

An Editor's Sermon

Most of us are very familiar with a topic that many preachers use to deliver a sermon. I would like to borrow their topic just for awhile and preach my own sermon.

Brothers and Sisters, we are gathered here today to hear what thus saith an Editor and staff who have been through it all. My staff and I are somewhat like Job. Our patience paid the price.

Let's dig into our text just a little bit and bring you up to date. You read this paper only seeing the finished product. Most of you are not aware of what happens before it reaches this stage. To some it may appear to be professionally done and to others it may mean very little. Whatever your opinions may be, this leads to the topic of my message today: "If It Ain't One Thing-It's Another."

This year the *Compass* has had to leap many high hurdles. We have had to perform tasks under unorthodox and insane circumstances. But all in all, we did all that could be done to present our University with a paper.

Before any paper can be printed, an Editor and staff must ask with what shall we print a paper. Realistically, dreams do not pay for the production of a newspaper. Money does!

As Editor I asked myself the very same question- with what shall I print? Naturally I answered "with money" and sought for the source of my needs.

After searching for the supplier of my needs, I submitted a budget request to the Student Activities Finance Committee in care of the Student Government Association. To add to your knowledge, a percentage of your Student Activities Fee helps in the production of our paper. In essence you have a little stock in

the *Compass*, but not that much. From my request submitted I was granted, first, half of my original request. This was history. Never in the past years had the *Compass* received such an outstanding amount to work with. \$2450 would have enabled us to produce a bi-monthly paper for one semester. This would have assisted us in acquiring the experience needed in our profession, but you know "it ain't one thing- it's another."

After several other meetings of this committee, the \$2450 which initially was given was what- "swept away!" Five hundred dollars was the amount decided by the Executive Board of the SGA for an allocation for the *Compass*. This amount can produce only ONE issue of our campus newspaper.

Consequently, I had no choice but to take the \$500 and be satisfied. The entire ordeal had been as if I was a "Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God." Maybe Jonathan Edwards, when he wrote about the wrath of the Almighty, knew that I would one day have many trials and tribulations placed before me.

As I close this sermon, let me say once more- "if it ain't one thing it's another!" Right when the staff and I thought we would be able to print on a bi-monthly basis, our dreams faded away. We might not have print twelve papers but we did print a second paper while some thought it would be impossible. Despite the unsuccessful efforts of evil forces, we maintained our composure and performed in a professional way. I, myself, must agree with Keith Pringle when he sings "When trials come on every hand, I feel like going on."

No matter how hard attempts are made to stop the publication of the *Compass*, our staff will stand its ground. Even next semester if the same problem arises, we will be ready to face battle. We truly can say that as journalists we are on the battlefield and will fight for any cause. The *Compass* has been in existence since 1960 (long before any of us were here) and it will continue to be printed even when some of us are gone.

A m e n !

COMPASS

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Letters, columns, and articles published in the *Compass* reflect the views of the authors, which are not necessarily shared by the rest of the newspaper staff.

Drinking Age Battle Not Over Yet

Those who think a national 21-year-old drinking age will become a fact by 1986 may soon have to think again. Though federal legislation seems bent on forcing the states into adopting higher drinking age laws by withholding 10 per cent of their federal highway tax money if they do not a number of observers think some states will not comply. They will be forfeiting a large sum of money if they refuse- a total of \$22 million for Wisconsin in 1986 and 1987, for example- but some analysts say the lost highway taxes will still be less than projected losses in taxes and fees associated with liquor sales.

For students, however, the point is justice, not money. Bob Bingaman, spokesman for the United States Student Association, says the law is patently wrong-headed and student associations across the country are gearing up to make their state legislatures understand that.

"On a gut level, I think it is a civil rights issue," Bingaman says. "How can you tell this age

group, 'You can vote. You can sue and be sued. You can marry. You can serve in the military, but you can't drink.' It's absurd!"

Bingaman says his group and others are considering a constitutional challenge to the law in court. The 25th Amendment reserves control of alcohol to the states, and critics see the coming battle over the drinking age as a states' rights issue.

At the U. of Texas-Austin, Rodney Schlosser, student body president, says he expects the battle to break there in Jan. "I don't want to let the whole world know about all our bullets before we shoot them," he says, but suggests the students' general plan of attack will include lobbying, educational efforts, and the drafting of positive, alternative legislation.

Schlosser points out that Minn.'s traffic fatalities increased four-fold after raising

its drinking age to 19. Teens had no trouble getting liquor, but took to the dangerous and boring privacy of their cars to drink it. It was only when Minn. passed stiff driving-while-intoxicated or DWI laws that traffic fatalities began to decrease. This is the type of legislation Schlosser has in mind.

At the U. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, students are trying to mobilize the support of private business in fighting the new law. Students have blanketed the supermarkets in town and many bars with petitions, and they are stumping for a public awareness club called "I am driving." Participating bar owners agree to provide free, non-alcoholic drinks to club members who, in turn, act as chauffeur for the drinking members of their group. Memberships cost nothing and participation is high.

Meanwhile two researchers at Boston U. are lending their support to the under-21-year-olds. Research by Robert Smith and Ralph Hingson in the School

of Behavioral Science suggests that raising the drinking age has no effect of overall traffic deaths or on the drinking habits of teenagers.

Smith and Hingson studied fatal crashes in the three-year period after Mass. raised its drinking age from 18 to 20 and compared those patterns with N.Y. which did not raise its legal drinking age. They found N.Y. fatalities declined almost as much as Mass. There was no reduction among 16- and 17-year-olds, the group primarily targeted by the new law.

The Boston researchers have serious reservations about the conclusions Congress drew from the study it looked at in drafting the 21-year-old drinking age law. That study looked at statistics from nine states which raised their drinking ages and found a 28 per cent reduction in single-vehicle, nighttime crashes (those most associated with alcohol). But the survey found only and 11 per cent reduction in overall crashes- a percentage statisticians say could be accounted for by chance variation. As Hingson puts it: "They have suggestive data but not conclusive evidence."

The Smith-Hingson study included an opinion survey as well, and from the answers to those questions, they conclude that attacking teenage drunk driving through such punitive legislation may simply foster cynicism toward the legislative process and a disregard of law enforcement. At best, raising the drinking age to 21 would reduce fatal traffic crashes by 2 per cent or 1,500 lives a year.

Ironically, solid data exists to prove that mandatory seat-belt and airbag laws, which Congress has deferred until 1989, would reduce fatalities 10 percent to 30 percent or a minimum of 15,000 to 20,000 lives. Also, says Hingson, passive restraints do not require enforcement to be effective as do both higher-drinking-age and DWI laws.

Holiday Food Fantasies

by Dreena Birdsall
Staff Writer

I am going to speak frankly about one of the most disgusting, vulgar four-letter words in the English language, D-I-E-T. Obviously, the root word is "die," as in to die of hunger, probably a "pig" Latin derivative.

Have you ever noticed how the lean, lithe lovelies partake of goodies? They move toward the hors d'oeuvre table with the grace of a swan and slowly reach with those slender, elegant fingers and take one, I mean one, teenie, weenie cocktail sandwich and place it delicately on their napkin. Exuding the charm of a ballerina, they move to their respective seats and proceed to take itsy, bitsy nibbles on a morsel that would not satiate a malnourished hummingbird. Pee-Yuke!

By contrast, we, the true gourmands who really enjoy the taste of food, carefully position our chairs near the festive board so we may plop any edible nugget in our mouth. We are very careful to remove those clever little tidbits that cling to our plump little faces and spend the entire evening "pigging out." The next morning, when that one little button groans with the stress of swollen flesh beneath it, and guilt shrouds us like the Grim Reaper, we chastely vow to "go on a diet" right after a six-course breakfast.

One of my lifelong fantasies is to actually salivate at the thought of cottage cheese, wheat thins and carrot curls instead of chocolate eclairs, cheesecake and apple pie heaped with mounds of ice cream.

The dumplings of America must unite against demeaning apparel names such as queen sized pantyhose, designed to suggest chubby is regal, or larger fashions versus petite. The numbers ever jump from a chunky 14-16 to size 32 as if to suggest a person metamorphosed into a whale!

As the holiday season approaches and visions of tables laden with mouth watering delicacies fill our heads, take solace girls. Do not ruin those fun filled days and nights nibbling on celery sticks and sipping on diet soda. Go ahead, take those vienna sausage fingers and reach for the creme filled pastries that dribble down your chin on that first bite. Remember, we still have Jan. 1st to make that firm resolution to lose those pounds!

The *Compass* welcomes letters to the Editor. Letters must be typed and double-spaced and must include the name of the author, a number, and an address where the writer may be reached

Letters should not exceed 500 words. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters for spelling, grammar, and newspaper syntax, but not for content or meaning.

To the Editor:

As President of the Senior Class, I am very elated at this moment because we are on the road of success. As Dr. Jenkins once said, "...excellece without excuses." We the Senior Class would like to use that motto as we strive for success. As I look back on my predecessors who have guided many Seniors to the mountain of success, I see a new beginning for the Class of '85- a beginning that calls for cooperation, participation, understanding, and the ability to do one's best regardless.

Now you, yes you and I must work together, for it is my basic premise that the class of '85 will go down in history as a class that

exemplifies true Viking spirit. So far this year, the Senior Class has given a function that was very successful and we are hoping to have one more activity before the semester is out.

We are on the right road and we are asking for all to get on board and ride with the Senior Class. We are hoping to take a very nice trip next semester, so please Seniors, get involved by paying necessary fees and working hard.

Let us remember that I am at the helm for you, the Class of '85. Please work with me.

Yours in Viking Spirit,
Anthony L. Ford
President
Senior Class

In order for us to cover more news that affects ECSU and the community, the COMPASS staff encourages its readers to respond by submitting "Letters to the Editor."
Submit letters to Miss Robin Beamon in the Modern Languages Department of Johnson Hall.
They should be typed, or legibly written.

LIBERALS VERSUS BLACKS

by

Richard A. Viguerie

Most of them oppose busing and reverse discrimination. Sixty-four percent favor a voucher system for education, 96 percent want more discipline in the school, and 89 percent favor a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. Less than 40 percent support abortion-on-demand, and a whopping 85 percent believe the American economic system is the best system for industrialized countries. Two-thirds are "extremely proud to be an American."

Sounds like a pretty conservative bunch, right? The kind of people who should have been at the forefront of the President's reelection campaign? The group I'm describing is black Americans.

In 1980, ABC News surveyed

black voters as they left the polls. Despite the fact that the term "conservative" has been used wrongly in the past to describe segregationists, fully 37 percent called themselves moderates.

It is clearer than ever before that the concerns of most black people are given a low priority on the liberal agenda.

Many liberal leaders seem to be more interested in the situation of blacks in South Africa than blacks in South Carolina or South Bronx. They care more about how many blacks play golf at the Burning Tree country club than about how many black kids go to schools infested with drugs and violence.

It is liberals in the Justice Department who have worked to destroy Alabama's traditionally

black colleges, even though the vast majority of blacks in the state support them. It is liberals who have tried to divert discrimination- to causes like busing and affirmative action.

Meanwhile, liberals have been silent on issues that directly affect many blacks- crime, for example. A black woman has a one-third greater chance to be a victim of violent crime than a white woman. Fifty-six percent of blacks are afraid to walk through their neighborhoods at night. Asked if government should spend more on welfare, 55 percent say no; but asked if government should spend more to fight crime, 73 percent say yes. More than three-fourths say that judges should be tougher on criminals.

Another issue important to

blacks is the traditional family. Some 47 percent of black children live in households headed by women- a n important factor in the extent of poverty among blacks. That's up from only 21 percent in 1960.

While liberals ignore issues of real concern to blacks, government wages a silent war on the aspirations of black people. Zoning laws are used to prevent the spread of multi-family housing, thus restricting poor blacks to ghettos far from potential jobs. Licensing laws keep blacks from interstate routes. As the National Conference of Black Mayors recently recognized, the minimum wage law is used to prevent blacks from entering the job market- exactly the way it is used in South Africa.

And what is the legacy of two decades of social of social programs to "help" blacks? Since 1966, black unemployment has risen from 7.3 percent to 16.7 percent. Despite an additional \$400 billion a year in social spending, the percentage of black families living below the poverty level went from 29.9 in 1969 to 28.9 in 1980. Two million blacks fell into poverty during the Carter Administration alone.

In the antebellum South, slave-owners prevented escapes by keeping their slaves ignorant and dependent. Today, the welfare state uses the same method to keep blacks down and thereby increase political support for the welfare state- in effect, to buy votes.

Malcome X wrote in his autobiography: "If (liberals)

wanted more to do, the y could work on the roots of such ghetto evils as the little children out in the streets at midnight with apartment keys on strings around their necks to let themselves in, and their mothers and fathers drunk, drug addicts, thieves, and prostitutes." Or they could get "northern city halls, unions and major industries to give more jobs to Negroes to remove them from the relief and welfare rolls, which created laziness and which deteriorated the ghettos into steadily worse places for humans to live..."

Black people have victimized long enough by the "party of compassion." It's time for them to join in the movement to restore power to the average citizen- no matter his or her race, creed, or color.