with drugs, and tampering with evidence. All the counts add up to 11 years in prison if convicted.

SMOKING ON THE JOB

If you worked at a factory building cars, what would you do during your lunch break? Eat or take a nap perhaps? What about having an alcoholic beverage and smoking what appears to be illegal drugs, then getting caught by a TV reporter with a camera? Well, that is what happened to a few workers at the Chrysler Jefferson North Plant in Detroit. They were followed and filmed knocking back alcohol and smoking what does not look like cigarettes. They are now "suspended indefinitely" without pay and will be under investigation. How are they supposed to pay for lunch now?

And last but not least, how about Bishop Eddie Long? I'm not sure I want to go there.

For information on the incidents mentioned, visit www.cnn.com.

The Driver's Seat

Hello readers! I am Shakia Campbell and I am a 36-year-old FSU mass communication major here at Fayetteville State University. As I move about my day on campus, interacting with my fellow students; I feel compelled to share with you a little bit of me, in hopes I can possibly inspire at least one person who may need a word of encouragement.

As I remember the days when dreams were just dreams and there was nothing to motivate me for me, I'm inspired. There was once a time when I lived a life for everyone around me but not for myself. I lost control, letting everyone else in my driver's seat, steering me in the wrong direction and ultimately forgetting who I was. I felt as though my only mission in life was to take care of those around me. Others' happiness was more important than my own...or so I thought. My life had fallen to pieces. I had lost control of whom I was and steered away from what I was destined to do.

In October 2009 I fell into a coma and was hospitalized for months. During that time I definitely didn't have control. I lied there not being able to communicate or do what I wanted. Dreams upon dreams played out in my

head. Good and bad ones but I was in a coma and did not know it. My life was dangling, with three children left in the wings, not knowing if I was to ever return to them. But a couple of months later God spared me and I awakened from the Coma. I was given a second chance in life. At that time I was still unable to speak because I was intimated, however, I promised myself if I could just return to a part of me, I'd live for myself.

There are many times within our lives we face adversities challenging who we are. No matter which avenue we decide to drive through these adversities, if we arm ourselves with the right vehicle our journey can be the most fulfilling and positive experience, an experience we can use as a tool to help someone else.

We must always keep in mind our travels are what we make of it. It is not the road less travelled but the road leading us to our destination. The adversities we go through are not what set us apart from everyone else. How we handle the adversities we go through is what sets us apart from everyone else. Keep your eyes on the road, hands on the steering wheel, your eyes on your destination, and you will arrive.

CHARNELL
HARRIS
SAY WHAT?!

SHAKIA
CAMPBELL
INSPIRATION OF
THE WEEK

NIGERIA from page 5

in the community unable to afford health insurance and whose employers do not offer health insurance.

The Care Clinic is staffed primarily by volunteers, from the medical professionals on staff to receptionists and assistants. The association called for volunteers to help at every level.

NCA expressed its appreciation for its members and acknowledged those members, patrons, sponsors, donors and guests in the community who actively supported the association and the local community.

NCA president Dr. Don A. Okhomina acknowledged appreciation to FSU students, alumni and Faculty for their support and patronage.

Special guest speaker, FSU Chancellor James Anderson expressed his desire and to ensure FSU students "do not allow their degrees out weigh who they are."

He passionately articulated his mission to "globalize students" assure they are "armed

to the teeth in their discipline, to be able to achieve and compete with everyone, EVERYONE!"

In every speech you felt the powerful emotions behind the words. Dinner was filled with people milling about, laughter and lots of pictures.

The cultural dance evolved into a mixture of guests and dancers. FSU students, alumni, faculty and staff joined the celebration and danced the night away. The night ended with more dancing, and acknowledgements.

"Help our youth the truth to know, in love and honesty to grow, and living just and true, great lofty heights attain" This is the ending to Nigeria's national anthem.

Its meaning was expressed in every speech from Chancellor Anderson's vow to ensure FSU students understand what is going on the world to NCA President Dr. Okhomina's expressed appreciation of community support and to members milling about gracious and welcoming.



Voice photo by Leland Walker

HEARD ON CAMPUS

Members of the Fayetteville State University Choir perform during Convocation at Capel Arena recently.