

EDITORIAL

A Christmas Message

In his moving address to Elizabeth City State University during the Fall Candlelighting ceremony, the Rev. Joseph Lowery challenged students to "be proud of who you are, whether you are black, yellow, brown or white. You're made in the image of God and God is all those colors and some others we don't even know about."

Dr. Lowery went on to point out that although there is racial conflict in the nation and the world, people should remember that Reginald Denny—the white trucker who was attacked by a mob in Los Angeles following the the acquittal of the policemen in the Rodney King case—was rescued by black residents, who saved his life after learning of his plight on TV.

"And do not forget," Dr. Lowery added, "that it when the police were beating Rodney King it was a white man who turned the camera."

Dr. Lowery's point, of the interdependence of races in an increasingly multicultural, multiracial society, is especially relevant to Elizabeth City State University at a time when a series of local news stories about the University has implied that there is "racial tension" on campus. In one article the reporter used a student's survey of about 40 black students to imply that black students in general don't want white students to attend Elizabeth City State University. The same reporter, by quoting a few white students, created the impression that some white students feel unwelcome on the campus. This is not only bad journalism, it also presents an unfair picture of our campus, where race relations are much better than on many other campuses and areas of the country.

At Elizabeth City State University, black and white students are able to work and study together in a spirit of harmony that far exceeds the atmosphere at many other schools. Although improvements can still be made, especially in the area of greater participation by white students in extra-curricular events and activities, we resent media coverage that creates an unfair portrait of Elizabeth City State University.

We urge all members of the Elizabeth City State University family to recognize our interdependence as we approach this Christmas season.

Only by working together in a spirit of unity, can we live up to the true spirit and meaning of Christmas.

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THE COMPASS

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THE COMPASS is published by Elizabeth City State University students under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Dr. Anne Henderson, Chairperson, and Mr. Stephen March, faculty advisor.

THE COMPASS welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be sent to ECSU Box 815, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. They may be edited for length, clarity, and taste, as well as accuracy and grammar. Because of limited space, not all letters can be published.

LETTERS

ECSU should allow co-ed dorm visitation

To The Editor:

ECSU should allow overnight co-ed visitations in the dorms. Students are mature enough to accept company over night and it would eliminate the problems of people sneaking into the other dorms. The students on campus should be treated as young men and women. They should have the right to spend the night at their boyfriend or girlfriends' dorm. It gives them more time to be together and enjoy themselves, especially if that friend is from out of town.

Allowing co-ed visitation could save them the time and effort from driving the long distance, and give students the ex-

perience of how it feels to live with the opposite sex. The guy can see how the girl carries herself and maybe it could change the way he carries himself. Co-ed visitation would also eliminate the problem of the students sneaking into the opposite sex's dorms. That is a big problem and it could be solved if you will allow co-ed visitations. Once the guy or girl is caught during this, they are put on academic probation and suspended for a few days. I feel the University should have co-ed visitations because it gives students a sense of responsibility and lets us feel mature.

Keisha Drew

Residents of inner city should face problems

To The Editor:

The black urban community continues to face financial problems, a high crime rate and people fighting among each other. The government seems to lack interest in the issues and problems of the inner city. This lack of interest complicates the problem, thus making it worse.

The government needs to take a closer look at its priorities. Instead of sending millions of dollars in financial aid overseas, the money should be invested in the inner city. It does not make sense that we support other countries but not support ourselves.

The money the government spends overseas could be used to hire more police officers. The crime rate in the inner

city is extremely high. The police force cannot maintain control over the violence and senseless crimes. The police force needs to be enlarged.

The police cannot stop crime all together, but with a larger police force they can provide more protection.

But the biggest problem the inner city faces is itself. We are slowly bringing about our own downfall. We continue to kill and steal from one another. By doing this we fit the stereotypes that society has labeled us with. We need to come together to solve these problems. If we cannot do this we will never receive help. You cannot expect to receive help if you do not help yourself.

Leslie Brown

POETRY

A Lost Love

When you lose a loved one
Your heart aches with sorrow and grief.
It feels as though someone is
just pounding and pounding on your chest.
You begin to reminisce over the little things
she did to make you care for her:
how a bright smile, a warm laugh
may have been the silver lining on
a cloudy day.
You remember the sparkle in his

eyes,
and all the little things you may have
taken for granted
while he was with you.
What else can you do but cherish the
times
you had together?
And try not to look back on the past
too much
because we cannot live in the past.
It is gone forever.

Leslie Brown