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## The Roddey McMillan Record - November 7, 2001

Winthrop University

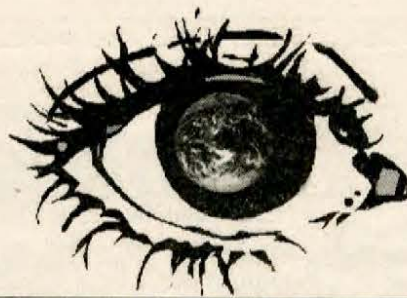
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## New multicultural coordinator starts work

Winthrop graduate wants to spotlight minority cultures

By Princess Bethea  
ptb2001@yahoo.com

Anyone who has ever started a job knows the feeling of uneasiness on the first day at work.

Stacie Williams, Winthrop University's new Multicultural Student Coordinator, felt confident

about her first day at work. She started Oct. 29, and described it as "a wonderful first day."

During the day she met with students and ate lunch with other coordinators on campus. She discussed upcoming plans for Hanukkah and Kwanzaa with her committee and students.

"I had fun getting to know the job



Williams

and getting a feel for the new tradition," Williams said.

Now that her first day is over, her long-term goals are to encourage "students to explore and share their own cultures and expose those that are less represented on campus."

Williams, a graduate of Winthrop, received a bachelor's degree in sociology and graduated magna cum laude. She also has a master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from Auburn University.

Williams was hired after Tracey Pickard left the post last spring.



Photo by Jill Stuckey

Stacie Williams already has to contend with paperwork that comes with the job. She started work Oct. 29.

## Foreign fun, food and friends



Photos by Beth Fleming

The International Festival took place at last week. Students had the opportunity to taste foods from many different countries, watch foreign films and even attend a fashion show. For more pictures, see pages 4 and 5.

## Officials release diversity numbers

By Melissa Kerney  
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Arlinthea Carter has been a student at Winthrop University for more than three years now. In that time, she says there seems to have been a large increase in the minority populations on campus.

"It has definitely increased. I remember when we [African Americans] were just a drop in the bucket, but now it's like a whole other school," Carter said.

She also has noted an increase in the Hispanic and Asian populations in her years at Winthrop.

Carter thinks the trend has had a positive impact on the campus, and not just in terms of population. She points out the increasing diversity of activities as an example.

"They started the

### Inside

For a more complete breakdown of Winthrop's enrollment this year, see Page 2

## Group opens doors to Black accounting majors

By Princess Bethea  
ptb2001@yahoo.com

If you're an African-American accounting or finance major, there is a new organization on campus that may interest you.

The National Association of Black Accountants Inc. consists of professional and student

members. Professionals in the business world help students with networking and finding jobs. They often speak to students at various universities as well. NABA has a national charter membership on campus because Winthrop University doesn't have a chapter yet.

The membership fee is \$20 and allows you to participate in

all national events. On Oct. 18-20, NABA students from Winthrop traveled to Atlanta. They attended a networking conference with thirty-five other colleges along the southeastern region. Major companies and businesses attended, and they answered questions and reviewed resumes.

Eboni Foster, a Winthrop

NABA member, attended the conference, and she says she met a lot of African-American professionals and mingled with other students. She encourages all accounting and finance majors to join and see what they're all about.

For more information, contact Latoya Bennett or Greg Harman.

## Diversity

Continued from page 1

Hanukkah celebration, and GLoBAL came back, that kind of thing," she said.

GLoBAL is a gay and lesbian organization on campus.

The numbers support what Carter has noticed in the last couple of years.

According to numbers recently released from Winthrop's Institutional Research, the minority population on campus has enjoyed a large increase.

Minority students make up 28.1 percent of all students on campus this year, said Eric Johnson, a statistical analyst in Institutional Research. This is an increase from last year, when that number was at 23.4 percent, according to the Winthrop Web site.

Of the 1,774 minority students this fall, 1,484 of the students are African-American. The remainder is made up of Hispanic and other minority populations.

Overall, Winthrop's student

enrollment grew by 12.2 percent between 1996 and 2000, making it the only four-year public institution in South Carolina that experienced double-digit growth during that time, according to a Winthrop press release.

### A Closer Look: Fall 2001

Total Enrollment: 6309  
(4841 Undergraduate, 1468 Graduate).

Minorities make up 28.1% of Winthrop's population.

International Students.....	2%
Black/African American.....	23.5%
American Indian/Alaskan native.....	0.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	1.0%
Hispanic.....	1.0%
White.....	71.9%
Unknown race.....	0.1%

40 countries are represented.  
43 states are represented.

4453 are female (70.6%), 1856 are male (29.4%).



Photo by Robert Wilder

The face of the student body at Winthrop University is increasingly diverse, according to the latest figures released by officials. From left, Johnathan Gilbert, Swati Dadheech and Jarred Dunlap are just a few of those different faces.

## Making a difference



Photos by Joel Nichols

Students help out with volunteer projects around the community as a part of Make A Difference day Oct. 27. Groups of students participated in beautification projects, among others, with United Way and Sylvia Circle Elementary School. This event was sponsored by USA Weekend and the Points of Light Foundation.



## Inspirational Quotes

Alone, all alone  
Nobody, but nobody  
Can make it out here alone.  
~Maya Angelou

Lisa: Bart, why did you take the blame?  
Bart: Cause I didn't want you to wreck your life. You got the brains and talent to go as far as you want, no matter what anyone says. And when you do, I'll be right there to borrow money.  
~The Simpsons

"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life."  
~Richard Bach

"To understand your parents' love, you must raise children yourself."  
~ Chinese proverb

"Family is one of nature's masterpieces."  
~ Anonymous

"When you look at your life, the greatest happinesses are family happinesses."  
~ Dr. Joyce Brothers

"What feeling is so nice as a child's hand in yours?  
So small, so soft and warm, like a kitten huddling in the shelter of your clasp."  
~ Marjorie Holmes

"I know of no pleasure that quite matches that of seeing your youngster proudly flaunting something you have made."  
~ Euth Goode

"...There's a lot more to being a woman than being a mother, but there's a hell of a lot more to being a mother than most people suspect."  
~ Roseanne Barr

Compiled by Princess Bethea

# Divorce doesn't determine destiny

A young girl once possessed a sour, melancholy nature because her brother and her were caught in a web of family and separation. Complexity, confusion and captivity invited them into a world of difference, dancing with their every thoughts and interpretations with what lied ahead in the future. Will their family survive the battle of a commonality in America or will they be defeated by their own personal failure? Despite the invasion of society and their opinionated dialogues on family and separation, that young girl and her brother rose above the confinement in a captive world. Even though the pain and the misunderstanding of a family divided stood tall above their heads, the height of grasping the truth were within their reach.

Searching for the identity of self, learning to cope with family issues, and blocking out the negative influence of society was a task and a half. But the return of unity between the members of their family didn't lie in their hands and it never would.

The truth is I was that young girl. It was a difficult challenge to erase the script my parents

**Victoria Felder**  
Guest Columnist

wrote. I wanted to be into their script, but there wasn't a character for me to play. Instead, I sat in the audience and watched them perform, wanting badly to have a chance to speak up. I watched them perform over and over again and I observed their flaws, but I never saw the improvement. On top of that, society acknowledge I wouldn't succeed because my parents were separated. There was no way I would survive such a drastic change. I longed for a place to fly away, and I ended up at Winthrop University. But even though I am here, I never dealt with the family issue and in some respect, it has affected me in more ways than one. Will I ever know the true meaning of commitment? Will I ever be able to look past my parents mistakes and live my own life? The answer is I'm in a process of growth and understanding.

Finally, I learned to stop focusing on the negative and start observing the positive. My parents not being together isn't the worst thing in the world. I have life, health, a vivacious personality. I have the opportunity to pursue any goal or dream I desire. My faith in God will enable me to accept my flaws and see them as a stepping stone to my success. I realized the separation of

My parents not being together isn't the worst thing in the world. I have life, health, a vivacious personality. I have the opportunity to pursue any goal or dream I desire.

my parents was an obstacle that existed in life for me to hurdle as I strive for excellence. I learned that I can write my own script and select who I want to play a role in my life. And the fact remains that my parents are human. They are entitled to make mistakes, but their mistakes aren't mine. I've excepted that my parents aren't together, but that doesn't change the fact that we're family!

# Losing one affects all in a family

**Stacey Stagers**  
Guest Columnist

A year ago, I could never have dreamed that my family would be missing one person. My mother was such a very important part of my family life. She was tall and slim. She always wore sweatpants and her trusty Reeboks. She was always there. I never took the time to ask her what else she did during the day. It never really mattered to me or the rest family. Until one day when she became sick. Her sickness developed quickly. I returned from Winthrop one weekend to discover she was now hooked up to a oxygen tank. The doctor had diagnosed her with a rare disease and it had began eating at her lungs. It was then I discovered my giver of life was going to die.

No one can fully prepare for the death of a parent, especially when you can't imagine life without then. Life has changed so much for my family these past months. My father is attempting to fill my mother's shoes. Now it's obvious that we took for granted the many things that she did for us. My mother always had dinner prepared at 5 p.m. Our clothes were always clean. My father has quickly learned that taking care of an entire household is no easy task. He often remarks that mom was a magician by being able to juggle so many daily tasks. The hardest job for him is being a father and now becoming a mother to me and my sisters. It's hard being a girl with my mother gone.

I know it's hard for dad to raise us alone. He now has to help me pick out fashionable outfits and tell me about the bad things that men can do. He's uncomfortable when we go into certain stores, but he does it anyway, trying to appear nonchalant in the awkward situation. Though we really miss my mother, we've began adjusting, and the long process of healing.

Now, my sisters and I have adjusted to the way dad runs the household. When laundry needs to be done, we do it ourselves. Dinner is done, when I cook for myself. It's made us all more independent. As the daughter of a father, also taking the role of mother, he has accepted the two roles to the best of his ability. I know I am lucky that he has accepted the challenge of raising three daughters. Many other men would buckle under the pressure, but my dad stands strong and accepts it with courage.

## Reader Response

### Revenge not the answer

I know a lot of people that want war. I have also heard the strong feelings of revenge and justice. I believe revenge will not solve anything. I believe only prayer and the Lord can fix what has happened. And through such tragedies, God only makes us stronger. Sometimes God has to break us before we unite as one.

With everything that has happened the citizens of the United States have come together for the first time. It does not matter if you do not believe in my God, because this united is something much bigger than individuals. But I do not think war will solve anything.

Some would say prayer for the victims and not the terrorist. But I think that the terrorists need it the most because 1) they are not with God and 2) what if they would have had that extra prayer or somebody to witness the gospel to them?

A lot of citizens are hungry for justice and revenge. There are also many citizens putting their trust in the Lord. And revenge does not make the Lord happy.

- Crystal Pardue,  
*freshmen*

Do you have something to say and need somewhere to say it? Have an opinion about something you read (or didn't read) in this issue?

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# Cultural events help diversify campus cliques

By Tanya Hilton  
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It is about 6 p.m. and Thomson Cafeteria is at the peak of dinner. Students pile in lines for salads, pastas, entrees and more.

The most interesting part of dinner in Thomson is whom students sit with. Most students are very segregated, sitting with people who look like them. Segregation raises the issue of whether or not cultural events are really doing the job of bringing diversity on Winthrop University's campus.

Boyd Jones, director of Dinkins Student Union, said DSU is responsible for bringing different events to Winthrop, such as bands, poets, hypnotist, plays, and others. However, DSU is not responsible for the events that are labeled cultural events. Jones said there is a committee of five faculty who decide which events should be labeled cultural events. This committee changes every year, and is not published. As Jones said the purpose of every event, whether it is labeled cultural or not is to bring enjoyment and diversity among students.

The truth is many students do not see Winthrop as a diverse campus, even though 18 cultural credits are required to graduate

For a complete listing of cultural events for the rest of the semester, see Leisure, Page 8

Hugh Orr, a senior graphic arts major, said "Students

at Winthrop still have cliques because they are too lazy to go out to cultural events and try new things." He is not alone in his view that it is the responsibility of students to go after getting out their comfort zone and trying new things.

Monika Patel, a senior finance major, said, "It is the responsibility of students to go after obtaining diversity from different events on campus." Patel also said she does not see as much diversity in the programs that are presented on campus compared to the ones in the past. She said there are too many bands, which do not promote diversity.

Ayanna Austin, president of DSU, said that, "Students go to expected events, but one thing DSU can do differently is to promote events to students who would not normally go such events."

Matt Busby, junior integrated marketing major, agrees with Austin that DSU should not just advertise to the expected target audience. He also said the number of cultural events required should be lowered because many students don't care enough.

The truth is most students, like Kaley Messney, a freshman dance and journalist major, do not know that the DSU events on campus are intended to enhance a college education. Messney said, "I go to cultural events because I need them to graduate."

No student can be forced to go to any event as Jones said, but some realize college is not just about going to classes; it is an experience that should be broadening.

Austin suggests students go to events they find questionable to enhance their knowledge of other cultures on campus.



Photos by Beth Fleming

International students strut their stuff in the fashion show last Thursday. Costumes and native dress from countries all over were showcased.



Above, Waew Wiboosanti models native dress from Thailand. Right, Fahd Aljuraid emcees the fashion show. Below, Ana Rojas, Daniel Mormey, Aljuraid and Caio Lima serve guests during the dinner portion of the show.

# Food, and Fashion

Last week, Winthrop inter from all over gathered demonstrate some of the and native clothing. O events was a fashion s Thursday eve



# ood, Fun and Fashion

...k, Winthrop international students from all over gathered together to celebrate some of their customs, foods and native clothing. One of the bigger events was a fashion show and dinner Thursday evening.



Above, Neha Rameshbhai Patel and a small helper model native clothing of India. Far left, Akiko Shiraishi wears a Japanese kimono, and Kamalini Mukerjee (immediate left) shows off another native Indian outfit.



Far left, Kinny Uresh Kadakia shows off another Indian outfit, while Brenda Chitunhu (immediate left) models native clothing from Zimbabwe. Above, Ana Rojas serves dishes from all over.

## Starving poets hungry for truth

By Angela Loynes  
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Some of the poets at Winthrop are hungry. In fact, they're starving ... for the truth.

"It's hard to write real stuff when people are feeding you [BS]," said Tonya Hassell, one of the founders of Feed a Starving Poet. The group derived its name from this hunger for truth in the world.

"We want words; we want what's real," Hassell said.

A few poets were sharing with each other when they realized that the poets at Winthrop "were way disjointed," said senior Raychelle Heath, another founder.

Sophomore painting major Oscar Soto, the third creator of the group said it's about meeting people. He wanted to be able to share his poetry and

inspire others to write.

Hassell, a senior English major, wanted to reach poets who "had something to say, but weren't published."

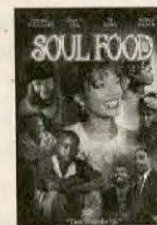
The group now has more than 50 people on their email list, but about 20 gather a few times each month. They share poetry from their journals and offer insight and encouragement to each other. Several of the poets are currently working toward improving their work for possible publication.

A few of the poets have performed at events on campus, including the All Campus Talent Show. Heath, who is majoring in modern languages, was also in the cast of a poetry and motion production, "Interruptions", recently performed in Charlotte.

FASP can be reached at feedastarvingpoet@hotmail.com

### Family Movies

The Staff of the Roddey-McMillan Record sat down and worked up a list of its favorite movie picks. These movies all have a family theme in honor of the upcoming holiday season.



**Soul Food:** Matriarch Mama Joe has held her family together for 40 years around a Sunday dinner of soul food. When diabetes hospitalizes her, the dinners stop and tensions among her three daughters start to break the family apart.

**The Lion King:** In this classic Disney tale, a young lion prince is born in Africa, thus making his uncle Scar the second in line to the throne. As the story unfolds, Simba learns a lot about responsibility and family ties.

**Steel Magnolias:** Revolving around Truvy's Beauty Parlor in a small parish in modern-day Louisiana, Steel Magnolias is the story of a close-knit circle of friends whose lives come together there.

**The Color Purple:** A black girl's life and hard times in the South, spanning some forty years: a sprawling saga of characters both frustrated and fulfilled, and at the center a survivor. This interpretation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning book will grab you emotionally.

**Addams Family Values:** Uncle Fester finds true love in the Addams' new baby-sitter. Debbie has her eye on Fester's money, but first she has to separate him from the rest of the family. Anyone's family seems normal after watching this movie.

**Object of My Affection:** George and Nina seem like the perfect couple. They love each other. There's only one hitch: George is gay. And when Nina announces she's pregnant, things get especially complicated.

**National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation:** The Griswold family's plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster. A Christmas classic.



Movie information compiled from imdb.com

## A long way from home this holiday

By Allison Smith  
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The holiday season is coming and many students here at Winthrop University are waiting for that time again to start packing their bags and head back home. As Thanksgiving and Christmas creep up on us, this is a time when many students are excited about going home and being with family.

However, for some students, that privilege is far from reality.

Many foreign students at Winthrop do not have the opportunity to go home for the holidays to be with their families. While many students are thinking about visiting brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grand-ma and grandpa, some foreign students are settling in for a holiday on campus.

Though this may sound like a terrible way to spend your days when many students are trying to rush away from campus, there are alternate activities that students can do that will help them get through the holiday season.

Some foreign students say that it helps to get through the holidays when there is frequent communication with family members at home. For example, David Howard, a freshman from Germany, says he feels closer to family by keeping in contact with them. He says that being away from home can you make you really appreciate the small things that are sometimes taken for granted.

Brenda Chitunhu, a sophomore from Zimbabwe, also agrees that keeping in contact with family helps ease loneliness. Chitunhu said it is also hard at times when you hear about events, such as a wedding or a death, and you can't be there.

Fortunately for many foreign students, the international department organizes holiday trips to various places. This past Fall Break, students went to Myrtle Beach, and this Thanksgiving, a trip is planned for Atlanta. These trips provide ways for the students to be with friends and to have fun in an environment away from the campus.

Howard said having family members in the States also is a good way to cope with feeling lonely. Howard's grandmother lives in Charleston, and he visits her often during the holidays.

Chitunhu recommends going home with an American friend. While you may not be with your family, you still have the opportunity to be with friends and have that family connection, she said.

## Students carry class load, kids

### Raising a family without lowering academic standards

By Nikki Crate  
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Baby talk is a concept that is not commonly linked with college. Or is it?

Many young females have overcome the obstacles that raising a family would set forth. These women are not only achieving an education, but they are also rearing their children.

So what does Winthrop

offer to these students who defeated the statistics and have high expectations of their own? The answer, Macfeat Laboratory, which charges \$1,750 each year for a half day of preschool and \$3,160 per year for a full day.

Laurie Yeargin, the student development coordinator, states that Winthrop offers an organization in which mothers can join entitled Mom's Support Group. Roddey Apartments accommodate the needs of a family by providing an apartment style of living.

However, with children being an large expense already, many students can't afford to send their children to Macfeat

Laboratory. Even though Macfeat would be more convenient for the students, the prices are not favorable. Despite the many obstacles, some students have prevailed.

Catherine Yow, freshman, has proven herself to be a high achiever while being the mother of two children.

At the age of 23, Yow decided to continue her education with the support and advice of her family and friends.

Yow is dissatisfied with the services provided by Winthrop and would like to see an on-campus day care for children. She would also like for Winthrop to have an after school program for children

over the age of six.

Yow's six-year-old attends an after school program offered by her school which requires monetary supplements. Yow's family aids her in caring for her four-year-old.

Yow's motivation to continue school was based on several factors. Yow wanted to explore the art field, but felt that it would be hard to do this at an institution while raising children. Yow's friends encouraged her coming to Winthrop due to the apartment style buildings that can accommodate her and her family.

"Family housing really motivated me to come to Winthrop," Yow said.

## Family = mom + dad? Not always

### For many students, it's all in definition

By Shameka Nickens  
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Families have always been complicated things. People are forever trying to define a family. There are traditional families, which are composed of a husband and wife and their biological families and non-traditional families, which include everything else.

LaRuchala Murphy, junior graphic design and photography major, defines family as people who provide love and support. They help you develop into well-rounded individuals. Most of this she used to describe her mother.

"She does everything. She is my mother and my friend. She gives me all the essentials for life," Murphy said.

Murphy is not an only child; she also has a sister and brother. Her father left when Murphy was eleven years old.

Most important to Murphy was that her mother never stopped her from being creative. "She allowed me to have my dreams. She never told me anything was impossible and I could be and do anything I wanted to," said Murphy.

"Some people would consider my family non-traditional because of a single parent yet she provided for some of the same necessities found in a traditional family," Murphy said.

Murphy doesn't believe she would be any different if she had been raised in a traditional family because she feels she got the same support from her mother as she would have from two parents.

"You learn responsibility early, and responsibility is one of those life skills you never lose," Murphy said.

Murphy did not realize until she was at a school awards ceremony that her family was non-traditional with only a single parent.

"Most of the homes where I lived had single parent households. I only noticed it in school atmospheres," she said.

Being in a non-traditional family never bother her even when others talked about their traditional families.

"It didn't make me feel inferior. It made proud because they had two parents and I only had one, and I was still achieving just as well," she said.

To junior elementary education major Gary Dent, family is a cohesive unit that

affect him because he would still be the same person that he is today as God is in charge of his life.

Dent was another that wasn't upset when other students talked about their traditional families or the activities. Dent said that his mother had found a balance playing her roles as mother and fatherly image. Dent also found two coaches at school who also help fill the void when his father was in another country or state traveling on business or on a mission.

"Families are God's central plan, its important to have togetherness. That builds strong families, which builds strong marriages and strong churches," Dent said.

Promyse Young, junior mass communication major, grew up with his mom and two siblings. He said his brother, who was five years older, always tried to act as the father figure as to telling them their "dos and don'ts."

Young's mother had to work hard and it caused stress to support all three of them, but the good thing about it would be that he is real close to his mother.

"I can tell her almost anything," Young said with a smile.

Young would not want to change how he was raised. His reasoning is that there are two-parent household where they lack the closeness that he has with his family. "I wouldn't lose that closeness, I still made it to college," Young said.

"Just because kids are from non-traditional families doesn't mean it's a bad thing, even though it could have negative affects. Just as long as they are taken care of, they are straight.

"Family is the most important thing, unless you are big on religion. Then God comes first," Young said.

**fam·i·ly** (fm-l, fml)  
n. pl. fam·i·lies  
1. Two or more people who share goals and values, have long-term commitments to one another and reside usually in the same dwelling place.

has the spirit of togetherness and is God's central planned unit. Growing up for him when his parents were married was full of travel and a strong sense of togetherness.

When Dent's parents "parted ways" he felt a loss of the togetherness. For about a year he lived with his grandmother before moving out of state to join his family. Then when he was seventeen he moved back in with his grandmother after his grandfather passed away.

Dent's reason for considering his family non-traditional is his father has remarried, divorced and moved in with his grandmother, and Dent also stays with them when he is not in school.

Dent also feels that if he hadn't been raised in a traditional family, it would not

# Losing (and finding) your religion

By Melissa Kerney  
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Angélique Blackburn used to be a Catholic. In the last year, however, the senior French major has changed her views and her faith.

She is now an atheist.

"When I came to college, I majored in Chemistry and have studied some French existentialism. I have learned not to accept anything that can not be supported with reason and evidence," Blackburn said. "The more I thought, the more I realized that I did not have evidence of a God and therefore, while I do not deny that the possibility exists, I do not believe there is a God."

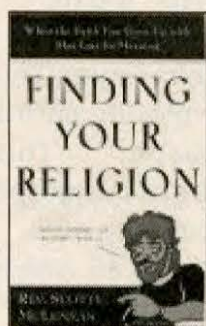
Coming to that conclusion was hard for Blackburn, but telling her parents was even harder.

"My mother prays daily that I will find God and reconcile. She told everyone at our church that I started attending a different church so no one would know I was no longer Catholic," Blackburn said.

Blackburn's story is not unique. Many students question their faith upon entering college, where they are presented with so

many new ideas and different perspectives.

The Rev. Scotty McLennan, a professor at Tufts University, has written much about the subject of switching faiths. McLennan, who is the model for the freewheeling character Rev. Scott Sloan in Garry Trudeau's comic strip *Doonesbury*, says



"Finding Your Religion: When The Faith You Grew Up With Has Lost Its Meaning" by Scotty McLennan. Harper, 242 pgs.

that questioning one's faith in college is not unusual.

"We mature emotionally and intellectually, especially in college. Why shouldn't we mature religiously as well, in college and for the rest of our lives?" he said in an online article.

For some, maturing religiously isn't so extreme. Some change faiths without losing faith in a higher deity.

One former Winthrop student, who wants her name withheld, went from being a Baptist to believing in Wiccan philosophy.

"I finally decided that I was-

n't really a Christian anymore during my freshman year at college, but I'd been questioning the whole idea of Christianity for just about as long as I can remember," she said.

One of the reasons she switched faiths is the way Wiccan beliefs make her feel about herself.

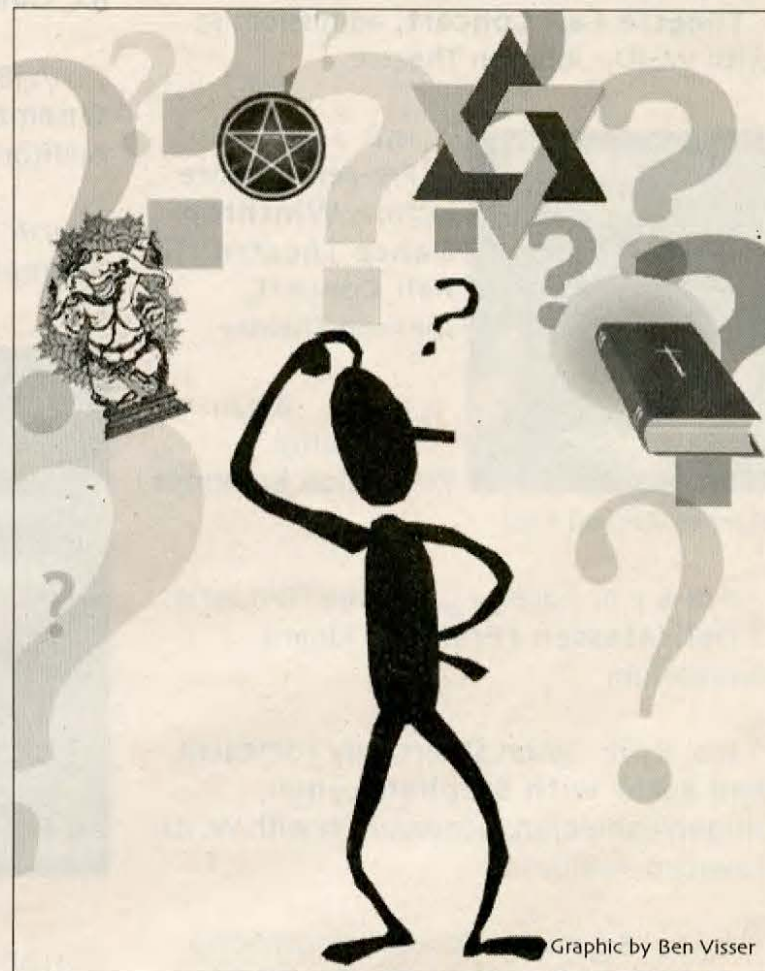
"It's given me a lot more confidence in myself and my abilities. I know it may sound silly, but knowing that the Goddess is watching your back gives you such a sense of peace and safety that you feel like you could do anything," she said. "The Christian God is just too distant to give me that feeling."

The May graduate hasn't told her parents about her conversion, and she doesn't plan to.

Crystal Keisler, early childhood education major, merely changed denominations when she started questioning her faith. Raised a Lutheran, Keisler is now a practicing Baptist.

"About two or three years ago I got frustrated with the church I was attending. It really wasn't a family. I also realized that I didn't understand anything the preacher was saying," Keisler said.

"So I decided to quit going and a friend of mine invited me to



Graphic by Ben Visser

her church. I immediately loved it. I understood the pastor's preachings and never wanted to miss church. I felt like I belonged there."

Her parents have supported her decision, and Keisler sees no problem with the fact that she is

practicing a different faith than the one with which she was raised.

"Just because your family is one religion in no way means that you must also be that religion."

## Religious Reflections: Judaism

### Student uncovers myths, mysteries about Judaism

By Princess Bethea  
ptb2001@yahoo.com

To Yuliya Vladymylova, a Winthrop student, Judaism is "a way of life and covenant between a Jewish person and G-d to fulfill G-d's commandments that are described in Torah."

Vladymylova says that Judaism is based on the notion that G-d is the One and Only Creator, Controller and Source of Power. There are no other sources of power or even a battle between the good and the evil.

An important lesson in Judaism for Yuliya is that G-d, or Hashem, the creator, created good and evil when he created a human. Therefore, the temptation was created in order to grant people a choice to obey the rules of Torah.

"A person is expected to

follow the commandments of Torah in order to be good and do good deeds and to fulfill the purpose that Hashem laid out when he created that person."

Judaism has no dogma, no formal set of beliefs that one must hold to be a Jew. In Judaism, actions are more important than beliefs.

#### Myths about Judaism

##### Are Jews a Race?

In the 1980's the Supreme Court ruled that Jews are a race, at least for the purposes of certain anti-discrimination laws. The reasoning at the time was that people routinely spoke of the "Jewish race" or the "Italian race," so that is what the legislators intended to protect. But many Jews were deeply offended by that decision because of nightmarish visions of Nazi Germany,

where Jews were declared to be not just a race, but an inferior race. Setting aside the emotional issues, Jews are clearly not a race. Race is a genetic distinction, and refers to people with shared ancestry and shared genetic traits.

##### Do Jews believe in Jesus?

By the Jewish law, G-d is the One and Only G-d. Yuliya explains that "they do not consider Jesus to be a Messiah and are still waiting for the true Messiah to come." Torah states that when the Messiah comes, the people of Israel will be brought back to their homeland and there will be time of eternal peace and prosperity.

##### Is the Torah apart of the Old Testament?

"Jews consider it to be an insult when Torah is referred to as the Old Testament,"

remarked Yuliya. Jews believe that the only source of law is the Jewish law, therefore, it does not accept the Christian Bible.

##### Is it a culture or ethnic group and are Jews a nation or a people?

Most secular American Jews think of their Jewishness as a matter of culture or ethnicity. They think of food, the Yiddish language, holiday observances, and of cultural values. However Jews have lived in many parts of the world and have developed many different traditions. There are certainly cultural traits and behaviors that are shared by many Jews, but not by all Jews all over the world and people who do not share that culture are not any less Jews because of it. Thus, Judaism must be something more than a culture or an eth-

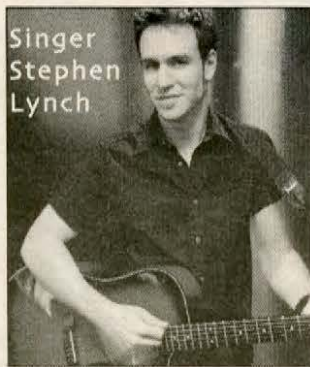
nic group.

The word "nation" is not used in the modern sense meaning a territorial and political entity, but in the ancient sense meaning a group of people with a common history, a common destiny, and a sense of being connected to each other. They are in short an enormous extended family. Judaism as a religion is very communally oriented. Prayer and holiday observances are family and community-oriented. Even people who are not religious at all feel that sense of Jewish community. Some Jews don't like to use the word "nation." Jews have often been falsely accused of being disloyal to their own country because of their loyalty to the Jewish "nation." Anti-Semites accuse Jews of being more loyal to the Israel than to their home country.



November

11/7-10 8 p.m. **Winthrop Dance Theatre Fall Concert**, admission: \$3 with W. ID., Johnson Theatre



Singer Stephen Lynch

11/8 7 p.m. Pre-performance lecture, **Winthrop Dance Theatre Fall Concert**, Johnson Theatre

11/8 8 p.m. **Winthrop Percussion Ensemble**, Barnes Recital Hall

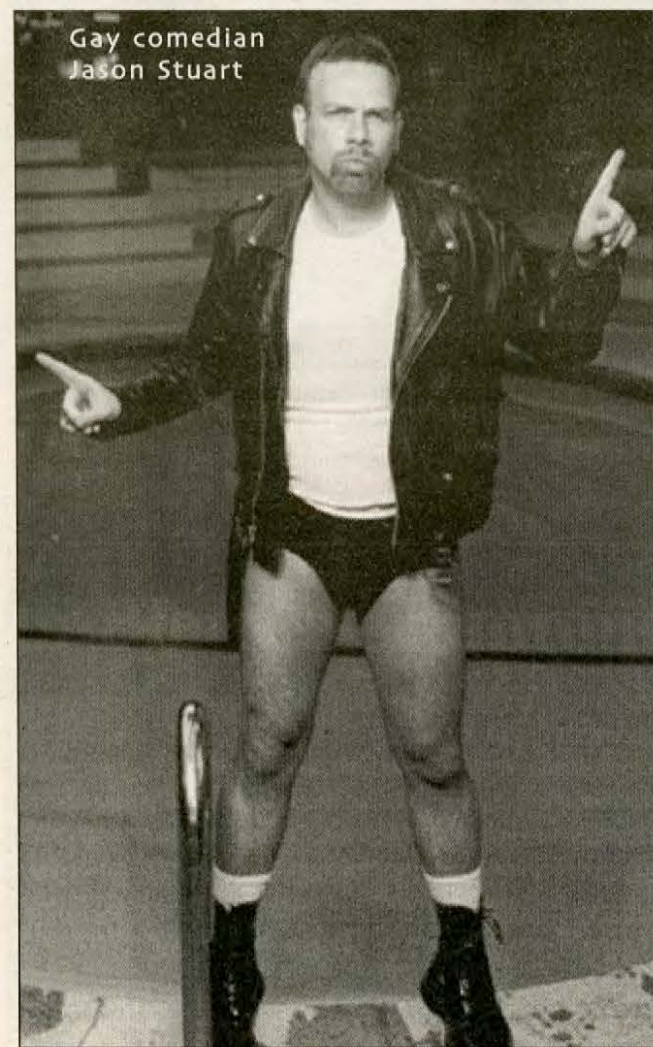
11/8 8 p.m. Foreign Language Film Series, **Delicatessen (French)**, Kinard Auditorium

11/9 8 p.m. **Jason Stuart, gay comedian and actor with Stephen Lynch, singer/comedian**, admission: \$3 with W. ID., Plowden Auditorium

11/10 8 p.m. Concert, singer/songwriters, **Fran Snyder and devon**, admission: \$3 with W. ID., Dinkins ATS Café

11/13 8 p.m. Faculty Recital, **Ron Parks, curator, SEAMUS electronic music**, Barnes Recital Hall

11/14 8 p.m. **Winthrop Guitar Ensemble**, Barnes Recital Hall



Gay comedian Jason Stuart

11/15 8 p.m. Concert, "**Groovelily**," alternative rock trio, admission: \$3 with W. ID., Dinkins ATS Café

11/15 8 p.m. Foreign Language Film Series, **Cinema Paradiso (Italian)**, Kinard Auditorium

11/16 8 p.m. **Winthrop Symphonic Band**, Byrnes Auditorium



Debrar Chapman

11/17 8 p.m. "**I Get the Blues**" by **Debrar Chapman**, Withers, Plowden Auditorium

11/17 7:30 pm **Winthrop Invitational Clinic Band Concert**, Byrnes Auditorium

11/18 8 p.m. "**Black Dance in Motion**" and "**AOE Step Team**" Fall Recital, Tillman Auditorium

11/19 8 p.m. **Winthrop Jazz Ensemble**, Tillman Auditorium

11/26-27 8 p.m. **Winthrop Chorale/Chamber Singers/Jazz Voices**, Conservatory of Music, Barnes Recital Hall

11/28 8 p.m. **Winthrop Jazz Combos**, Conservatory of Music, Barnes Recital Hall

11/28-29 8 p.m. **Winthrop One-Act Play Festival, Session A**, Johnson Studio Theatre

11/29 8 p.m. Concert, **Barbara Bailey Hutchinson**, Dinkins ATS

11/29 8 p.m. Foreign Film, "**Est-Ouest**," (French/ Russian), Kinard Auditorium

11/30 - 12/1 7 p.m. **Olde English Madrigal Feaste**, McBryde Hall

11/30 - 12/1 7 p.m. **Senior Dance Showcase**, Johnson Theatre

Spotlight

11/8 7 p.m.

The English Department is sponsoring a poetry reading in the Dinkins Faculty/Staff dining room. Participants will read poems from "**Out of the Rough: Women's poems of survival and celebration**," which was edited by Dorothy Thompson. Cultural event.

11/10 4 p.m.

Delta Sigma Theta is sponsoring a Gospel Explosion entitled "**Spreading the Gospel**". This event will feature numerous gospel choirs from the surrounding area. "Spreading the Gospel" is free to all who attend.

11/14

Oxfam America's "**Fast for the World Harvest**" campaign. Sign up in Dinkins or Thomson Nov. 12-13.

11/19 8 p.m.

The Multicultural Talent Show will take place in Barnes Recital Hall.

11/30-12/1 8 p.m. **Winthrop One-Act Play, Session B**, Johnson Studio Theatre

12/2 3 p.m. **Faculty Exhibition, Lecture #2**, Rutledge Auditorium

12/2 8 p.m. **Winthrop Flute Choir**, Conservatory of Music, Barnes Recital Hall

12/2 4 p.m. **Winthrop Glee Club**, Byrnes Auditorium

12/3 8 p.m. **Olde English/Winthrop Wind Ensemble**, Byrnes Auditorium

12/4 7:15 p.m. **Festival of Carols**, Byrnes Auditorium

! = Cultural Event

If you have an upcoming event for the months of December and January, e-mail us and tell us about it! Make sure you include all relevant information as well as a contact name and number so we can call with any questions!

RMR@winthrop.edu