

A Time To Remember...

Aunt Rose survived with dignity, pride

By Wondru Wimberly

There have been various stories told about my old relatives and most of them had a specific meaning. One story clearly stands out from the rest, and I will never forget it.

The story was about a relative of mine whom everyone called "Aunt Rose." The story narrates that Aunt Rose's mother told her that there would be a lot of hard times in her life, but whatever happened she must keep her dignity and pride. The story then stated how she was harassed whenever she entered a place for whites only, but whatever the whites did to her she wouldn't let it bother her. She showed courage by taking everything the whites said and did, and she showed pride by not letting them degrade her or get her down.

According to the story Aunt Rose was eating in a cafe full of whites, and she was the only black person there. She knew that something was bound to happen, but she was ready to face the problems head on. They called her names, threw things at her, and even spat at her, but through all of that she just quietly ate her meal. When she was finished she paid for it and left without saying a word. She had to put up with these things all day every-

day, but she continued to show courage. The story claimed that not one day would go by without some white person calling her a nigger.

The story meant a lot to me because it showed the struggles of what one of my relatives had to go through, and throughout the story she showed nothing but pride and dignity. She wasn't down or felt bad about herself once throughout the story. She was proud of who she was and she wasn't afraid to show it. That made me realize that I should never forget where I came from and be proud of who I am.

Aunt Rose displayed the courage that every man and woman must have to survive the cruelties of this world. She showed pride in herself and her race. The inner strength that she had sets a good example of what young black people today must have in order to succeed. Aunt Rose plays a major part in my life today. Whenever I am criticized and talked about I refuse to let it bother me. I believe that if she could take all that punishment I can take the small things that people say about me. Whenever I feel down and my pride is hurt I just think about that strong, black woman who refused to go down in defeat, my Aunt Rose.

Mother's hard work instills gratitude

By Katina Baker

Back in the 40's, my mother didn't receive as much education as we do today. She often had to stay out of school to work out in the field. Working in the field helped her mother to pay the bills, and provide for the family. My mother had the opportunity to attend school but there was no way that she could have finished with so much work on her hands. At that particular time, there were no scholarships and loans to further her education, so there wasn't a chance for her to go to college.

Even though my mother worked hard out in the field, she couldn't afford to wear the finest of clothes, so she had to accept and be thankful for what she had.

In addition, food was scarce. There were no restaurants where she lived and of course if there was a restaurant nearby, her family couldn't afford it. She didn't complain or argue about the fact that they didn't have restaurants, but her mother would always scrape up things to make the best meals anyone could have. My mother really enjoyed those meals because she didn't realize what her mother could do with such little things until they were done.

Since I've grown up, I think back to those hard times that my mother had and than my mother did when she was my age, I still remember where I've come from.

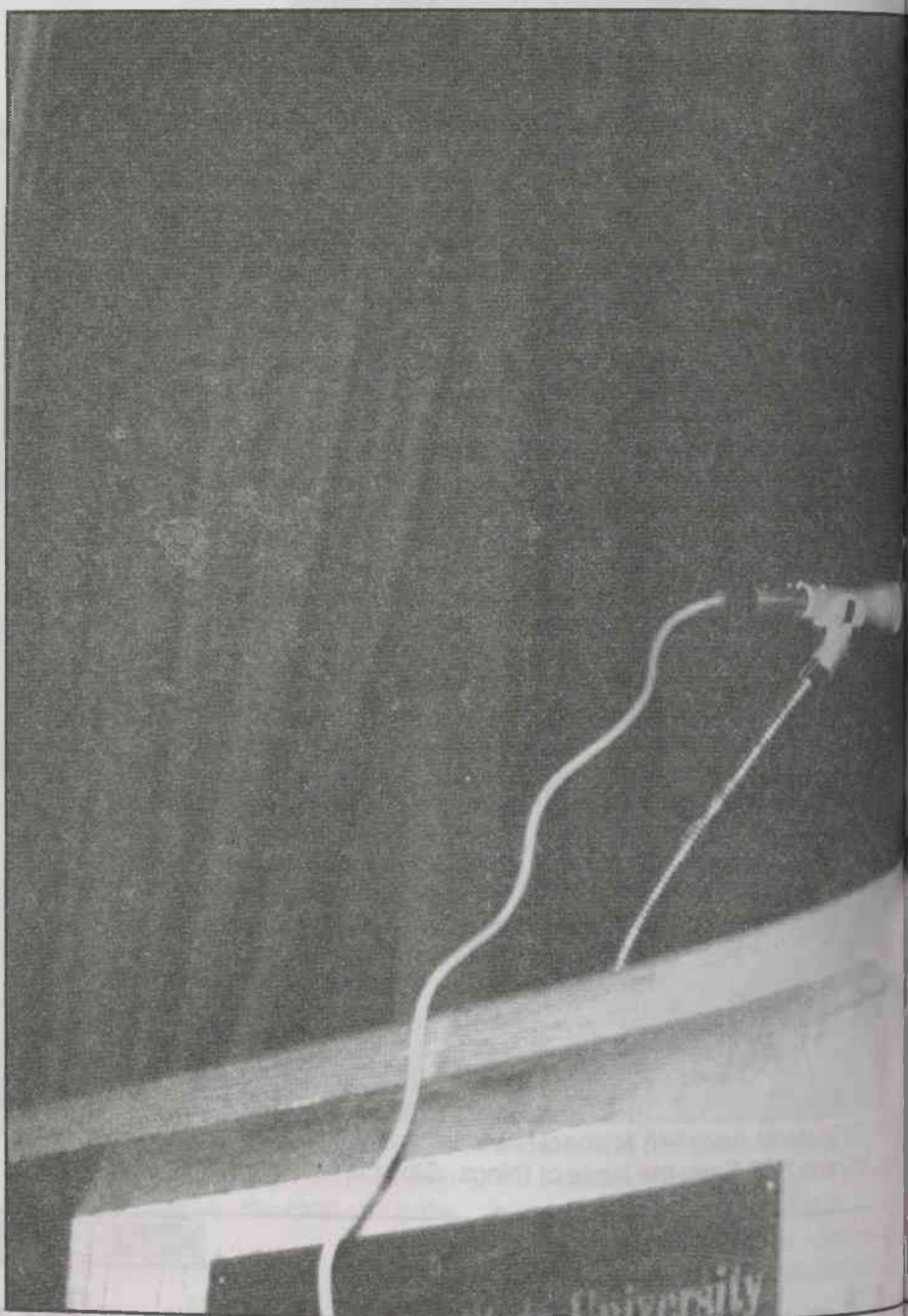
As far as education is concerned, I've finished school and I'm currently enrolled in college. It makes me feel good knowing that I can carry on where my mother stopped. Even though I have college work study, I continue to go to class and learn.

Today, God has blessed me with clothes that my mother had dreamed to wear. I may not keep up with the stylish clothes, but I have clean changing clothes for each day, and I've learned to be thankful for whatever I have.

Furthermore, there are restaurants everywhere. I can afford to eat out or just buy food to cook at home, rather than just spending money because I can.

In conclusion, God has really blessed me. I've come a long way and I'm truly thankful. I say to you, be thankful for what you have, take advantage of education and make the best of whatever you have instead of complaining. Even if you have more than others, don't think that you're better than them, but remember where you came from and help those who are less fortunate than you.

Celebrating



Freshman Nikita Sutton challenged ECSU students to build their lives on self-respect and love for family during her speech during the Black History Month Assembly in Moore Hall. A criminal justice major, Sutton plans to be a lawyer "to serve the community."

By Steve Cooke

"Today's African-American men and women must work to reclaim their respect and values," declared freshman Nikita Sutton during the Black History Month Assembly on Feb. 9 in Moore Hall.

Sutton, featured speaker for the event, told the ECSU family that reclaimed values and renewed vision "should activate the innermost thoughts in Black minds."

"These questions dare to challenge us," Sutton continued. "We as black people must learn to have total respect for ourselves. True respect starts at home. If you can respect family, you can respect all people."

Sutton also stressed the importance of prayer and racial solidarity. "There was a time when families prayed together. No more. We cannot live when our brothers and sisters are killing each other. We cannot live when you, our young black men buy drugs from white men and sell them to your black brothers and sisters. We as black people must stand as a rock. We as a black people must make sure that we keep our race alive."

Sutton praised the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to racial progress, describing King as "a man of unbelievable courage and strength who taught us to love despite the persecution we faced from a white man's world."

"He dreamed so we could dream, so we could aspire to be what we deserve to be."