

A Study of the Fear of Failure Among Fifteen College Students

BY MARY HERRING
Editor Note: The following article consists of excerpts taken from a master's thesis paper done as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree, Social Psychology.

This paper is the product of Mary Herring, a junior, majoring in Sociology. She is from Burgess, N. C. and a graduate of C. P. Pope High School, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity.

INTRODUCTION

The paper is a record of information gathered through an inquiry of the problem of failure among college students. This particular study was done with ten juniors and five seniors on the campus of Edenton.

Failure is to be a major problem among students and this was a good area in which to do some research.

In this paper we present some examples of the minor problems among students which lead to failure if they are not corrected properly.

The major problem was that a large portion of the college students studied have an immense amount of fear of failure during their years of study.

In studying the problem, it was necessary to know what some of

the causes were: (1) How do students feel about tests? (2) How do students feel about their instructors? (3) Can poor student-teacher relationships cause failure? (4) Are test scores too highly stressed?

I noticed that students tend to fear tests. By considering tests to be the determining factor in either passing or failing a course, the students built up tension as test-time approaches.

Another contributing factor to failing may be poor student-teacher relationships. In my observation, I noticed that there are certain cases wherein the students and teachers do not have adequate communication. If the student does not communicate well with the instructor his class participation may be limited.

Students are often confronted with situations where parental expectations are set too high. Many parents fail to understand that the abilities of all humans differ.

It was hypothesized that: (1) Most of the students feel a sense failure because of poor study habits; (2) It was hypothesized that most students fail because of a lack of interest in the subject matter; (3) Poor student-teacher relationships cause failure; (4) Tests can contribute to the fear of failure. This proved to be one of the most frequent reasons for failure.

Negro History Week Is Observed

By Vivian Thornton
The observance of Negro History Week by Elizabeth City State College was ended by an assembly program on Thursday, February 11.

In keeping with the atmosphere "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by John Greenleaf Whittier and Johnson was sung by the audience and choir and the late Noah Ryder's "Let Us Break Bread Together," by the College Choir.

Mr. Gregory, a member of the Social Science Department, gave historical excerpts that have brought about civil rights for Negroes. The reading included passages from (1) The Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, (2) Brown versus the Supreme Court (the 1964 "School Decision") (3) The Civil Rights Bill of 1964.

The speaker for the hour was Dr. William P. Robinson, Professor of Social Science at Norfolk Division of Virginia State College and Visiting Professor at ECSO.

Dr. Robinson began his address by giving the background of Negro History Week. He pointed out that the date of observance for the week was determined by the week in which the birthdates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass fall (respectively, February 12 and 14). He also said that the purpose of Negro History Week is to call to the attention of both Negro and whites the truth about the Negro and his role in America.

The speaker's main subject was "The American Creed and Freedom's Revolution." He selected this topic to fully bring out points on (1) individualism, (2) freedom, and (3) equality.

In elaboration on the second point, Dr. Robinson said, "The person desiring to be free must first make the choice to be free and be responsible for the consequences of the choice."

He commented on the tragedy of placing a badge on Negroes because of their skin color and that even more tragic was the white child feeling superior because of his skin color.

Dr. Robinson gave the audience a list of some Negroes who have made history for this Nation. This included Crispus Attucks, Benjamin Banneker, Charles H. Houston, John Hope Franklin, Ralph Bunche, Martin L. King, Medgar Evers and W.E.B. Dubois. The speaker pointed out that there was a revelation going on between the races, not to overthrow our government but to achieve dignity, respect, honor and equality which is due to every member under the American Creed.

The audience was given five cycles in the more than 300-year struggle of the American Negro. They were (1) slave revolts, (2) role of the Negro in politics, (3) reurgents of rejection, repression, force, intimidation and lynching, (4) climbing out of adversity through courts, and (5) the present route to equal justice.

Dr. Robinson closed by making several statements, one of which was, "He who would be free must strike the first blow."

The assembly program was ended by a prayer by Ingrid East, '68.

If you spend all your time collecting money for fear of poverty, you are practicing poverty already.

Who...? Where...? What...?

Each issue of the Compass will publish information about graduates in this column. Members of the alumni are invited to submit information about what they are doing and where, to the Office of Information, Box 92, Elizabeth City State College, 1965.

Matthew Lewis, Jr. (Industrial Arts major), a graduate of 1964, is presently employed at Campostella Junior High School, Norfolk, Virginia. He received a certificate in Radio-Television Electronics with honors. Mr. Lewis also received honors for the Dean's List. He was a member of the Vocational Club, Student Government and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Colbert Lionel Mings, class of 1964, Elementary Education Major, is employed at Saint Agatha's Home, Spring Valley, New York, as a group guidance counselor. He plans to enter New York University to pursue a Master's Degree. While at college he was a member of the National Education Association and was a Dormitory Counselor and was affiliated with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Deloris L. Moore, 1964 graduate (Elementary Education), is a teacher at P. S. Jones High School, Washington, North Carolina. Miss Moore was a member of the following organizations: Thalia Sorosis Club, National Education Association and the United's Guild.

Tony Ricks, Jr. class of 1964, (Social Science) Major in Sociology, is doing graduate study at the University of Maryland, College Park, Md., in the field of Guidance (Secondary School counseling).

Mr. Ricks was a member of the College Players and also the Light-house College Center Student Activities Committee.

Mrs. Vida Porter Langston, Class of 1953, is teaching at the Riverview Elementary School in

Murfreesboro, N. C. She teaches a combination of the first and second grades. She is a participant in several community activities: Girl Scout Leader, Secretary of H. D. Club and has also served as 4-H Leader.

Mrs. Barbara Thombley, Class of 1960, a teacher at the Buckland Elementary School, Gates, North Carolina, represented the Ross B. Riddick Chapter of the Gates County Alumni Chapter at the 1964 Homecoming. Mrs. Thombley taught in Greenville, N. C. and at the D. F. Walker High School, Edenton, N. C. before going to Germany where she taught for two years in the Kaiserslautern Elementary School. She has traveled extensively in Europe.

Mrs. Lenora Fisher Rouse, Class of 1939, is a seventh grade teacher at Pamlico Central High School, Beaufort, N. C., where she was once a student. Mrs. Rouse is a native of Stonewall, N. C. Since receiving her B. S. degree, she has done further study at New York University, and Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C.

A member of the CrafoPam New Bern Alumni Chapter and recording secretary, Mrs. Rouse was a contestant in the General Alumni Association's "Miss Alumni" Contest at the 1964 Homecoming.

Mrs. Virginia D. Jones, Class of 1951, is a teacher at the Amanda S. Cherry Elementary School, Hartselleville, N. C. She is a native of Winton, North Carolina.

Edith Gramby White, Class of 1948, is currently teaching at the D. F. Walker High School, Edenton, North Carolina. Mrs. White has been taking advanced courses at A. and T. College, the University of Connecticut (Storrs) and at Syracuse University (New York). Mrs. White represented the Edenton Chapter in the 1964 Miss Alumni Contest.

Twenty Student' Attitudes Toward Vespers and Assembly Attendance

BY MELVIN E. POWELL
Editor Note: These excerpts were taken from a research paper done by Melvin E. Powell who comes to us from Edenton High School, Hartselleville, N. C. Melvin, a junior sociology major, is a dormitory counselor at the Division of Social Science, Forensic Science, MGA, Kappa Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the College Student Union. He plans to pursue a degree in law after graduation.

Students on ECSO campus stated some of their reasons for not attending vespers. They were as follows: students are forced to attend during the first two years, the programs are given when students are most likely to be studying; these programs are too long and lack interest; there is not enough space in the auditorium to seat all students; and last, students do not have healthy respect for these programs.

SAMPLE SURVEY RESPONSES

Female A: I do not go to vespers and assembly now because I was forced to go during the first two years that I was here. I think that forced attendance will cause students to stay away from these programs.

Female B: I lived in the city the first two years of college. I was required to come whether it rained, snowed, or whether it was fair. At this time I formed negative attitudes toward these programs.

Male A: When I first came here, I did not know that I was required to attend. When I found out that I was required to attend, I lost interest. If requirements were removed, most students would attend.

Male B: I am a transfer student. The first college that I went to did not require students to attend these programs. I attended, too, and so did the majority of the students. But when I came here, I was forced to attend. I think a student should be allowed to make such decisions for himself. Nobody likes to be forced to do anything.

CONCLUSION

Since I have been a student at ECSO, I have noticed that the attendance of students at assembly and vespers is very poor. I interviewed twenty students to determine the reasons for this poor attendance.

It was found that the main reason for the lack of attendance is that the students do not like to be forced to attend these programs as they are in the first two years of college. The decision, they felt, should be theirs as to whether or not they will attend.

Alumni! Send Us Your NEWS!

Art Loan

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objectives of the project: 1) to reveal to talented, near talented and interested students and instructional personnel in the secondary schools, the potentialities of the study of art; 2) to insure by way of artistic tendencies, insight relative to creative development in the use of specific media; and 3) to make known the art educational aims, purposes, values and advantages of study at Elizabeth City State College.

To help increase incentive and enthusiasm for art among high school students, it was also proposed that high school graduates from schools using the Art Loan Exhibitions who have their work included in the exhibits attend the exhibition with members of the college faculty.

Letters to schools at Ahoskie, Belcross, Edenton, Farmville, 11, Gatesville, Oak City, Rich Square, Raleigh, Scotland Neck, Selma, Tarboro, Williamson, Winterville, as well as the local school, brought responses which resulted in the scheduling of initial exhibitions.

Winter Concert

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"Unfinished Symphony" which closed the first portion of the program. It was a two-act as to the second half. It was a two-act as to which they received the most enthusiastic audience response. However, it was, William Ryder and his musicians were not allowed the rest until they had provided a winter in the form of Sousa's personal favorite, Washington Post March.

It should be known, also, that the band was fresh from an appearance in Governor Moore's Inaugural Parade in Raleigh.

Like the college as a whole, our band is ON-THE-MOVE. Congratulations on a good performance to all its members and to bandmaster Ryder.

English Club Calling

How was your first semester?

Did you find it to be void of interesting, but yet valid activities? As a solution to this problem, consider membership in the English Club.

The English Club is not just for English majors, but for anyone who is interested in broadening his reading scope and increasing his literary knowledge. While benefiting intellectually, members can also have enjoyment through social activities which are provided.

Senior Day

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center, Ulysses Bell of Nashville, editor of the college newspaper, The Compass; and George Skinner, of Edenton, a junior, the president of the Men's Government Association.

Also presented to the visitors were Joycelyn Berry of Elizabeth City and Leroy Brickhouse of Creswell, both sophomores. As freshmen, they achieved the top and second best academic averages of their classes.

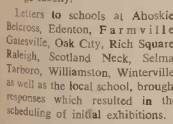
Demonstrations and exhibits were prepared by students of various departments for the high schoolers' interest and enlightenment. The college Choir's offering, under the direction of Wendell Wilson, was "Let Us Break Bread Together" by Noah Ryder. Geraldine Vaughan of Franklin, Va., a junior, played "The Russian Concerto" by Rachmaninoff.

The eighteen high schools represented were: Central at Gatesville; C. S. Brown at Winton; Currituck Union at Maple; Davis at Engelhard; D. F. Walker at Edenton; Eastman at Enfield; E. J. Hayes at Williamson; John Armstrong Chaloner at Winfall; P. W. Moore at Elizabeth City.

Other schools were P. C. County at Gatesland; Ralph H. Bunche at Weldon; R. L. Vann at Ahoskie; Southeastern at Windsor; Tyrrell at Columbia; and West Marin at Oak City.



MARY HERRING



MELVIN E. POWELL