

Opinion Page

Studies prove???

The recent elections in Elizabeth got me thinking. In case any of you have been sleeping the last few months, there has been a big debate over whether the city of Elizabeth City should allow liquor by the drink in restaurants and bars. The first argument was over whether the question should even be voted on. Both the pro and con sides gave their opinions on the issue, citing studies to prove their points.

The pro-liquor by the drink side won and the issue was put on the ballot for the recently held elections. The weeks proceeding the election saw frenzied lobbying by each group.

The liquor by the drink opponents spoke about the dangers of drinking and driving and of the heartache and suffering caused by alcohol - all true. But does liquor by the drink cause an increase in alcohol-related accidents? Opponents said yes and they had studies to prove it.

The pro-liquor by the drink group argued that liquor by the drink would bring increased business to Elizabeth City. They said that allowing liquor by the drink would not lead to an increase in alcohol-related accidents and they had studies to prove it.

Wait a minute. There seems to be an inconsistency here. Liquor by the drink causes an increase in alcohol-related accidents but it also doesn't cause an increase in alcohol-related accidents. How can this be?

Did each group lie about their studies? I doubt that. Were the studies done objectively? Chances are that they were - maybe. Researchers have been known to manipulate statistics to prove their points. In a case like this, where human lives could be involved, I would hope they wouldn't.

Chances are that two independent studies found different results, a common happening in research, which shows a need for more research to clear things up.

What bothers me about the liquor by the drink controversy, is that both groups cited studies as proof of their claims. I resent that and believe it was an irresponsible practice.

Some studies do show no increase in alcohol-related accidents, but others show an increase. Why didn't either group point out that they weren't sure? I believe they lost sight of this fact in trying to prove their points. They lost sight of the fact that the voters would be voting on an issue that could have a direct effect on the lives of many people in our community. I believe they showed irresponsibility in not fully informing the voters. Proving a position became more important than the truth; but I guess that's just politics.

SMS

HEY, I'M NOT AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS... I JUST BELIEVE IN ORIGINAL INTENT.



SIGHT with a gun CPS



To The Editor:

Jessica Hahn isn't as naive, virtuous and heart-broken as she claims. Jessica Hahn was twenty-one years of age when this alleged rape occurred.

Any woman at the age of twenty-one knows a little about how men think. Ms. Hahn was asked by two ministers to accompany them to their hotel room. She accepted their invitation with no hesitation. It's true she trusted and looked up to these men, but men are men. When a lady goes on a man's territory she's asking for trouble. Jessica asked for it and she got it.

Yes, she was young, but not that young. I just don't believe Jessica didn't know what was going on. I am sure she had other male friends who suggested sexual ideas. I think she was looking for some fun.

It is true that I can't prove she wasn't virtuous. I don't know about her past life before this incident. All I can say is, Ms. Hahn felt she had been robbed of her innocence, but I feel she gave it away.

Ms. Hahn isn't as heart-broken and dismayed as she claims. She now poses for any magazine that gives her a good price. Instead of leaving the past in the past she drags it out again. The shame she claims she felt should have kept her from exposing herself to the public. Ms. Hahn's exposure probably caused her more pain than her supposed tragedy. She claims she's heart-broken, but her bank account is far from being broken.

In conclusion, maybe there is some pain in this tragedy. It seems to be another story of a sweet, innocent girl who was taken advantage of by those she trusted. This time I'm not buying it, but Playboy is.

Jacqueline Miller

To The Editor:

The Jessica Hahn story is a tragedy. She was violated by men who were considered to be holy. But it seems to me that people are forgetting that issue. They are criticizing her for telling her story and revealing her breasts in a magazine that exploits nudity.

I think that Jim Bakker and John Fletcher should be put in jail for their crimes. Ms. Hahn is being ridiculed when she should be praised for her bravery. She had to suffer but she overcame her oppression.

Would the average American turn down a million dollars? I know I wouldn't.

Terence Smith

The lioness does the work

By Michelle Vanterpool

Even though the era of women's rights has passed, this is still a man's world. All you have to do is take one look at nature. A lion has a mane, a lioness nothing. The lion is supposedly "The King of the Jungle," but it's the lioness who does all the work.

Although women gained more rights during the ERA era, they are still expected to carry out all traditionally feminine duties. Most men still feel a woman's place is in the home. A man's wife might have a job (not career) outside the home, but when he comes home from work he expects a clean house, a hot, home-cooked meal and the children doing their homework.

Why can't a working woman come home to that same scene?

What does a woman see when she gets home? After a hard day's work, the house is a mess, the kids are watching t.v. if they're home, and to top it off she still has to cook dinner. Is that fair?

On the job, a career woman who holds a position previously held by a man is constantly expected to prove her worth to her male co-workers. She isn't allowed to make mistakes. She must never tire. If that happens, men will often say, "She doesn't belong here," or "Fire her."

The same inequities exist on the job. If, by chance, a woman excels and receives a promotion, she will be resented more by the men. Such a woman will receive no praise and no approving pat on the back. And seldom, if ever, will she hear, "Good job."

A career woman must also be flexible. She can never say "no," when asked to work overtime on a project. She must always be the first to say, "I'll do it." If a woman does say "no," then men say she's not taking her job seriously, or that she can't handle the pressure.

Married women or women who have children face many additional problems. Since their careers require all their time and energy, they have to hire housekeepers, maids and nannies. Some less understanding men say these women aren't upholding their family responsibilities. But the way I see it, a woman wouldn't need to hire help if men helped out more at home. I would love to see one man do what a career mother does.

Equal rights for women...Are they truly equal?

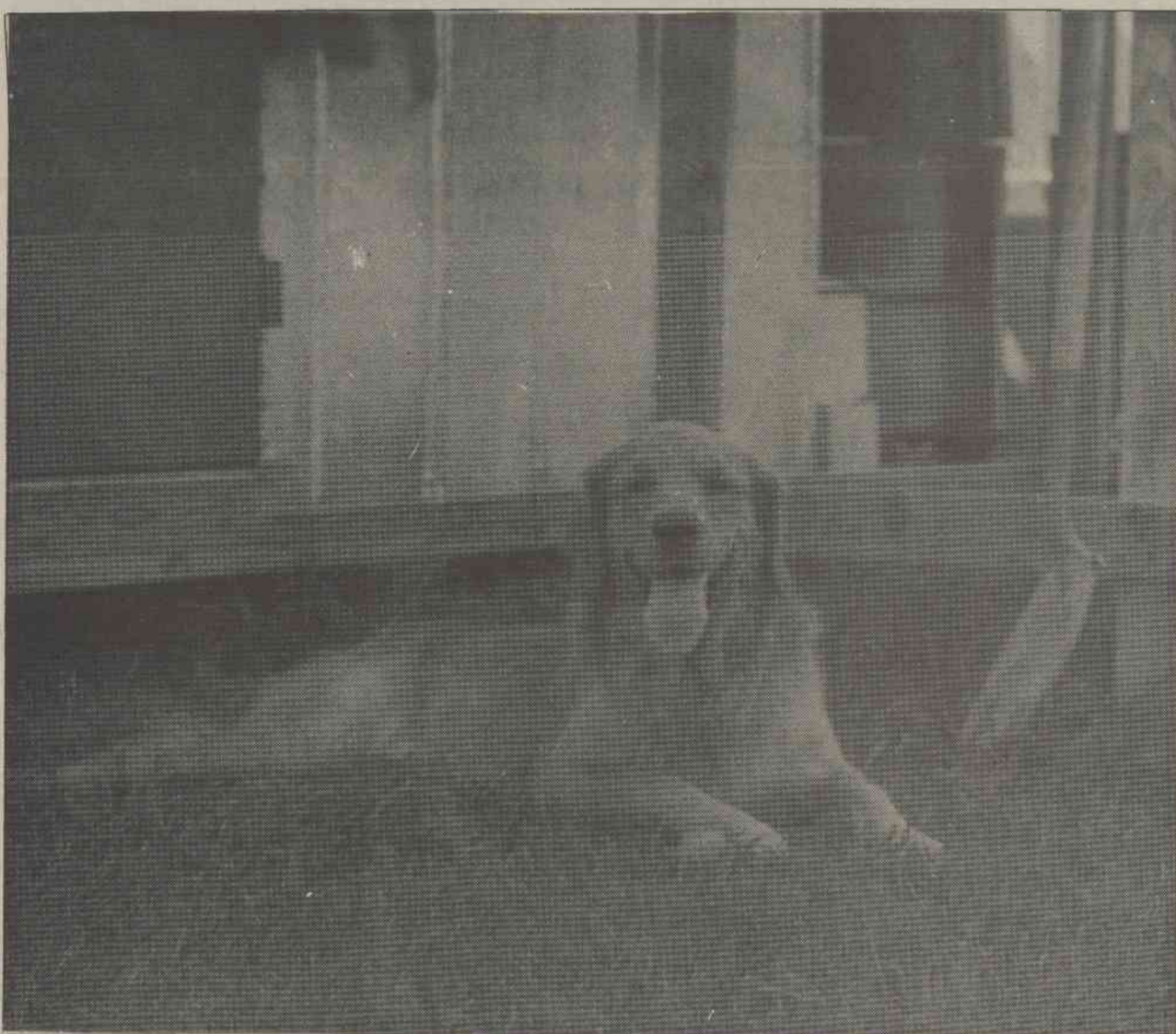


Photo by Robin Sawyer

A Dog's Life

While controversies and wars rage on domestic and foreign soils, this visitor to the ECSU campus seems above the world's storms, as he relaxes in the grass near Johnson Hall, on a recent September morning.

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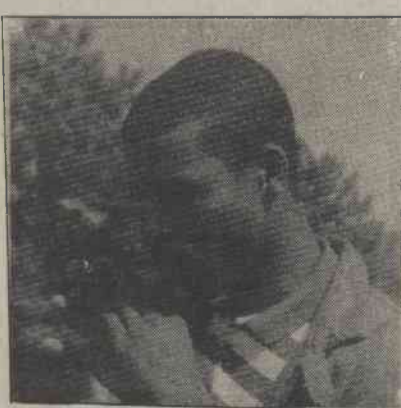
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VIEWPOINT: "What do you think of Michael Jackson's new video?"

NEWSMAKER



MICHAEL JACKSON Singer/Songwriter



Tim Cotton Senior
 "I don't think he's expressing himself properly. The lyrics don't correspond with the dance. 'Thriller' was on the money, but on a scale of 1 to 10, I'd give 'Bad' a 5."



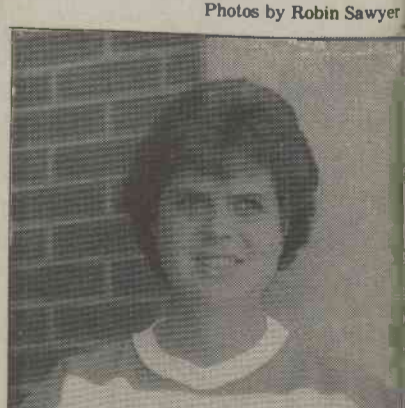
Zabrina Blount Sophomore
 "I like it. . . I think it's better than the 'Thriller' video. . . I just think he has a problem dealing with the real world."



Diane McHomb Junior
 "I don't like Michael Jackson so I didn't like it. He's so silly that he's outrageously silly!"



Nathan Elliot Sophomore
 "It starts off like a movie and he looks like a ghost or something. The music wasn't really good to me. It sounded like he tried to copy LL Cool J. The 'Thriller' video was better."



Meri Christi Williamson Freshman
 "I like Michael Jackson's new video because it has a lot to say about street gangs. Michael Jackson is a person that people look up to and if people take his advice and do what he did in the video, maybe the crime rate would go down all around the world."

Photos by Robin Sawyer