

Opportunities exist for local writers seeking audiences

Think you have to live in New York or some other metropolitan area to find success as a writer? Think again.

By VINCE WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Not all of those who are called upon to write are born in a rich artistic environment. However, this doesn't mean that those people have to resign themselves to their geographical misfortune.

One may take inspiration from William Faulkner or Truman Capote who hailed from small towns in Mississippi and Alabama, respectively. While the rural south of the 1940s is hardly a literary center, it does provide one with a rich cast of characters and an appreciation for a well-told story.

So how does the current-day storyteller find an audience?

According to Margaret Baddour, a published author and creative writing instructor at Wayne Community College, opportunities exist for local authors if they look – and work – hard enough.

Mrs. Baddour has had two poetry books published, and is



Photo by DANIELLE JAFFE

From left, Kathryn Spicer, Rosalyn Lomax and Jeff Williams work on the "Renaissance," Wayne Community College's annual literary magazine. The publication offers a showcase for artwork, poetry, short stories and photography done by WCC students, as well as faculty and staff.

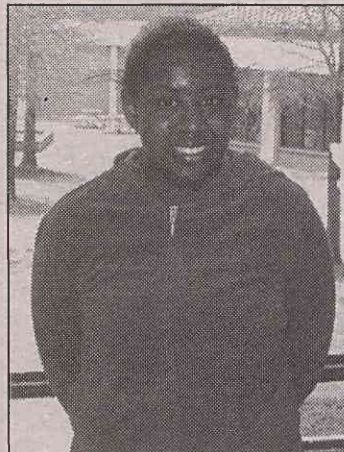
currently working on a novel.

In addition to the creative writing course, which touches on both poetry and fiction, Mrs. Baddour is a member of the Goldsboro Writers' Group.

This group, currently comprising eight to 10 members, meets monthly during the school year and weekly during the summer.

It is open to new attendees and allows writers to exchange constructive criticism, share ideas and discuss upcoming opportunities for submissions from literary publications.

One such publication that exists for students and staff at Wayne Community College is the "Renaissance," which provides a forum for both the



Campus Voice photo
WCC student and poet Candice Johnson recently won an opportunity to study under established poet Lenard Moore.

literary and visual arts.

Another local outlet for those who desire a wider audience for their craft is the Wayne County Public Library, which periodically conducts poetry readings for the local community.

Mrs. Baddour has recently had two students win poetry contests. The poets are Andy Rajski, a student in the Wayne Early Middle High School College Program, and Candice

Johnson, who is enrolled in the college program.

As winners of the Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poets Series, presented by the North Carolina Poets Society, these students will be mentored for about six months by Lenard Moore. Mr. Moore is Assistant Professor of English at Mount Olive College and author of four books.

When approached by hopeful authors, Mrs. Baddour first refers them to the North Carolina Writers' Network, an organization that conducts writer's workshops, links up editors and publishers with writers, and offers manuscript critiquing services to members. The critiquing service is one of the most valuable benefits offered by the network, as it allows developing writers the opportunity to open a dialogue about their work with established writers and editors.

Mrs. Baddour said that the unique ability of local authors to tap into their folk sensibilities and their ability to use dialect conspire to draw the reader deep into their story, and lend to it a degree of credibility that is not easily imitated.

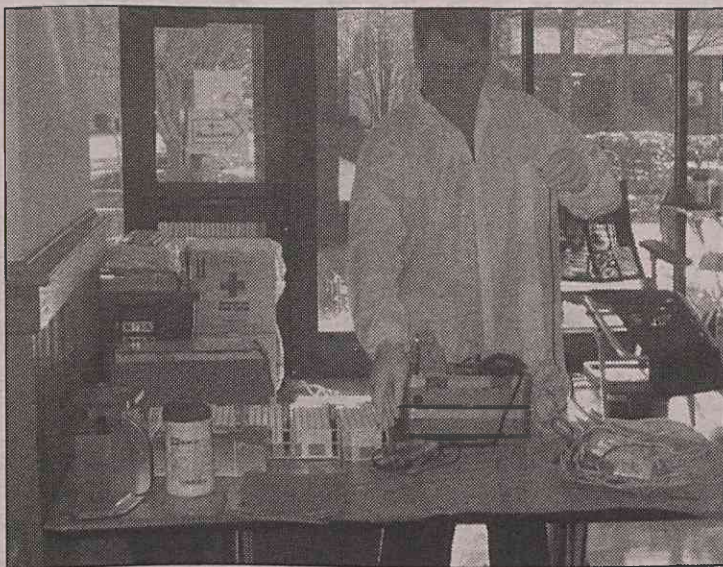


Photo by ASHLEY SULLIVAN

John Caldwell, Red Cross Mobile Unit Assistant, prepares donated blood for transport during the blood drive held on the Wayne Community College campus on Thursday, Jan. 31. Eleven first-time contributors joined 41 previous donors during the day in giving 47 total productive units of blood.

Inside the movies

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Best Actor in a Leading Role. David Cronenberg has been consistently great throughout his entire career, having directed such classics as "The Brood", "Scanners", "Videodrome", "The Fly" (1986), "Dead Ringers", "Naked Lunch" and the controversial 1996 film "Crash." His two latest films, "A History of Violence" and "Eastern Promises," have been by far his most mainstream films to date, dealing with more conventional subject matter, and yet they are still 100 percent Cronenberg.

"Eastern Promises" is an excellent study of a mobster, played by Mortenson, who does bad things, and yet throughout

the course of the movie we begin to believe that he is a good person. Cronenberg wisely relies on story and character development, rather than visual appeal.

The performances, writing, and direction are exceptional, and it's shameful that Howard Shore's score was left out

by the Academy. Shore has collaborated with Cronenberg numerous times, having scored 11 of Cronenberg's films.

With misses like these, the Academy Awards sometimes feels more like a high school homecoming, rather than a ceremony to honor the year's best films.

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