

FEATURES

POETRY CONTEST WINNER

Name: Talisa D. Thomas
Classification: Sophomore

*I keep telling myself, not this time keep your feelings to yourself.
But then here you come with all the coolness of ice and the
shadiness of a tall oak tree
Spilling your leaves of deceit and untruth
Looking at me with your cheetah smile and your debonair grace.
But I fall like a ton of bricks into your arms.
I gaze into your deep brown eyes believing every word that you
breathe
Consuming every vapor of your pores.
I fall deeper and deeper into your untruths.
Falling into total oblivion.
It feels so good to me how you cater to my every need and want.
But after you suck me dry, like a fly to a spider;
You cast me into your web of dead flies.*

Advice From a Senior About Pregnancy

By NICHOLE MITCHELL

I had just come home from work. My father was sitting in the back yard under the canopy smoking his cigar. While walking towards him, following the scent of his Cuban, I saw the For Explorer packed with all my belonging and school supplies. I just knew at that moment he was ready to give me the "going off to college talk." Little did I know the conversation was not going to last long. I approached him, and he said, "Have a seat." I sat down. "Yes dad?" He looked me dead in my eyes and said, "There is only one thing I'm going to ask you not to do when you go off to college." I laughed thinking the mood was going to change. "Ok dad, and what might that be?" He looked at me and said, "Do not get pregnant."

Leaving home to attend college is a special event. The excitement, the support and chapters of one's life are about to unfold. There are parties, clubs, organizations, and, most of all, temptations. Peer-pressure and sexual temptation are topics students may forget to tackle. Mommy and daddy are no longer holding your hand watching your every move.

As young women, the ability to resist sexual temptation is a must, along with safety. According to the American Pregnancy Association, approximately six million pregnancies every year

in the United States. Over four million are live births and almost two million are pregnancy losses. The APA states that two of the six million have resulted in pregnancy loss, from miscarriages, stillbirth's or termination. Out of the six million women who are pregnant throughout the year, three million occurred without protection leading to 47 percent of unplanned pregnancies. Currently there are 68 million people carrying an STD this year, with 138 million new STD cases every year. Each year, three million teenagers catch STDs, according to the APA.

The Educational News Service is a wire service of Indiana State University's journalism program which states that college pregnancies are among one of the first reasons why the young adults drop out of college. In a recent study in Virginia, young adults between the ages of 18-19 account for two thirds of African-American pregnancies. An Indiana study states about 24 percent of the young women who attend college will become pregnant in their college years. Demographics split across racial lines in the U.S. with the highest teen pregnancy rates being among young African-American women.

Most of the pregnancies in college are not planned. It is then where miscarriages or abortions take place. There may not be any direct programs on campus to target college pregnancies, there are many re-

sources outside the university that can help. Counseling is also available for the young women who need someone to talk to about the temptations of college and peer-pressure.

The consequences of having a baby in college can result in financial, social and physical troubles.

At Elizabeth City State University, in the event of a

pregnancy, there is a program called "Eating for Two." This program offers preparation for young mothers to eat healthy and have a better living style for the baby to come. Quick meals will be reviewed for the mother-to-be along with information on the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and low income based mothers.

Senior Showcase



Name: Qreatha B. Stewart

Degree: Bachelor of Arts in History/Political Science
Future Plans: Teaching Social Studies in Middle School.



Name: MyAsia Aliah Reid

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Future Plans: Completing Internship with NASA at Bowie State University and Attending Art Institute of Philadelphia for Advertising/Graphic Design



Name: Jessica Dee-Anna Livingston

Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Future Plans: Working at a Juvenile Center as a young adult counselor and attending law school at Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

Name: Ama Boateng

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Biology

Future Plans: Attending Pharmacy School at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on Worcester Campus

Name: Grace Iwekuba

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Biology

Future Plans: Attending Pharmacy School at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on Worcester Campus

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