

Editor's Comment

Poetic Realm

JUMPING THE GUN: A WASTED IMPULSE

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This month, I felt a need to write something that will help not only me, but others as well. Has there ever been a time when you went to a particular source to get your information, but people accused you of not doing so?

This situation primarily happens with the boss of a company. When one thing goes wrong, the whole company is a fault. It should not have to be that way. In every situation, there is a source. I will use this scenario as an example.

Tony was the boss of a restaurant. Sally, a waitress, was taking an order for Bob and his wife. Sally messed up his order, giving Bob a tuna fish sandwich instead of the fried chicken with mashed potatoes and forgot the wife's order. Whose fault was it? The waitress'. If you go to a restaurant and a waitress messed your order, spilled the water on your clothes, or anything else terrible, you would complain to them. If you do go to the boss, you should go with respect.

I have experienced an incident like that recently and I would like to say this: To solve a problem, start at the root of the problem. I understand the anger that the people feel, but sarcasm adds fuel to the fire. If you want to point out a mistake, the best way to go about doing it is to be calm and respectful. You should not go in with sarcasm and foolishness.

If we claim to be adults, let us act like adults. Paul said it best when he said, "When I was a child, I acted as a child."

Everyone has experienced this situation at one point in your life. But, let us reason together with respect.

We should stop being so eager to fight and find out what may have caused the problem instead of fighting the wrong people.

Stop jumping to conclusions about things or you will get hurt. Instead, walk patiently through to make sure that you are aware of the traps in your path.

RECEIVING EDUCATION THROUGH EDUCATING YOURSELF

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While sitting in a law-related class, the professor asks for someone to share what they have read in the newspaper or watched on the news. Out of 38 students, only two responded.

After an afternoon of studying, I leave my room for dinner. Along the way, I walk past three areas of condensed student hangouts. The benches are full of gossip and the steps of the cafeteria are inhabited with laughter. When I walk into the cafeteria, I notice that most of students have directed their attention to the latest music video on BET, the channel displayed on all four televisions located in the cafeteria.

What do students think of when they are hanging out with friends, knowing they have a ton of homework or a test in class the next day? I figure the students think they are going to just take out a bunch of loans and get a couple of refunds, along with a 2.0 G.P.A.

How do the students feel knowing that the only time they will know any current events is when they are told? I figure they think they know how to read just to find the latest CD by their favorite artist.

Students tend to blame the teachers if they are not "learning" information in their classes. Yet, most students do not try to learn anything on their own or try to learn of the information occurring outside the classroom. Every incident or historic moment that occurs in the world will affect each and every life. For example, if students do not keep up with the news, they do not know the job market of an airline stewardess has decreased or that the state of North Carolina is at a financial low.

Being educated at higher level of education should include a higher level of input from each student. Instead of requesting a television channel of music videos, why not request the Elizabeth City State University Channel or a news channel. If students will not update themselves, they should at least try to be updated as they eat their lunch.

No one is going to spoon-feed students their education. Students must pick up their own spoons and give themselves their own dose of education, along with the help of their instructors and outside research. Besides, the instructors have already received their degree(s), why don't students try to honestly receive theirs?

Students must put forth an effort to learn on their own. Keeping good study habits (including less hanging out time) and keeping up with the news happening around the world is the first step in being successful in the real, career world.

The Compass

The Compass is published by Elizabeth City State University under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature, and Communication, Dr. Velma Blackmon, chairperson.

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Please send your letters to the editor and poetry to ECSU Box 815, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.
All letters must include writer's signature, address, and telephone number.

Novel Eyes

I should have let you go in my heart way before now
I guess I was waiting for a miracle
But maybe the miracle is happening now
Just because I don't have you at present
Doesn't mean all is finished
Because when I look at you, I see the beauty
The beauty of you in those dreamy eyes: they still tell a story (a deeper one)
I often wish that I could feel what's inside your heart (to know where you are)
But, I know that act is not at all possible for a human like me to do
I won't try to understand, I'll just continue to let it go...
Knowing that one day, if I continue to value my beliefs and remain true to myself...
Everything will be added unto me, and that may just include you
And one day I might just look up, and you might just be there, those novel eyes
and all
But then again, you might not...
In the meantime, I will continue with my peace of mind, and be happy with me
Because I refuse to lower my standards, and settle for just anybody.

~DeTra L. Stith

Soldiers

Destruction and poverty,
It's all around you and me.
The world has become a war zone,
The next target is unknown.
In our homes we have become prisoners,
And when we step out we become fighting soldiers.
In our homes we do not allow strangers,
For we don't know the good ones from the killers.
And we cannot sleep at night with ease,
For a robber or rapist could break in and we must be ready to call the police.
We have become afraid to step out into society,
Because the world has become so dangerous and crazy.
And when we do leave our homes, we must be totally aware,
It's not noticeable but danger is everywhere.
We must be cautious of every person we see,
For there could be a person in the crowd waiting to destroy you and me.
There's so much hatred and violence in our society today.
It has become a struggle to survive each day.
Our once so beautiful world is now deteriorating.
The end of time is coming.
No one should feel like they're prisoners.
We all need to take a stand and become soldiers.
Put down your weapons and let us all come together.
Then maybe our world will get a lot better.
We must stop the violence and not hate,
But learn how to love and communicate.

~Kimberly Hockaday

A Found Virtuous Woman

There was a time I knew of no goodness,
I thought chastity was for the birds.
I was not always a woman of the spirit,
But I was graced with a resolution.
I suffered through many shortcomings,
After denying my strength.
Yet, I now stand to receive my honor,
Being a lady of excellent wisdom.
I have obtained moral excellence.
I live a life of righteousness.
I do not need praise to know I am spoken well of.
I trust that my master has received me,
I seek only His favor and deliver to Him endearments.
I am now simple in my design and style.
I behold a beauty inside that radiates through my exterior surface.
I will firmly continue with good principles.
I value received and given good words.
Encouragement is my care to those who are busy with worldliness,
Yet I only stand for what is Godly and right.
Take a walk in my shoes and you will call me blessed.
I now hold my peace so that my good works will proclaim my praise.
In the mirror of life, the reflection I receive is what I desired.
My adornment praises, honors and glorifies Him.
I am valued at priceless,
I am a steady and believing
Virtuous Woman.

~LaQuisha Tisdal

The poem from the last edition of The Compass, entitled *The Betrayal of Green*, is a poem written about a relationship between a male and a female. The color green was symbolically used by the anonymous female because it was the male's favorite color. Please accept the staff's apologies for any misconceptions.