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The Roddey McMillan Record - April 21, 2004

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THE RODDEY McMILLAN RECORD



ISSUE VIII *Shining the light on diversity at Winthrop* APRIL 21, 2004

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CSL: Representing all or some?

by Aprille Blanding
Staff Writer

Out of the many organizations and groups at Winthrop, the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) is probably one of the most important on campus.

According to the group's constitution, CSL "is a representative body of Winthrop student leaders" whose purpose is to "serve as the official student voice." CSL is comprised predominantly of individuals who represent a large part of the Winthrop community including the president or designers from Resident Student's Association (RSA), Dinkins Student Union (DSU), Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Association of Ebonites (AOE) amongst other organizations.

One Winthrop student, mass communication and history major Maurice Dyckes, believes that CSL stays true to its statement of being the "voice of the student body," but that the organization has "some things to work on." Dyckes comments that the "body is large enough, but the voice might not be heard." The organization states that they meet according to "need" in their Constitution and that it is the chairperson's responsibility to set up meetings.

see CSL, page 6

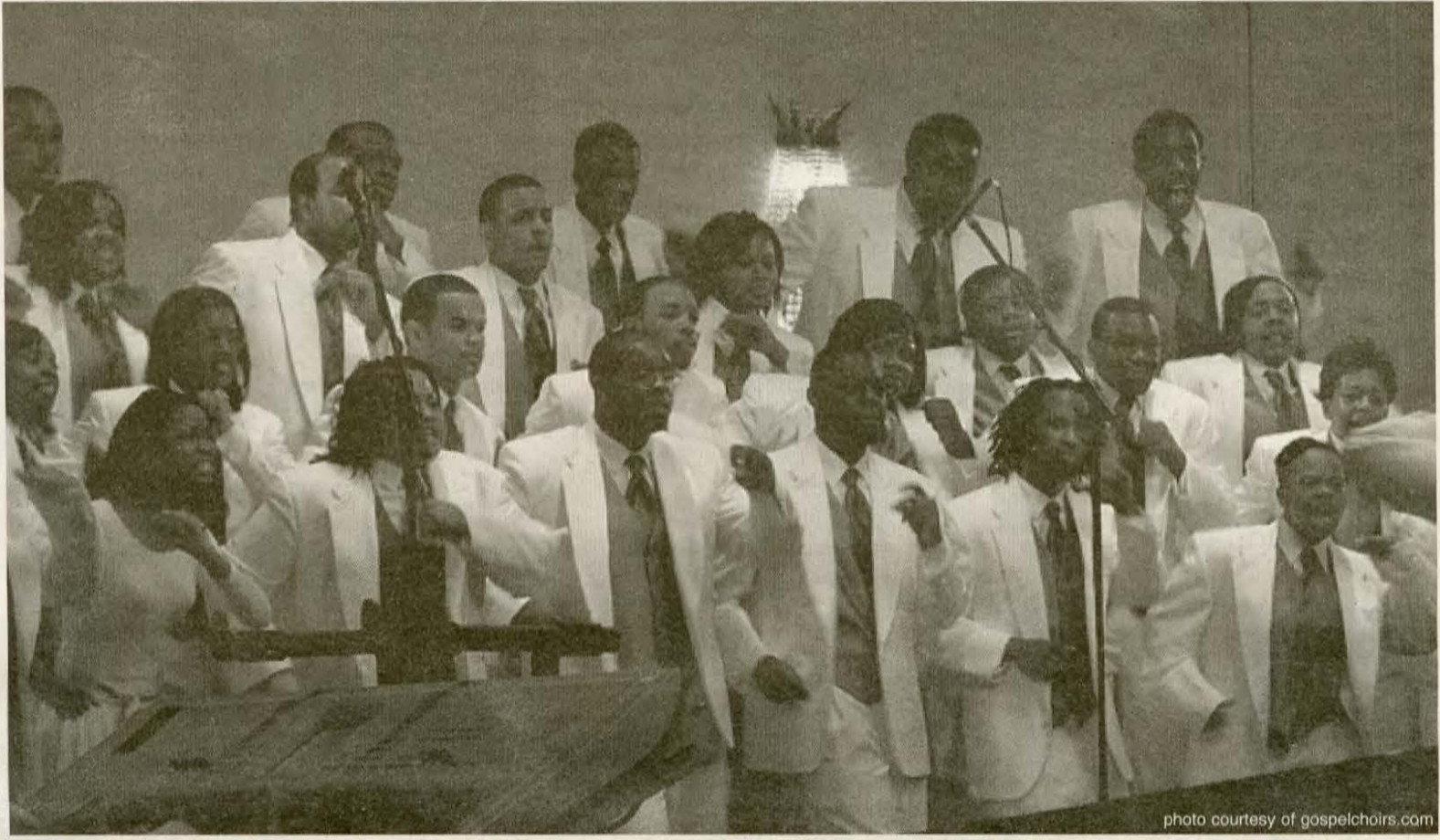


photo courtesy of gospelchoirs.com

TOTAL PRAISE: Members of Winthrop's Gospel Choir attended national competitions in New York last month, bringing home three awards.

Praise is what they do

Gospel Choir wins best director, best choreography, and best attire at national competition in New York

by Aprille Blanding
Staff Writer

Every year around the last week of March, the Black Music Caucus (BMC) of New York organizes a national competition devoted to school gospel choirs. According to the BMC's official website, the purpose of the competition is "to reinforce the positive effects that choral gospel

music provides for young people in the areas of greater self esteem, academic achievement, school attendance and spiritual uplift."

On March 27, 2004, the Association of Ebonites (AOE) Gospel Choir competed against ten other college and university choirs at the Black Music Caucus Gospel Choir Competition in downtown Brooklyn, New York. The event took place at the exquisite Marriott Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. The BMC of New York says that the choirs were awarded "monetary awards, trophies and recognition for their excellence in performing choral gospel music." The Ebonite Gospel Choir won three awards at the event including Most Outstanding Choral Attire, Most

Outstanding Choreography, and Most Outstanding Student Director (this award went to Philip Henderson, Assistant Director). During the competition, each choir is given fifteen minutes to perform, or twenty minutes if the choir has a processional and recessional, while four panel judges assess them in fifteen diverse categories, which include the three mentioned previously.

According to Head Choir Director, Erica Abney, the Ebonites prepared for the event by organizing "choreography and vocals at the beginning of this semester until the week of competition." Abney also noted that the Ebonite Gospel

see CHOIR, page 2

The Missing 'Kee': Winthrop hires Chad Kee as Program Director for Multicultural Student Life

by Tanaisha Brisbon
Senior Staff Writer

There is a new kid on the block, but he's not a student. On March 22, Winthrop University welcomed Waco, N.C., native Chad Kee into the family as the new Program Director for Multicultural Student Life. Kee is a graduate of UNC Charlotte where he obtained his B.A. in History/African American Studies and his M.A. in Sociology with an emphasis on education.

Kee's job involves cultural programming including events such as MLK,

Hannukah and Kwanzaa. It also includes advising cultural groups, planning heritage tours and overall supporting minority students.



"I want to teach others to celebrate our differences because diversity is bigger than color."

— Chad Kee
Multicultural Student Life Program Director

The responsibilities of being Program Director for Multicultural Student Life are numerous, but Kee has enjoyed it thus far. "I like the flexibility and freedom, I have room to come up with new ideas," Kee said.

Kee has set personal goals concerning his role in the Multicultural Student Life Office. He plans to be a voice to students, identifying their needs, especially minorities, and also supporting their interests.

"I want to teach others to celebrate our differences, because diversity is bigger than color," Kee said.

SOUND OFF

Things to do after College...

by Princess Bethea
Asst. Editor

1. Jump-start your love life
2. Deal with your family
3. Cook for one
4. Find a great apartment
5. Handle your finances
6. Land the right job
9. Make new friends
10. Move into the real world

What are you doing the day after graduation?



"Recooperating!!"

-Lakeyta Bonnette
Political Science/History Major



"I'm going to work...But when I get off at 1, the party begins!"

-Jessica Graves
English Graduate Student

Sources: *The Everything After College Book*

Department will travel to Spain despite recent attacks

by Ashlei Stevens
Layout Editor

Amid the recent train bombing in Madrid that killed 190 people, concerns have risen as to whether or not the modern languages department will still make its annual trip to Spain this summer.

Spanish instructor Ellen Brightwell is one of two faculty members going on the summer trip,

along with Natacha Laguardia-Carrillo.

"Yes, as of right now, it's still going on," Brightwell said.

Brightwell said the attacks "gave me pause, but not second thoughts. If [the attacks] had continued, then we probably would have reconsidered."

Each year the department takes a study abroad trip to the Universidad de Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain.

This year ten undergraduate and one graduate student are attending.

Of those students, Brightwell said only one had concerns about safety, but has still decided to go.

"It's probably even safer now that Spain has withdrawn their troops (from Iraq)," she said.

The trip is open to non-modern languages majors as well. The cost of the trip is \$3,200 and it runs from July 2 through Aug. 3. Students take



classes daily and live with a Spanish-speaking family. They travel to other parts of Spain to visit places of historic and cultural interest.

French student hones business skills

by Nicole Hollimon
Staff Writer

Sophia Blinbabilaere is one of many exchange students who choose Winthrop as their place of study. Hailing from the French town of Passay, 21-year-old Blinbabilaere is on a two-year exchange program.

Academie Mercure, the school she attends in France, requires all students to study abroad. There, Blinbabilaere's major is international affairs. At Winthrop, her major is business administration. She has chosen entrepreneurship as her focus, developing a business plan for Yves Rocher Center, a company that provides beauty products and services. She must prepare a book that details this plan from all aspects,

including logistics.

Blinbabilaere enjoys Winthrop, especially the size of its student population. She says that Winthrop is larger than her village, which has a population of about 360 people. Blinbabilaere appreciates the academic structure here; she feels there is more freedom.

"There's more opportunity to study what you want here. My school is smaller than Thurmond, it is private, specialized," Blinbabilaeres says.

Blinbabilaeres will head back to France this summer, and will soon go on to study in another county. She will miss Winthrop and the friends she has made, but plans to keep in touch with them.



photo courtesy of Blinbabilaere

Association of Ebonites Gospel choir compete in NY

CHOIR, from page 1

Choir practiced Monday and Wednesday nights beginning at 8:00 p.m. until goals were met.

"We also spent a great deal of time in prayer individually and as an entire unit to make sure that we were focused on God while preparing for this event. We spent the week before competition fasting, making sure that our bodies were cleansed spiritually from all things that were not of God so that we

would be effective in our ministry when we got ready to go to this event," Abney comments.

Standrick Rhodes, the Public Relations Committee Chairperson also commented on rehearsals by stating that the Ebonite Gospel Choir "rehearsed as one entity," from 8:00 p.m. until around 1:00 a.m.

Although the Ebonite Gospel Choir does not have a set motto, Abney says that the choir prides themselves in "being a choir that is

out to minister the word of God."

Despite the award for Most Outstanding Choreography, Abney acknowledges that the choir is not all about dance. She says that the choir's "choreography praises God through dance. We are not a 'performance or show choir,' and we take our ministry very serious because we are out to reach souls that are longing for the Word of God. Our goal is to be so powerful in our ministry [so] that some person will be saved or set free and if

we can do this, [then] we have accomplished what God has challenged us as a Gospel choir to do."

According to Rhodes, the choreography for competition was created by the Head Choir Director and her assistants.

AOE clearly believes in teamwork and judging from the unity expressed among its members, the organization definitely lives up to its slogan: "Each one, Reach one...Unity is the Answer!"

a look at APRIL past

1872 -- First female African American lawyer Charlotte E. Ray graduated from Howard Law School (4/23).

1928 -- Acclaimed poet Maya Angelou is born (4/4).

1954 -- Baseball Great Hank Aaron hits his first homerun as a St. Louis Cardinal (4/23).

1971 -- U.S. Supreme Court rules unanimously that busing is constitutionally acceptable as a means of integrating public schools.

1974 -- Then the tallest building, the World Trade Center opens in NYC (4/5).

1984 -- Soul singer Marvin Gaye was shot dead by his father (4/1).

1986 -- The inaugural issue of *The Roddey McMillan Record*, an all black student newsletter is printed at Winthrop.

1992 -- The series finale of "The Cosby Show" airs on NBC. Millions tune in to say goodbye to the Huxtable family (4/29).

1992 -- The LA Riots begin after four white officers are acquitted in the beating of motorist Rodney King (4/30).

1999 -- Columbine High School massacre occurred. Twelve students were shot dead, and one professor (4/20).

2004 -- Mel Gibson's biblical epic "The Passion of the Christ" exceeds \$300 million dollars at the box office.

* Compiled by Taniqua Taylor, staff member

Poetry Corner

by Erin Robinson

WINNER:

Tracey L. Stewart

Congratulations! To Tracey L. Stewart for winning the first ever RMR Poetry Contest for her poem, "Black Love," published in the January 21, 2004 issue. The poem was inspired by incense and tied into love and love for humanity.



Stewart said, "And for those of you who have not experienced love, specifically Black love, I encourage you to start loving our fellow man...and with time hopefully will finish with love for your nation."

As the winner of the competition the poem will be published in the Winthrop University Anthology that will be coming out this summer!

Black Love

By Tracey L. Stewart

I Love Black Love
 Inhaling soothes the senses of my
 Plagued mind.
 Doing double shots of this
 Top notch aroma, blinding my
 ways that stray-
 leading me to the right.
 Black love I love-
 To think of the days I'll forever hold you
 And keep the aroma filled in my palace
 opening the windows for all
 to smell the smoke of my Love.
 Aroma seeping in your pores-
 Sweet, tingly is my love for Black Love,
 watching the mixture of time and
 pictures of the cocoa buttery, chocolate
 honey-
 Lovely tastes, textures intertwined makes me
 smile
 just to think of Black Love.

A LETTER FROM...

Sheila
McMillan



Dear Roddey Mac Editor:

Prior to being placed on your mailing list, Cynthia Roddey forwarded me a copy of the February 18th issue. As our good fortune would have it, she was on campus for the Mu Xi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha's Black History Month production and came across one.

As I read, I knew immediately why she had sent it. She was extremely proud. I feel certain she joins me in congratulating you on a thorough and diverse discussion of today's current events. While not agreeing with each of your opinions, the staff is to be commended for representing the diverse views on Winthrop's campus in an appropriate manner. Perhaps, you and your staff would enjoy meeting with Cynthia and me to discuss the paper's early years.

After years of struggling for writers and funding, the Roddey Mac currently appears to have found both. It is an extremely gratifying feeling to know that there is a full as well as capable staff on board. Please continue the good work. Who knows? Perhaps writing for the Roddey Mac will be required writing for Winthrop English and Literature majors. Now I'm really getting the big head (smile).

Warmly,

Sheila McMillan, Esquire
Class of '74

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MARCH Poll Results:
Do you practice safe sex?

A) Never	7%
B) Rarely, or only if my partner brings it up	0%
C) Sometimes	21%
D) Always	43%
E) I practice abstinence	29%

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GOT OPINIONS?
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 or visit our official website www.birdnest.org/roddeymac

Want to be a part of next year's staff? It's not too late and it's never too early to sign up. Contact Tanaisha Brisbon or Jese Williams for information.

THE RODDEY McMILLAN RECORD

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The Roddey-McMillan Record is published monthly during the school year by Winthrop University students for students, faculty, staff and alumni. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the editorial staff. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the administration, faculty, staff or students. Signed columns and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the staff.

Blockbusters will rock the box office this summer

by Martin Smith
Staff Writer

Summer movies make the biggest bucks out of the whole year and this year may be a record-setting year. It's the return of the web-slinger along with two vampire hunters. We go back to the past for a Greek war tale and into the future to look at movies that ask the question "what if?" We'll also get a does of soul — not from a train this time, but from a plane!

Spider-man 2, the sequel to the 2002 hit, stars Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, James Franco, and Alfred Molina as Dr. Octopus. In the movie, Peter Parker and Spider-man have more trials to go through. For Parker it's the worry of his personal life being affected by this other half; for Spider-man it's the battle between Dr. Octopus, and Harry's passion for revenge on the wall-crawler. *Spider-Man 2* swings into theaters July 2.



Hugh Jackman, well known for his portrayal of Wolverine in *X-Men* films, becomes a monster hunter in *Van Helsing*. Set in 19th century Europe, Jackman plays Dr. Gabriel Van Helsing, a monster hunter out to destroy evil forces such as Dracula, the Wolf-

man and Dr. Frankenstein. *Van Helsing* opens May 7.

In the third installment of the *Blade* series, *Blade: Trinity*, Wesley Snipes reprises his role as the half-man, half-vampire hero who devotes his life to vampire hunting. This time, Blade has been framed as a serial killer and the FBI is on his trail. While Blade tangles with the FBI, the vampires awaken the "head honcho" himself...Dracula! Now Blade must accept help from other vampire hunters in order to stop the bloodsuckers. *Blade: Trinity* opens everywhere this summer.

The Day After Tomorrow, starring Dennis Quaid and Sela Ward, takes a look at what could happen if the greenhouse effect and global warming were to continue but at high levels. The consequences are catastrophic. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods and blizzards propel this high budget film, which also tells the story of a scientist trying to rescue the world and his son at the same time. *The Day After*



Tomorrow storms theatres everywhere on May 28.

The Trojan War will never look the same. Homer's Greek epic, "The Iliad," will be re-told in the movie *Troy*, which stars Brad Pitt as the Greek hero Achilles and co-stars Orlando Bloom and Eric Bana. The movie takes place in 1193 B.C., when the beautiful Helen (Diane Kruger) is kidnapped by Prince Paris (Bloom) sparking an unimag- inable ambush and unforgivable war between Sparta and Troy. *Troy*, being one of the most anticipated movies this summer, opens May 14.

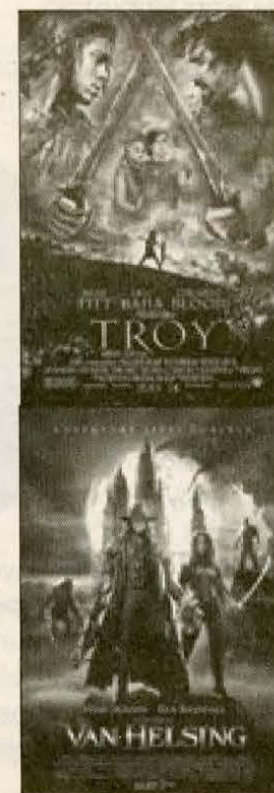


The man known to be king of summer movies, Will Smith, is back again

this summer to reclaim his title. Smith stars in *I, Robot*, a futuristic action-thriller about robots. They walk, talk, clean and do just about anything and everything a normal human can do—even murder. *I, Robot* opens everywhere July 16.

Everybody listen up! It's time to get on board the Sooooouuuuuu...Plane? That's right, *Soul Plane*, the new comedy that takes African-American comedy to new heights. The movie has an all-star cast including Snoop Dogg, Kevin Hart, Mo'nikue, Tom Arnold, D.L. Hughley, Method Man and many more. *Soul Plane* is the updated version of the 1980 classic comedy *Airplane*. The story is about Dakwon (Hart), who starts an airline, N.W.A, after winning a \$600 million lawsuit against another airline.

Soul Plane soars into theaters May 28.



photos courtesy of upcomingfilms.com, imdb.com.



DIVAS LIVE AT CHARLOTTE COLISEUM

by LaTonya Jackson
Special to The Roddey McMillan Record

Tamia, Missy Elliot, Alicia Keys and headliner Beyonce' Knowles joined forces to present the Verizon Ladies First Tour. The show came to the Charlotte Coliseum March 27, 2004 for four hours of nonstop, high-energy musical performances.

Tamia opened the show with a medley of songs that included "Stranger in My House" and ended with a rendition of Chaka Khan's "Through the Wire."

Next, Missy Elliot took the stage. She crammed her whole career into a 30-minute segment. For the audience, it was hard to keep their eyes on Missy, due to the graphics playing on the screen set up behind her. Her performance included familiar songs such as "Get Ur Freak On" and "Work It," during which she left the stage and ran into the stands to vibe with the fans.

After an hour-long intermission and much anticipation, Alicia Keys came to the stage. When the curtain was drawn back, Keys stood on a platform wearing a tilted black hat and revealing only her silhouette.

When the beat dropped to "Karma," the stage lights came on. Two monitors followed her as she walked down the stairs of her platform. She sang "A Woman's Worth," "How Come You Don't Call Me," and "Fallin'," as well as other songs.

To add to her sultry performance, she crawled on top of her piano and sang "Diary" in a red light setting.

During the introduction of the song, she laid back on her piano and began playing the song backwards. Then, she slowly eased off of the piano and sat on the bench to play the rest of the song as the house lights came on.

Soliciting the audience's participation, Alicia did an old classic, "Night and Day," to which many remembered the Huxtable family lip-syncing on an episode of *The Cosby Show*. She ended her part of the concert with the #1 hit "You Don't Know My Name."

Finally, it was Beyonce's turn to perform. The lights went out and the letter "B" was projected on the stage. She stood at the center of the coliseum floor wearing a Versace two-piece, gold-embedded ensemble. She was carried towards the stage on a throne by four men dressed in Egyptian white wraps. She waved to her fans as she dropped rose petals into the audience.

Once she reached the stage, she sang "Baby Boy," "Naughty Girl," a medley of Destiny's Child songs, and "Summertime," in which she added a dance segment from R. Kelly's "Step in the Name of Love."

Her performance ended with a bang as she brought out special guest Jay-Z to help perform the hit song "Crazy in Love," proving that they are the new Bonnie and Clyde.



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Special thanks to Brandi Kugler and Melissa Bush for this month's record 6 ads sold! Way to go!

Taking a 'step' back:

Fraternities and sororities use dance style to pay homage to African tribal culture

by Jada Hudson
Staff Writer

*Alpha, step. Omega, step.
Kappa, step. Sigma, step.
AKA, step. Delta, step.
S G Rbo, step. Zeta, step.*

— Kanye West's "School Spirit"

Yeah, Kanye makes reference to what most African Americans on college campuses have experienced at some point. The eight fraternities and sororities he mentions are some of the modern-day organizations that regularly participate in step shows.

But what is it that intrigues us to love the groove we feel when we see steppers?

Stepping can be traced to the peoples and cultural dance traditions of Africa.

The dance expressions of South Africa, home of the powerful, yet little known 'Gumboot Dance' or 'Gumboots,' are creations of black South African mine workers who used dance as a social and physical expression. With its focus on precise foot movements and hand-clapping, Gumboots' appearance and feel bears an incredible resemblance to the rhythms and sounds created by young black men and women stepping across America.



Each year, the Soweto Dance Theatre (SDT) invites a unique collection of artists and young people from around the world to participate in the Step Afrika! festival held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The festival is the first known attempt to link stepping and the Gumboot dance.

As for modern forms of stepping, Elizabeth C. Fine, Ph.D., author of "Soulstepping: Development and Transformation of African American Step Shows," gave a lot of information about the innate legacy of stepping.

Fine said, "The earliest written reference to public ritual dancing by pledges at Howard University that might indeed be stepping appears in the 1925 student newspaper, *The Hilltop*."

In an article entitled "Hell-Week," Van Taylor describes the pledging activities of Omega Psi Phi and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities: "What desire is this that will cause young men, stalwart of frame, and rugged of heart and mind, demurely and aesthetically to dance about the campus as if in time to the fairy



"Stepping is a traditional form of art for all black Greeks. It gives each fraternity its own identity."

— Jerron Faulk
Kappa Alpha Psi

Pipes of Pan?" The phrase 'the fairy Pipes of Pan' suggests the men are performing to a music or beat that only they can hear; as in stepping, there is no accompanying music."

Stepping evolved with groups of men singing acapella. When groups like the Temptations and the Four Tops were popular in the 50's and 60's, "brothers" started mimicking their steps. This is part of the reason why it is called "stepping" now. Brothers would try to come up with the best "steps" while they were singing to please the ladies.

"Stepping is an art form, which has been taken to a new level by the nine national predominately black fraternities and sororities in the Pan-Hellenic Council," the Enquirer's Sonya Bernard-Hollins said. "Since the first black fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi, was founded in 1904, the rituals of the black Greeks and stepping have reached new heights. What once was a competition among organizations on a single campus has evolved to national competitions with prizes reaching into the thousands of dollars."

sources: www.nku.edu/battlecreekenquirer.com

Chappelle's Show

draws new fans, stirs controversy

by Michelle Knowlin
Staff Writer

On any given day, you can hear someone recapping a couple of the episodes play-by-play. You are mysteriously drawn to your television every single time you get wind of a mini marathon. While walking on the yard, you feel the need to utter a deep, resonating "WHAAAAATTT!" or "YEEAAAHHH!"

So who or what is at the root of this new phenomenon? You guessed it. It's none other than Dave Chappelle.

Chappelle's Show has taken America by storm. With his risky sketches and loose language, Chappelle pushes the barriers of the censors.

Chappelle's Show touches on every sensitive topic from racism to government. His frequent use of the "N-word" is particularly disturbing to some viewers. However, a little displeasure over his comedic approach to racism is not enough to take him off of the air.

Millions of viewers tune in each week to watch Chappelle make fun of Rick James, P. Diddy, and other un-lucky celebrities. So what makes such a controversial show so popular?

Makesha Dixon, a 19-year-old history major from Georgetown, S.C., believes the popularity of

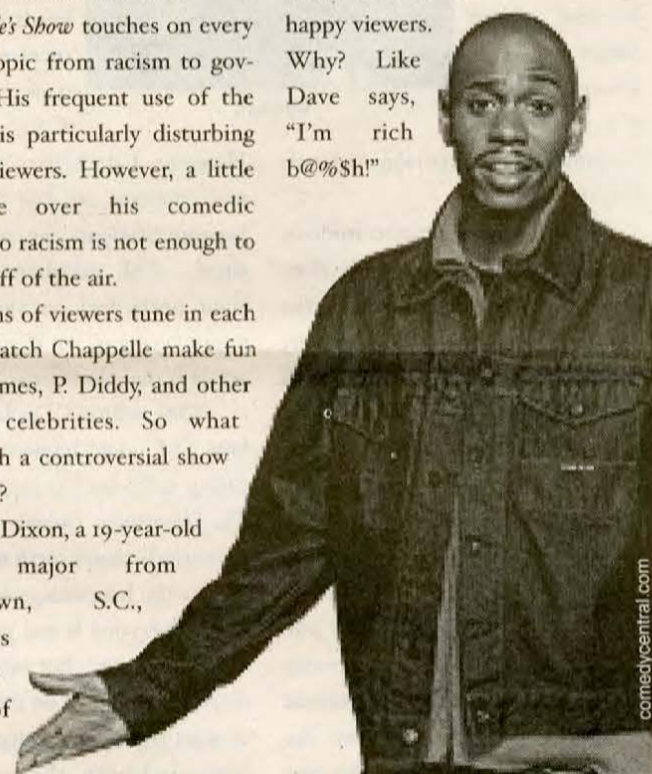
Chappelle's Show is a result of its pure rawness. "(The show) will go anywhere. It knows no boundaries," Dixon said. "He does a variety of sketches. The bottom line is the show is very funny."

Chappelle has become a pop culture icon and his show is a cultural phenomenon with viewers from various ages and ethnicities. Although he gets a lot of criticism for his racy sketches, his show has joined millions of people together weekly to get a good laugh.

Chappelle's Show airs every Wednesday at 10:30p.m. on Comedy Central.

Chappelle Show doesn't seem to be going anywhere any time soon thanks to all of his happy viewers.

Why? Like Dave says, "I'm rich b@%\$h!"



comedycentral.com

Usher CONFESSIONS

Aprille Blanding
Staff Writer



amazon.com

The concept of Usher's newest album is shown in its title, *Confessions*, as Usher lets out a lot of secrets.

Joining Usher on his fifth CD are producers Just Blaze ("Throwback"), Jermaine Dupri ("Burn") and the King of Crunk Lil' Jon on the lead single, "Yeah." The first single puts out one of many confessions when Usher admits to hooking up with a

girl that used to be "the best of homies" with his girlfriend, Chilli of former girl group TLC. Many listeners probably didn't catch that in the hook which goes: "... Yeah, yeah/ I got so caught up I forgot she told me/Yeah, yeah/ her and my girl use to be the best of homies."

On the track "Confessions Part II," he tells his girlfriend that he slept with another woman and is the father of a child that was created from the union. In "Truth Hurts," he wrongfully blames his girlfriend for

cheating when he's the one actually stepping out.

Usher really brings it home on "Can U Handle It?" one of many tracks where he sings falsetto.

Despite all of Usher's many talents (singing, dancing, acting), we may forget that he is a songwriter as well lending his hand in writing more than half of the album. As of right now, "Mr. Entertainment" is definitely living up to his name because his album is all the entertainment you're going to want and possibly even need.

cd reviews

Goapele's (pronounced gwa-pa-lay) sophomore release, *Even Closer* is out and Rated Next on BET for the album's debut single "Closer."

Who's Goapele you ask?

She's a little bit of funk, jazz, rock, R&B and a lot of soul mixed together for your listening pleasure.

The dread locked beauty grew up in Oakland, Calif., with a New York raised Jewish mother and South African father.

With powerfully smooth vocals reminiscent of Nina Simone and Sade, the 27-year-old possesses vocal talent and

a song writing ability that places her among the likes of Jill Scott and India Arie.

Even Closer, an updated re-release of Goapele's debut album "Closer," touches on issues ranging from faith and love, to urban disparities among youth and social injustices.

On "Closer," the album's first single, Goapele sings about reaching new heights and fulfilling aspirations by leaving fears behind and embracing your dreams. The album's next release "Catch"

deals with indecision in relationships and being caught between two undesirable positions. She sings: "Well it's a Catch 22/ Damned if I don't, damned if I do."



amazon.com

If you want an album that transcends genres with conscience, thoughtful lyrics and powerfully delivered vocals over solid grooves, then Goapele's *Even Closer*, is what you are looking for.

Goapele EVEN CLOSER

by Melissa Johnson
Staff Writer

Students need a voice

CSL, from page 1

There are bulletin boards everywhere advertising events on and around campus, but it's kind of hard to locate an ad about CSL.

According to Dyckes, CSL could improve by making students aware of meeting times and he suggests that the CSL website needs to be publicized more.

"During the meetings, I find it that they sometimes tell individuals to refer to their website if we have a question about something," Dyckes notes.

Dyckes attended many meetings last semester, but could not attend meetings this semester because of his duties for AOE where he is Program Committees Chairperson and now President-elect.

There are almost 7,000 students that attend Winthrop with their own opinion on issues involving the campus, but sometimes scheduling conflicts can keep them from attending the CSL meetings. The organization does list their meeting times and minutes on the website along with future meetings, but the website has not been updated to show future meetings.

CSL meets on Mondays at 7 pm. Dyckes believes that the meeting time needs to be changed because he thinks it is too early and the council should make the "meeting time friendly to everyone, not just the leaders or chairperson."

Many students around campus wonder if their voices are being heard, but in the end, are these students really saying anything?

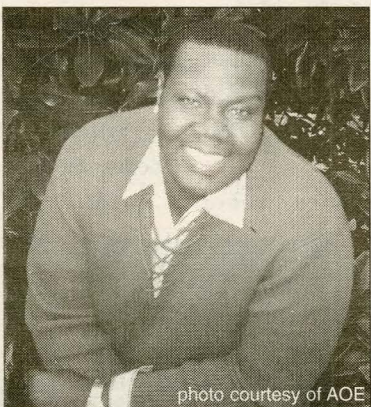
Students may come to the meetings, but many leave without giving their opinion. They might feel that if do, they will not be fully heard. Dyckes says that the problem lies in the number of students in attendance.

"I believe some valid concerns are addressed during the meetings, especially when it comes to changes

on campus, the future of Winthrop, and tuition. However, students aren't coming to hear these concerns. Students would be surprised by the heads up they can receive about issues and changes, if they only come.

However, I do believe other issues and concerns are not being heard because students are not bringing them. CSL members know how their peers feel on various issues around campus, but they sometimes act as if they don't exist."

One solution Dyckes gives on how CSL could improve is by allocating space for the organization in *The Johnsonian*, "mainly to express concerns brought forth in the meetings or the happenings in the meetings. Everyone is not going to the website, face it. But most students do read the paper on campus. Tell us what is going on or problems students are having...the good and the bad," Dyckes said.



Dyckes

photo courtesy of AOE

ISSUES

"I Wanna Be Made Over..."

...said Tina to Ike. But now, American pop culture has taken plastic surgery to an extreme new level, and love's *definitely* got nothing to do with it.

by Melissa Johnson
Staff Writer

Trends come and go, but cosmetic surgery has to be one of the most expensive and extreme we've seen in recent years.

Developed to aid and reconstruct damages to disfigured World War I Veterans in the late 1930's, plastic surgery has been beneficial to breast cancer survivors and those involved in accidents.

But, maybe we are beginning to abuse this medical service.

Shows like ABC's "Extreme Makeover," FOX's "The Swann" and MTV's cosmetic surgery documentary program "I Want a Famous Face," are prime examples of the toll an aesthetically-driven society can take on its young people.

Taking a closer look at "I Want a Famous Face," it must be noted that MTV does not encourage or pay for any of the surgeries documented on the show. They simply found people who had already consulted a plastic surgeon about making them look like their celebrity idols and aired their stories.

The first episode followed 20-year-old twins Matt and Mike through their double dental and plastic surgeries in which, between themselves, cheek implants, a chin implant and nose jobs were performed and both received porcelain veneers to make them look like Brad Pitt.

Mike said, "The pain of the implants, the swelling, the staring...it was worth it and then some."

Other stories included a male J-Lo wannabe, and a 29-year-old Britney Spears impersonator named Mia, who wanted breast implants to look more like her idol so that she could imitate Spears full time.

Fortunately, not everyone is jumping on the "slice and dice" bandwagon of self-improvement.

Melissa Mack, a sophomore art and theatre major, says, "People are crazy for putting themselves through that much pain. I can understand you appreciating someone's features, but I wouldn't want to be that person. Why don't you want to look like yourself?"

Payal Thakker, a sophomore biology major, agrees with Mack.

"God made you the way you are for a reason, you don't need to change it."

Why have young people become so engrossed with looks that they are willing to risk the loss of their own identity?

Some point to the media and with good reason. Images of thin and chiseled bodies and euro-centric facial features prevail in our culture and are regularly connected to success.

It is important that people watch shows like "I Want a Famous Face," and realize that they do not need to attempt to be someone else to make their mark in the world.

Watch these programs and let them be cautionary tales, because you don't need a famous face to be successful in this society. Believe in the internal beauty of your mind and let that make your face famous.



"God made you the way you are for a reason, you don't need to change it."

-- Payal Thakker
sophomore

Brothers on the Down L

by Ashlei Stevens
Layout Editor

"Keep it on the down low, nobody has to know."

This is a line from R. Kelly's song "Down Low," and apparently many black men are taking this advice to heart as the growing trend of undercover homosexual relations is on the rise, according to Oprah.

Men who engage in male-to-male intimacy are, according to them, not considered homosexual, but rather "brothers on the down low"--they have homosexual sex and go home to a heterosexual relationship.

This topic has sparked great discussion lately as it was the focus of Oprah's show on last Friday. The show was titled "A Secret Sex World: Living on the Down Low."

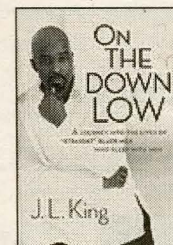
Her guest, J.L. King, is a black male who has now openly come out about being on the down low. King

had a wife and children, but was never completely honest about his relationship with other men.

Throughout his marriage, King said that he sought pleasure from other men. Although King does not consider himself gay or condone the homosexual lifestyle, he said he would sneak out on his wife to have relations with men. His satisfaction was in gratification, and not a specific sexual orientation, he said.

The biggest problem with life on the "D.L." is that men are carrying HIV and AIDS back to their female partners at alarming rates.

According a July 2003 article from the *Charlotte Observer*, there has been a significant increase in new HIV cases in the Charlotte area--mainly among black college males. The article was based on research conducted from 2001 to 2003 and found that "in North



"On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men" by J.L. King looks into the affairs of heterosexual men having homosexual sex. Visit www.oprah.com

Carolina, blacks have an infection rate 14 times greater than whites" and "nationally, HIV cases diagnosed in gay and bisexual men also have been increasing for three years.

For more information on AIDS and HIV visit Health & Counseling Services in Crawford, or www.AIDS.org.

Sources: www.oprah.com
www.charlotteonline.com

Congratulations!

to the staff members of the Award-Winning
Roddey McMillan Record:

Roddey McMillan Record

awarded the Delta Sigma Theta Hand 'n Hand scholarship/award for its contributions to the

Winthrop community

Ashlei Stevens

the first Winthrop student to intern at *The New York Times* (Summer 2004)

Raynard Gadson

writing and producing a TV sitcom to air at Winthrop (2004-2005)

May 2004 Graduates:

Tiffini Mitchell, Ashlei Stevens,
Matthew Busby, and A.J Jones

HERE'S TO CONTINUED SUCCESS!

Former RMR Editor takes a stand on homosexual issues

In an exclusive candid interview, Alvin McEwen reveals the strength of individualism and self-awareness in the black gay community

by Tammy Mason

Special to The Roddey McMillan Record

Alvin McEwen, a 1995 Winthrop graduate who served as editor for The Roddey-McMillan Record, changed the newsletter's format from all black to multicultural, often including gay issues. An advocate for gay rights, the following Q & A illustrates McEwen's views and actions for and about gay rights. He is a public information coordinator for the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services in Columbia, S.C.

Tammy Mason: As an openly gay male, how do you feel about the purposed legislation on gay marriages?

Alvin McEwen: ...Many politicians have created this legislation as a way to make themselves seem more family oriented. They exploit the fear that many have about gay marriage. They use statements like "marriage is a corner stone of civilization," but what they do not tell you is how many times they have gotten married and divorced. A leading legislator pushing the anti-gay marriage bill in South Carolina has been divorced twice. So much for marriage being the cornerstone.

TM: What would you say to people who oppose same sex marriages?

AM: To those who oppose same-sex marriage, I say that is your right and I respect your beliefs. However, you should not force laws to be passed against same-sex marriage if you cannot prove that same-sex marriage is a detriment to the country. Tammy, regardless of what you have read, no one has offered any concrete proof that same-sex marriage in itself is a negative thing that will damage the country.

TM: With more advocacies for gay rights, do you think more gays would be more open about their sexuality?

AM: I really can't say. You know that reminds me of the problem that gays and blacks seem to have. African-Americans say that you cannot compare the gay rights movement to the civil rights movement because blacks could never hide who they are while gays could. They say this as if being black is a detriment. I don't think so. The ability not to hide the thing that makes people hate you is a positive and powerful thing. It makes you stand up for what you believe because the ability to be a coward and hide in a shell is taken from you. No matter how rich or how cultured a person of color was, a racist could still see their skin and hate them. Gays don't have this attribute....As long as gays can hide who they are, there will always be closets, no matter how many pro-gay laws are passed.

TM: What is the purpose of SC. Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement? What is your role?

AM: The purpose of SCGLPM is to provide a way for gays to have a voice in South Carolina. It also provides a nurturing center for gays who are having questions about themselves or problems with coming out. We try to be an ombudsman of the South Carolina gay community. I am a board member of the group.

TM: What is National Coming Out Day in October?

AM: National Coming Out Day to me is a way to celebrate who we are as not just a people but as individuals. Despite the title, it does not mean coming out and announcing to the world you are gay in a loud and disruptive manner. I think in the smallest, most common sense possible, it is a day where you can just stand in front of the mirror by yourself and admit to yourself who you are and not be ashamed of it. Bear in mind that while this is a day, coming out is a process. [It] may not remove the mountain of difficulties in your life, but it will give you the strength to climb.

TM: Being a black male and gay can be a double whammy. What are some discriminations you face?

AM: I have faced much discrimination as a gay man in the Black community. Just yesterday as I walked home from the store, I had some guys yell comments at me. I ignore them because they are not stupid enough to lay a hand on me. During my time at Winthrop, I have had some very hurtful things happen to me. Bear in mind that this was during the time that I was not too comfortable with being gay so it's not like I announced it. I remember going to a black oriented fraternity party and having guys laugh at me and whisper anti-gay comments. Different nonsensical things that don't mean anything now. But to a young person of color in that situation, the comments can be devastating. The

African-American community prides itself on unity, so imagine how one would feel if others disassociated themselves with him based upon their own stereotypes and ignorances on how gays and lesbians are. However, there are two sides to this coin and I feel bad about saying this but I never experienced much anti-black racism before I came out. Unfortunately in the South, gay white men can be some of the most evil racists of all. There is a small segment in the gay community in the south who feels there are four things that make you untouchable in the community: if you are old, overweight, "feminine acting" or black. I've had some negative run-ins and have had to slap some faces for it and level some kicks to the groin but all in all, I have regulated situations. ...

TM: You recently established Palmetto Umoja. Tell me more about it.

AM: Palmetto Umoja is a way to reach the community of gays and lesbians of color. We are forming to not only establish that voice but to let the state of South Carolina know that we will not be invisible. That is the problem with many gays and lesbians of color nationwide and even at Winthrop, at least when

I attended. The fear of rejection from our community for some is like God kicking you out of heaven at the Last Judgment. It's so devastating that many hide who they are, subjecting themselves to dangerous clandestine encounters while hiding behind a public facade of heterosexuality. ...we want to let the black community, as well as our black leaders in the state to know that gay and lesbian issues are not solely "white oriented." That is another problem nationwide. Yes we have more gay images but they are solely white and why is that? Because gays and lesbians of color are not speaking up.

Don't blame the so called white media for your invisible images if you are not willing to step up.

TM: In 20 years, what status do you think gays will have in mainstream society? i.e. do you think people will be more open minded, etc?

AM: I think in 20 years, things will be much better. Probably not as good as we want it but not as bad as it was before. I'm a pragmatic person. I don't have to see the good effects of any work I intend to do in my lifetime. Just knowing that we are reaching people and making lives better by the work we do is enough for me. Just knowing that a gay man or lesbian woman of color is comfortable enough to stand up is enough for me. And I know it's gonna be better.

This article contained excerpts from McEwen's interview with Tammy Mason. To read the interview in its entirety, check us out on the web at www.birdnest.org/roddeymac



Former Roddey McMillan Record editor Alvin McEwen is shown above from a 1993 Tatler picture. McEwen is known for standing up in what he believes in.

"Bear in mind that while this is a day, coming out is a process. It may not remove the mountain of difficulties in your life, but it will give you the strength to climb."

-- Alvin McEwen

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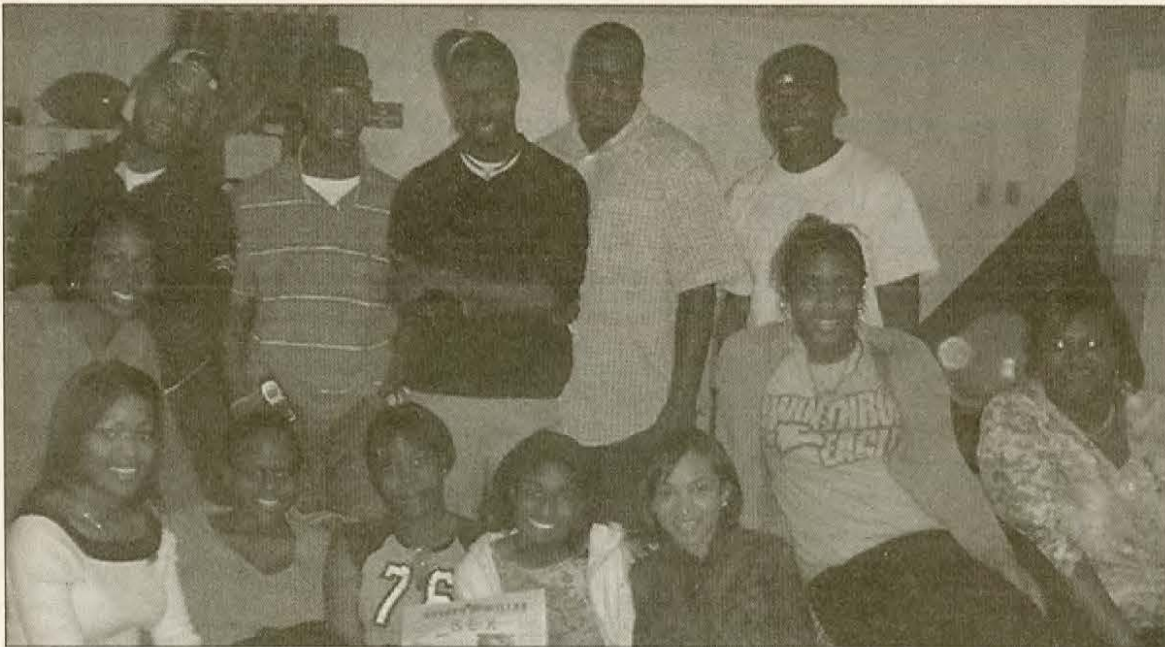
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Sitting from l-r: Ashlei Stevens, Tiffini Mitchell, Erin Robinson, April Heath, Tanaisha Brisbon, Melissa Johnson, Michelle Knowlin, Aprille Blanding. Standing: Raynard Gadson, Jeseff Williams, Matthew Busby III, Michael Adams, Phillip Edwards. Not pictured: Princess Bethea, Ebony Baker, Nicole Hollimon, Jada Hudson, Martin Smith, Jeremy Harriot, and Jamal Smalls, A.J. Jones, Taniqua Taylor and Kelly Usher.

from the editor...

This was such an incredible year for the Roddey Mac, having started off with and maintained one of the biggest staff counts for the publication ever!

First and foremost I praise God for the opportunity to work behind such a well-distinguished voice at Winthrop. He has truly been and continues to be my saving grace.

I must thank Ashlei "Not My Jesus" Stevens who gave me the encouragement and the confidence to follow in her larger-than-life footsteps. I still don't think she knows how much of an inspiration to me she was and still is. Shouldaboughtafordbutboughtahonda! Let Him use you.

Second, I'd like to thank Stacie Williams, our former advisor, whose dedication and enthusiasm remains larger than anything even I could put into words. Thanks to Dr. Guy Reel (Mister Teacher) for gracefully coming in and picking up where Stacie left off.

Thanks to Pam Varraso for always being the Sophia she is.

"Oole-ways." Thanks to Dean Marlowe for the incredible amount of faith that knew no end. Thanks to Dr. Timbs for pushing me so much. Thank goodness there wasn't a cliff.

To Lauren Huntsberger: I'm scared and I'm nervous. I just don't want to be hurt anymore. All I can say to you and your Johnsonian crew is Tuesday nights will never be the same.

Thank you also to the Winthrop student body, faculty, Rock Hill community, and subscribers. The support and readership is unparalleled. Thank you for inviting us into your minds every month.

And finally, a BIG THANKS to this incomparable Roddey Mac staff. You all have made this more than an incredibly exciting professional experience for me. It's been a rewarding and cherished personal experience as well. I believe that God sends people into your life for certain reasons, and none of you are an exception. You turned a vision into a voice, and made it louder than it's ever been. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

~ T. Raynard Gadson

Words to Live by...

This year, The Roddey McMillan Record brought you "Words to Live by..." hoping to encourage you to be who you are and also to open your eyes to new perspectives and the vast diversity on campus. We'd like to share with you some of the "Words..." that we have come up with and continue to live by.

"Fear is the fuel for my determination."

- T. Raynard Gadson

"Where will you be when the smoke clears?"

- Jada E. Hudson

"You may leave college with few friends and little money, but memories that will last a lifetime."

- Ashlei N. Stevens

"People are funny...laugh at them."

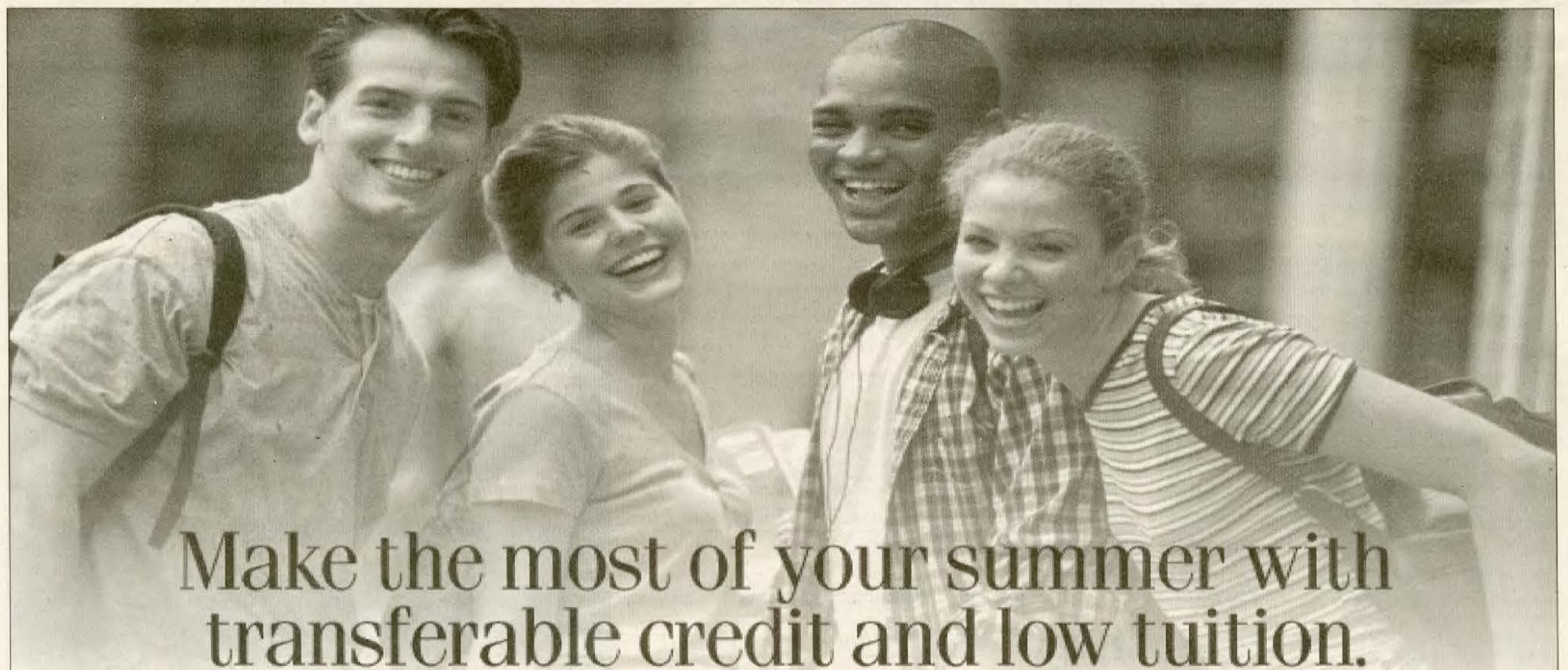
- Nicole M. Hollimon

"Others can only make you feel inferior if you allow them to."

- Tiffini L. Mitchell

"Wisdom is power."

- Jeseff L. Williams



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