FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A TRIP

The stupid thing about the whole drug phenomena, apart from the "in" factor, is an effort to come into a higher awareness through the psychedelic methodology known as the "trip." The only trouble about such a trip is that you go and you come back, and you are what you were before, only less so.

With each succeeding trip your consciousness takes a beating. And quite apart from all possible serious medical complication of drugs, your normal sensitivity, perceptiveness and spiritual alertness gradually are undermined.

The motivation to have an enhanced wareness of life and of yourself is not wrong in itself. The human being is a physical body, but he is also a mind and spirit, and he is built to be responsive to higher stimuli. And in such higher experience, he comes upon the real essence of life, one that is filled with joy and peace and love.

Our question simply is: how do you get this -- through drugs, which operate physically, or through a method that operates spiritually? People who take spiritual "trips" do not harm their bodies. On the contrary, their body cells come alive with vibrant health.

The ability of the senses to become excited and unusually aware and sensitive is illustrated by the surging happiness that comes when you see something beautiful in nature or hear tremendous music or do an unselfish, kindly act. But at best these are only first steps in getting "high" spiritually.

The Bible contains a story about the Mountain of Transfiguration where the disciples had an elevated experience about the greatness of God. Christianity can transfigure, which means change you so that even your figure is different. Your image becomes even more beautiful because your consciousness has reached out into a great new high which, when you return from it, leaves you a much improved personality over what you were.

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK

by R. Irving Boone
University Minister

In line with this whole matter of man's need for God; in line with the thought of mankind's constant yearning for fellowship with that Higher Other, we are pleased to state that, within just a few days, it will be the rare privilege of all members of our University Family - along with many friends from the community - to enjoy the rich and strengthening experiences of our annual RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK.

This series of special activities will get under way with a service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning, March 8, 9 o'clock. At 6 p.m., on same date, will be the occasion of the initial preaching service, accompanied by the university choir. Then, for the following four days, there will be a wide variety of inspiring and deeply rewarding offerings, featuring sermons, lectures, morning devotionals, noon-day meditations, interviews, conferences, panel discussions, exhibits, social hours, screen productions - all providing opportunities for participation and involvement on the part of "whosoever will."

We invite you, and you, and you - one and all - to "join hands and hearts," in this important venture with God, as we work together for symmetrical personal development, and for a greater ECSU.

Again, this year, we are extremely fortunate in the person of our guest minister for Religious Emphasis Week. He is the Reverend J. A. Forbes, Jr., the distinguished pastor of the St. John's Holy Church of America, Inc., Richmond, Va.,- youthful, highly trained, dramatic; and he has a message that is vital and convincing!

THE COMPASS

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SEEDS FOR THE MIND

Though the honey of youth walks daily from my frame and old memories sing the melody of decay, I have come to acknowledge the fact that few mortals are aware of their fading shadows; many are ignorant and negligent of heart beat. Having littered this sphere for two decades, I feel it vital for one to pursue a cloud of happiness in any way possible, without violating the corpse of another. The visions I behold are not those granted bastards of bound paper, splattered with ink, nor are they the heirs of withered tongues reeking with the smell of the latest gossip but the result of a sincere enlightenment passed on from the library of heart, somewhere between the jaws of sorrow and yesterday's hope.

Intellectual, as well as financial, success has done a magnificent job of erecting huge structures of selfishness, greed at its finest, and suicide more tasty than envy. I sense that the mind, in union with the heart, must bend its appetite to digest evening without underseasoning such a dish; it must hear the cry of a young violet befriended by its gardener and it must strike a spark of humble praise in admiration of an architect of each day in its entirety. Many of us have become so infested with financial lust that we have allowed her to seduce us and leave us impotent and vexed. Money, the most dangerous of all purgatives, has flushed our minds of empathy, compassion, and brotherhood - leaving a vacuum of flesh with its wallets packed neatly in the channels of waste disposal. Though we are being choked by our own hands, let us release the grip by seeking peace in the silent finality of the evening - the child of dawn and let not our eyes become deaf to the sound of snow falling in a spring without laughter.

While cleaning the toilet, let us not forget our old friend, war. We must approach all wars as though they are vicious mutant, breeded by blind men and political gluttons in search of food. For every meal of virtue, we must give one pound of love for each ounce of cruel intention, even in thoughts that bore no sound. Each mortal must become a sponge. He must absorb a mate - be it man, woman, sport, or verse. It is through this media that man makes himself a star in his own universe; he comes to know the love of torture and the ecstasy of sustained contentment. We must melt the color spectrum and identify with ourselves; for famine has captured more than swollen stomachs of people, but also minds that cannot be fed by the moon. Life is a temporary dungeon and it is here, in this dungeon, that each man must rot in his own way.

By Sylvia Lynch

March 8, 1933—Madam Frances Perkins became the first woman to serve in the President's Cabinet as the Secretary of Labor.

ALPHA NEWS

The Brothers of Beta Zeta Chapter, Elizabeth City, North Carolina observed the annual induction ceremony on the fourth day of December, 1969. The inductees were: Gary Harvey, a sophomore majoring in Biology; Eric Keyes, a senior majoring in Health and Physical Education; Jerry Tripp, a senior majoring in Health and Physical Education; and Joseph Brown, a junior majoring in Music.

At the completion of the ceremony the new brothers, with lighted torches, paraded over the entire campus chanting, Alpha Phi Alpha. When the group reached the center of campus everyone joined in and sang the Alpha Hymn.

We, the Brothers of Beta Zeta chapter, believe that these four young men exhibit the attitudes, simplicity, maturity, and sincerity which are true attributes of manhood. We are proud of our new brothers and we want everyone to know it.

Other projects of Beta Zeta include volunteer service to the kids in the community who are having academic problems (Alpha Outreach) and our annual Alpha-rama which will be held later during the Spring.

"I've saved the important records."

INTERIM

The night was made for
rest and sleep,
For winds that softly sigh;
It was not made for grief
and tears;
So then why do I cry?
The wind that glows
through leafy trees
Is soft and warm and
sweet;
For me the night is a gracious cloak
To hide my soul's defeat.
Just one dark hour of
shaken depths
Of bitter black despair-
Another day will find me
brave,
And not afraid to dare.

- Clarissa Delaney

Compass Write-In

It has been said that there are professors and instructors on ECSU's campus that are unqualified and incompetent. What is your opinion?

Address answers to COMPASS, Publication Bldg.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

"WILSON HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE SUCH A CONSISTENTLY LOUSY TEACHER THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE HIM UP INTO ADMINISTRATION."