

MORE CAMPUS NEWS

SUCCESS COMES TO STUDENT WRITER

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When a writer sends his or her finest work into a publisher, it is with great hope that a response is given in return. A lot of times, it's a rejection.

One student here at Elizabeth City State University knows what it feels like to receive a favorable response; the editor she sent her poem to wants to publish it.

Jessica Barrier is a senior, and now, a published author. Her poem "Lost Story" has been accepted and will be published this month in an Internet magazine called Kota Press. "Lost Story" is a visual poem, which means the sentences are written in a way to make the poem itself into a picture. In Barrier's case, the poem is in the shape of a cross, representing a tombstone. The poem asks questions as to the identity of the owner of a faceless, eroded headstone.

Barrier was born in New Bern, North Carolina. When she was two years old, she moved to Edenton where her grandmother raised her. She became enthralled in writing when her fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Jones, grew tired of Barrier's unending energy (and talking) and gave her writing assignments to do in class when her regular assignments were done.

"I wasn't even interested in becoming a writer until Mrs. Jones had me write those stories," Jessica said.

It turned out that the stories and poems she wrote were good, and Mrs. Jones urged her to write more.

Her grandmother also read her work and encouraged her.

Jessica is not the only writer in her family. Her mother has also written a few short stories and has had them published in magazines.

Barrier's future plans are to graduate from ECSU in the spring with a Bachelor's degree in English. To improve her craft in writing further, she plans to earn her Master's degree. She is, as of yet, undecided as to a career path; however, she does want to be a writer.

The inspiration for her poems and short stories mostly comes from nature. Barrier enjoys writing things from a different point of view so that her works create a sense of awareness in objects of nature.

"Lost Story" was inspired by her leisurely walks she and her grandmother used to take through the cemeteries. She would see the old, weathered tombstones that had had the epitaphs worn off.

"Nobody knows who they were, what they did," said Barrier. When you don't know, it creates such a feeling of loneliness. This poem is asking who this person was that has no flowers on his grave and no one visiting."

Asked how it feels to have a poem published, Barrier said, "It feels good. I'm glad that it's getting published and I hope to publish more as I go."

To view Jessica Barrier's poem and to read other's works in the Kota Press, you can visit the web site at <http://www.kotapress.com>.

WESLEY HOUSE COMFORTS DURING TIMES OF NEED

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Are you visiting loved ones in the hospital during the holiday season, or has an incident occurred that may have you in and out of the hospital as a visitor? If you have, or if you haven't, there are people who, during this festive time of the year or when there seems to be a sense of urgency to get everything done, who do. If you need a place to stay because of a special medical-related situation for a loved one, don't panic because there is a place available to you.

The Wesley Hospitality House is a place where you can stay while visiting family confined in the hospitals in the Albermarle area. The Wesley is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Wesley's director is Bernie Taylor. Other staff includes Ashaunda Davis, Resident Manager; Gladys Jones, Administrative Assistant; and Ann Whitehurst, Assistant Resident Manager. The house has 12 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms, a children's room, a laundry room and a television room.

The Wesley is located at 1129 Horseshoe Road in Elizabeth City.

The staff is warm and friendly and offers comfort and support for those who find it a temporary home and source of comfort.

"I love it, and I can't believe they

are going to pay me to play," says Gladys Jones, who first volunteered at the house in 1998.

Afterward she was offered a part-time position, which led to a full-time position, and then her current position.

"I've had this type of hospitality shown to me before, so I don't mind giving it to others," says Jones.

The Wesley Hospitality House is funded strictly by donations. Donations come from hospitals, churches, organizations and people in the community who are not directly connected with the house. Money, food products, and paper products are some of the donated products. The house provides food for the people who stay there and they have access to cooking facilities.

"There is stuff to do around the house everyday, so it's beneficial to have volunteers," says Jones, of her additional unpaid staff.

Volunteers range from young mothers to retired people and are never asked to do anything with which they would be uncomfortable. Volunteers clean bathrooms, do house chores, cut grass and clean windows.

During this season of giving, think about donating to or volunteering at the Wesley Hospitality House; a house that gives throughout the year.

"PURLIE": THE REVIEW

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On November 14, 15, and 16, the University Players opened up the semester with the musical comedy "Purlie." This play was very interesting and the music was superb. The Department of Language, Literature, and Communication, the Department of Art, and the Department of Music worked together to make this play exciting.

This play took place during the Civil War times. The overall theme of the play was about a man, Purlie Victorious, who goes to his hometown in Georgia to start a church. During this, he must face Ol' Cap'n, the "massa" to keep his church, Big Bethel.

In this musical comedy, you will find betrayals that lead to unexpected outcomes, silly catch phrases, songs with humorous lyrics, and of course, silly characters with silly expressions.

Gitlow, played by Minu Nianda, for example, was the comedian in the play. He was recognized for his song, "Skinnin' a Cat," his response to Ol' Cap'n's death when he said that Ol' Cap'n was the first guy who dropped dead while standing.

Luttiebelle, played by Courtney Henderson, also Purlie's sweetheart, had an excellent voice when singing songs like "I Got Love," and her song about Purlie.

Missy, played by Sabrina Brown, was very convincing in her role. She seemed like the perfect example of a housemaid. She had the attitude and that comforting spirit. For example, the scene when Luttiebelle and Missy are together. Missy sings a song, "He Can Do It" to comfort Luttiebelle. This was a heart-touching moment in the

play

Idella, played by Glenda Griffin, was a tough lady proved that she was not afraid of anything or anyone. When Ol' Cap'n threatened her, she rose up and had Ol' Cap'n scared. She was also like the mother to Ol' Cap'n's son, Charlie, played by Adam Nixon, who loves to write songs, although they did not sound too good until the end.

Ol' Cap'n, played by Scott Morrison, had some funny expressions when he was angry. Near the end when his son betrayed him, he had a fit and died.

Purlie was played by Graley Reddick and Robert Overton. Both did an outstanding job while performing. They both did well in the singing scenes, but their expressions to certain situations were a little different. Overall, they both did an equal job because the audience was still attentive to what was going on.

I cannot forget about the ensemble. The singing, dancing, and acting were great! I especially liked the opening scene when they sang, "Walk Him Up The Stairs." Everyone in the church was singing and dancing, even the little children. Opening of Act Two was funny also. The slaves' singing was excellent and their dancing was nice, although some slaves wanted to lighten things up. The audience was laughing when Jerome Brothers started dancing. It was hilarious.

The band, directed by Vince Corozine, was great also. It accompanied the music well. They did a good job.

Overall, this play was good, and I heard comments of other people who also liked. If you did not get a chance to see this play, you missed a good performance.



The cast of "Purlie."

Photo by Rich Harvey

ECSU PROFESSOR STRIKES OUT WITH MORE POETRY

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I never have liked poetry much, except for the short and to the point poems. Most of the poems I've ever read were the kinds where you need a secret squirrel agent to decipher the poem so that you can actually understand it. But, when I heard that my English Professor, Dr. Joseph Lisowski, had written a book of poetry, I had to check it out.

"Stashu Kapinski Strikes Out" is my kind of poetry. It is a book of short, free verse poetry that all pulls together to form a story. It is easy to read and the characters seem and sound real. Humor is accompanied by images of harsh reality.

The poems in this book take us through a couple of day in the life of a man who is not so lucky and has perhaps made a few wrong choices. On the journey we are introduced to ruthless, hammer wielding thugs

and a midget with no arms. We also discover that this poor man doesn't really live alone and his roommates are rather hairy creatures.

After I read this book, I learned that Dr. Lisowski has written several other books as well. Among them are "Near the Narcotic Sea", a book of poems, and "Looking For Lisa", a detective novel. These books as well as "Stashu Kapinski Strikes Out" are all available for your enjoyment.

To buy these books, you can visit the website, <http://www.fictionworks.com> or see Dr. Lisowski in Johnson Hall, room 217. If students purchase "Looking for Lisa" or "Near the Narcotic Sea," Dr. Lisowski will donate a percentage of the proceeds towards the Department of Language, Literature, and Communications fund here at Elizabeth City State University. Another incentive--all autographs are free!