Local author has book signing at the ‘Broke Coffee House

By Kayla Pearson
Around the Town Editor

Author G. Warlock Vance appeared at The Broke Coffee House Jan. 21 to read from, sell copies and sign his first solo book “The Missing Narrative of Neptune.”

Vance says there is no one thing that inspires him. Ideas “just knock on your door sometimes,” he said.

“Just write, don’t dream it,” he added. “He’s pretty cool. He and I like Lovecraft and I like detective stories,” he added.

Vance writes mostly horror and mystery has appeared in numerous anthologies. He has been professionally writing for 20 years but started crafting his talent at 6.

His latest work falls under the genre of weird detective. It contains two short stories. The featured cover story, which he read from, is a mystery surrounded around the idea of the history of book making. It features a detective from Greensboro, N.C., who the reader doesn’t know much about except that he is trying to solve a mystery.

“I didn’t create a big picture of him because all other characters are big and interesting,” Vance said.

Greenboro is significant because it is where Vance came up with the idea and wrote the story. As a graduate student at UNCG one of his finals was to write a short story. He wrote this story in two days, turned one copy into his teacher and sent the other to a publisher.

Four years later, his exam story is now a published work. There are three people I dedicated this book to: my teacher, the publisher who took a chance and a friend out West who helped edit the book,” Vance said.


He recently returned to UNCG to get a Ph.D in English. However, he moved to Pembroke when his wife, Dr. Yan Shi, started teaching economics at UNCP.

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His advice to a future writer is the following: “Just write, don’t dream about it, just do it. Commit,” he said.

The coffee house has a talent night every Thursday night.

Students warm up around a fire while hanging out at The Broke and listening to different talent acts.

COMtech provides modern business facilities

By Christopher Sawyer
Continuing Writer

Pembroke, N.C., has the potential to grow. In 2000 records indicate 3,445 students were enrolled and now the University of North Carolina at Pembroke boasts nearly double those numbers at 6,300.

However, the University is not the only institution growing. Travelling west along N.C. 711 toward Pembroke from I-95, a model of a globe and a sign that reads COMtech, but no sign as to what goes on there.

Carolina Commerce and Technical Center (COMtech) is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation that has the goal of creating a catalytic effect on the local economy through their partnerships with UNCP, Lumber River EMC, RCC and the public school system, according to their website.

COMTech program

COMTech provides a modern infrastructure for different businesses, including sewage, natural gas, electricity and telecommunications all from a few miles off the I-95 corridor.

They are working to educate the community about educational and business development.

Those who are affected start businesses and in turn affect the surrounding community by stimulating the economy and education system.

Census

According to the U.S. Census in 2002, Robeson County’s average per capita income was $18,328, almost half of the national average, making it the poorest county in North Carolina.

With businesses easier to start than before and self employment being a sure fire tested way to assure that a college student has a job upon graduation, this center gives hope to these bleak numbers.

Over the next five years there is speculation that there will be exponential growth in the population of this area as well as significant economic development. The recent passing of liquor by the drink and an already confirmed Holiday Inn Express moving into town among whispers of other types of establishments are indications of this happening.

With the ability to ship via all major delivery carriers such as UPS, solid access to the Internet, and low cost of land, goods and services, a global business in Robeson County may not be a bad idea.

Vance reads a small excerpt from his first solo book "The Missing Narrative of Neptune" to the crowd.

Author G. Warlock Vance (left) signs one of his books while his wife Dr. Yan Shi, UNCP assistant professor of economics looks on.

Photo by Jessica Knapton