

Morgan, Revis set examples; encourage black participation

Randall G. Kenan
Staff Writer

When intramural and recreational sports first appeared on the University of North Carolina campus many decades ago, they were student controlled. Today the intramural program has grown from a few narrow athletic events to one of the country's best non-varsity athletic programs which is funded and managed by the University.

The Carolina IM-Rec Sports Program provides over 120 activities during the academic year eight years ago they were providing only 40. Nearly 50 percent of the student body participates in the program. And though competition can become intense, there is still room for a large degree of "socialization," according to Edgar Shields, assistant professor of physical education and director of IM-Rec.

Shields said that IM-Rec attempts to provide something for everyone — competition and fun.

Black participation in the program is roughly close to the representative proportion of black presence at UNC. However, it is disproportionately spread among the sports. Basketball claims an overwhelming majority of the black non-varsity athletics.

Shields expressed concern that outside basketball, blacks seemed to have little interest in participation. In other popular sports, such as tag-football, softball, soccer and tennis, blacks don't take part in large numbers.

Rene' Revis, who is a black student and a member of the IM-Rec staff, believes the problem lies in several places. One, she says, is communication. The black students are not aware of all the activities available to them through IM-Rec. Also, she says that lack of accessibility in their immediate past has stunted interest in new sports because there is no place to become initiated into the, especially "club" sports like soccer, tag-football, and golf. "I think it's a reflection of culture as a whole," Revis said.



Rene Revis



Lisa Morgan

A junior from Lorange, N.C., Revis is a physical education major and a member of the women's championship tag-football team. She hopes to get involved in volleyball as well. She was recently an IM-Rec Athlete of the Month.

The IM-Rec staff selects four students each month for being especially outstanding and multifaceted. Among the recent honorees are three other black students, Anthony Moses, Jim Crawford, and Lisa Morgan.

Morgan, a senior Criminal Justice major from New Bern, has been playing basketball in IM-Rec since her freshman year. Now a member of the newly formed Delta Sigma Theta's **Delta Delights**, she raises the question of black female participation in IM-Rec sports. The **Delights** are the only all-black female team of any type in the program. She said that was because of the overall lack of communication and socializing among black women on the UNC campus. She believes that more black females will probably best come through the black sororities. "This would help form a sense of unity," she said.

According to Revis, among some of the other numerous activities of IM-Rec, Leisure Living Activities, aerobic dance classes, "Use-it-Lose-it" exercise classes, black women are beginning to become present, but nowhere near the size she would like to see.

When asked about what the IM-Rec program's staff was doing to increase black participation in other areas, Edgar Shields said that among other things they are considering the formation of all-black teams in some of the other activities.

They are also trying to step up communication to blacks in an attempt to interest them in new athletic experiences. In the final analysis he said they are willing to change structure if any group or individual has any suggestions for a better program, and such changes have been made in the past. But the willingness to try something new will have to come from the black students at UNC.

Tribute to Eubie Blake a phenomenal jazz artist

by Carole Howie
Staff Writer

On February 12, 1983, James Hubert "Eubie" Blake dies of pneumonia. A memorial service was held at New York's St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

A friend of Blake's, musician Louis Jacobs, said "...he was pushing himself to reach 100...For the last year and a half, that's what we talked about."

Was it hard for a negro to break into show business?" "Is it hard to get a camel through the eye of a needle?"

So were the words of "Eubie" Blake, jazz pianist, composer, and conductor.

Hard, maybe, but not impossible for Blake, who composed his first ragtime piece, "Charleston Rag," at

age 16.

Born and raised in Baltimore, on February 7, 1883, the son of freed Negro slaves, Blake went on to become a Vaudeville star, orchestra leader and composer of popular songs.

His career started between the ages of 14 and 15 when he played piano in various neighborhood brothels, and later he went on to play in James Reese Europe's band in New York during World War I.

In 1902, he went into Vaudeville at the Academy of Music on New York City's 14th Street. In those days it was hard for black artists to find a place to live.

"We couldn't even go to the door of a good hotel, much less go in to live there," Blake said.

Twenty years later, New York

began to recognize Blake as the composer of Broadway musical such as "Elsie" and "Chocolate Dandies." He was best known for his ragtime operetta called "Shuffle Along." It was a success. The musical ran for 18 months and brought about the discovery of jazz dancing and Josephine Baker. It also broke the color barrier and three road companies had access to previously all-white theaters.

In the 20's and 30's he composed five more shows, one of which starred the legendary Ethel Waters.

As time went on ragtime faded, and Vaudeville died. Blake's worst year was 1945 when his income was only \$700 from royalties. He retired at age 66. Ragtime sprang up again in the early 60's and on June 13, 1970, Blake won the first James P. Johnson

Memorial Award from the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University. This is an award given each year to a person who has "carried forward the jazz heritage." The presentation was made at the third annual Conference on Discographical Research, a gathering of record collectors primarily associated with jazz.

Blake was the composer of such songs as "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "Memories of You." He went on to write arrangements of "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Though Blake is gone, his music still lives in the hearts of many people. The memory of his vitality and zest, not only in his personality, but in his music will last forever.