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The Roddey McMillan Record - April 1986

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Newsletter honors accomplishments of two prominent Winthrop alumnae

The *Roddey-McMillan Record* is named after two Black women who are associated with Winthrop College in distinct ways. Shelia McMillan is the first Black member of the Winthrop College Board of Trustees. Mrs. Cynthia P. Roddey was admitted to graduate school at Winthrop College in 1964, becoming the first Black student to attend Winthrop.

Mrs. Roddey had positive remarks concerning the first newsletter for Blacks at Winthrop College. She said the paper is a good idea because it gives Black students an opportunity to identify with a focal point in a non-competitive way. Mrs. Roddey said she felt the newsletter will be of great value because it will inform Black students of programs of interest to them.



Cynthia Roddey

The newsletter gives Black students an opportunity to get involved in a worthy school project. Mrs. Roddey said the newsletter should make students aware of famous Black Americans.

"They should always be remembered," she asserted.

Realizing *The Johnsonian* cannot cater to the total needs of the Black student, Mrs. Roddey suggested that the newsletter address those needs.

—Arthur Kennerly

In 1983, Shelia McMillan was appointed by Dick Riley to be the first Black to serve on Winthrop's Board of Trustees. She has a six-year term which expires in 1989.



Shelia McMillan

A former resident of Pageland, S.C. Ms. McMillan graduated from Winthrop College in 1973 with a B.A. degree in history. While attending Winthrop, she was the president of the Association of Ebonites.

After graduation, Ms. McMillan attended the University of North Carolina in Charlotte where she received her master's degree in education. In 1976, Ms. McMillan entered the University of South Carolina where she received a law degree.

She currently works for the state of South Carolina in Columbia where she is an attorney for the state legislature. She has been a teacher and an attorney for Palmetto Legal Services.

Ms. McMillan said she is honored to have the newsletter named in her behalf. She said she hopes the newsletter will not be short-lived, but will continue to grow and develop. She said she feels there is a need for the newsletter, because the smaller population of students on campus are often lost in the shuffle of things.

—Gail Harris, Editor

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Student attributes success to hard work, priorities

With a grade point average above 3.75, Nigel Vidale is one of Winthrop's top students. A senior majoring in computer science and accounting, Vidale is a native of San Fernando, Trinidad; however, he considers himself a citizen of the world.



Nigel Vidale

Equally impressive as Vidale's GPR is his course load of 24 hours. At Winthrop a course overload is anything in excess of 18 hours, based on the assumption that more than 18 hours is too much for a student to manage. Vidale has proven he is an exception to this theory.

Having such a high GPR and so many hours can easily make others think of Vidale as a bookworm or a genius. However, he denies such images of himself and accredits his academic success to his study habits.

"It helps to read chapters before class so that you can get some understanding of what the professor is talking about," he said. "It also helps to form a synopsis of the chapter. This way, you get to know the main points of the chapter and extract the content of the subject matter."

Vidale said good study habits can eliminate reading long chapters before tests: "Instead of reading the entire chapter, you can just review the synopsis. This can help you understand the subject matter rather than simply memorize it."

While study habits play a major role, time allotment is also important to Vidale's academic success. Since he has mostly night classes, Vidale uses his extra time in the day to study.

"It is important to learn how to organize your time," he said. Realizing this, he sets priorities. Partying during the week is out, he asserted.

Another factor that influenced Vidale's academic success is the education system in his native country. He said that the education requirements in Trinidad are very demanding.

He illustrates this with an explanation of the final exam system: "In your major, you have a final exam in everything you have studied since you got there. It is a comprehensive exam which covers all the subjects you have taken since you first entered," he said. "If you fail, you don't graduate."

Despite the study demands of maintaining a 3.75 GPR and of carrying 24 credit hours, Vidale still has time for leisure. In fact, he is notorious for having been the "ping-pong king" on campus for the past few years.

Writing is another hobby in which he excels. Vidale has already published four books of poetry and prose. One of his publications, entitled *A Little Something*, is available in the Winthrop College Bookstore.

In advising others about their study habits, Vidale offers individual initiative as a successful element: "You get out what you put into it. Some may be willing to do what is necessary to understand the material. It also depends on how you approach a class. In order to succeed in it, one must study," he concluded.

—Irvin Goodwin

Greetings from the Affirmative Action Office

Indeed it is a pleasure to be able to have a chance to write in the inaugural issue of the *Roddey-McMillan Record*. The potential you have is unlimited and I certainly hope that you will seriously contribute news, editorials and ideas which directly affect Afro-Americans.

I can think of so many issues and topics which could be future items of interest for you to consider writing about:

- The lack of sufficient Afro-American history courses
- Strategies to increase Black faculty and staff members
- The Desegregation Plan of SC Colleges
- Significant Other Student Program
- Black History Month
- The progress of Black alumni
- Black participation in the union committees,

SGA, cheerleaders and other campus organizations

- The need for more or less partying
- The impact of a newly established NAACP Chapter on campus
- The need for an Office of Minority Student Affairs
- Black/white student relations
- Relationships with students at other campuses

The list is limitless. May your commitment to having a voice such as the *Roddey McMillan Record* be strong so that you can better express yourselves to the Winthrop community, the alumni, and, most importantly, to yourselves.

—David C. Belton
Assistant to the Academic
Vice President and
Affirmative Action Offices

Opinion Page

From the Editor

The purpose of *The Roddey-McMillan Record* is to better inform the minority population at Winthrop's campus of cultural and social events, as well as of contemporary issues that affect them. The newsletter will be a base for minority cohesion, and a chance for minority students to have a forum for their concerns.

I would like to thank the staff of *The Roddey-McMillan Record* for their dedication to the newsletter. I also would like to thank Cynthia Roddey and Shelia McMillan for the use of their names. Sincere thanks to Vice President Jeff Mann for his generosity in funding the newsletter.

Thanks also to Mollie Bethea, Cristina Grabiell and Tim Hopkins for their help. Gratitude and deepest felt warmth go to Mr. David Belton for his help and advice, and to our adviser, Mrs. Dorothy Thompson, for her guidance and understanding.

—Gail Harris, Editor

Guest Editorial

NAACP member urges non-violent change

The Winthrop College chapter of the NAACP was originally chartered on November 19, 1980.

Linda Wardlaw, a 1984 graduate of Winthrop from Greenville, S.C. was the originator and first president. She received support from Black students and Winthrop's administration.

However, as the years passed, the organization lagged. Due to such apathy, the NAACP lost its charter at the end of the Fall 1983 semester.

The fundamental purpose of the organization is to end discrimination against Blacks and other minority groups. One way of doing so is through unifying fraternities, sororities and other black organizations.

On Tuesday, February 11, a meeting was held for the re-establishment of a Winthrop chapter. With the recent uprisings, I must say that the NAACP is being re-established just in time. A group of interested students felt the need to re-establish the organization. Mollie Bethea, financial aid director, advised them to start a membership drive and elect officers. The membership drive was held February 11-21. Due to the overwhelming number of students who wanted to join but were unable to pay dues at that time, the drive was extended through February 26, 1986.

As the student body continued to celebrate Black History Month, we were faced with many obstacles and discouraging uprisings. *The Johnsonian* published an article on Yolanda King's lecture only after it received numerous letters from concerned and angry students. The fact that *The Johnsonian* misquoted Ms. King several times



FINALLY! Winthrop's first student publication that caters to the needs of minority students....and overlooks all competition!

made it quite obvious that the article had been written on the spur of the moment only to satisfy angry students.

On Thursday evening, February 20, there were disturbances in Thomson Cafeteria. Court members of the three Black fraternities reserved tables in the cafeteria so that they could eat dinner together. When they arrived in the cafeteria they found a group of white students at their reserved tables. The next morning students found a banner advertising Black History Month and a poster publicizing the NAACP membership drive defaced with racial slurs.

Although these uprisings are discouraging, we must not retaliate violently. We must join the NAACP and together we can bring about a change. The NAACP mass meeting was held February 26 at 8 p.m. in Dinkins Auditorium. Mrs. Kit, the NAACP state adviser, and Wilford Collins, the NAACP Youth and College President of South Carolina, were guest speakers. Officers were elected at this time.

Blacks have become complaisant at Winthrop and I really see a need for an awakening. I have seen unification in the making now that the NAACP is being re-established. Students are really interested in bringing it back on campus. They voluntarily give their time and support in setting up and working the membership drive booths.

After witnessing such racial disturbances on the college campus, I must say that the time is now for a **NON-VIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE.**

—John C. Howard

If we don't do it, who will?

There's an age-old adage that claims if you want something done, you have to do it yourself. However this claim is not always true; we are often able to sit back and watch others do the things that we want done, but for some reason or another, fail to do ourselves. The *Roddey-McMillan Record* is a perfect case in point.

Last fall semester a survey pertaining to the initiation of new minority organizations and functions on campus was conducted by the Association of Ebonites at the Lerone Bennett lecture.

Many students showed a desire for a minority newsletter. Yet when the time came to make the newsletter a reality, a lot of those students were not to be found.

The turnout was fair considering the meeting was held on a Friday afternoon and that there had been little advertisement. But it could have been better.

So what happened to everyone else? Maybe they were unaware of the meeting. Or maybe they had more pressing engagements to attend. Or maybe they are all apathetic students who really do want this newsletter, but are not willing to put forth the personal effort to see the project through.

I realize that some may feel that they do not possess the talent or ability to be a part of the staff. Not everyone is cut out to be an editor, writer or artist.

Yolanda King speech inspires audience

The evening of January 27, 1986, was an evening during which many of us witnessed an extraordinary talent. Yolanda King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a speech that stirred our souls. Her speech was informative and reinstilled forgotten values. Ms. King was able to survive the tragedy of her father's death, and to mold his ideas into positive tracks for the future. Her concepts were refreshing and enlightening, leaving the audience with a feeling of a new and energetic generation with a foreseeable and unmistakably shining future.

Ms. King was able to bend old-fashioned ideas and shape them into contemporary thoughts. We heard her as she urged us to overstep boundaries of greed and ease into the possibility of pooling positive resources and influence.

Ms. King's ideas should not be misinterpreted; she is a person who is concerned with the future and the impact that some issues will have on the people of all races. One of these issues is the seeming passiveness of the younger generation, because a lot of us seem to feel that there is no need for positive or affirmative action. The need to collectively and correctly funnel present resources will always be present.

One should always remember the past. Live in the present and prepare for the future, because life depends upon it.

—Gail Harris

However, we do all possess the ability to show concern and support. By simply not showing up for the meetings, you are saying that you, as a minority student, are not important enough to even have such a project. By not showing any concern, you are saying that you do not care about the issues that affect us.

This is a *minority* newsletter. Look around you; there aren't that many of us here compared to non-minority students. If we don't do it, who will? We should be beyond the point of looking for the person next to us to make the first move, or even any move. The present staff can use more assistance in order to sustain such an undertaking. I do not want this newsletter to be a short-lived publication, and I hope you do not either.

Any input on your behalf is better than none at all. I consider this newsletter a challenge not only to me, but to all of us. Are we simply going to take a back seat on this bus and watch it crash into a thousand pieces of nothing, or are we going to stand in the forefront and make it a successful journey? This is *our* project, not someone else's. Take a part and be a part. Do something, not nothing.

Remember, if we want something done, we have to do it ourselves! This is for us and about us. We have to take pride in ourselves if we want others to do the same.

—Jeff Coleman

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Comments or suggestions concerning
The Roddey-McMillan Record submit to:
P.O. Box 5587, Winthrop College,
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Financial Aid

It is time to apply for financial aid for the 1986-87 academic year.

Applications and other information are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Several types of financial aid programs are available to students. To determine eligibility for assistance, students must complete a Financial Aid Form.

Anyone who has problems completing this form or who needs additional information on the types of aid programs, should see the counselor who is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Financial Aid Office.

—Mollie Bethea
Financial Aid Director

Minority seminars offered

Seminars given for Blacks will be held between April 3 and July 30, 1986. The seminars will be conducted at two major universities.

The first seminar will be on the Georgia State University campus. The topic is "Black Students on White Campuses."

The second seminar will be held at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., starting June 5 and ending July 30, 1986. This seminar is for minority students who are interested in receiving a Ph.D. in economics.

For more detailed information concerning these two seminars contact David Belton, Assistant to the Academic Vice-President, R-118, Tillman Hall, phone 323-2270.

Health Beat

Moderation is key to health of self, family

One area in which the history of discrimination, repression and suspicion has left its mark upon Blacks is the area of health care.

For those unaccustomed to dealing with Blacks or other dark-skinned individuals, even simple nursing observations have to be altered. For example, one of the major problems among poor ghetto children is iron deficiency anemia. Yet, how does a nurse visually observe the pallor of anemia in a dark skinned person? Such things as fever, rash, cyanosis and other observations that many of us have learned to rely upon for clues are based upon persons with white skin.

Pallor in dark-skinned individuals is observable by the absence of the underlying red tones that normally give brown and black skin its "glow" or "living color."

Data on life expectancy that have been available since 1900 indicate that there has been a persistent gap between the expected length of life of the white and the nonwhite population.

In 1900 the life expectancy at birth for whites was 47.6 years and 33.0 years for non-whites. In 1950, for whites it was 69.1 years and for non-whites 60.8 years. According to data present for 1985, the life expectancy at birth for whites is 73.2 years and nonwhites 69.5 years.

I think these statistics are governed by two factors, poor prenatal care and poorly skilled health professionals.

Students celebrate Black History Month

Celebration of Black History Month began February 2 with a gospel concert by the Ebonite Gospel Choir. Following the concert February 16 was the Association of Ebonites' annual church service where the Rev. Grady Patton of McConnells, S.C., delivered the message.

On February 21, "A Night at the Apollo," a tribute to Black Americans was held in Withers Auditorium.

The defacing of the Omega's Black History Month banner brought down the morale of Black students on campus: but when the banner was shown at the end of the tribute the audience was reminded that the defacing was a symbol of the fact that the struggle continues for Blacks.

Also during the celebration, the NAACP was re-established at Winthrop College and many students joined. On Saturday, February 22, a workshop was held in Dinkins Auditorium. The workshop's topic was "The Plight of the Black Family."

The second part of the workshop was the Black History Trivia Challenge where Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Ladies of Black and Gold, the Kappa Sweethearts, the Omega Dolls, AOE, and the Ebonite Gospel Choir competed. The Ladies of Black and Gold won.

To culminate the celebration the annual Fashion Show and Ebony Affair were held on Friday, February 28. The fashion show, coordinated by Rachele Jamerson and Hade E. Robinson Jr., was held in Tillman Auditorium and the Ebony Affair in McBryde.

—Judy Alston

In part because of a different genetic pool and hereditary immunity, Blacks are also more likely to suffer from certain diseases than other groups.

For example, Blacks who have sickle cell anemia or carry the trait for the disease are consequently immune to malaria and rarely carry the trait for hemophilia. During the construction of the Panama Canal, Blacks were a major portion of the work force due to this resistance to malaria which was carried by the mosquitoes of Central America.

The unbalanced forces of health care in our American system must take the blame for a great many of our health related problems but we also must take responsibility for our own actions. Excessive drinking and drug use by college-aged Black adults have proven to be major factors in Black infant mortality. Persons desiring to have a family may stop these practices before conception, but this is rarely the case.

For Black males, drug abuse can cause deformed sperm, (double-headed or double tailed) which can result in genetically malformed infants or sterility. In females, drug use can cause deformities in ovulatory mechanisms causing sterility or birth defects.

In view of the recent statistics on Black infant mortality, moderation in our habits would prove to be a plus in the maintenance of Black lives.

—Arva Chick

Famous Black Americans, Past and Present

- Leontyne Price - World reknown opera singer and the recipient of 10 Grammy Awards.
- Sadi Alexander - First Black woman to receive a Ph.D. in the U.S.; first Black woman lawyer in Pennsylvania.
- Edward Bouchett - First Black man elected to Phi Beta Kappa
- Marcus Garvey - Founder of the United Negro Improvement Association
- Harold Robert Perry - The first Black to become a Roman Catholic Bishop in the U.S. in the 20th century.
- Prince Hall - Headed the first official Black Masonic Order
- Canada Lee - The first Black to produce a theatrical play on Broadway
- Benjamin O. Davis - The first Black to command an Army Air Base in the United States
- Sojourner Truth - Black abolitionist who was born Isabella Baumfree
- Shirley Chisholm - First Black woman elected to the House of Representatives
- Madame C. J. Walker - First Black woman to earn a million dollars in the U.S.
- Eddie Robinson - Won more college football games than any other coach in history
- Carter G. Woodson - Father of Black History Month

The Greek Corner

- Alpha Kappa Alpha—Sponsored a tutoring program for elementary students from February 17 through February 28, 1986
- Delta Sigma Theta—Presented a Gong Show in March, along with several other programs.
- Zeta Phi Beta—Annual Finer Womanhood Program, March 16th in Chester, S.C.
Will attend State meeting in Columbia, S.C. on April 12, 1986
- Alpha Phi Alpha—Attended a regional convention on February 28, 1986 in Macon, GA.
Presented the annual Miss Black & Gold Pageant on March 22, 1986
- Kappa Alpha Psi—Kappa Week,
March 1st - 6th
- Omega Psi Phi—Presently sponsoring an escort service for all females from nightfall to midnight;
Service lasting the entire semester
Second Annual Mardi Gras, March 6, 1986, 8:00 p.m. in McBryde
Eighth annual Miss Purple & Gold Scholarship Pageant, on April 7, 1986 in Tillman auditorium at 7:30 p.m.