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## The Roddey McMillan Record - December 2, 2005

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# The Roddey-McMillan Record

Winthrop's Multicultural Newspaper

ISSUE V

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December 2, 2005

## KWANZAA

### Holiday founder Maulana Karenga visits Winthrop University

Stefanie Graddic  
Staff writer

The office of Multicultural Student Life held its 14th annual Kwanzaa celebration in Tillman Auditorium on Tuesday.

Although celebrating Kwanzaa has become tradition here at Winthrop, this year's celebration was a very special one for students and faculty because the founder of the African-American holiday personally brought his message of hope and unity to all who attended.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of Black Studies at California State University, created Kwanzaa in 1966 and is celebrated as a national holiday by African-Americans and Pan-Africa as well as many nations around the world.

The stage was set for the ceremony commemorating the purpose and principles of Kwanzaa. The Bandera, or the Kwanzaa flag, with the traditional colors of black, red and green, was draped over the table where Dr. and Mrs. Karenga sat. Also on the table were the customary Kikara, or the traditional candleholder, and the Kikombe cha

Umoja, or unity cup, in which to perform the Libation.

The Kwanzaa celebration opened with Ms. Beatrice Thompson of V101.9 WBAV officiating as the mistress of ceremony. Dr. Litasha Dennis of the English Department gave the encouraging official welcome of understanding, acceptance and togetherness of this special holiday.

The ceremony started with Karenga giving the Libation which is a ritual performed on the sixth day of Kwanzaa and is for the ancestors who have made peace possible with the struggles they faced. Dr. Karenga led the audience through the ceremonial chant as he paid homage to those who paved the way for hope, peace and freedom.

After the Libation, the Association of Ebonites Gospel Choir sang the Negro National Anthem led by tenor Herbert Johnson. Then Karenga was introduced again as he presented his speech and the theme of this year's celebration, "Practicing Kwanzaa: The Joy and Justice of Doing Good."

Dr. Karenga is also the creator of the Nguzo Saba or the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa known as Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba and Imani.

He spoke on these principles and stressed the importance of commitment to the community and keeping the memory of our ancestors who fought for civil rights alive.

He said that we need to reinforce the principles of family and friends and to consider the importance of sharing with everyone the resources that we as a community and nation are blessed with.

The presence of Karenga at this year's Kwanzaa celebration excited many who got a chance to work alongside him for the event, as well as students who have heard of him and finally got a chance to hear him speak in person.

For many, such as freshman Katie Poperala, celebrating Kwanzaa was a first time experience. "I enjoyed it, I don't think I understood everything completely but it was an interesting new viewpoint for me," she said.

For others, such as senior Maurice Dykes, being on



Photo by Ebony Greene

Dr. Maulana Karenga signs a poster after the Kwanzaa celebration Wednesday in Tillman.

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### Panelists speak at forum on race relations

Jesef Williams  
Editor-in-Chief

Race relations are on the minds of many nowadays and a forum was held Wednesday to allow conversation on that specific topic.

Students and faculty alike convened in Plowden Auditorium for "Race in our Society," which featured a panel of guest speakers to lead the discussion.

The panel consisted of Dr. Todd Shaw, professor of political science and African American Studies at the University of South Carolina, Winthrop sociology professor Dr. John Marx, Dr.

Lonnie Randolph, president of the South Carolina NAACP and Glenn McCall, a bank executive of Bank of America.

They fielded questions that addressed everything from double standards for blacks and the use of the "N word," to the confederate flag and affirmative action.

"Race does not exist as a biological construct," Marx said. "It's a human idea, a social construct to justify social arrangements."

Shaw built on that idea, saying "if race can be constructed or built, it can be changed."

Randolph and McCall went back and forth on whether we, as

a society, should dwell less on history and just focus on the future.

"The past is the past," McCall said. "We can't live life looking in the rear-view mirror."

Randolph thinks otherwise.

"We can't ignore history," he said. "Racism is America's cancer and it has been allowed to continue to exist and flourish."

Winthrop needs to have programs like this more often, said Willie Lyles III, chairman of the Council of Student Leaders, which

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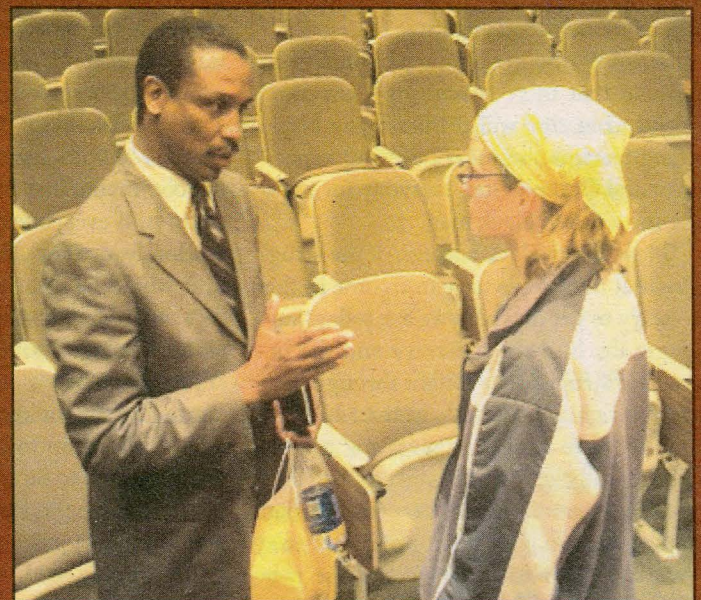


Photo by Ebony Greene

Dr. Lonnie Randolph speaks with junior Gail Chastain after the forum Wednesday.

December 2, 2005

## Forum

## Student shares Hurricane Katrina relief experience

**Alicia Dervin**  
Staff Writer

Once again we are approaching the end of yet another remarkable year. It is December and as many of us prepare to trim the tree, get caught up in the frenzy of Christmas shopping and spend time with family and friends, I on the other hand, often like to take this time to reflect on the things that I have experienced over the past 11 months and to determine whether or not those instances have changed me or given me a better sense of who I am.

While Hurricane Katrina swept through the gulf states more than two months ago, her aftermath is still running its course. Amidst the shattered glass are the shattered lives of those left to pick up where Katrina and Rita left off. Much of what is shown of disaster areas in the media tends to centralize on the flooded regions of the Louisiana delta. However, there are places that you may never hear about—places like Long Beach, Miss.

Long Beach was one of the areas hit hardest by the storm. Houses were literally swept from their foundations leaving nothing more than various spaces of land for those hoping to rebuild.

Because Katrina is no longer a major priority in the news, many people have moved on to thinking about other things while there's still much to be done. So, who's going to do it? Well, Winthrop students for starters. As opposed to packing it up and heading for wherever home may be for fall break, several Winthrop students, including myself as well as members of Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill decided to load up and head over to Mississippi to lend a helping hand.

It has taken me close to two months to actually articulate the magnitude of this experience. I often wonder what was responsible for prompting me to go in the first place, but my conscious quickly reminds me that I couldn't

sit back, watch television saying to myself, "Oh, that's so sad," without making the effort to do something.

Information for the trip was sent out in a mass email that offered a free trip to Mississippi to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. Initially, I contemplated and contemplated some more until I finally decided it was the right thing to do.

The church members who organized the trip were more than welcoming. I attended the interest meeting still not 100 percent sure if I was going to go or not, but after meeting them I knew it was going to be okay. On Friday, Oct. 14, we began our trip to Mississippi. Most of us were relatively unacquainted but that changed swiftly.

I can honestly say I had no idea what was in store for me when we would finally reach our destination. I spent much of the bus ride trying to tell myself that I was strong enough to handle whatever I was given. As Americans we often become desensitized when we are constantly bombarded with the images circulated by the media. We got to Long Beach rather late that night, but even in the dark we could see where roofs had been damaged as well as other structures along the road.

For four nights we stayed at Camp Coast Care, formerly known as Coast Episcopal School. There we were given three meals a day and the overall environment was truly uplifting. You could tell the staff of Camp Coast Care was tired. They had been working in the area shortly after the storm hit. Despite the fact that they were exhausted, their spirits kept them from giving in and did a great job in helping volunteers deal with what they were experiencing.

For our first day of work we headed out to assist in homes that had requested help. Devastation stretched for miles as we drove along the road. It is really hard to put into words just how wiped out Long Beach is. What once stood as a thriving town now sits as massive pile of debris.

We passed one home that had been blown off its foun-

ation and into the parking lot of a gas station across the street.

Before long, we began working in a house that needed quite a bit done. Water destroyed much of the house but it was livable after much work would have to be done. I'd never used a sledge hammer prior to this trip, but I must admit knocking down walls and tearing out drywall did relieve a great deal of the frustration I was feeling.

Some of the people with our group continued to go out to various locations during the day, but I decided to take the opportunity to work in the distribution center set up on the campus of the school. I cannot distinguish whether or not it was harder to endure the previous physical labor or to look into the eyes and hear the stories of the people who lived through the disaster.

My job was to distribute baby supplies and hygiene products. I found it so important, yet challenging, for me to maintain a positive attitude while I was working in the distribution center. Many of the people who came through just wanted someone to talk to and I was very much obliged to fulfill that role.

Another thing that sparked my interest was seeing how children felt about the situation. I held and entertained quite a few infants and toddlers while I was there and I'm sure each adult in Long Beach longs for the sense of naivety and serenity I saw in their eyes.

I will willingly admit that I was moved to tears on several occasions while I was at Camp Coast Care. It was indeed an emotional experience. Even the most outspoken of individuals are humbled when taking all that we experienced over the course of our trip.

I will truly never forget this experience and I do plan to go back to help again and to see what progress has been made since we left.

For more information on how you can help, log on to [www.campcoastcare.com](http://www.campcoastcare.com).

## Graduate offers take on Christine Byington situation

**Mario Washington**  
Special to the RMR

Before I even begin writing about what I really want to address, I would first like to commend all of the black students at Winthrop University for standing together during what appeared to be the most sensational event of your years at the university.

Congratulations!

Most of you are not going to like what you are about to read, but you will appreciate it and hopefully all of us can learn something from my evaluation of the Christine Byington situation.

Anyone who knows me personally can tell you that there is nothing I am more proud of in this world than being black. Being black is the most beautiful experience and I thank God everyday for making me a proud black man.

I love being black because of the struggles that my people have overcome in this country to get to where we are today. Surviving the horrors of slavery and the incredible struggles we fought through, and are still fighting through, in the 140 years that we have been free gives me a great sense of satisfaction to be only a small part of the one race in this country that has had to pave its own way. What I mean by pave our own way is that we are the one race of people that did not get a head start on life with birth. Not to say that every non-black person in America has been given a head start, but the majority of people who

belong to these races have been able to pass down land, money and other significant goods that have been in their families for decades to their offspring.

We are probably living in the period of time where little black boys and girls in the not -so -distant future can say that their parents were able to pass things that grow in value to them. Black Americans who are making something of themselves today should hold their heads proudly for earning their way to the positions they have.

But over the past few weeks, I have grown quite disgusted over the Byington situation. Her words did not offend me the way that they offended most blacks on the campus. Her stance did not offend me at all in fact. No black person on Winthrop's campus should have been surprised by the comments that Byington made in her column. If everyone had read the column as closely as they all claim to have read it, it would be clear to everyone that Byington is a very confused person who has mixed feelings about the things that she addressed. I had a conversation with her just before she walked into a crowded Tillman Auditorium to be destroyed in what was supposed to be a question and answer session that I tried to talk her out of attending.

That being said, no one should have been upset with Christine Byington. What she wrote was an column, an opinion piece much like the one you're reading right now. The founding fathers of this

country thought that the freedom to express oneself was so important that they made it our first amendment. Attacking someone because of his or her own beliefs is archaic, and should not exist in a democratic society. Christine Byington should not have been judged because of her personal feelings. The energy that was spent on attacking Christine Byington should have been used elsewhere.

Black students at Winthrop have much more to be concerned with than to focus so much attention on the opinion of one student. Sure, Byington's opinion may be the opinion of many other non black students, but that does not give black people a right to attack her simply for feeling a certain way. It upsets me to see that rubbish like this seems to be the only thing that can bring my people together to get something done.

When the Student Government Association, which was largely made up of black students, was disbanded to form the Council of Student Leaders, where were Winthrop's black students? Why aren't you fighting to have more black professors on staff? Why aren't historically black Greek Organizations fighting to have fraternity and sorority houses like their white counterparts?

These are things that actually mean something. It should not take the opinion of another student to bring us all together. We should already be standing hand in hand every step of the way. Have you ever wondered why there are so many black

people on the bottom of the economic food chain? It is because our people are so competitive with each other. We step on one another to move forward in life.

We are not going anywhere as a people as long as we continue to wait for insignificant thoughts like the ones that Byington expressed in her column, to come together as one. Think about what Malcolm, Martin and Medgar would have wanted us to do. Go out and do what those great men and women who died fighting to give us the one thing that they didn't have would have wanted us to. It wasn't money, clothes, cars or any other tangible item that you can think of that those before us wanted. They wanted what we already have and are failing miserably to make the most of it. What they wanted was the same thing that every other American citizen is already blessed with—opportunity. We have more at our disposal to gain significant status in this country than we have ever had in our history and we would rather concern ourselves with wearing nicer clothes or driving the nicest car or anything else that BET has brainwashed us to believe is best for us. Other races have success because they work together on everything. We will not share that same success until we begin to do the same.

*Mario Washington is a 2002 graduate of Winthrop University. He wrote for the Roddey-McMillan Record and now works for WRHI radio in Rock Hill.*

Disease a major concern for various minority groups

Ashley Gary-Roper Staff Writer

Flu season is here. Achy joints, fevers and fatigue are symptoms of our not so favorite holiday illness.

Lupus is a five-letter word that can strike fear into the hearts and minds of families everywhere, that is, if you even know what it is.

Unlike many of the serious diseases currently topping headlines, Lupus is not a disease that gets much media attention.

Lupus is a disease that is underrepresented in the amount of information the public knows about it.

Many students and people know or hear the word, and know that it is a disease, but very few actually know how serious this disease can be.

Lupus is an illness that can affect all parts of the body. Symptoms of the disease also include, skin rashes, hair loss, or sensitivity to light.

According to the Lupus Foundation of

America, approximately 16,000 people are diagnosed with Lupus in the United States each year. Even though there are many symptoms for Lupus, the exact cause is unknown.

Also known as the "woman's disease," Lupus affects men too, but females are 10 to 15 times more likely to suffer from Lupus than males (www.lupus.org).

Lupus, like any disease, can be fatal if not diagnosed properly or soon enough. Unfortunately, Lupus is not curable, but it is treatable.

Experience Thai cuisine right in Rock Hill

Emery Glover Copy Editor

The Thai Palace serves up a royal feast for all its guests.

The restaurant is small in size but large in Thai tradition. Popular Thai music plays from the bar, which includes a karaoke screen, while the walls display a beautiful array of artwork from Thailand.

The restaurant, located at 991 North Anderson Road, carries a variety of entrées that feature duck, shrimp and fish.

"We try to keep it close to the original Thai dishes," Lucy Hear says. Lucy and her family carry out almost every task needed to be done in the restaurant.

Customers are given 20 lunch options and 31 dinner options

to choose from the menu. The Thai Palace also offers nine appetizers, five salads and five soups. Each entrée on the lunch menu is no more than six dollars (without tax of course).

Dishes are usually served in large portions. Why?

"We serve the entrées large as if we were serving the King of Thailand," Anna Hear says. Anna works as a server in the restaurant.

Among the popular orders at the Thai Palace are the Pad Thai (the national dish of Thailand), the Roast Duck, the Phad Kaprow and the Noodle Soup.

There are a few things that make Thai food different from any other food. Thai food has a lot of basil and lemongrass. The seasonings are usually a mixture of sweet and sour.

every dish comes with fresh vegetables. The Thai Palace is practically a reasonable choice for vegetarians. Tofu is even offered in the place of any meats.

The recommendation from this restaurant is the Spring Roll as the appetizer and the Luscious Duckling as the main course. The Spring Roll consists of ground chicken, vegetables, black mushrooms, and glass noodles.

There is some waiting time for the dishes. It is suggested that orders are placed ahead of time regardless of one's option to dine in or carry out.

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## Karenga discusses reason for holiday

By Crystal Starkes  
Assistant Editor

A man of courage and strength, who used what he gathered from his teachings and philosophies, developed something that blacks in the United States can look for as a way of going back to their roots in Africa.

Dr. Maulana Karenga creates Kwanzaa during the time when blacks in the United States were speaking for their rights, helping their communities in need and most importantly, taking pride in their heritage. When afro-centrism is their foundation of life and Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X's deaths traumatize blacks in the United States and the Black Panther Party works to help blacks in Los Angeles.

It was a time when blacks wanted to go back to Africa and explore their ancestors' country and take pride in it.

Karenga developed Kwanzaa through his fascination

about the African culture that his ancestors once lived.

He said that he studied the African culture as a graduate student at University of California Los Angeles. It was then that he began to question what is it that he could do once he has received his knowledge of the culture. He took his knowledge and used it. He learned African language and in essence he used their culture in his every day life. But something must have still been missing because he wanted to do more.

"I felt like everyone else should know (about the culture)," Karenga said.

He questioned what being African in the world at this time meant. He found his answer to explain it, which is Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa means "first fruits" from the Swahili language that he became accustomed to.

Karenga said that Kwanzaa is a time for blacks to come together and introduce the African customs and reaffirm the community values.

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sponsored the forum along with and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

"We were able to hear from panelists who have different perspectives," said. "I think everyone left with some measurable degree of understanding."

## Americans often overlook Hanukkah celebration

By Joe Hughes  
Staff Writer

Many holidays in the American culture have been adopted and are a mainstay on most if not all of their calendars. Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Independence Day are celebrated without any need of notice. Even simple, yet significant holidays such as Memorial Day as well as Labor Day are celebrated. However, all holidays are not given such treatment.

Hanukkah, also known as the 'festival of lights,' is the eight day Jewish holiday typically held each year between November and January, that has been observed by those of the culture since 165 B.C., after the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Many scholars think of this as one of the more secular holidays on the Jewish calendar due to the mixing of the Christmas holiday. In the meanwhile, others observe it as a day of rejoicing.

Although not as important as other Jewish holidays such as Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah or the Passover, it is very important to them in terms of



its significance. Unfortunately, the observance seems to pass the common American by as in most cases they are looking forward to Christmas Day.

Freshman biology major, Kendra Alvarez said, "The holiday is not traditional because only a small number of people know or talk about it."

Younger children, most of which are of elementary school age, have more knowledge of the holiday than many adults as they are often taught many facets of the holiday. However, as many of them grow older, observance becomes a lot less of a matter.

"It may be the fact that it is not a big part of our culture," said

Marcus Bostic, sophomore business administration major. "If more people who observed the tradition and brought it to the forefront it would be a bigger holiday."

It is common for many holidays in our culture to be bypassed as some occasion. However, in this case the need for cognizance is there as with every passing day, another candle on the menorah will burn. With every day, the light will shine.

from KWANZAA, pg. 1

stage with the creator of Kwanzaa was a once in a lifetime experience.

"It's indescribable; I've had the opportunity to take part of national history and to participate in lighting the candles and remembering the principles of Kwanzaa. People don't get that opportunity to do things like that and share in the festivities with the person who created it," he said.

Dr. Litasha Dennis, who participated in the event, believes this type of celebration is a great honor for Winthrop.

"I think the event was a great success. I love Dr. Karenga's energy and the fact that he's very intellectual and has a lot of depth but at the same time he

makes his ideas very accessible for people on several different levels. I think it was important for us to come together and an honor for us to have the founder of Kwanzaa to be part of our ceremony tonight. It's a great honor for Winthrop and for the students because we've become a part of something larger."

The ceremony ended with seven students having the privilege of participating in the lighting of the Kinara and the Mishumaa Saba, or the Seven Candles, each one representing the principles of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, however, due to the upcoming Christmas break, here at Winthrop, Kwanzaa was celebrated earlier.

Happy  
To  
Holidays

From the Roddey-McMillan Record