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## Greetings

The *News Letter* Staff extends hearty greetings to our faculty, students and alumni.

We are striving hard to keep you informed with the latest campus news and to make the *News Letter* one of the best college papers. Neither of these objectives can be achieved without your cooperation. Do you pledge your full cooperation? The *News Letter* is our paper, so let us make it represent Elizabeth City State Teachers College.

You keep the news "rolling in" to us and we will keep the *News Letter* "coming out" to you.

—The Staff

## EDITORIAL

## The Sea of Grass

Crossing a vast area of grass one soon comes to a prairie speckled by sunbeams and rain drops.

This may well be applicable to one's school days. During the elementary and high school years, one thinks the grassy land is passed, but when one enters as a freshman in college, you are on the threshold of exploring the higher phases of knowledge. Everything is green and seems a little unreal just as the earth was before it was used for agricultural purposes. For some, it is the first experience of leaving home for such a long period of time. However, if the goal to be attained is of any importance, these petty obstacles will be overcome and an adjustment to the routine of work is made.

This being done, one travels deeper into this sea of knowledge. It becomes more thrilling and more a necessity until it causes one to want to explore further and reveal more the wonders and mysteries that accompany learning and obtaining the most in life. During the sophomore and junior years, this period of eagerness reaches its peak. During the senior year one has to pine over the thoughts of departure and fill in all of the

weak places and do the last minutes of research before departing.

For a large number, the grassy land has passed and the prairie is just in front for them. It is up to them to make this prairie a desirable place with few rain drops and millions of sunbeams to cheer them on their way.

To others, this is just a beginning peak and the many avenues open in education are pursued to satisfy that inner craving to reach the other side of the prairie. With each peak accomplished, there is an even higher peak or open plain yet waiting in the sea of grass.

## A Modest Proposal

So you want to be a teacher—what type? If your observation has been the same as mine, there are many reasons why you might change your vocation before completing your teacher-training. Shall we classify a few of the types of teachers who influence our lives daily?

Many teachers seem more-or-less like second mothers. Whether it be in elementary, high school or college, they always look down upon students as educationally inclined folk that need guidance and help. Often they tell you not only what will help you in the classroom, but some of the needed to know facts of life. Students appreciate those type of teachers to the extent that all fear seems to vanish. In many instances we fear not to seek advice from such persons, because—through our experience together we know that they realize, at one time they experienced the same predicaments that now confront us. For a teacher to realize that students, too, are human and are seeking the fundamental basis to travel the road of life means more than dwelling daily from a textbook.

Often we find teachers who know their course, but the method used in teaching is poor. We as students should not be expected by the teacher to know that we have never learned. Should that be the case, students should teach. There are many times students are not clear on a particular matter and would like a repeated explanation, but doesn't know what to ask, due to the teacher's confusing and elongated method of teaching. When explanation time comes students find themselves with a huge mass of confusing knowledge. Then the teacher wants to know why no one reached his expectations.

The most harmful teachers to students are those who are self-conceited and swell-headed. Their actions ask this question: What makes you think you are important? They look down on students as beings of very little, if any,

significance. All of their friends must be those who hold a number of degrees. They live in a smug little world all to themselves and never fully realize the duty of a teacher.

Before you spend four years, take yourself in conference and meet the "guy in the mirror." Be well informed intellectually and socially. Be prepared to help the student to meet the obstacles which confront him.

Be one of the few teachers who have escaped being a mortal enemy to students—our future leaders of tomorrow.

## Life—A Seven-Act Drama

(The best paper in Advanced Composition, a prose version of Jaques' speech in *As You Like It*.)

Various writers, thinkers, and scientists have different concepts for the definition of life. In one book, we find that, "Life is integration—the knitting together of units into a patterned whole." Another says that "Life can not be defined." The excerpt from *As You Like It* gives us a definition of life as Shakespeare sees it. He compares the world with a stage on which the men and women play their particular parts. In each act, a different role is affected. The player changes his moods, his habits, his ideals, and his physical features.

The curtain rises. The first act, Infancy, begins. The scene, Home, where the major part of the play is centered. To the main character, his only concern is that of eating and sleeping. Some players go through all of the seven stages with this same attitude, others change. This is the stage in which habits and dispositions are formed. The mother is the ruling factor. The character's destiny lies in her hands. She can either make or break him through her teachings. He might acquire some traits which will cause him success or failure in later years.

As the second act unfolds, the character is portrayed as a school boy. He is an awkward being with gangling hands and feet that he does not know what to do with. His development is now being influenced by the teacher, as well as the mother. In school, he finds friends, some of whom may stick with him throughout life. His school days will have been of help, if he learns how to share with others, how to be a modest winner and good loser, and how to lead the group, if he is so chosen. The role which he plays in this stage of life will help him develop skill so that he can be of benefit, not only to himself, but to mankind.

Dominant in that act is the lover. Every pretty girl he sees, he fancies that he is in love with her. He sends her those traditional little tokens—flowers and candies. He waits impatiently for her messages. Misery is his constant companion, for he can not

help wondering if, someday, she will tire of him and seek someone more interesting. Life could be no happier, when she finally chooses him.

Thinking of the laughs and loves of by-gone days, the character can not help but feel depressed when he finds himself in the rigid role of a soldier. How he wishes for those happy-go-lucky, carefree days when he was a lover, when he was free to go and come as he chose, when his behavior did not have to be so strictly accounted for. Those days have passed and the hard life of a soldier has been forced upon him. He will strive to make the most of it because he has been taught to do his best in any task. As he becomes accustomed to his new role, he finds that he rather likes it and sub-consciously he prepares for his next role.

Impartiality is the justice's main objective. After having been a soldier, he knows something about the social and economic aspects of life. He knows that the big people tend to take advantage of the small; that people with money will try to pay their way out, while the poor have to take the punishment. He tries to stay open-minded and optimistic so that he can judge wisely. The adage, "To err is human; to forgive, divine," is his guide as he goes through his last role in public service.

The last act starts. The play is almost finished. The character emerges in his final role, that of an aged man. His senses are dulled, his features have grown wrinkled and parched, his eyes are dim, and his mind wanders. He is likened to his first role—the jibbering, toothless babe. All day long he sits and muses. His mind is fuddled with his many recollections and pleasant memories. Slowly, slowly, he declines until he is no more.

The curtain descends. The play is ended. The character leaves the stage like one who feel he has played his part well. He approaches his grave like one who feels he has played his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams." As the applause subsides, the audience shared feelings with the one who said, "And the evening star suddenly glides like a flying torch. As if we had not been meant to see him; rehearsing behind the screen of the world for another audience."

—Carol Williams

## Personality of The Month

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fine Catholicity about him which makes him able to apprehend the most diverse natures and to sweep into the orbit of their lives and find something that is rich and beautiful.

We, the members of the *News Letter* Staff, are very proud to feature Rev. Doles as the personality of the month.