

ack wealth'



'Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen.' The song was part of Griffin's contribution to literature. The event was sponsored by the Pickwick Society, an honor society in the Department of Language, Literature & Communication, teaches the Department's

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tribute to family pride and black strength. Near the poem's end, the poet concludes that "Black love is black wealth."

Ursula McMillion, a senior English major, read a Listervelt Middleton poem which concludes, "if you lose your history, you lose your power."

McMillion also read an original poem, "Glory, Glory Hallelujah," which she said was inspired by African-American soldiers who fought in the American Civil War.

Lynn Jordan, who served as moderator for the program, read her own short story, "Jezabel Blues." Her story appeared in the 1993 issue of *The Phoenix*, the literary magazine published by The Department of Language, Literature and Communication.

"Jezabel Blues," is the story of an African American woman's hard, sensual life and her eventual redemption through the power of

God. Her refrain: "When the soul speaks, everyone listens."

Jordan, a junior English/News Media major, is editor of *The Viking Yearbook* and a staff writer for *The Compass*.

Eric Walton read two original poems, "Subduin'," and "The B.M.S. Factor." Walton, a senior history major, was not a part of the formal program; however, Walton said he was so moved by the poetry he had heard, and by the spirit of the event itself, that he wanted to share his own work with the audience.

Following the program, Jordan advised the students in attendance to "seek knowledge," adding "Take four dollars and buy a book instead of going to McDonalds."

Dr. Linda Florence Callahan, Chairperson of the Department, thanked all of the participants and audience for attending.

Everyone listens...

Young brothers must take responsibility

(Reprinted from *The Sophomore Honors Spring 93' Chronicle*)

By Tarik Scott

When are young black males going to make the transition from being boys to men? Many excuse the behaviors of black males by terming us as "endangered species." Yes, I would agree that the black male is subjected to genocide types of factors that would cause one to take responsibility, black men, and stop being hunted? The term "endangered species" signifies that you are on your way out, never to be seen again. Are we going to go out like that? No, I don't think so! Let us look at some of the causes of the problems that afflict the young black males and some solutions to this issue.

Many people say that it is the lack of positive role models in the black community that help cause young black males to go astray. Well, let us look into that. Our young black males are constantly receiving messages such as "I want to be like Mike (Michael Jordan)." Now unless that young boy's father's name is Mike, then the slogan needs to be thrown out immediately. All too often, young males are pointed in the wrong direction for role models. The first and foremost, conscious role model in a young man's life should be his father. If there is not a father or father-figure in the immediate family, then a male in the extended family is the next candidate. Extended family must begin to include members of the

community.

The problem really isn't that the young black male does not find a role model in this immediate environment, but more times than often, the one he picks to imitate is not positive. The young black male has to be taught that a role model doesn't mean "perfect person." A role model is a person that has certain qualities that you would emulate in your own way and yes, he is human. My mother always taught me to learn from the good and bad in people.

Once we get past the point of role models, the individual must at some point take responsibility for his actions and who and what he wants to be in life. No role model can make anyone be a certain way. The key term here is responsibility. No one forces a young brother to pick up that malt liquor that is only being sold in his neighborhood, or to sell drugs for momentary gain such as jewelry or a car. Each and every man must have a responsibility to himself, family, and community. We can blame who we want for the malt liquor or drugs in our community and justifiably so, but when does the boy become a man and take charge of his environment?

A young brother, no doubt, is affected by his environment, but it is his choice whether or not he is going to become like his environment. It is up to the black males to solve the problems that afflict us. We may not be the cause of all of them but we must be a part of the solution.

African-American books on sale at campus store

By Dawn Bradsher

ECSU students looking to buy "serious books" used to have to go off campus to find what they needed. They only visited the campus bookstore to get texts or cards, T-shirts and other ECSU memorabilia.

But thanks to a suggestion by senior Eric Walton, ECSU's bookstore has installed a new line of books by black authors, including Maya

Angelou, Elijah Muhammad, William Mosley and Alice Walker. The books range in topics

from religion and history to inspiration and black pride.

"The project is aimed at educating the students at ECSU of their heritage and culture and giving them the variety of authors that they couldn't find in high school and won't read in the classrooms," said Judith Cooper, who orders the books for the store.

Cooper also said the store would special order books for students.

"Any book can be ordered if the students stop by the store and let me know what they are interested in," she said.