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## The Roddey McMillan Record - February 1993

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# The Roddey-McMillan Record

Winthrop University's Minority Newsletter

Second Issue, Volume 1

Feb. 1993



**Marian Anderson**



**Maya Angelou**



**Wilma Rudolph**



**Alex Haley**



**Duke Ellington**

***Celebrating Black History Month***

See pgs.6 and7 highlighting the achievements of successful and famous African Americans.

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Blue, Robert Johnson, Anthony  
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\*Photos for this issue taken by Joel Nichols

## **Words of thanks**

Welcome to the second edition of the Roddey-McMillan Record.

This edition is our special Black History Month issue. We have a spread on Black History Heroes on pages 6 and 7. This spread is not to say that the five people chosen are the only African-Americans who have contributed greatly to the race.

There are many others; far too many to write about in a 12 page publication. Also, in honor of Black History Month, "Poet's Corner" has been given two pages. We hope you will read the poems by some of the best writers Winthrop has to offer.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the make up of this issue, those who read the Record and learn from it, and most of all, those who have supported us and continue to support us.

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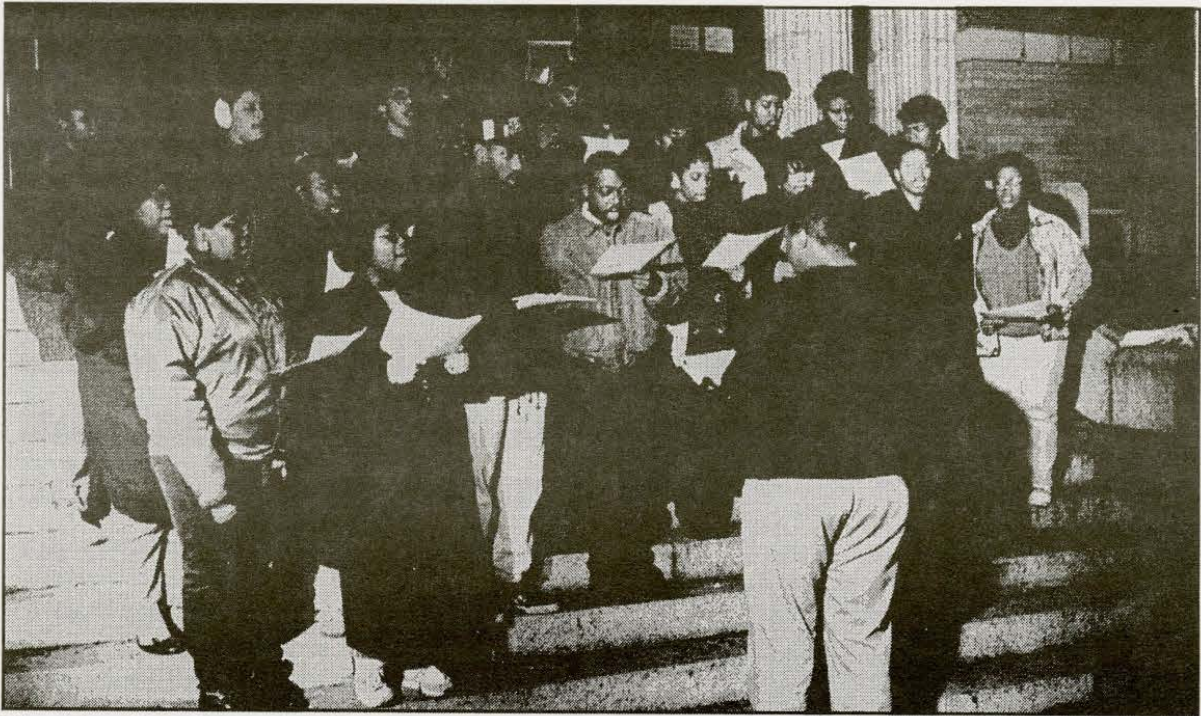
**Continuations . . . . . pg. 12**

## **WANTED**

**Dependable, hard working potential staff members to work for the Roddey-McMillan Record, Winthrop's Minority Newsletter.**

**For this semester, we are coming out once a month. Our meeting times will be announced in a future issue of The Johnsonian.**

**Come and join Winthrop's new and fastest growing publication. Everyone is invited.**



The Ebonite choir sing Christmas carols on the steps of Rutledge

## Ebonite choir sing about God's glory

by Arlecia Simmons

"We've got to live the life we sing about in our songs. We've got to walk upright representing Christ. . ."

If one walked past Dinkins Auditorium on Thursday nights, he or she would most likely hear these words being sung by the Ebonite choir of Winthrop University.

Presided over by sophomore, Phila Riley, the Ebonite choir is made up of 70 students, both undergraduates and graduates.

The choir is a branch of the Association of Ebonites (AOE). AOE was the first black student organization at Winthrop. It is generally for minority students, but membership is open to all.

"Students are afraid to join the association because they think they will have to sing on the choir," said Riley. "The association sponsors speakers and forums and the choir is a separate entity."

Members must be active in order to participate with the choir.

"We don't just sing to sing," said Carlton Smalls, choir director, "but we use our music to witness to others about the goodness of God."

Riley said "The Ebonites are so unique because we are able to shuffle our schedules around to sing at church and community activities."

The Ebonites have performed at the Emmett Scott Center, Jubilee '92, Bethlehem Baptist Church in Chester, SC and the pre-festival for the South Carolina Choral Union in Columbia, SC. On Nov. 13-15, they participated in a workshop at Clemson. Also, they held a fall concert on Dec. 3.

Tiffany Armstrong, a choir member, said "Singing with the Ebonites is both mentally and physically uplifting. When we go to rehearsal, we are rejuvenated from the frustrations of the world."

# Thompson enjoys teaching literature of African-Americans



by Belinda Blue

Dorothy Thompson is a very distinguished professor. Not only is she the only black professor in the English department, but she is considered a very challenging and enthusiastic professor by her former students.

Thompson said it pleases her to teach African-American literature which "includes African-American history, African-American sociology and Afrocentric ideas because it helps everybody understand that Afrocentric ideas are something to be proud of."

However, being the only African-American female English professor, Thompson said makes her feel like she is "fill(ing) a double minority slot," while carrying the reputation of all blacks on her shoulders."

She said "I don't want to assimilate into some kind of melting pot. I'm too

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**"I don't want to assimilate into some kind of melting pot. I'm too proud of the history of African-Americans."**

---

**Dorothy Thompson, assistant professor of English**

---

proud of the history of African-Americans.

She is also a poet.

She said she loves the "power of the word" and because she writes poetry, Thompson is able to concentrate on the language she teaches.

Thompson also has written criticism in literature on Toni Morrison and Ntozaka Shange and have presented papers on these writers at conferences.

She has also prepared two manuscripts that are currently being considered by two publishers.

Encountering a professor who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject he or she is teaching is rare. Moreover, finding one who encourages questions and open-ended discussions is even more of a rarity.

Dorothy Thompson is such a professor. To be in her class is to have your mind fully emancipated.

# Black History Month heroes should be people close to us

by Thomas Simuel

Black History Month gives Afro-Americans a chance to celebrate and bring forth themselves in a positive light. It affords Afro-Americans a chance to re-emphasize Martin Luther King Jr.'s dreams and acknowledge the accomplishments of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and W.E.B. DuBois.

But why do we seek out the famous and elite among our race? We do endless searching, looking for positive Afro-Americans we can emulate. They soon become our martyrs. Their faces are widespread and their names are often seen in books and magazines.

Our heroes and heroines are usually people we do not know. I love King's dreams, but he has never had a conversation with

me. Nor has he known of my troubles and pains.

This is not an attempt to blaspheme or trivialize King's mission. This is only an attempt to raise readers' consciousness about the heroes and heroines that exist in every day life.

It is sad that some of us feel as though the only people we can look up to is someone we do not know. To love and appreciate a famous figure is different from loving and appreciating someone close to you.

We are in an abysmal state if it takes Afro-Americans going beyond their homes, communities and classrooms to find their heroes.

It is strange that we find it easier to

see *HEROES*, pg. 12

# Awareness is key to solution of racism

by Alvin McEwen

If you are an African-American, stop reading this column because this is not for you. The things I am about to say are things you should already know .

If you are a Caucasian, read on because this is for you.

There was a war going on in the Charlotte Observer newspaper a while back. It was taking place on the editorial page. A couple of weeks ago, a Caucasian woman wrote a letter saying how she is so tired of the Charlotte Observer having African-Americans on the front page. Her comments caused a barrage of letters to the editor. Some castigating her, others echoing her sentiments. All of the letters echoing her sentiments were from other Caucasians. It makes me realize that while we all have come a long way in race relations, there is still far to go. I personally think it all deals with attitudes.

I hear so much about how African-

Americans have chips on their shoulders.

I hear my Caucasian classmates say comments like "Slavery is over. Why am I being blamed because of something my ancestors did?"

While I will admit that some African Americans are hostile towards you, it sounds as if you are thinking that we all should be grateful that Caucasians, out of the kindness of their hearts, gave us our freedom after over four hundred years of racism and humiliation.

This is what it's all about; four hundred years of hardships, not just slavery. We are not blaming you for what happened to our ancestors, but rather that you feel that all of the sudden, we should to trust you.

This is the key to the racial problem; in a general sense, many of us do not trust you all. To some degree, I can understand this. Anger felt by a group of people against their

see *AWARENESS*, pg.12



**Marian Anderson**  
1902-  
Opera Star

Marian Anderson opened doors for many other black opera singers. She was born in February 1902. She learned to sing and play the piano at age six. At age eight, she gave her first concert.

**Alex Haley**  
1921-19902

**Author and Genealogist**

With his Pulitzer Prize winning book, "Roots," turned stories about his ancestors into a vehicle for racial understanding.

He was born in 1921 in Ithaca, New York.

It was not by desire that he became a writer. Bored with his duties in the U.S. Coast Guard, he began writing to everyone he knew. Later, he wrote articles and submitted them to various magazines for publication.

"Playboy" magazine assigned him to interview jazz trumpet player Miles Davis. Another interview had him talking to Malcolm X.

He used this opportunity to get permission to write the book, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X." It was a best

seller. He began to search for his family's history. He had known about them from stories his grandmother had told him. His search took him 12 years and over 500,000 miles.

Later, she studied under the famous voice teacher, Giuseppe Bogheti and won a concert hosted by the New York Philharmonic. She won hands down over 300 other singers. Later, she met American impresario, Sol Hurok, who offered a management contract that would feature her in 15 concert halls throughout America. In 1936, she was asked to perform at the White House. In 1939, despite her tremendous success, the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to let her perform in Constitution Hall in 1939. Outcry was so great that the White House made arrangements for Anderson to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

On Easter Sunday, in 1939, before an audience of 75,000, Anderson stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and gave her most memorable concert.

For more than 30 years, she toured throughout the world and broke many racial barriers; most notably, becoming the first black artist to sing with the Metropolitan Opera Company.

On her final concert on April 19, 1965, Anderson performed in Carnegie Hall. When the last song was sung, she received a full half-hour ovation.

Eventually, he came to the Gambia, Juffre. It was there that he discovered that he was in the very village of his ancestor, Kunta Kinte, who had been sold into slavery.

After he finished his research, he wrote "Roots," so the story of his ancestors could be told and of all black people could be told. It was a huge success. The mini-series fared even better. It is the most watched mini-series ever on television and the final episode is in the top five of the most watched television programs ever.

Haley used the money he gained from "Roots" to start the Kinte Foundation, which helps blacks trace their ancestors. In late 1992, Haley died.

**Wilma Rudolph****1940-****Track and Field Star**

Wilma Rudolph is an example of a Black American who succeeded despite her handicaps.

She was born in 1940 with the disease polio. As a result, she wore a leg brace until the age of 12. In high school, she became a star in basketball and track. As a sprinter, she was never defeated.

By the end of her sophomore year at Tennessee A&I, the Olympic trials for the 1960 games were underway. She won the 100 and 200 heats and relay. Rudolph came into the Olympics wanting a gold medal; she received three for the 100 and 200 meter dashes and the relay.

Not only did she set a world's speed record, but became the first woman in the United States ever to win three Olympic gold medals.

**Duke Ellington****1889-1974****Band leader, composer**

Duke Ellington is credited with influencing jazz music as we know it today.

He was born Edward Kennedy Ellington in April 29, 1899. It was at age 7 when he first began to take the piano. At age 14, he composed his first song, "Soda Fountain Rag". It was then that he received his nickname, "Duke."

In 1923, he moved to New York and later formed his own group.

He moved to the Cotton Club and on Lenox Avenue remained there from 1927 until 1932. He and his band gained national and international exposure there.

In 1933, they performed at the London Palladium, the number one variety theater in the world at the time.

Ellington wrote more than 5,000 compositions. Among them are "Sophisticated Lady," "Moon Indigo," and "In a Sentimental Mood."

Ellington and his band was invited to play with every major symphony band in the United States, as well as the Paris Opera and the London Philharmonic.

Between 1943 and 1955, he performed regularly at Carnegie Hall. In 1969, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. On May 24, 1974, Duke Ellington died.

**Maya Angelou****1928-****Activist, Author, Dancer, Actress**

Many remember her from President Clinton's inauguration, but Angelou has been turning heads long before that day.

She was born in 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri. She studied modern dance in New York and in 1954-55, she toured 22 African and European countries. In Ghana, she was

a free-lance writer for the Ghanaian times and the Ghanaian Broadcasting Company.

In 1960, she was the northern coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Her publications include the autobiographical "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings," and "Heart of Woman." She is now an R.J. Reynolds professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.





Shana Daphene Jones rejoices with a friend after receiving her diploma.



Darlene Ford is hard at work studying in the library.



Winthrop Eagle basketball player DeCarlo Wilkins plays "hardball".

by Arlecia Simmons

### Tennis, soccer players take center stage

Kwesi Wilburg is a 20-year-old junior from Atlanta, Georgia.

The English/Secondary Education major is also a member of the Winthrop Eagles soccer team.

At five years old, Wilburg began playing soccer with his father.

Not only is Wilburg the forward for the team, he is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, a member of the Big Brother-Big Sister program and a past WINGS mentor.

He feels that the team has grown since his freshman year.

He aspires to one day teach middle school and continue playing soccer with an Amateur Club.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sajy Matthews is a junior from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The 20-year-old Native American is also the fullback for the Winthrop Eagles soccer team.

Matthews, a Human Resource Management major, has played soccer for the past 12 years.

He enjoys playing all sports and listening to music. He said he has no desire to play soccer after college.

His goals in life are to be successful and attend graduate school.

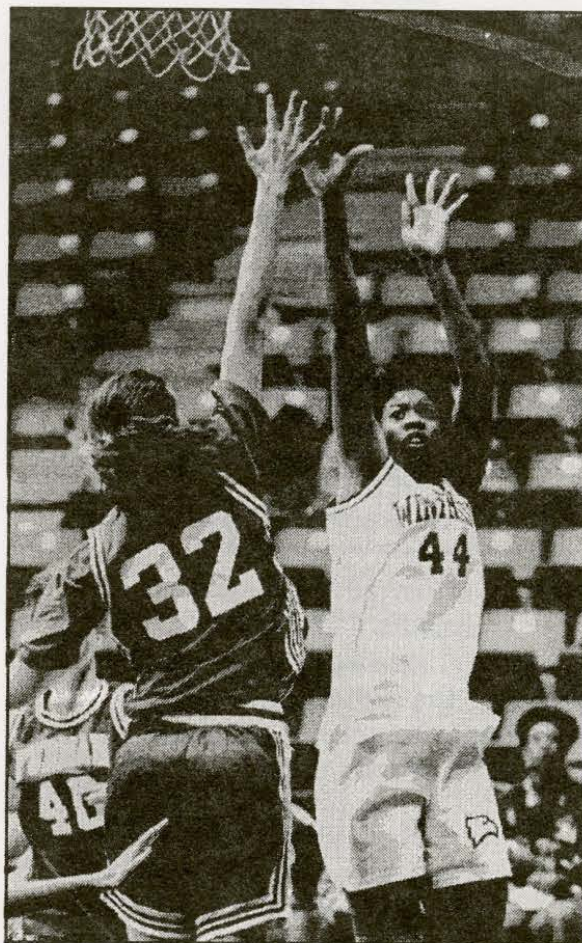
**Athlete Spotlight is a regular feature of the Roddey-McMillan Record.**

**It is a way to showcase minority athletes and talk not just about their sports, but their lives in general.**

Su-Ann Ng is a 17-year-old freshman from Selangor Sha Alam in Malaysia. Ng is a member of the Eagles Tennis Team.

Ng has been playing tennis for the past 10 years and became interested in Winthrop because of her sister, who is also a member of the tennis team.

Ng, a Micro-Biology major, hopes to one day join the United Nations World Health Organizations. Her goals in life are to be successful and get a masters degree. She also aspires to join an international firm so that she can travel around the world



Lady Eagle Kaneesha Nix shoots over a Furman player.

*In honor of Black History Month, Poet's Corner will be extended to two pages.*

**Made In Vietnam**  
by Belinda Blue

I'll never know  
what you felt  
(did you feel?)  
in 'Nam  
Were you split in two-  
part soldier,  
part human  
(52 raped)  
like those Vietnamese  
12 and 14 year old  
vaginas?

Ever felt  
safe-  
(50 tortured)  
like so many others  
protected underneath  
their dead mothers,  
peeping to see  
before the rounds came around  
(250 shot)  
its corpses caught bullets.  
No, I'll never know  
how your ears  
(405 traumatized)  
deafened by their monotonous pleading,  
begging,  
(Shut up Gook, Slope!)  
silenced that moral voice inside,  
making you  
fire  
(ready, aim, shoot)  
at children  
hanging off their mothers' limp breasts.

What did you hear  
besides you size 12  
skawoosh in  
the Rice Paddies  
kicking the arms and tongues  
(back you go)  
into place  
(98 mutilated)  
like a human puzzle  
in the ditch  
in My Lai.

Could you smell them  
(or was this sense gone too?)  
thickening with their peasant sweat?  
Did you ever have to touch  
one of those  
(God forbid!)  
cold cadavers  
(95 tortured)  
whose red tie-dyed faces  
stared back at you  
(forever).

I'll never know  
(600 dead, more or less?)  
what you will always  
(unfortunately in the flashes of your  
distant stare)  
know,  
And I hope to God  
I never have to.

**Passivity**  
by Kaetrena Davis

Your cries of "revolution!"  
do not make you any more African  
than  
Africa,  
my people.

Our hypocrisy saddens me  
One hand makes peace  
The other holds a gun  
Killmekillyou,  
my brother.  
Your braids  
and Ankhs  
and beads  
and Cross-Colours  
and Xs  
Don't make you any more knowl-  
edgeable  
Than you could be,  
my people.  
Blood, sweat, tears and cries of  
AGONY endured by your ancestors  
makes you  
ColoredAfro-americanAfrican-  
americanBLACK  
Your cries of "revolution!"  
do not make you any more African  
than  
Africa,  
my people.

**Essence**  
by Litasha Dennis

The  
Essence  
of Being  
Black  
Is the  
Essence  
of the  
Essential.  
Many Question,  
But Few  
Understand  
What is so  
Easily Understood.  
Forever  
The  
Products of Denial-  
Always Denied  
What is Undeniably Ours.  
Yet  
We are  
"The  
Quintessence  
of  
Universal Blackness."  
We have  
Within Ourselves  
All the Essence  
To do  
All the Essentials.  
To have this  
Essence  
Is to be  
The Best.  
Remember that  
To be  
The Best  
Is to be  
Black.  
And  
Never Forget that  
To be  
Black  
Is the  
Essence of Being.

**Drowning**  
by Regina Butler

Carl drives a 1978 T-Bird, brought  
in his days of wildness.  
The music is loud if the windows are  
locked tight.  
He remembers cruising with his music and  
hair free.  
Looking in the rearview mirror  
Carl sees his ever so wonderful do of a fro  
as never before  
diminishing.  
Somewhere deep inside Carl smiles  
however he cannot make his moist lips  
form. He is a box  
his lips capture the fall  
of his pouring rears.  
A flood he cannot  
survive.

**Under the Umbrella**  
by Belinda Blue

It's raining her.  
Sometimes there were storms  
with lightning and thundering, too.  
There were never just drops-  
always downpurs,  
Flooding my eyes  
so I could never truly see,  
the way I sometimes can when the sun is  
out  
(but even still my eyes strain because  
there is  
too little light).

It will let up  
(somehow it always dows)  
but its too late to keep dry  
or stay warm  
this time.

**HEROES**

Continued from pg.5

heroes and heroines are in our homes, classrooms and communities.

Our parents, teachers, ministers and confidants may not have been Nobel Prize winners nor conductors of Underground Railroads, but they have been the providers, motivators and the caretakers of our lives.

Many Afro-Americans whose names are absent from history books have made and continue to make history.

These unsung heroes and heroines have made a positive difference despite racism, disenfranchisement and poverty.

We need not look far and beyond when looking for heroes.

All it takes is a glimpse at the people who have made a concrete difference in our lives.

*Look for the third of the Roddey-McMillan Record coming out in March.*

*Among the articles, will be a special feature on interracial relationships. Don't miss it!*

**AWARENESS**

Continued from pg.5

persecutors cannot be erased with the passage of laws.

Trust is something that must be earned, not passed by Congress and after years of being the victims of prejudice, African-Americans have justifiably shaky trust in Caucasians.

Not only this, but everytime a Rodney King gets beaten by a group of white policemen, everytime a Yusef Hawkins is chased to his death by an angry white mob, everytime, an African-American cadet is racially harrassed by his classmates in Citadels all over the nation, that trust dies a

bit.

You must understand that this column is not "blaming you" for anything.

Nor is it offering a great solution. One person writing one column cannot do this. All this column is saying that African-Americans are not a bigoted race.

The solution to the problem of racism will not appear if "black people stop complaining and work hard." The solution is a mutual goal that we all must work for.

However, how can there be mutuality when you do not understand our position; where we are coming from, so to speak.