

FEATURES

Moreheads are aided by versatility

Pam Thompson
Staff Writer

What is it like to find out you have won a coveted scholarship award? Well, five Black UNC freshmen can really tell you about it because they won the John Motley Morehead Awards. The freshmen are: Charles L. Aldridge, II, Charles E. Allen, Kathy A. Alston, Rodney E. Phillips, and Vanessa L. Washington.

Charles Aldridge, a zoology major from Raleigh, N.C., says that when he received the letter notifying him of his accomplishment, it took a while for him to realize just what had happened. "It was like a delayed shock that hit me that night," explains Charles.

As for Charles Allen, the impact did not take as long. By seeing the excitement from his family members, the freshman from Manassas, Va. (who also happened to be the

only Black in his senior class) says that this triggered his own happy reaction.

Kathy Alston from Nashville, N.C., states that she, too, was pleased at the thought of being a Morehead scholar winner, but she says the principal of her high school was not. Because she was the first Black as well as the first female to win from her school, Kathy feels that this was the reason her principal purposely delayed congratulating her and purposely omitted any recognition of her achievement during the school's awards day ceremony.

"And then on graduation night," the chemistry or biology major adds, "the principal really had a lot to say about me being the Morehead scholar winner simply because all the parents and family were there."

What was it that attracted these young people to attend UNC? Well,

the majority of the group agreed with Rodney Phillips, a chemistry or RTVMP major from Belmont, N.C. when he said that the sports and some friends made him look closer at the University.

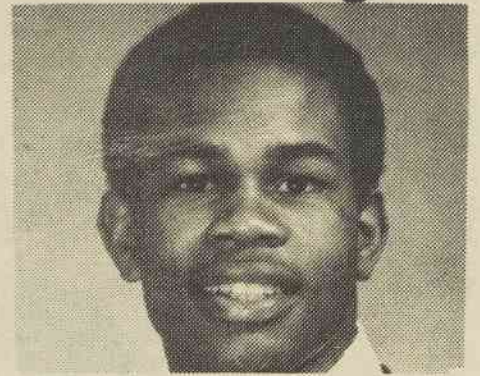
One would think that professors and students would act differently towards these students because of their accomplishments, but Vanessa Washington from Sparta, N.C. says that only a few people know that they are scholars. The administration of criminal justice major adds, "As for my friends, if they're real friends, they don't act differently."

Kathy says that some of her friends joke about "how smart she is," and it is because of this that she feels there is a stigma about Morehead scholars.

Although the scholarship is partly based upon a student's academic record, Kathy states that other aspects are evaluated to determine that student's well-roundedness.

Still, how do the scholars perceive themselves? Charles Aldridge does not see himself as really being anyone extraordinary. "All Blacks going to UNC are capable. They wouldn't be here without the proper credentials," he says.

Charles Allen says that he does not want to be put on a pedestal.



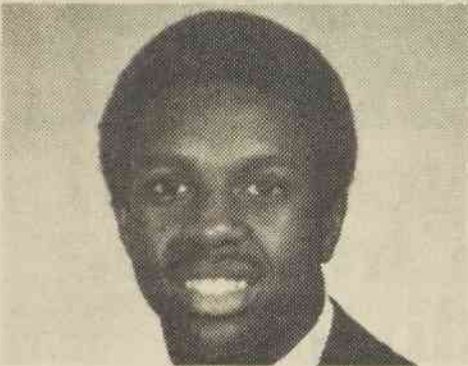
Rodney E. Phillips

He adds, "Lots of Blacks underestimate themselves when they can do just as well as whites and in some cases better."

Rodney explains, "I see myself as the average Black student who got an opportunity that turned out for the best."

Most of the Morehead scholars are or plan to be active in other activities besides academics. Rodney and Vanessa are BSM members and hold offices in Morrison Dorm. Kathy participates in the BSM Choir and is a freshman representative, while Charles Aldridge and Charles Allen plan to become active in sports. Allen would also like to write for *Black Ink*.

Yes, these Morehead scholars are young, truly gifted and Black. If only J.M. Morehead could see them now!!



Charles L. Aldridge, II



Vanessa L. Washington



Kathy A. Alston



Charles E. Allen

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pha smoker "is to show a good but brief glimpse of the fraternity, its history, its inceptions and continuations to help mankind and to better ourselves."

According to Roger Collins, the purpose of an Omega smoker is "to learn about the fraternity's goals, insights, achievements, and aspirations to prospective interested individuals." Prospective pledges are expected to possess the qualities of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Many students are misguided by the idea that being a member of a fraternity and sorority is all partying, stepping, and selling at bake sales. They are so involved with the social life that they fail to realize that a lot of time and effort goes into special service projects of each organization.

The 15 members of the Mu Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha participate in the Big Brother program, help at day care centers, and help people with housing problems. Each year they offer two scholarships — one to a rising college fresh-

man from Orange County, and another to a rising junior at UNC. Their first annual Black and Gold Ball was held last year.

The Psi Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi also participate in the Big Brother program, donate food to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, tutor high school students, help at day care centers, and with the elderly. The brothers also provide transportation to and from election polls. The Que Cabaret is the annual formal sponsored by the group.

Theta Pi chapter of AKA participates in the Big Sister program and serve as Girl Scout advisors. They also visit rest homes, donate to the needy, contribute to the NAACP and the United Negro College Fund. Their annual social function is Club AKA.

The members of DST also contribute to the NAACP and United Negro College Fund. Last year, they co-sponsored a fashion show with the Ques, with models from Chapel Hill School. Their annual formal is the Sweetheart Ball.

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