

POETRY

The Toy Maker's Masterpiece

with care
 he holds the finished work within his palm
 and gently caresses its hard, defined body
 as a virgin caresses the breasts of the one he loves
 curiously, yet with knowledge
 he kisses his new toy
 sealing this great work's finale with his personal brand
 then he puts it on his shelf with all the others.
 he then joins his family at the dinner table
 where they anxiously await his arrival
 with love and expectation.
 he embellishes the meal as if it were his last
 (and returns to his masterpieces.)
 passion lies within the hearts of man
 expressed through various facets of art
 in the distance I can see the Toy Maker's hands
 as he continues to engage in his work
 sculpting and shaping with fine precision
 his masterpiece.

Kimberly T. Hines

New band director believes:

Band helps prepare students for life, jobs

By Garry Walton

"Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability."

That's the philosophy that motivates Ivory Brock, ECSU's new band director—in the classroom and on the field.

Brock's approach to teaching is best summed up in a single word:

"Discipline. If you have a perfect practice, then you are going to have a perfect show. Every day that we rehearse we try to make sure that we keep a certain level of performance intensity with our group because it carries over with our performance on each football game."

Rehearsal is from 5:30 to 8:00 PM daily.

Brock admits that he demands a lot from his students.

"This is not a high school band and we will not tolerate poor playing," he added.

Brock says the emphasis he places on producing quality music attracts the interest of students who want to join the band.

"No one wants to be a part of something that is not good," he said. "Overall, my students feel good about what they're doing, and in turn they tell their friends, and they want to become a part of it. My students in the band are some of my best recruiters."

Brock believes the qualities he instills in students can serve them well in their lives and professions.

"Band carries over into life," he said. "You must learn to work with a variety of people and attitudes. This will help

our young people when they are hired for jobs to become good problem solvers."

Brock said the primary challenge he has faced at ECSU "is what all organizations face and that is financial (limitations.) Band is a big-ticket item; it's not cheap."

Brock added, however, that "when you step out of Williams Hall and put your uniform on, the public doesn't care about those problems. You have to go out and make a good show."

Brock currently has about 78 student members in the Mighty Viking Marching Band.

Brock said he is open to playing all styles of music.

"We try to play music for everyone," he said. "We play music that widens their ability to play all types of music."

"We really haven't made any major changes; we've made sure that every-one marches with a proper attitude. My primary aim has been to improve the sound and the way the band plays. I know we've made a lot of improvements in that area."

Brock's students seem to agree with his assessments.

"He's about business and he believes in hard work," said Tootsie Taylor, a member of the band. "I think what he stresses is valuable. He is teaching us discipline and to be a universal band."

Brock, a native of Houston, Texas, comes to ECSU with 24 years of experience in the music profession. Prior to his ECSU position, he taught at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta.

When Money Talks takes audience on a roller-coaster ride

FILM REVIEW

by Angela Burrus

When Money Talks is the adventurous "laugh your head off" movie of the season.

Writers Joel Cohn and Alec Sokolow, the duo behind the blockbuster *Toy Story*, have successfully teamed up again on this roller-coast ride that has chases, explosion, and comedy.

The movie centers around the life of petty con artist Franklin Hatchett played by Chris Tucker. Known for his success in *Friday* and *Dead Presidents*, Hatchett is made into an overnight celebrity when he is wrongly accused of murder during a prison break. The only one who can help him clear his name is James Russell, a mediocre television newsman who's out for anything worth a good headline.

Russell is played by Charlie Sheen, acclaimed in movies *Wallstreet* and *Hot Shots*.

Tucker gives a tremendous performance in his first starring action-comedy. Not only does he dominate the screen with his comedic puns such as "po-po," meaning police and "P-H-A-T," meaning pretty, hot; and tempting, he also charms the audience with his boyish charm, his dashing good looks; and his savy street-smarts through sticky situations.

Sheen, whose performance is less noteworthy, gives a satirical portrayal of the broadcast media as being cold,

backstabbing; and just plain "idiotic." In the media profession, the saying goes: "If it bleeds, it leads." But Sheen character's devotion to that concept gets him beaten to a bloody pulp by terrorists and handcuffed to a helicopter with a box full of grenades. Sheen's character embodies the stereotypical impatience and "pushiness" of many members of the media. His compassion also fails him when he spends his time kissing up to his editor rather than protecting Hatchett.

Cameos roles by veteran actors enriched the movie. Heather Locklear (*Melrose Place*) plays Russell's wealthy finance' who patiently stands by her man despite his primary fascination for the news. Paul Sorvino (*Goodfellas*) steps away from his usual Mafia bad boy character by playing Locklear's father, a charming guy who is warmed by anyone with an ounce of Italian blood. A surprisingly dynamic performance comes from Michael Wright (*Five Heartbeats*), playing Tucker's boyhood friend. Although he packs more guns than Rambo, his sensitivity is revealed when he is mistified by Tucker's idle talk of their childhood.

Despite the film explicit violent scenes and racial slurs, the movie as a whole is a "must-see." For what Sheen's character miss in content, the rest of cast make up with their humor.



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