

2nd Literacy Awareness Week held

By: Wes Asbell and Jennifer Anderson

To increase the public's awareness of literacy needs in Wayne County, WCC's Literacy Center of the Continuing Education Department held a Literacy Awareness Week April 5-12.

Marie Barnes, Director of Literacy Education, said, "I hope it will be an annual event that we can involve more of the community in each year."

Beginning April 5, a display in Berkeley Mall showed various services of the Literacy Center.

Then the Literacy Center held an Open House on April 9 as a way to acquaint the public with the center operations and services to the community.

On Thursday, April 11, the Foundation of Wayne Community College sponsored "The Arts And Literacy in Concert" as part of its involvement in Literacy Week.

Held in the WCC Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., the concert featured performances and art by members of North Carolina's Visiting Artist Program.

WCC visiting artist and jazz vocalist Chinyere Nnenna Freelon sang original compositions, "Gaea's Garden" and "Changed."

"Gaea's Garden," a song about Mother Earth, portrays a world that not only harbors life, but also is alive in her own right:

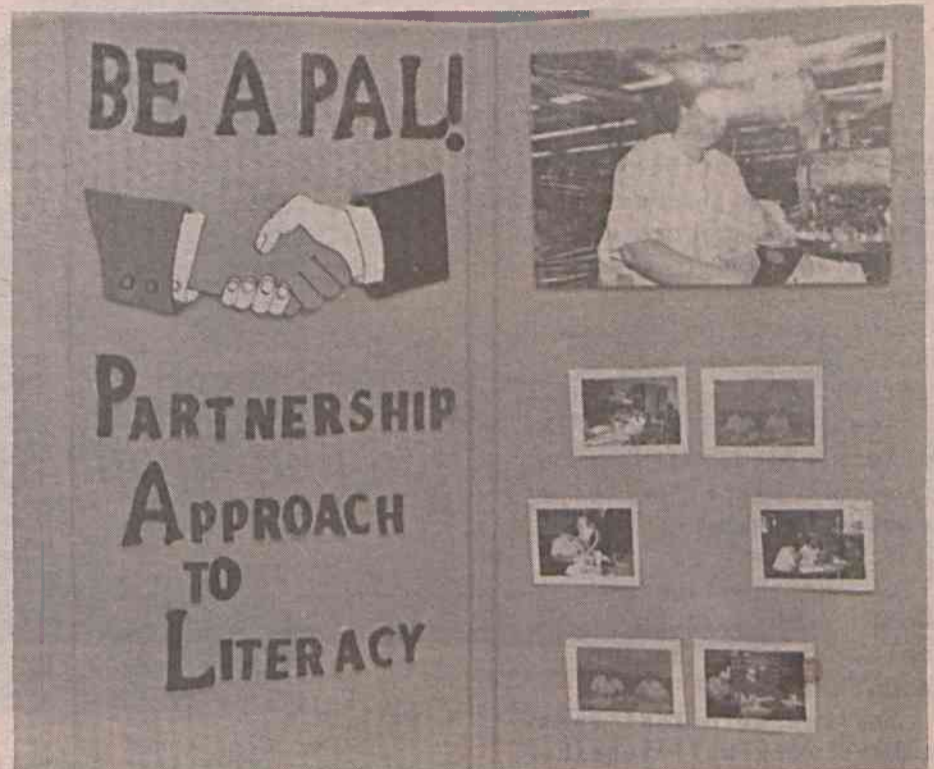
"Welcome, to Gaea's Garden/ Welcome, make yourself at home/ If you play in Gaea's Garden/ You'll know, she's not made of stone".

The lyrics of "Changed" deal with the constant changes life brings:

"I am changed in my passage/ I am changed/ There's a sign in the water/ I am changed/ There's a moon high above me/ And it lights my discovery/ That in my passage, in the darkness/ I am changed".

In addition to performing in the concert, Freelon also introduced the other artists: John Wood, tuba; Eugene Jones; clarinet, baritone Phillip Stovall, soprano Lisa Dollyhigh, and literary artist Michael Parker, all participants in the Visiting Artist program.

On display in the atrium were works by two visiting artists, Emily Weinstein and Norma Bradley, and photographs of the brick sculptures of WCC art instructor Patricia Turlington.



Editorial

By: Maggie Minchew
WCC student

I thank beein abel to reed an rite is very best cuz its' so fun. There is not no buddy who kant lern how. there is lots of people who want to lern but there scart of it. IF everywun in the world kood reed then nowun woold fill dumm.

The above lines depict a silent tragedy which is sweeping across our nation today.

It is not the sort of tragedy that we frequently hear about on national news.

Yet, in this age of advanced technology, with push button answers for so many problems, it lurks in both cities and rural areas throughout this country.

It affects young and old people alike.

It disables many individuals from leading happy and productive lives.

It results in feelings of helplessness and self-defeat.

This tragedy is illiteracy, and the number of people affected by it is astonishing.

A recent article printed in the Goldsboro News Argus revealed the fact that in the United States, almost half of the adult population 25 years of age and older has not received a high school diploma.

Twenty five-to twenty-seven million Americans yearly are deemed functionally illiterate.

Without the basic skills of reading and writing, people are unable to function effectively in today's society.

It is of the utmost importance for everyone to learn the fundamental skills of reading and writing which are the building blocks for future success in every area of life.

How sad it is that so many human beings today are unable to read a menu or the directions on a medicine bottle.

Parents who cannot read to their small children deprive themselves as well as their youngsters of the chance to explore our world and different realms of imagination.

Illiteracy is a silent tragedy because it often goes unnoticed.

Many people are ashamed to admit that they cannot read.

Still others live in agony, pretending that they can.

Literacy is no longer accessible to only a select few.

During the past few years, many programs have been launched in order to make the fundamentals of reading and writing available to everyone.

When our nation becomes a country filled with literate, enthusiastic people, a drastic change will more than likely take place within our society.



Participants in the program take a bow: (l to r) Eugene Jones, Michael Parker, John Wood, Lisa Dollyhigh, and Nnenna Freelon.
Photo: Wes Asbell

Student's editorial wins job

By: Julie Weidner

Last quarter Maggie Minchew, WCC student taking Math 161, Fundamental Concepts of Math, was approached by Annette Hawkins, her instructor in the course.

She asked Minchew to write an editorial about the North Drive Family Education Program which Hawkins read about in the News-Argus.

Hawkins said that the assignment would count as 1 of 10 hours students must spend observing in elementary classrooms.

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