

Arts & Entertainment

THE UNIVERSITY PLAYERS PRESENT "PURLIE"

Shawn Smith
Contributor

The University Players, Elizabeth City State University's theatre troupe, will present a production of the smash Broadway musical "Purlie" on November 14, 15, and 16, 2002. Curtain time will be at 8:00 p.m. for the three performances, which will be held in the Robinson Fine Arts Auditorium on ECSU's campus.

The plot: Purlie Victorious, that strutting, new-fangled preacher returns to his Georgia home and wants his own church, and he wants freedom. Wit, memorable music and heaps of fun unfold as Purlie out-smarts Ol' Cap'n, the "massa." In its Broadway engagement "Purlie," set in the 1920s, received rave reviews. The critic for the New York Daily News called the play "A robust, tuneful and thoroughly enjoyable musical comedy, with dandy songs."

The University Players' produc-

tion of "Purlie" is being staged by Shawn Smith, Director of Theatre. Vincent Corozine, musical director, is conducting a 15-piece orchestra for the show. The vocal director is Amelia Harris-Horne, with costumes designed by Ida Muldrow. Grayley Reddick is the choreographer, and Randy J. Berry is the set and lighting designer.

On November 4 you can purchase advanced tickets at the Little Theatre from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday or at Page After Page Bookstore on Water Street. Admission prices for "Purlie" are \$10.00 for the general public, \$5.00 for senior citizens and children 12 and under, \$3.00 for ECSU faculty and staff, and \$1.00 for ECSU students. For additional information, phone Shawn Smith at 335-3436, or visit the Players' office in The Little Theatre, located in the G. R. Little Library of Parkview Drive.

NEW VOICES EXPERIENCE WRVS-FM

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Smooth vibes, inspirational songs, and urban music can be heard from Elizabeth City State University's radio station, WRVS-FM Jazzy 89.9 located in Williams Hall. WRVS provides mass communication experience through community service and internship opportunities for Elizabeth City State University students.

Four of the ECSU students currently working in the radio station share one common ground, the love of music. Travis Billups, a senior, works with WRVS as a sports broadcaster. Majoring in Communication Studies, he is using this opportunity as an intern to get the best of television and radio media.

"I'm not doing it for credit, I'm doing it for experience. I figured while I was here I'd get the best of both worlds," said Billups.

He plans on focusing on television media after his graduation. Working with WRVS provides Billups with experience with the technicalities of the communication field.

"You see all these buttons, computers, and CD's and you realize... it's harder than what people think it is," said Billups.

Valez Kendrick, a senior, works as an intern at WRVS for credit towards graduation. Kendrick started working at the radio station while playing on the basketball team, feeling behind at first.

"You have to be quick and disciplined," said Kendrick.

Kendrick learned how to work

the control board, edit, and do promos or Public Service Announcements. His favorite segment to host is "The Jamboree". His goal is to get an internship with a label such as Def Jam. WRVS provides the experience he will need.

Segments do not matter to Mario Bradley, who gladly works at anytime. Bradley, a junior, works with WRVS for his community service. Starting out at the radio station, he was nervous because people were listening. Time and training at WRVS have eased his anxiety. He wants to use this experience at the radio station to advance to other opportunities.

"I'm trying to learn about television broadcasting," says Bradley.

Bradley will take this experience with him into the Mass Communications world as he progresses from ECSU.

Gary Evans, a freshman, will continue the work as his fellow WRVS interns graduate. Majoring in Mass Communications Evans comments on how music comes naturally to him.

"I think I want to make a career out of it," said Evans.

Evans is new but assures that he will learn the necessary material to operate in the radio station while enjoying the experience. ECSU has given him the opportunity to learn this media. Evans continues the tradition.

Internship and community service opportunities give ECSU students a chance to explore the field of communication. Listeners can anticipate hearing more from Billups, Kendrick, Bradley, and Evans throughout the year as they dominate the ECSU airwaves.

JAZZ CAFÉ COMES ALIVE

Curtis Overton
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What makes an artist? What makes art? Jazz café turned out to be the bread of the day. The best of the best, the titans of verbal deliverance, and the veterans of soul made a sound that was heard and marked as a turning point for Jazz Café.

Those who could not make it to the café missed out.

James Hill used his own special piece, "Love Guided my Steps," a poem that describes how love guides your steps throughout life. "Mothers, Pray," also written by Hill made the ladies melt with his sincere point, letting the audience know if a man has his hands in God's hands, his lady will be in good hands. It became a time to laugh, a time to cry, a time to sing, a time to cherish.

"My inspiration came from the people around me, my experiences, and my search for success. I can't forget to mention the love of my life," said Cee Knight.

Antonio Barrow wrote a little skit "The Cakes Alive!" It talked about a chef's cake coming to life and then he marries it.

Mario Bradley, also known as "Venom," rapped his verbal-rhyme called "Why I Listen." A poet must be a good listener to gain wisdom, and become a good poet. This is a good quote to hide in your heart.

Singers and musicians also created a verbal scene. Rastafari Hines presented the song "Rivers of Babylon" and also Krystle Lee sang a song from Kirk Franklin's "In Your Grace."

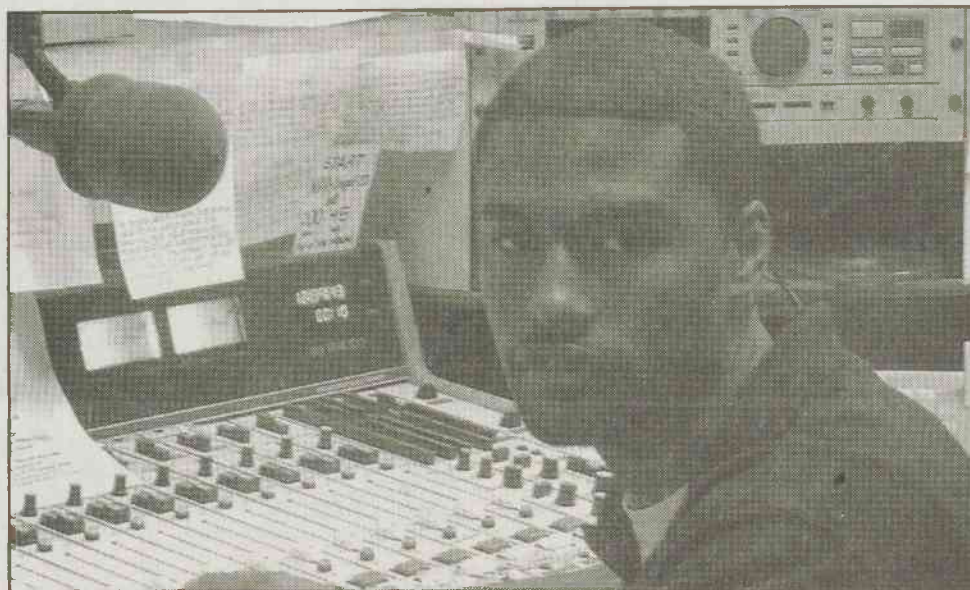
Ebony M. Hunter, coordinator of the Jazz Café, wants the café to be successful.

"It should be a place to be heard where the love between my brothers and sisters can spread throughout college, throughout Elizabeth City, throughout the world," said Hunter.

During the program, a murder show, sponsored by Student Life, was performed.

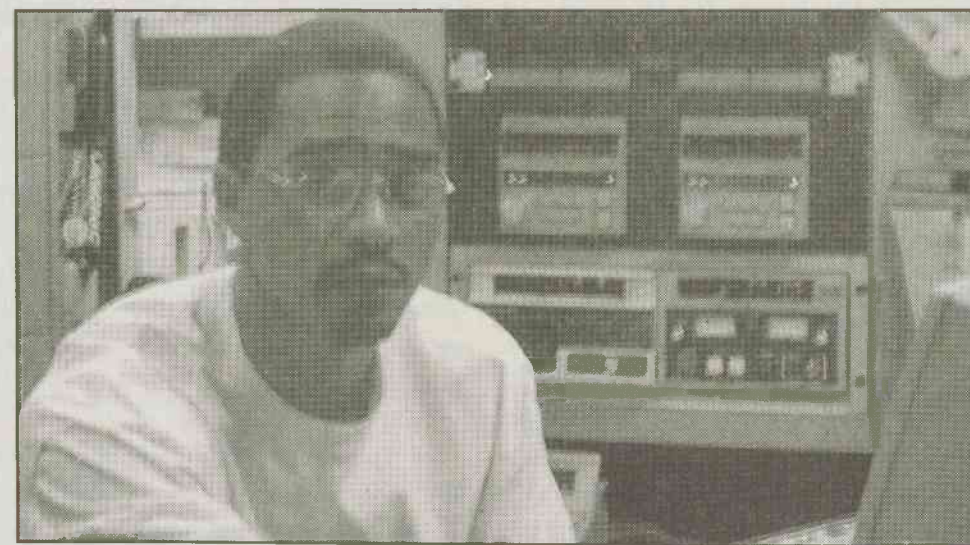
The next café will be held November 6, 2002 at 8:00 p.m.

The poet, "Knowledge," who also spoke, holds sessions in "The Writers Room," which is located directly across the street from the H. L. Trigg Building. It is usually held on Sunday evenings. Look for flyers around campus.



Travis Billups

Photo by McKeith Cordell



Valez Kendrick

Photo by Shannon Autry

"TANTALIZING" VIKE NU SHOWS OFF

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Elizabeth City State University's Vike Nu Fashion Troupe is certainly living up to its newest show theme "Tantalizing" with the sexy way they are strutting up and down the runway, exciting the student body with sleek moves and exposing their high fashion ensembles with a tasteful dose of sex appeal.

The president of Vike Nu, Jerry Lane, plays a critical role in the development of the models and the tasks of this re-established organization. Mr. Lane says, that the troupe has definitely had a great start, with promising models who cooperate and work hard. Lane says he hopes the troupe will be able to compete and travel to other black colleges and universities.

Two members have proven to be the heart of the troupe: Keisha Mallory and LaShonda Harvey who not only hold offices, but are also recognized as the choreographers as well as dedicated models. Both women are so

engrossed in modeling and fashion that they even spend their spare time creating routines.

The first show of the re-established group was on April 17. The show's theme was "Anticipation." At that time Vike Nu consisted of about 30 members, but that number has now increased to more than 50.

The troupe has been very busy during October. They had an auction on October 1, entitled "Introducing the New Faces." A teaser was performed at the student body meeting on October 8. On October 4 there was a visit to Shaw University. While there, they enjoyed the performances of other troupes. Vike Nu has also endured intense practice over the last month in preparation for the upcoming homecoming show on October 30.

Elizabeth City State University's very own Vike Nu Fashion Troupe is definitely on a rise and they are taking fashion to the extreme.