

Editor's Comment

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

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I would like to start this editorial off by welcoming the staff and students, old and new, as we head off into a new year.

During the past semester I wanted to get more students and staff involved with the paper by asking them to send me their responses to our issues.

This semester, I want more responses and criticisms, especially ones that we can place in the paper. Your responses and criticisms help us to grow and that is what I want.

I would like to thank those who did respond. Your responses helped to make our issues better because of

your suggestions. Some responses were pretty humorous. If there had been any misinforming information, it was not intentional.

I would like to invite any one who would like to work with us to come forth because some of my staff members have graduated.

I hope that you and your spouse, fiancé/fiancée, boyfriend/girlfriend had a nice and enjoyable Valentine's Day.

So far, I heard from a lot of people that the paper had been good. I can only hope that it gets better as this semester goes by. I hope that this semester will be a good one for you, and I hope that the Compass will continue to serve as one of your main sources of entertainment and information.

ALCOHOL: IN SEARCH OF A SOLUTION

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Making the choice of how much alcohol to consume is just as important as making the decision to have unprotected sexual intercourse. In both instances, the person is taking a risk: a risk that could cost the individual the rest of his or her life. In order to be a positive influence on younger people who have to make the choice of drinking alcohol, I encourage students to practice abstinence or restraint, offer them support, and provide examples that can serve as wake-up calls.

The unlawful use of alcohol causes problems socially, morally, and spiritually for not only college students who misuse this substance, but also for everyone else in the world. Some students may wonder why is this so if it is their body, their use of the alcohol and basically, their business.

Tragic examples surround us, like accidents caused by drunk drivers or the alcoholic boyfriend who wreaks havoc on his girlfriend's dorm room. As a result, a woman's life has been damaged because a young man did not make an intelligent choice about his consumption of alcohol. Not only has this young man ruined his girlfriend's life, but he has also ruined his own because now he faces possible legal punishment. He also has to live with guilt of hurting someone he cares for, wrestling with these thoughts locked in a jail cell. In addition, the boyfriend also has to live with the thought that he has displeased God, meaning he could be enjoined from entering into heaven.

My advice about alcoholism to college students about how they can play a positive role when it comes to

making choices around drinking alcohol would be to practice what they are attempting to accomplish. If the students want to absolutely abstain from alcohol intake, they should make sure that other students would witness them doing the same. They can also offer to drop off and pick up any friends who have plans to drink at an event or social occasion. By doing this they show their fellow students that they care about their lives and the lives of others. This also could show their fellow students that drinking and not being able to drive themselves home is ridiculous.

Finally, students can offer spiritual advice or counseling and warn others what Paul showed in the Bible: that engaging in boisterous celebrations and activities causes a person to also be associated with sins such as lust, strife, sexual immorality, coveting, idolatry, slander and envy. Like Paul, Peter taught a valuable lesson by showing in the Bible how drinking is a part of a lifestyle of unbelief that drives away people's health and character.

As a young Christian, I am constantly attempting to be a positive role model on campus. I emphasize our personal responsibility to ourselves as well as our respect for God's law in my advice to students concerning their choices about life, especially drinking alcohol. I encourage other students, invite and bring some to church and tell them that in today's times, it is imperative that we seek God's guidance in anything we attempt to accomplish. The unlawful use of anything in God's creation is a sin. Without God, we are lost.

*****NOTE:** For those who say they are "casual drinkers" or those who only drink on occasions, did you know that a drop of alcohol kills your brain cells?

The Compass

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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.

Poetic Realm

A Pile of Clay

The world has moved on,
And I'm standing here alone.
I do not move forward,
Nor do I go backwards.
I just stand here alone,
While the world has moved on.
My soul has flown away,
Even the blue clouds have turned gray.
The raindrops begin to fall heavily,
And still no one has come for me.
Slowly I begin to melt away,
Until all remaining is a pile of clay.

~Kimberly Hockaday

The Approach

Excuse me sweetheart
May I have a moment of your time
First of all let me introduce myself
My name is
Love, honesty, compassion, strength, provider
Basically sweetheart I exemplify everything a woman needs
But enough about me
My whole purpose in my approach
Was to get to know the young lady
With the persona of Cleopatra, black queen
Chillin so gracefully in the cut
Now your outer appearance way surpasses that of the Mona Lisa
But please tell me your name is
Love, understanding, companionship, faithfulness, homemaker
Hold on why are you looking at me that way
I didn't mean that last one to offend you
See I'm fully aware of the 2k woman
Ms. Independent
Ms. I don't need nothing from a man
I got my owns, right!
But that's cool with me baby
I grew up watching the Cosby's not the Brady Bunch
You must understand Ms. I only want to compliment what you already have
Add my honesty and your faithfulness
My compassion and your companionship
My strength and your understanding
Combined with out love
With both of us providing for the house that we make
Sweetheart we can't go wrong
Not used to a brother coming at you with some knowledge huh?
I know
You used to the
Hey shawty hold up
Or, Girl with the tight jeans on come here
That's cool though
I could have did that
But if I did not approach you with class
You would have look at me like every other dude
So I didn't approach like every other dude
Because I'm not
Every other dude!

~Jamal Williams

My Faith

Um...
For so long I've waited here
for a love like yours to come
now I've got you in my arms
God... you feel so good to me
and I know you feel it too
losing you would be abuse

Oh so long I've waited here
trying to keep my faith near
like a dream you've come to me
(wasted days and wasted nights)

I thought love wasn't for me
since I was always lonely

and then one day finally...
Oh I stayed down on my knees
every night begging pleas
now I have what I need

I'm so thankful you found me
at a time when I was in need
I'm so glad to know you...
I'm so glad to touch you...
I'm so glad to hold you...

Oh so long I've waited here
trying to keep my faith near
like a dream you've come to me
(wasted days and wasted nights)

~McKeith Cordell