

Black man's view of black women:

Forum stresses need for mutual support

by Tamika Spruill

Sisters have you ever wondered what brothers really think of you?

If you went to the forum: "A Black Man's Perspective on the Black Woman" you had a chance to find out.

The forum, part of Black Women's Week, was held Nov. 7, in Room 122 in Johnson Hall. It was sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The student panel included Thomas Clifton, Kirk Rivers, Gerald White, Vincent X, and Warren Judge. Topics included the ideal black woman, does the black female support the black male, and the issue of how the black female presents herself.

The forum began with the question: what is your perception of the ideal black woman?

"She should be strong and able to express herself," said Kirk Rivers. Panelist Gerald White described his ideal black woman as being "someone who respects herself and everyone else. She also needs to set goals for herself."

Next the panel addressed this question: "Has the black woman been supportive enough of the black male?"

"She has been the backbone of the black race and very supportive of the black male," said Rivers.

The forum took a different angle when a female audience member criticized black males.

"Black men are always cheating or they end up in jail," she said. "Why should we stay with them?"

This comment generated intense reactions from the audience.

"Love does not go that far, don't put up with it," said White.

"It's on the woman to make that decision whether or not to deal with it," an audience member claimed.

Another member of the audience said, "Girls shouldn't put themselves in that situation to get played or disrespected."

A heated debate arose over the issue of the way men and women dress.

One audience member demanded, "When you guys dress like thugs with you pants hanging off your butt are we supposed to think and assume you are a thug even though you're in college and you look like one?"

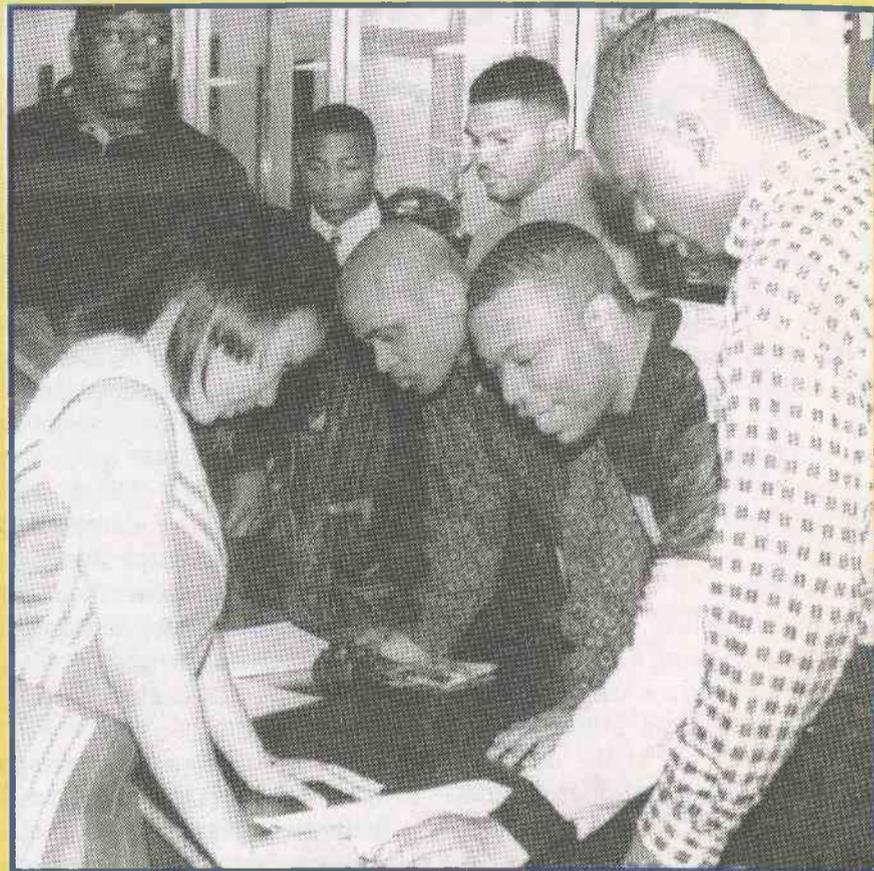
The forum ended with the question: "How can black females and black males strengthen their ties?"

Several students stressed the importance of mutual respect.

"We should support each other or there is no strength," said Warren Judge.

This forum provided ECSU students with the opportunity to express their viewpoints on relationships, images, and come to a better understanding of each other.

Your vote counts!



ECSU students register to vote during the Feb. 13 Virginia Union game. Voter registration was sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. From left: Monica Thomas, Marcus Weatherford, Moses McDaniel, Thomas Clifton, Derrick James, Jay Bright, and Charles Williams.

Photo by Tonia Polston

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