



Pickwick Society president Richard McIntire accepts a hand drawn portrait of Charles Dickens from English department chairperson Dr. Anne Henderson. The drawing was produced by art instructor Dr. Vincent Gregorio for the society. (For more on the 'Pickwickian' organization, see story at right.) Photo by Robin Sawyer

## Pickwick Society formed to honor English majors

By Lisa Gregory

A new species of honor student is gracing the halls of ECSU: they are known as "Pickwicks."

"The Pickwick Society was formed to honor the majors of the Language, Literature, and Communication Department who have demonstrated great academic and service performance and have shown a high potential for making significant contributions within the community," said Dr. Anne Henderson, Chairperson of the LLC Department and advisor of the Pickwick Society.

Members of the society must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 and be of sophomore status.

To mark the founding of the Pickwick society, Dr. Vincent De Gregorio, of ECSU's Art Department, composed a pencil portrait of Charles Dickens to be hung on the wall of the Pickwick Society meeting room in Johnson Hall.

The term "Pickwick" comes from

"For English majors it's an honor they can be proud of."

Janis McDermott

the fictional character Mr. Pickwick, who first appeared in the literature of English author Charles Dickens.

Charter members of the society were inducted December 1, 1988. At this time fourteen English majors were publicly acknowledged as outstanding students for their excellence in academics as well as their social endeavors.

Many of the inductees expressed great pride in being a part of LLC's honor society.

"For English majors it's an honor they can be proud of," said Janis McDermott, treasurer-elect. "I would love to see it become productive enough in the near future to publish its own literary publication, incorporating the talents of students who are out-

standing in poetry, prose, drama, art, and photography."

Graduating senior member Lynne Chapman said the honor society gives ECSU's English majors an organization which will allow them "to pool their creativity."

"For a small department such as LLC, I think it speaks highly of the concern shown by members of the department for students who excel in English," said Vice-President elect Robin Sawyer.

"People like Dr. (Anne) Henderson and Dr. (Robert) Thorne are dedicated to the concept of an honor society for English majors in which students would be given an opportunity to gain additional experiences other than the standard classroom curriculum," Sawyer added.



Photo by Dr. Anne Henderson

Standing from left to right are Pickwickians: William Grant, Tom Williams, Sue Emmert, Lynn Chapman, Robin Sawyer and Richard McIntire. Seated from left to right are: Donna Gregory, Lisa Gregory, and Janis McDermott. These individuals were chosen as charter members in ECSU's newest honor society and were inducted into the organization December 1, 1988.

## New organizations making students proud to be black

By Sylvia Purvis

Black by Popular Demand, Black to the Future, Black by Nature Proud By Choice. Everyday at ECSU, these slogans appear, proudly displayed on students' T-shirts.

"They are a sign of awareness," says senior Samya Johnson. "It makes you proud to say you're black."

Freshman Ursula McMillion said black pride was a major factor in her decision to launch the school's first chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Founded in the first week of the spring semester, the group now has more than 50 members.

The chapter will form committees for political action, legal redress, youth work, and community activity, "to give the black youth recreational activities," McMillion said. The chapter will also establish tutorial programs, and general studies in black history.

McMillion said the NAACP was founded in 1909 and "was the first black organization."

The organization is now celebrating its 80th anniversary.

"I hope the students get involved because social organizations such as this not only give identity, but also bring awareness into the black community, and a positive reaction from the administration," McMillion said. "We're not trying to start an uprising but an uplifting."

McMillion said she expects the local chapter of NAACP will be a success.

"You have to think positive," she said. "I will give 200%. I am anticipating going to the state regionals and national conferences."

Another ECSU student, Wylia Slade, is currently working on establishing another black organization, "African-American Student Coalition," whose main purpose will be "to get black students more involved in

their cultural heritage," according to Slade.

"There are a lot of students on campus unaware, and we need to prepare them for future roads, because here we don't prepare African American students for the real world," Slade said.

"This is a white man's world, let's face it," she continued. "When we get out in the real world, the white man will kick us in the ass, especially if we're not prepared."

Slade said the organization will sponsor speakers and black history forums "that will give us a history of our people."

Slade said that although she was already a member of the NAACP, she lost faith in the organization a long time ago "when it elected a white president. If we are going to accomplish anything, we need to break away from the white man and use our own leaders, our own ideas, and our own money," Slade added.

## Abernathy addresses ECSU family

"My mother taught me there is something in your name," The Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy told the ECSU family. "Never bring dishonor to your name."

Abernathy's comments came during the University's Founder's Day program, March 3rd, in Moore Hall. Abernathy, an internationally acclaimed leader in the struggle for civil rights, was the featured speaker for the program.

"When I was about four years old I climbed up on a stool and said to myself, 'Ralph Abernathy, you are a good-looking child,'" said Abernathy, to the delight of the audience. "And I said to myself, 'I am going to be somebody.'"

Abernathy added, "You have to believe in yourself and your dignity."

During his speech, Abernathy focused on racism, poverty, black pride and the economics of oppression. "If you have never been black and never been poor, you don't know nothing about problems facing we poor people," he said. "We will not be able to do anything until we get our hands on some money."

Abernathy said racism and economics are interconnected, adding that "there is no black president of a bank in Elizabeth City."

"Racism is catching," he said. "I want you to catch hold of racism and end it. Build a bridge across the chasm of racism."

"I have been jailed 44 times, never for beating my wife, but simply because I wanted freedom for all peoples of the U.S. and the world."

Abernathy, who was with Martin Luther King when he was shot, and held King in his arms as he died, organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1956, along with King. The boycott marked the beginning of America's postwar Civil Rights movement.

"Martin Luther King said to me, 'Take these people across Jordan to Canaan.' But we have not gotten there. Anytime the state of Louisiana can send a former grandragon to the state legislature something is wrong. Unless racism dies in America, democracy cannot live."

"I swear with all my hope and power, I'm going to stay on the case and keep building bridges," Abernathy

declared.

Abernathy, an Alabama native, founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957. He also led the poor people's campaign, which resulted in legislation that provided food stamps, health care, day care centers and programs for the

elderly.

Abernathy has degrees from Alabama State University, Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Allen University, and Kalamazoo College in Michigan. He is a member of numerous organizations, including the NAACP.

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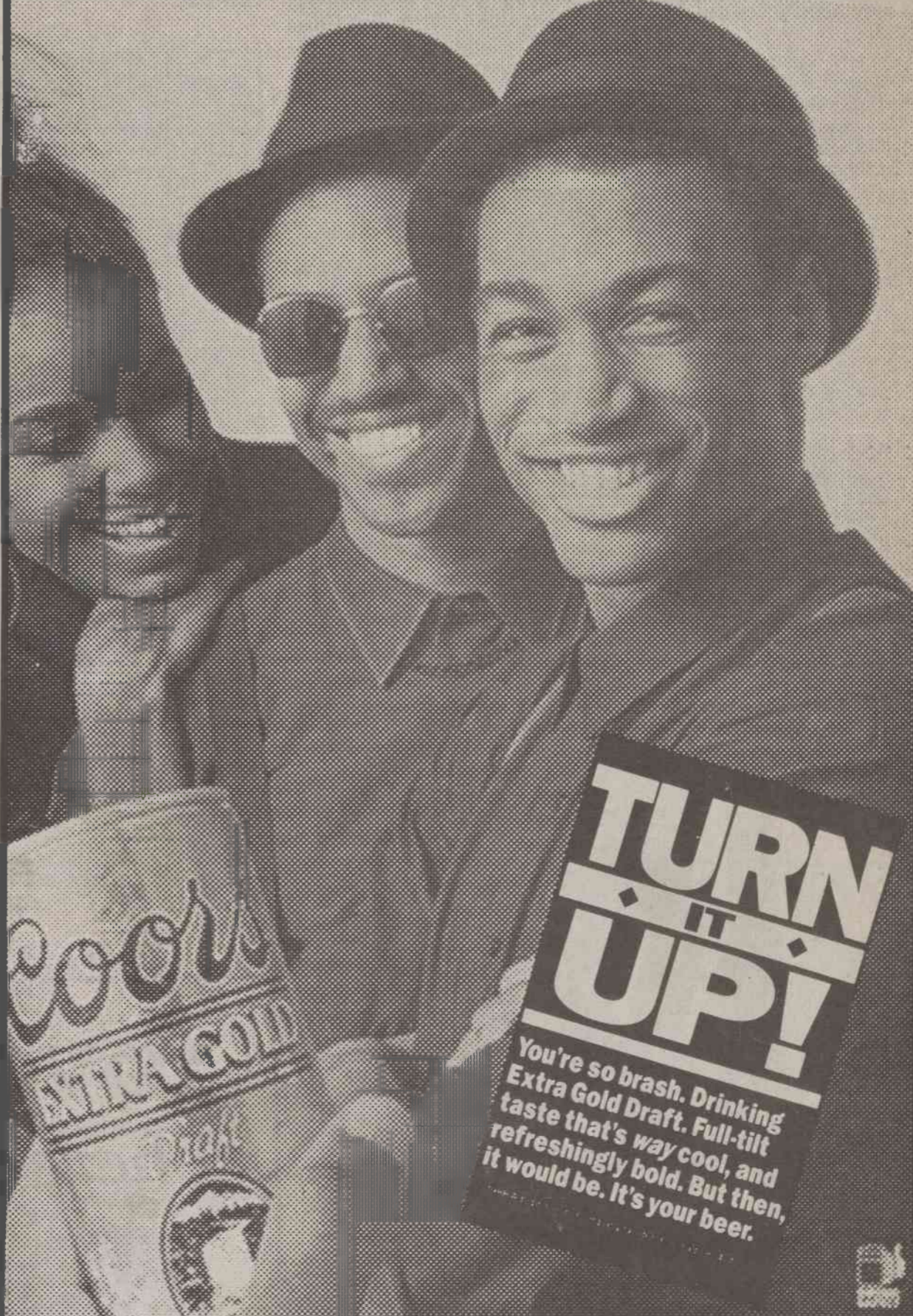
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