

# THE COMPASS

For Students and Alumni

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## The Downfall Of Christmas

What has happened to Christmas? Christmas is gone.

Today we have invented a new Christmas. The new Christmas is very different from the one we knew not too long ago. Most of the things that to us meant Christmas are gone. A little change here, a little change there — the little changes have made Christmas a ghost.

Take, for example, the Christmas Tree. Trees of yesterday were green, so green that they could not only be seen, but smelled. The decorations were bright and a joy to see. They were few and plain.

Now, it is no longer fashionable to have a green tree; one must have silver, white, pink or even sometimes, a blue one. Our manufacturers have told us how to keep up with the Joneses (or with somebody at any rate) and in order to do this we must have something New and Unique.

So now we have the New and Unique models of Christmas Trees. So now we also have Christmas trees which are ever-glorified monstrosities merely occupying space, achieving "status" and smelling like diesel oil. Christmas games have also gone through a little change here and there. We are no longer satisfied with "good ole' Silent Night." We have to have such trash as "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

Then there is the song that has done the most toward ruining Christmas, to wit, "Santa Baby." The modern song writer is not only stooping low, but is succeeding in his attempts to make a farce out of Christ-

mas songs. But take a look at what has happened to poor Santa. He is really being through the mill. He is no longer that kindly old gentleman who was candy in children's stockings. We now have him dressed in nylon acetate beads and red satin costumes (selling for about \$10.95 at most stores — discounts on quantity orders), and have him telling children to buy from such and such store.

Then there are the TV commercials for Christmas: cars, beer, animated toys, whiskey, electric shavers and toothbrushes, cigarettes — you name it, it is plugged!

For a while, it seemed that no one in certain latitudes would have a "white Christmas." But cheers! Madame Status-Seeker has just sprayed Strivers' Row and the whole town with artificial snow.

Ah well . . . Christmas today is a mere ghost of the Christmas that used to be. All the feeling is gone. The essence of Christmas is no different from that of any other holiday during which few work. Stated otherwise, the etymology of "holiday" especially as it ought to relate to Christmas, is sadly blurred.

Christmas has been executed by the American people. The one day set aside for tradition is gone. It died when "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" took the place of groups of children singing "Silent Night" with smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes.

—Charlie Jeffries, Jr.

# FACULTY ON PARADE

## Prexy Has Many Speeches, Conferences



(From left)—U.S. Congressman Herbert C. Bonner of N.C.; President Ridley; East Carolina College President Leo Jenkins, in attendance at the November meeting of the N.C. Council on Health and Citizenship.

President Walter N. Ridley has sandwiched in a number of speaking engagements in the midst of a busy schedule.

On September 15 he addressed the Class of 1967 during its Candlelighting Ceremony and later that month gave the keynote address at the Annual Fall Faculty Conference, Virginia State College (Petersburg).

October 13 he was Men's Day speaker at the Sawyers Creek Church (Belross). October 20 he addressed laymen at the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church (Newport News, Va.) and on October 27 he was the featured speaker for the 97th Anniversary of the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church in Tarboro.

The North Carolina Association of Student Councils had Dr. Ridley as speaker November 10 during its conclave at Willison High School (Wilmington) and the President was keynote speaker at the Centennial of Freedom Banquet celebrating 100 years of the Negro's freedom in the Methodist Church, held at Mt. Lebanon A.M.E. Zion Church of Elizabeth City.

Among other conferences President Ridley has attended (one of which is mentioned elsewhere in this issue), he was in attendance for the Northeastern District Meeting of the North Carolina Teachers Association, held in Farmville, N. C., on November 8.

November 17 found him in Winton, N. C. where he was the Achievement Week speaker for Lambda Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the observance being held there in the First Baptist Church.

Dr. Ridley is scheduled for addresses on-campus during this month and in January.

## Programmed Instruction at College Described

Representatives of the faculty and administration of Elizabeth City State College attended the meeting of the Northeastern District Schoolmasters Club, December 5, at Riverview Elementary School, Murfreesboro, North Carolina. Mr. Abner R. Bowe is principal.

Dr. Louise N. Sutton, chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Mrs. Dorothy Lee, instructor in the Department of Modern Languages, accompanied President Walter N. Ridley and Mr. Lawrence Sugg, assistant professor of English, both members of the Schoolmaster's Club.

Dr. Sutton and Mrs. Lee defined and interpreted programmed instruction to the members, all of them, administrators in schools in the

North-eastern District. They described the programmed instruction being used in the Mathematics and English departments as more attractive to students, increasing learning and developing greater skill in the subjects.

Mrs. Sutton reported, "Some students have covered twice as much mathematics as was covered by comparable students by this time last year, and the whole group is moving with much greater success." A lively discussion followed. Dr. Ridley served as discussion chairman.

The Northeastern District Schoolmasters Club has been meeting for more than twenty-five years. The current president is Mr. King A. Williams of the Perquimans Union School (Wintfall).

Dr. Kermit R. Brown, College Physician, has begun duties at ECSC and comes to us with much training and experience. Dr. Brown is an alumnus of Hampton Institute and received his M.D. from Meharry Medical College.

Mr. Alfred D. Brown, assistant conductor of the Norfolk Symphony Orchestra who once played in the Royal Philharmonic under Sir Thomas Beecham, is part-time instructor in strings.

Mrs. Bertie L. Derrick of Washington, D.C., is a new counselor in Bias Hall.

Mrs. Laura S. Irvin, formerly Bias Hall Director, is a temporary instructor in English.

Mrs. Ruth Carr of Elizabeth City is an Assistant in the Lighthouse College Center.

Miss Eunice L. Williams, a graduate of Tennessee A. & T. State University, has come recently as a temporary instructor in Business Education.

Welcome and best wishes to each of these persons in their new positions.

Dean William E. Anderson and Dr. George H. Walker, Jr., Director of Education at ECSC, represented the College at the Conference of North Carolina Colleges, November 7-8, held at the Jack Tar Hotel in Durham.

Mr. Chester W. Gregory, assistant professor of History, attended the National Leadership Conference on International Programs, in New York City, November 14-17.

## Those Revealing Eyes

I see in the depths of your eyes  
A world that's bright and new,  
A world that's like preganated skies  
Against the heaven's blue.

I see in the depths of your eyes  
A most arresting light,  
A love pure as hearts are wise,  
A love as calm as night.

I see in the depths of your eyes  
A truth with golden beams,  
A message that strengthens the ties  
That bind my happy dreams.

—Theresa Hall

## More Reflections On America's Tragedy

### What Has Happened to America?

On November 22, 1963, a great American figure was slain. This figure, John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was a true believer in a democratic way of life. Approximately 48 hours after the President's assassination, another man was brutally murdered in Dallas, Texas — a city already horrified by being the site of the first tragedy. This man was Lee Harvey Oswald the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

President Kennedy, during his three years in office, showed the world he firmly believed that all men were created equal and that each man was important to God and therefore should be so recognized by others. Yet in America, where beliefs such as these are supposed to be the basic ideals of life, this man was unjustly shot down in the streets of Dallas.

Even though his accused assassin admitted that he was interested in Communism and spent some time in Russia, the terrible fact is that the scene of this tragic action was America, the land of sympathy, pleasure and joy. Of course, many believe as I do that Oswald, if he were guilty, was simply an instrument of some other force. If this be true, was this force developed in

a Communist country or right here in America, the land Kennedy loved so well? If we knew, the truth might be very terrifying.

As to the murder of Oswald even though he killed a policeman and a considerable amount of evidence had been gathered that he was guilty of the assassination of President Kennedy, did he not deserve the right of trial by jury rather than be shot down like an animal while being transferred from the jail to another?

The ideals of America say that he did deserve the trial but that real America says that a bullet from a gun was to be his trial and his sentence.

I honestly believe that if President Kennedy could have governed the actions which took place after his death, he would have done it in a very different fashion. I believe he would have governed them as an American who upholds the ideals of this land.

The question, "What Has Happened to America?" should be given much needed consideration before it is too late. Many men have died for the cause of a democratic and free America. Let their deaths not have been in vain; and let America be a more democratic, more just place in

## "The Lord Giveth And The Lord Taketh Away"

Yes, the Lord gave us John F. Kennedy and now He has taken him away. But, we have consolation in knowing that in the short time that he was with us, John Kennedy left a mark on the world that will never wear away.

We may wonder why such things happen. I cannot help but think about how John Jr. asked, "Can I have one (a flag) for my daddy, too?" This little child, who just two days before had been playing with his father, was unaware of the fact that he no longer had a father. Such things are hard to understand, but we must accept the fact that there is a purpose behind everything that happens.

John F. Kennedy was a great leader, but God has called him to lead in a Greater Land. It is up to us to keep the glow of the fire that John F. Kennedy started so that his death will not be in vain.

—Barbara O. Fearing '67

which to live—a place where its cherished ideals more clearly match its practices. —James Dickerson '66

## Freshman Ponders Greekdom

As a Freshman observing the various students "on line" for fraternities and sororities, I wonder how they came to a decision. The choices must be difficult since all the organizations aspire to highest principles.

Perhaps some aspirants are following the tradition of members of their families or of friends.

It would be helpful to have a definite statement of purpose and objectives from each of these organizations. This may help answer my

question which is, "What is the best way?" (Sorority, of course).

—Deloris Jean Thomas

## We'd Love to Meet You

The students of ECSC do not have adequate opportunities for meeting and getting to know the members of the faculty. Outside of the classroom, the student rarely sees the instructor and practically never speaks to him. This is not true in all instances but seems to be the case enough so that the matter bears some attention.

At activities there are never very many members of the faculty present. There is seldom a chat-chat type of conversation between the teacher and the student.

We are all members of one family; each of us has something which could contribute to the happiness of the other, if only we were given more of a chance.

Come out to our gatherings, members of the faculty. We'd love to meet you!

## Coming Lyeum Attractions

Frank G. Jennings of the Saturday Review of Literature, lecture and seminar, January 9-10, 1964.

Howard Thurman, Dean of the Chapel, Boston University, lecturer, March 21.

North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, Children's Concert, Williams Hall, April 10; ECSC Concert Choir with the Orchestra, April 12.