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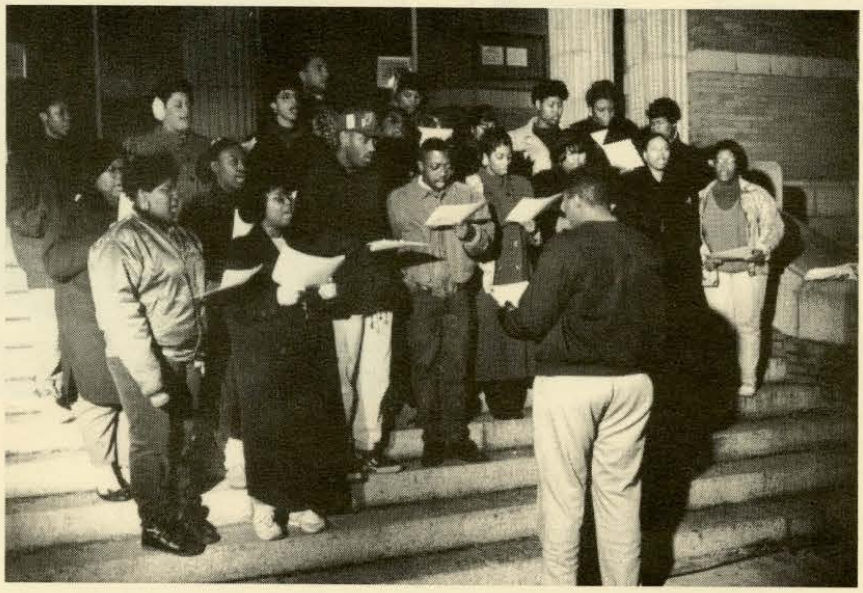
The Roddey McMillan Record - November 1992

Winthrop University

The Roddey-McMillan Record

Winthrop's Minority Newsletter



The Ebonites sing Christmas carols on the steps of Rutledge.

Students enjoy one of the speakers in the Kwanza celebration held during "Umoja" (see story on page 5).

PROGRESSING THROUGH THE YEARS

The Rodney-MacMillan Record

Winthrop's Minority Newsletter

The Dancing Ring Dancers perform on the stage of Bancroft.

Students enjoy one of the speakers in the Kennedy Scholarship Ball during "Magic" (see story on page 3).

PROGRESSING THROUGH THE YEARS

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THE RODDEY-McMILLAN STAFF

Editor ..... Deirdra Stewart

Co-Editor ..... Alvin McEwen

Photography ..... Tommy Taylor

Writers ..... Stephanie Davis, Belinda Blue, Arlecia Simmons, Nikole Davis, Anthony Spann, Sherry Ford, Tiffany Rush

WORD OF THANKS

The Roddey-McMillan Record was founded to serve as a tool for the minority students on campus to be educated about themselves and the rest of the campus community to be educated about them. I would like to thank the writers; Joel Nichols and Tommy Taylor, the photographers; and especially Alvin McEwen for his help on last minute emergencies. I would encourage everyone to read this and learn something.

The Editor

THEATRE DEPARTMENT SEEKS MINORITY STUDENTS

by Alvin McEwen

Theatre professors Marc Powers and Jeannie Woods are seeking minority students to perform in a theatre piece for Black History Month. The two hope that this will eventually lead to having more African-American based plays added to Winthrop's theatre repertoire.

Powers said they wanted to do this because they wanted the theatre shows at Winthrop to reflect the population of the university. He said the plays that are being done now represent the "American white culture." He said the theatre and dance department wants to reflect the cultural variety of its audience.

This particular project, said Powers is a stage reading of a play for Black History. Month. He said this is the first of several plays the department is planning in order to develop minority student interest.

Powers said there are many considerations when it comes to planning a play; for example, who will show up for auditions. Powers said minority students sometimes feel that the plays being performed are predominantly white, therefore many do not show up for auditions. He said if an enthusiastic response is seen from the Black History Month production, the department will put a major effort in more African-American based plays.

After two meetings about the Black History Month play, the response is still enthusiastic. Over 20 minority students came and plans are in the works for starting a theatre group.

One student, Avril Mitchell, said she was glad to know there was interest in starting a theatre group.

Mitchell, a freshman, said she is sure that there are a lot of minority students who did not come to auditions for plays because they felt there were not any parts for black students.

She said she feels there will be a greater interest for African-American plays being performed in the future.

WINNER OF REGIONAL: SONYA GARY

by Nikkole Davis

Sonya Gary, who represented the Xi Phi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., at the Miss Black and Gold Pageant in Florence, S.C., won the competition on October 31. Gary will go on to compete in the regional pageant slated for March 1993 in Savannah, Georgia.

Gary, a native of Greenville, S.C. and also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, said she was very proud to represent Xi Phi. "I met a lot of interesting people who were participating in the pageant," she said. "We had a lot of un!"

In order to participate in the pageant one must win locally at the campus level. Next they go on to compete statewide, regionally, and finally nationally. The categories consist of self presentation, g.p.a., talent, interview, swimwear, evening wear, and question and answer.

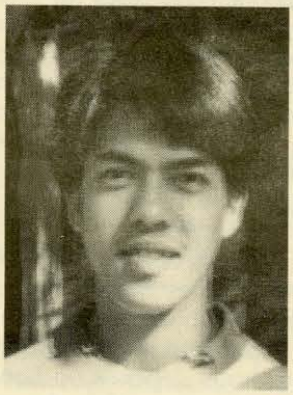
Gary won the talent competition by singing "It All Begins With You" by Jody Watley.

Seven girls participated in the pageant representing such schools as S.C. State University, Clemson, and Claflin.

Sonya Gary

HIDALGO FINDS HOME AT WINTHROP

by Anthony Spann



Rod Hidalgo

Have you ever wanted to see different parts of the world, far away from home. That is exactly what Rod Hidalgo, 22, a junior majoring in Physical Education from the University of Guam wanted to do. Hidalgo became a member of the National Student Exchange Program this fall at Winthrop University.

"One of the reasons I chose Winthrop was to get away from home and experience living on my own to support myself," said Hidalgo. He chose to attend Winthrop University out of 100 state supported colleges and universities. His home is 17 hours away from Winthrop by plane.

Hidalgo said that having an open mind about the future was the key

"It took me abut a week to adapt to Winthrop," she said. "My biggest adaption was getting use to this weather."

The average temperature in Guam ranges in the 70's all year.

With just a couple of weeks left before going back to Guam, Hidalgo is trying to recount his experience. "The people at Winthrop are very friendly and made it enjoyable for me here," said Hidalgo.

His favorite things about Winthrop are its location in a small town and its historical aspects. Hidalgo also enjoys the intercollegiate Sports.

Hidalgo's one disappointment is weekend activities. "It (weekend) bothers me because a lot of people go home. Also, there are not enough activities," he said.

One message that Hidalgo would like to leave with Winthrop student is he would definitely recommend Winthrop to all of this friends who would like to be an exchange student.

FRESHMAN TELLS OF HER WINTHROP EXPERIENCE

by Stephanie Davis

As my first semester here at Winthrop comes swiftly to a close, I find many things to reflect upon. I plan to pursue a career in broadcasting. My first choice was the University of Georgia, the best broadcast school in the southeast. Financial problems and the African-American Honor Award brought me to Winthrop University. I naturally came here with more than a few misgivings. The only thing I knew about the school was that it was predominately white and very academically oriented. The first time I actually saw the campus was during orientation. My first reaction was surprise at the unexpectedly large number of black students in attendance. This helped clam my anxiety of attending a "white" school. As the semester progressed I came to realize that Winthrop was probably the best choice I could have made. I can't imagine adjusting to the 28,000+ students at Georgia after graduating from a high school with only a 1,000 or more students. The transition to Winthrop, however wasn't difficult at all. Nevertheless, I plan to do graduate studies at the University of Georgia.

Academics at Winthrop are very important. You feel this the moment you walk into your first class. The professors here expect you to do well and the low student-teacher ratio makes learning easy. The university's efforts to recruit black students are to be commended. I can't imagine where I'd be if it were not for my scholarship. I also admire the school's dedication to cultural diversity. I have enjoyed it here at Winthrop so far and I hope that more African-Americans have the opportunity to attend this great institution.

RODDEY-MCMILLAN SPECIAL REPORT: What Do Black Men Really Want In A Black Woman?

by Sherry R. Ford

Black women in today's world are faced with many problems. One of these problems is the black male "shortage". As a black woman I often wonder what the black man really wants in a black woman. What must black women do and be to find a good man despite the "shortage". So, I went around Winthrop University's campus for about two weeks asking forty black males and females the following questions: What do Black men really want in a relationship with a Black woman?, Is sex a necessary part of a relationship or can there be a relationship without it?, and Is it true Black men prefer light skinned women over dark skinned women?

When I asked the questions it appeared that the females had a more negative view of black men than the men had of themselves. This may be because of all the negative images of Black men seen on television and magazines. Black women have been hurt and because of this they fell as if black men are like those they had bad experiences with.

When I asked the first question 57.1% of the females surveyed named sex as one of the thing black men are looking for while only 15.4% of the males mentioned it. Other things mentioned by 7.1% of the females were honesty, someone the men can share their feelings with, support, someone they can support, a mother figure, protection, someone who will be there for them, a woman with her own mind, someone who won't preach to them, faithfulness, someone who won't preach to the, faithfulness, someone who can handle herself in any situation, someone nice, a church-going woman, someone who can cook, clean and wants children, commitment, someone to just be with, an attractive woman, intelligence, a woman that makes him look good, someone he can treat any kind of way, a light skinned woman, a long-haired woman, security, and a woman with a good body. Other responses from 14.3% of the females were trust, a friend, younger guys want someone with sexual experience, but when they want to settle down they want someone with little sexual experience, someone who's not intimidating, someone who lacks confidence and someone they can talk to.

The men seem to put less emphasis on the physical and are less "doggish" than women think they are. Qualities like honesty (15.4%), stability (11.5%), understanding (23.1%), trust (15.4%), companionship (11.5%), attractiveness (19.2%), friendship (11.5%), love (11.5%) ranked high. Qualities mentioned by 7.7% of the men were loyalty, a long relationship, commitment, niceness, a woman who respects herself and him, intelligence, a woman who will be there when she's needed, equality, someone to talk to, money and sincerity. Finally, 3.8% of the respondents mentioned independence, someone who depends on him some, a God-fearing woman, someone who cares for him and herself, someone well-to-do, a woman with a future, a real woman, someone with a head on her shoulders, a one night stand, someone with a good personality, a woman with a good job, someone who can hold his attention farther than sexual, someone who can adapt to his personality, support, sensitivity, someone easy to get along with, and some men want to just move from girl to girl without establishing a relationship with anyone.

When I asked if black men fell sex is necessary 57.1% of the females felt they do and 42.9% felt they don't. I asked them to give reasons for why they thought black men feel sex is necessary. One 19 year old sophomore felt men have been brought up to think their manhood depends on how many "notches are on their belt". A 18 year old freshman stated, "If you have a relationship with any man they are looking for sex somewhere down the line". Yet another 18 year old freshman contributed it to society, the fact that there are more women than men, and it's a "man thing".

Of the men 50% felt sex was necessary and 50% felt it was not. A 18 year old freshman said sex was necessary and when asked why stated, "It's kind of written in stone". A 22 year old senior doesn't think sex isn't necessary because "God ordained sex for marriage". The percent of men who felt most Black men feel sex is necessary, but they personally could have a relationship without it was 42.9%.

The final questions was the most controversial of the three. Of the females 78.6% felt black men prefer light skinned women and 21.4% felt they had no preference. Of the 57.7% have no preference, 38.5% prefer light women, and 3.8% prefer dark skinned women. The reasons for men preferring light women varied. One 18 year old freshman female stated it was because the brainwash that has been passed down since slavery. The housemaid was light and the field slave was dark. She said she felt it's also because white people look at the black race and prefer the lighter skinned black person. A 19 year old sophomore female stated, "Yes, red bones do prevail". She also feels we have been brainwashed into thinking White is right. the next best thing, she thinks, in a Black man's eyes to dating a white woman is dating a light skinned Black woman.

A 24 year old graduate student male made a very interesting comment. He stated that black men prefer light women "because of the socialization process that has occurred as a result of our time here in this country that taught Black people to hate themselves and their futures, that being dark skinned, thick hair, broad noses so on and so forth because we are taught that we were inferior as a direct result of slavery...because of that many people identify features that are more like white features as superior and even attractive".

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BLACKS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO OVERACHIEVE TO BE RECOGNIZED

by Alvin McEwen

The achievements of black Americans are many, but are also hardly noticed in this society. The victories of various black Americans go virtually unnoticed unless they practically sweat blood and tears and achieve more than their white counterparts.

Let's take the entertainment industry for example. Bill Cosby has the most watched situation comedy in the history of television, while Whoopi Goldberg was the first black American woman in over 50 years to win an Oscar. They are considered legends in the class of Robert DeNiro and Lucille Ball. When I see their faces on the cover of magazines, it is a comfort as well as a welcome change. However, sometimes I get the impression that Hollywood thinks these are the only black actors around.

What about the black actors and actresses who are not at that level? What about Wesley Snipes, Larry Fishburne and Tisha Campbell? True, they have not achieved legendary status such as DeNiro, Ball, Cosby, and Goldberg, but neither has Geena Davis, Tom Cruise, nor Sharon Stone. However, Davis, Cruise, and Stone have been featured prominently in the media and have been on covers of magazines. One could say that Davis, Cruise, and Stone have hit movies, but so do Snipes, Fishburne and Campbell. Fishburne recently won a Tony Award for best actor in a Broadway play. He was not on the cover of any magazine for this achievement nor any of his other achievements in movies such as "Boys 'N' The Hood" or "School Daze." Sharon Stone was on the cover of "Rolling Stone" after her performance as a killer in the movie "Basic Instinct."

The problem is that the only time a black actor or actress has good exposure in the media is when he or she overachieves.

Do not get me wrong; this is not only about Hollywood's unfair treatment of black actors. Hollywood is only a small example of what black Americans must faces in this society. We are only counted when we overachieve. In this society, it is not enough for a black American to be successful, he must be successful beyond anyone's expectations or wildest dreams that they could ever be. Then, maybe he will get the recognition he deserves.

The solution to this problem lies with us. As black Americans, we must fight hard to make sure the successes of our people are recognized. We have to recreate more outlets of self celebration such as "Ebony" and "The Roddey-McMillan Record," even if they seem separatist to many. We should not stop there, either.

We should work for the day that there is equal racial recognition in magazines like "Rolling Stone" and "People," even if we have to be pushy and aggressive in writing to these magazines and telling them to serve our interests. We must never forget our successes, and we should make sure that the rest of America never forgets, either.

THE RODDEY-MCMILLAN RECORD SERVES EVERYONE

by Deirdra Stewart

A culturally diverse newsletter has made its way to Winthrop University publication's list this year.

The Roddey-McMillan Record, the first newsletter at Winthrop to focus solely on cultural diversity attempts to educate the students and faculty on minority based issues.

In the past, the Roddey-McMillan Record was published once a year. It functioned as a campus organization or club not as an official publication.

Alvin McEwen, 1991-92 editor and this year's co-editor, was instrumental in making the Roddey-McMillan a campus publication. Dorothy Thompson, 1991-92 advisor to the Roddey-Millan, was also instrumental in this event.

The Roddey-McMillan Record is a way to focus on minority concern, achievements and activities. It focuses on all minorities on campus including ethnic, racial and religious groups.

Named after Cynthia P. Roddey, the first African-American to attend Winthrop, The Roddey-McMillan attempts to cover issues that are significant to minorities. Also, it takes stories that are of a campus concern and explores how it will affect the minority population.

With Winthrop University having the highest percentage of minorities at a predominantly white institution, the Roddey-McMillan Record answers the call of those who sometimes go unheard.

Featured sections in the Roddey-McMillan include Poet's Corner, Minorities in Sports and the Greek Corner.

Zeta Phi Beta participates in Walk America.

THE WEEK THE GREEKS UNITED

by Tiffany Rush

During the week of October 26-30, Winthrop's annual Greek Week was held by the campus Greek organizations. The week was filled with events including a scavenger hunt, skit night, and the first ever Greek God pageant. This year, however, Greek Week created unity among all of the fraternities and sororities, which is something that never existed in the past.

Greek Week was not only a week of fun and excitement, but a week of competition. Each organization was paired with another and earned points toward becoming the overall winner. Top honors went to Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta sororities along with Pi Kappa Alpha. Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Sigma Sigma took second, while Sigma Nu and Zeta Tau Alpha placed third. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity was awarded the Participation Award for the fraternities and Sigma Sigma Sigma received it for the sororities.

Joetta Irving, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, served as co-chairperson for Greek Week. She took part in the planning of the events and games. Irving said that this year's Greek Week was successful, and believes it brought the Greek organizations closer together. Nikkole Davis, another member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, commented on the diversity presented during Greek Week.

"This year was much better than previous years," she said. "Black Greeks got the chance to interact with White Greeks."

The same views were shared by Lafreda Singleton of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She remarked on the way she had previously perceived White fraternities.

"I thought all they ever did was party, but being paired with Pi Kappa Alpha helped me to overcome the stereotype I have," she said. "Now I better understand them."

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BGA CELEBRATES "UMOJA"

by Belinda Blue

Winthrop University's Black Greek Association (BGA) was created in order to promote unity among black Greeks and to generate scholarship funds for minority students. Under the supervision of Cynthia Volker, the newly appointed Greek advisor, the Black Greek Association has planned a week of "Umoja" or unity. The activities included in the week where the following: a student panel, a community panel, sporting events and a mixer. These activities gave black Greeks the opportunity to interact with each other, getting to know each other better, and hopefully have better intergreek relations.

It is very important that BGA have a week to celebrate the oneness among the black greeks at Winthrop. One such reason, according to Jerome Benjamin Davis, president of BGA and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the week will "help promote unity among black greeks and allow nongreeks, especially black (students) to see that just because we have different letters on our chests, we are all sisters and brothers".

Some greeks opposed the week of sponsored events because they feel that the unity will fade at the end of the week. Lavon Goudlock felt that while BGA has good intentions, a week of activities will not change the attitudes of black greeks on this campus.

She said, "if we cannot support each other all semester long, why should we perpetrate for a week?" Lavon is a member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Inc. and she recalled instances when black Greeks did not support each other in the past. Another Greek who agrees with Lavon felt the need to express her concern about the BGA-sponsored week.

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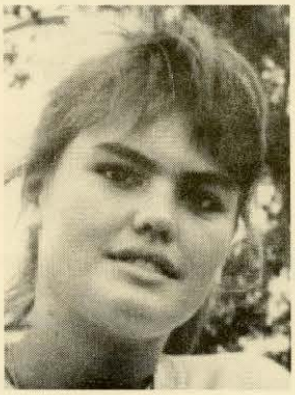
ATHLETE'S CORNER

by
Arlecia Simmons



Sussy Boyanovich

Sussy Boyanovich is a 19 year old student from Lima, Peru. She is also one of the newest members of the Winthrop Eagles tennis team.

Boyanovich has been playing tennis for the past ten years and has represented Peru in many tournaments. Boyanovich has competed in the World Cup, Orange Bowl, Banana Bowl, Rolex and South American Cups. Boyanovich has also been nominated for the Juegos Panamericanos Juegos Odesur. This tournament is considered one of the most important tennis tournaments in South America.

Boyanovich's interest in Winthrop was stirred by her best friend who is also a member of the team. Boyanovich was then contacted by the coach and offered a full scholarship.

She is a computer information systems major and upon graduation wishes to play professional tennis in the United States.

Boyanovich is looking forward to educationally enriched and fun filled years at Winthrop University.

She said, "I like Winthrop because4e it's not so big and the people are so friendly."

Todd Pigford is an 18 year old from Columbia, South Carolina. The 6'1", 165 lb. freshman will be one of the newest faces at the Winthrop Coliseum this basketball season.

Pigford, a point guard was inspired to play basketball by his father. He has been playing the sport for the past 6 years.

He was offered many scholarships to schools such as Radford and North Carolina A&T State University, but he chose Winthrop because of its School of Business.

Pigford said, "With hardwork everything you desire can be accomplished."

He enjoys Winthrop and the cooperation and encouragement of his teammates.

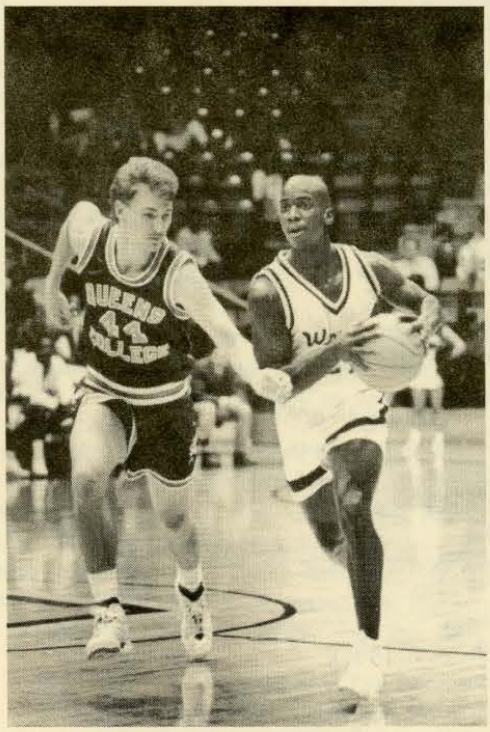
Tara Danielle Gilmore

Tara Danielle Gilmore is an 18 year old freshman from Tucker, Georgia (20 minutes from Atlanta).

Gilmore has been paying softball for the past 13 years. Both Gilmore's parents play the sport and her step father has coached both her and her mother's team for years.

She was offered many scholarships, but chose Winthrop because of its reputation in higher education. Gilmore was chosen to be a pitcher for the Winthrop Eagles Softball Team and awarded a partial scholarship.

Nicknamed A.J. in softball. Gilmore is a premajor. Her goal in life is to be the best at Whatever she decides to do. She plans on playing softball for the entirety of her eligibility and continue playing on intermural teams after graduation.



Decarlo Wilkins goes to the basket against a defender from Queens College.

by Robert Johnson

Part I

a. The dark approaches the crack infested street
b. As the crack fiends come out to dance with death
c. Here I be trapped with darkness on crack
a. A pause, a glance, as my heart starts to beat
d. Live fast, die young rings in my ear
d. Or is it a gunshot as the crack dealers appear
e. Alas, tis a wonderful thing to be gifted and black
f. But a terrible ting to stand, back to the wall
g. As darkness and death masquerade toward you
e. And your only weapons are the things you lack.

Part II

Not the right color and not the right speech
An eight lane highway with you in the middle
With politicians and policemen directing the way
And people knowing nothing trying to teach
Sex, money, and murder consume your hear
And each brother working hard at his part
Can life not be simpler and a whole lot duller
Go to school, get a job, live til you're old
Its the best way, or so they all believe
Young, Afro-Amerinegro man of color

by Regina Butler

Do you know what hurts
my heart
as words drop off of lips
of careless people's tongues
dyed pink
with useless talk?
Do you understand how darkness
feels to rub your hand and touch
what wonderful
people we are
and how times have
changed
absolutely nothing?
Caress the deepness of your soul
and act on words that hurt–
that invade and desire
to limit
the wonderful people we are.

The stars
Yes, they are bright
and beautiful to the eyes,
But they are nothing
without the gentle presence
of the night's comforting sky.

Grandma Smelled Like Work

I remember times
in grandma's kitchen
her sparkling grey hair
pinned in a roll.
A worn green apron
over
a light blue housedress
with white lilies
comfortable slippers on
the trodden floor

I sat at the table
or did the dishes
and sounds of
home and family
roots and nature
came from the figure of
wisdom
Sounds that taught me to be
real.

Grandma smelled like
work–
harden/soft hands
–tender.
I felt the sun
in her eyes;
I tasted the love
in her life.

by Regina Butler

I smell time

I smell time–
it is the early morning
crackle
of grease in a
frying skillet
in the summer–
blowing fan drying
mama's salty forhead.

continued from page 3

Other men commented that light women stand out, are prettier, and that some men think if they get involved with a light woman and have a baby the baby will be cuter with "good" hair. A 20 year old male made a comment that amazed as well as amused me so much it can't go unwritten. He stated some men prefer light women because "you can see their body better in the dark...Dark women, you can't really see their body in the dark, but light women, you can see what they have, what you're touching."

So, there it is: what black men are looking for. You, dear reader, now know the opinions of 40 black people on Winthrop's campus, but to really understand what the black man you are friends with or want a relationship with wants you must talk to him. Every black man is different and complex. Communicate and have fun learning more about each other black people. We must or we won't survive!

Umoja

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Tajuana Devine, a member of Delta Sigma Theta, expressed her concern that "the unity should be genuine and last for more than a week, (then) it will have more meaning".

While the concept of BGA sponsoring a week of Umoja is a good one, there was controversy surrounding the week's intentions. Since the BGA consists of only black Greeks and collects money for minority students, it can be suggested that the organization was segregating itself from other greeks.

According to J.B. Davis, of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., "we are not trying to exclude ourselves from the white organizations. (There is a need for blacks) to have a common ground with (themselves) as blacks". Regarding the funds allocated for the sole benefit of minority students, Joetta Irving, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha said that "if it was open to everybody to participate in, (then) the fundraiser would be for everybody". The main point stressed is that BGA should not ask people to participate in the week if they will not be the recipients of the BGA scholarship award.

Promoting unity among blacks is an important task for the BGA; however, it will take more than a week's efforts to unify blacks on this campus. Persistence and cooperation is needed on the parts of students and greeks in order to make unity a reality. In the words of an anonymous writer: "we need unity for our roots to keep black pride alive".

United

continued from page 5

Singleton said she also was grateful for the opportunity to meet new people.

"Before, I would see them wearing their fraternity shirts, but now I know the names that go with those faces," said Singleton.

Swonda Dixon and Jennifer Middleton, members of Zeta Phi Beta sorority, felt the same about Greek Week. Middleton said that it was her first time participating in Greek Week and thoroughly enjoyed it. Dixon said she had fun working with the members of Delta Sigma Theta and Pi Kappa Alpha.

"I had fun working with everyone, especially the guys," said Dixon. "They were excited about learning how to step for skit night."

Members of the campus Black fraternities had the same perceptions about Greek Week.

Will Smith of Alpha Phi Alpha felt that Greek Week was a positive atmosphere. Gerald Jones a member of the same fraternity said that he was not interested in participating at first because he thought the campus Greeks would not be able to get along. Eventually, his outlook changed and thought everything was a complete success.

Gerald Patrick Searles of Kappa Alpha Psi believes that the gap between Black and White Greeks is closing. He also offered a suggestion for next year's Greek Week.

"There should be a day devoted solely to accommodate Black Greeks," said Searles.

Not everyone agreed that this year's Greek Week lived up to its fullest potential. Mary Clinton, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, thought it was successful, but not planned properly. "It was thrown together quickly and I felt overwhelmed," said Clinton, "I did, however, like the way the fraternities and sororities were paired. In the past, Greek Week never catered to Black Greeks, but this year it attempted to.'