

“Myths that Maim” aims to raise awareness

by MEGAN O'BRIEN
A&E Editor

As a part of Women's History Month, associate professors Janet Ellerby and Andrea Deagon showed a video titled “Myths That Maim” and led a discussion about gender issues afterward.

“This video goes through the stories that we endure every day in the images of...our culture...in our advertising, in the TV shows that we watch, in the books that we read, the fairy stories that we grew up with as children, the commercials, the movies, everything that surrounds us in our culture.” Deagon said. “I think of it as a locomotive of stories that we're trying to stop by throwing our grass and flowers on the track.”

Women's role in society has changed dramatically in the past century. According to Ellerby, there are more women being admitted to medical and law school than men.

“But the one thing that isn't changing is the sexual violence and physical abuse of women and girls.” Ellerby said. “Those kind of things are so sobering and that's why we really still need a program like ‘Myths that Maim’...”

The film opens with a shot of sleeping baby girl, and moves through a series of images of her playing, laughing, and hugging an older woman while the narrator recites a series of statistics.

“The next time you look into the eyes of a baby girl, remember that she has a 1 in 5 chance of being raped, that there's a 50 per cent chance of her being physically or sexually abused, a 1 in 4 chance of being beaten by her spouse,” narrator Maureen O'Hara says.

From these statistics, the video examines the ancient connections between woman and nature, like the Greek earth-



Corey Accardo/The Seahawk

Dr. Andrea Deagon introduced last Thursday's showing of “Myths that Maim” as part of Women's History Month.

goddesses Gaia and Demeter. The film also looked at how the connection with nature was demonized by the witch trials of the 17th century. It explored the way women are characterized as either purely good, virtuous and virginal, or evil seductresses out to destroy mankind; the “good girl/bad girl” mentality that has been popularized through centuries of art, literature and movies.

After the video ended, Ellerby and Deagon took comments from the audience. One of the main issues discussed was raising people's awareness about the problems inherent in the way Americans learn gender identity.

“I don't blame men. I think this has gone on for so long, we can't blame anybody. It's been ingrained, and we need to start with awareness,” Pollack said.

Ellerby and Deagon showed “Myths That Maim” before, but they were more impressed by last Thursday's crowd.

About 5 years ago, we showed it, and had a good turnout then, but the discussion was not as sophisticated, I think,” Ellerby said. “I was surprised to see how many men there were in the audience, because the last time we did this there were very few men.”

Special Concert Announcements

4/2 East Carolina University Student Union Program Board presents George Clinton with the Parliament Funkadelic at 8 p.m. in the Minges Coliseum. Advance tickets are on sale at the central ticket office in the Mendenhall Student Center. General public tickets are \$20 and \$25.

4/7 Azalea Festival Main Stage featuring Gran Torino, Will Hoag and The Booty Wall Bangers

4/8 House of Blues: Myrtle Beach Rocks with local talents: Seeds and Stems, The Booty Wall Bangers and Moe Black

4/9 Azalea Festival Main Stage featuring Collapsis,

4/14 ACE and Surf 107 present G-Love & Special Sauce at Trask Coliseum. Tickets went on sale for students Friday, March 17 for \$10. General public tickets will be on sale Saturday, March 24th. Tickets can be bought at School Kids Music, Kenan Auditorium or the Student Information Desk.

8/25 Santana with special guest Macy Gray at Alltell Pavillion at Walnut Creek July 25th.

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