

Campus Connections

Dear Vike,



Viking Spotlight



Dear Vike,
Help! A friend of mine has put her academics and reputation in jeopardy. A couple of weeks ago, she sneaked inside of her boyfriend's dorm after visitation hours and while they were sharing an intimate moment, she realized that seven of her boyfriend's friends were in the room as well. Each one of the guys ended up forcing themselves on her. They were all caught, and now she faces being suspended from school and not to mention her reputation is destroyed. I'm afraid that she is not strong enough to make it through this hard time. I know that she was wrong for being in the dorm after hours, but I believe that her punishment was too harsh. How can I help her get through this? Please help me Vike.

A Concerned Friend

Dear A Concerned Friend,

The best way to help your friend get through this difficult time is to be the best friend you can possibly be to her. Every party in the situation was wrong. Don't make her feel innocent or as the victim, but do show her support. Her possible suspension from school is a little harsh and you should encourage her to file for an appeal if she is suspended. However, again, the best thing to do now is to be there for her through this ordeal because it is a very unfortunate situation. She will probably be ridiculed so let her know that you are there for her.

Dear Vike,

I am a male, freshman and born again Christian. This is my first year away from home and the guidance of my parents. At home I was sheltered, but when I got here, I became exposed to so many temptations. Sometimes I feel so weak, like I'm going to give in. I know that I don't want to disappoint God or upset my parents, but with all of this pressure, I fear that I might eventually screw up. Please give me some advice on how to stay strong and keep my morals in this extremely intense social environment.

Afraid of Falling

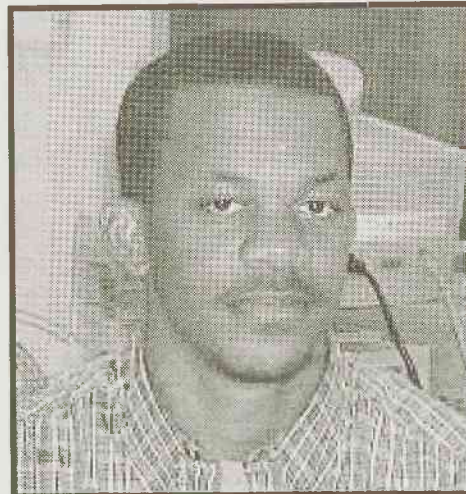
Dear Afraid of Falling,

You are at a point in your life where you are going to have to stand up and become your own man with your own convictions. You are coming out from under your parents' wings for the first time, which means it is time for you to learn to stand on your own. As far as your fear of falling to temptation, the questions you should ask yourself are, "Why do I feel these temptations?" and "Why do I question my faith?" Afterwards, look inside of yourself for the answers to find out why and what moral convictions you have, and address them according to what you know to be right.



model is her mother. Kristen plans to become either a lawyer or prosecutor.

Born in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, **Jonas Pope**, is an English major, with a concentration in Mass Communications. The junior enjoys traveling and his favorite sports are football and basketball. His favorite book is *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. His favorite magazines are *Vibe* and *Slam*, and his favorite TV show is "Martin." At ECSU, Jonas is a member of the yearbook staff, the Mass Media club and NABJ. He is Mr. WRVS, and he works with the Viking Sportsteam Network. Jonas describes himself as shy, laid back and well rounded. Jonas considers his role model to be his oldest sister, Bettina Pope, because she is successful, determined and hardworking. His slogan is, "Live life to the fullest and live one day at a time." Jonas has a one-year old son, Shyeem Pope. The English major plans to become a sports announcer.



Sista
to
Sista



Amanda Parker

amandayp@hotmail.com

Many American women take the lives they've acquired for granted. How many times have we as women complained about conditions surrounding our lives concerning our well being. Have you ever been whipped, stoned or humiliated in public because of what you were wearing? Do you ever complain about being treated as if you were a second class woman? In some countries women are barely allowed to even think about those questions.

Here's a scenario: *Recently a man was disciplining his children when his wife intervened to stop what she thought was abuse. The husband became so infuriated with her that he beat her uncontrollably, poured gasoline over her entire body and without a second thought, torched her. Presently he's in jail but like similar cases in Afghanistan, he will probably get out in a couple of months.*

Aside from the scenario these are some restrictions equally as rigid, imposed upon Afghanistan women and women across the globe.

They are not allowed to travel outside of their home unless accompanied by a *mahram*, a close male relative. Women are not allowed to study at schools and universities or any other educational institutions. They are not allowed to work, except for the 5 percent of women permitted to practice medicine, because male doctors are not allowed to examine them. Women are whipped in public for having non-covered ankles. There is a ban on the use of cosmetics. Many women with painted nails have had fingers cut off. Women are not allowed to laugh aloud or wear high heel shoes, for no stranger should hear them. There is a ban on women wearing brightly colored clothes, because they are considered as sexually attractive colors. They are publicly stoned to death if accused of having sex outside the marriage. Women have no importance in the eyes of men, unless they are occupied producing children, satisfying male sexual needs or attending to the drudgery of daily housework. They have no rights to association, no freedom of expression or employment.

Sistas, the next time you complain about being mistreated, disrespected or dehumanized, think about all the women less fortunate than you. Think about the privileges that you have, and the freedoms you enjoy. Because although we as American women now have more power over our lives, there are still millions of women who are enslaved and fatal victims of what's called gender apartheid.

