



## ECSU's Vanities explores theme of reality vs. dreams

By Jeanne Leigh

Although it is billed as a comic play, *Vanities* is as rich in irony as it is comedy.

The University Players presented *Vanities* in the Little Theater January 21-22. Directed by ECSU's Zelene Bunch, the play traces the lives of three young Texas women, Joanne (Vickie Webb-Thomas), Kathy (Lynne Chapman) and Mary (Tracy La Trelle.) from high school to eleven years later in York City.

In the opening scene, the girls are high school cheerleaders, discussing their lives and dreams. Joanne, the naive one, has set her mind on marrying her boyfriend, Ted, and raising a family. Mary, everlastingly on the go—especially with men—plans to attend college as a means of escape. Kathy, always organized and always organizing, plans to attend the same college.

The next scene, set in a sorority house in the spring of 1968, reveals that the girls have managed to stay together and to pledge the same sorority. They discuss life, boyfriends and sex with zest and candor, creating some of the play's funniest moments. The scene creates a fine sense of dramatic tension between Joanne, who is narrowly conservative, and the freewheeling, free spirit, Mary.

Despite the conflicts, the women still display affection for each other, and the characters are well-portrayed and believable. At this point in the play, the actresses have shed the first night jitters and are into their roles.

The characters present an interesting contrast. Joanne lives in a fairy-tale world in which everything is supposed to remain constant. Mary is worldly, restless, and afraid of commitments to jobs, men, and to life in general. Kathy is the planner, who is very organized; ironically, she really doesn't have any clear plans for herself.

The final scene is set in a New York City apartment in 1974. In this scene, Joanne and Mary meet Kathy at her pleasant apartment and discuss what's been going on in each other's lives. After drinking quite a bit of champagne, the friends show their true colors. Mary and Kathy find out that they have something in common: Joanne's husband, Ted. The ensuing conflict brings the play's dramatic tension to a new level of intensity.

*Vanities* explores the themes of popularity, commitment, and the conflict between reality and dreams. From the beginning, the

characters have high hopes for what life will bring them. Mary begins as an innocent "nice girl" but ends up as a worldly woman who has opened her own Erotic Arts Gallery. Kathy was once an observer of her two friends, with no real sense of what she was to become, but in the final scene she seems like a woman. Although Joanne achieves her goals of housewife and mother, but her triumph seems bittersweet, at best, by the play's end.

*Vanities* was directed by Zelene Mariah Bunch, and produced by Shawn Smith. The stage manager was Jerome Brothers. Lighting was by James Gibbs, and sound by Jonathan Baxley. Paulette Peterson and Beverly Johnson were in charge of costumes.



Vicki Webb-Thomas, Lynne Chapman, and Tracy Godbold were the talented stars of the University Players' January production of *Vanities*. The play was directed by Zelene Bunch.

## Movie Review

# 'Adultery does not pay'

By Lisa Gregory

**F**atal Attraction, one of the most controversial movie of 1987 is still going strong in 1988.

The movie conveys powerful themes of deceit and hate. These are built around a typical American family—husband, wife, child, and yes, a dog.

The outsider in the movie is Alex Forest, portrayed by Glenn Close.

Close, along with Michael Douglas and Anne Archer, bring their characters to life. They transform the silver screen into an emotional roller coaster.

Carefully planned camera angles create different moods and provide an element of foreshadowing. The atmosphere in Alex's home is cold and uninviting, while Beth and Dan's home seems warm and happy.

The dramatic difference between the two homes is essential to the unfolding of the plot and the way the audience perceives the story. The director's use of contrasting images of light and dark creates a feeling of panic.

The moral lesson presented by *Fatal Attraction* is that adultery does not pay. But the question is, for whom does it not pay?

Beth is the innocent wife who falls victim to her husband's mistake.

Dan is also a victim, but as a

result of his own actions. However, Dan is transformed from the evil adulterer into the hero, and he is allowed to correct his mistakes and go on living a happy life.

*Fatal Attraction* falls short in one area: it takes a situation full of typical people and events and includes an atypical character.

Alex is the typical "other woman"—she is sexy, smart, witty

"Alex is the typical other woman... However, she is inexplicably prone to violent fits of rage and psychotic actions."

and manipulative. However, she is also inexplicably prone to violent fits of rage and psychotic actions.

Alex is also a victim. Miseducated and rejected by a married man, she is a victim of the societal expectations that a single woman who is pregnant by a married man should disappear into thin air. Most importantly, Alex is a victim

tim of her own conscience, which drives her to her destruction.

The final lesson demonstrated by *Fatal Attraction* is that the adulterous man, if he is smart, can come out smelling like a rose. But, the consenting woman, especially if a child is involved, will be scarred for life... even without a scarlet letter "A" on her chest.

## Bits and Pieces

**200 DOWN, 691 TO GO...**The Admissions Office has announced that the first 200 students have been notified of their acceptance to the University for the Fall, 1988 Session. According to William Byrd, Director of Admissions, ECSU admitted 891 new students for the Fall, 1987 Session, and he hopes that the University will be able to admit at least that many for 1988. The total enrollment for the fall session was 1591, Byrd said.

**ECSU NEEDS MORE MEN...**According to the Admissions Office, the University is in need of more male students. About 60% of the University's students are female, according to Admissions Director William Byrd. "Who are the woman on campus going to marry?" Byrd laughed. Byrd is asking that ECSU students get involved in the recruiting process by becoming a friend of the Admissions Office. For more information, contact the Admissions Office.

**SOCIAL WORK MAJORS ON THE GO...**The University's social work majors will be going to Norfolk State University March 3 to hear noted author Andrew Billingsly. Billingsly is well-known for his social work focusing on the black family.

**LECTURE SERIES BEGINS...**The Great Decisions '88 Lecture Series will be held in the University Center each Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 noon during February 25-April 14. ECSU students, faculty and the public are invited to attend and participate in these vitally important discussions on national and international topics. For additional information call ext. 367 or ext. 330.

**FAIR PLANS ANNOUNCED...**ECSU will host its annual Science Fair for Public Schools March 11. For more details, contact the Biology Department.

**ESSAY CONTEST TO BE HELD...**The U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee is organizing an essay contest on the U.S. Constitution to be held in March. The best essay will earn a \$25 award. For more information, contact Dr. Naginder Dhillon in the Department of Social Sciences.

**FIGHTING AIDS...**The ECSU chapter of the Student Association of Social Workers has announced the theme for Social Work Month, coming up in March. The theme: "Aids, We Need to Know; We Need to Care." The purpose of social awareness month is to educate the public with information for self-protection against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and to help the public understand how the disease affects the lives of patients and those around them. The theme is also designed to help the public understand how the disease affects the lives of AIDS victims those around them and to help offset unfounded fears and discrimination against AIDS victims.

**ECSU STUDENT RECEIVES \$\$\$\$\$\$...**Mr. Ervin Williams of Miami, Florida, a senior Music Industry Major in the ECSU Department of Music, has received a \$1,000 Scholarship Award from the National Association of Music Merchants. Williams will receive both an engraved plaque and national recognition at a luncheon this summer in Atlanta during the NAMM International Music and Sound Expo. For information concerning music industry scholarships and career opportunities, call Dr. S. Hiscock at 335-3361 or 335-3359.

**MORE ECSU STUDENTS RECEIVE \$\$\$\$...**Two ECSU students have been awarded scholarships for the 1987-88 academic year by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Dorothy J. Riddick and James H. McMillan are included in the 420 undergraduate and graduate minority students in accounting selected to receive these awards. Ms. Riddick received a \$1,000 scholarship and Mr. McMillan received a \$500 scholarship. THE AICPA scholarships are designed to encourage minority members to enter the accounting profession. Since the program began in 1970, the AICPA has awarded over \$3 million to some 3500 students.

**CLARINET RECITAL...**A faculty clarinet recital will be presented by Sherrick Hiscock, Professor of Clarinet at ECSU, March 27 at 3:00 p.m. in the Kermit White Center. Hiscock is a former clarinet soloist of the United States "President's Own" Marine Band from Washington, D.C. Hiscock has performed in recitals throughout the United States, Argentina, England and France. Hiscock will be accompanied by pianist, Dr. Rachel Gragson and flutist Judith Messenger Hiscock.

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**REID SELECTED FOR PROGRAM...**Johnny G. Reid, a junior biology major at Elizabeth City State University, has been selected to attend Phase I of the Introduction To Biomedical Research Program in Bethesda, Maryland from February 21-27, 1988. The program, which is sponsored by the National Institute of Health and Infectious Diseases (NIHD), will allow Reid and other undergraduate students to become familiar with the laboratory facilities of NIH. Students will also be involved in seminars to discuss infectious disease control.

**BLOODMOBILE TO VISIT ECSU...**The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit the campus of Elizabeth City State University on Thursday, February 18, 1988, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the R.L. Vaughn Center. For more information, contact Mrs. Jean Robertson at the University Infirmary at 335-3267.

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC HOSTS WOODWINDS...**ECSU's Department of music hosted the 2nd Annual Northeastern North Carolina Woodwind Clinic February 10. The Music Department's Dr. Sherrick Hiscock conducted a reading session as part of the woodwind choir rehearsals. High School band students from 20 Northeastern North Carolina High Schools participated in the session. Instrumental clinics were given on each woodwind instrument by the Armed Forces School of Music Faculty Woodwind Quintet. The clinic concluded with a concert in Williams Hall Gymnasium.