

'The Color Purple', a woman's struggle

by **Patrice Jones**
Staff Writer

The combined talents of Steven Spielberg and Quincy Jones, giants in the movie and recording industries respectively, make "The Color Purple" an outstanding film.

The movie adaptation of Alice Walker's novel was filmed in Union County N.C. near Charlotte.

Already acclaimed with 11 academy award nominations, "The Color Purple" spanned a forty-year period of a black families' growth in the rural South in the early 1900's. The story revolves around the life of Celie (Descreta Jackson and later Whoopi Goldberg) who is raped by her father when she is only fourteen, abused by her husband whom she could only refer to as "Mr." and brought to womanhood by her husband's mistress, Shug Avery. The overall theme of this movie is the perseverance of love between Celie and her sister, Nettie, whom she is separated from early in the story and is finally reunited with in the closing scene.

The movie opens in the scenic beauty of the plantation fields where Celie and Nettie (Akosua Busia) are playing. Celie's protruding stomach is a shock paralleled to her adolescence

and girlish ways. At the tender age of fourteen, Celie is taken from the brutality of one existence to another when she leaves her father's home to marry "Mr." She is literally transformed into his slave and the audience is made to feel both sympathetic for her servile disposition and contempt for most of the male characters in this story.

The role of "Mr." (Albert) is portrayed masterfully by Danny Glover, ("Witness, "Places in the Heart") who seems a little too gentlemanly to portray this role of a bitter husband who stops Celie from having any contact with her sister Nettie. Undoubtedly, one of the greatest tear-jerkers (in a movie full of them) is the scene where "Mr." throws Celie's sister off their farm because she resisted his sexual advances.

About seven years into the story, Shug Avery (Margaret Avery), comes onto the scene as an unlikely candidate to bring Celie into self-discovery. This spicy character, almost portrayed by Tina Turner, gave a sense of diversity to the female roles in this story. Shug is the catalyst which causes Celie to finally leave her husband and shows her that she can be loved. Through the song "Miss Celie's Blues" (written by Quincy Jones), the coming independence of

Celie is foreshadowed. The lesbian relationship between Celie and Shug is displayed in a beautifully dramatic scene but is pushed aside for the remainder of the story. This play-down of a delicate subject weakened the development of the on-screen relationship of these two characters.

Undoubtedly, the most pivotal scene of the movie is when Celie finally stands up to her husband. At this family dinner, all of the women seem to rebel as Celie claims her sister's letters and her right to freedom. Celie finally becomes a character alive to the audience in verbal as well as mental action. It follows that the movie picks up considerable pace with the returning of Nettie from Africa who has, ironically, been brought up with Celie's children, Olivia and Adam. Maybe a little too late in the story, Albert redeems himself by sacrificing his greed for money to pay for Nettie, Olivia and Adam's passage out of Africa. It is this triumphant victory of love over adversity which gives this story so much depth.

The minor roles of Sophia and Hoppo (Albert's son) were nicely portrayed by Oprah Winfrey, Chicago television host, and Willard Pugh, respectively. Originally, Celie is jealous of Sophia for her strength but would grow to respect her later in the

story. Although she would have to pay for her pride, Sophia was an admirably strong character, like most of the women in this story. Also, Adolph Ceaser ("Soldier's Story") was a humorous addition to the cast as Albert's cynical father.

To give some technical credits, the music and scenery in this movie was beautiful and dynamic. If the characters had not been portrayed so vividly, undoubtedly, the dynamic nature of the scenery would have been overbearing. Also, the parallelism of African music to the soulful blues of the South (much accredited to co-producer Quincy Jones) was a striking score to accompany Spielberg's beautiful scenery.

The movie can attribute much of its depth to the truly memorable characters Walker created in her novel. Leaving no plot unresolved, the story went full circle with the resounding of the theme as Celie and Nettie after being reunited played games in the field as they had done forty years ago.

Academics and extra-curricular activities mesh

by **Laurie Denise Willis**
Editor

Achievement can be measured in many ways, however, on college campuses, people tend to measure achievement only by academic standing.

Janeen Lavay Vanhooke and Jack Marvin Brown are academic achievers who have achieved in many other ways as well.

Vanhooke, a fourth year pharmacy student from Hillsborough, graduated from the School of Science and Math in Durham. She is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, a freshman honor society which requires a 3.5 g.p.a., a member of the UNC Chamber Singers, a coed singing group, a member of the Student American Pharmaceutical Association (SAPHA), a member of Student National Pharmaceutical Association, (SNPHA) and a member of Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership, a pharmacy society based on leadership qualities.

She was recently invited into Rho Chi National Honor Society, a pharmacy school society based on academic achievement, and she is working for Revco Drugs in Durham as a pharmacist intern.

Brown, a senior accounting major from Shallote, N.C., graduated from

West Brunswick High School. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and was president of the Psi Delta Chapter his junior year. He was active as an Ebony Reader his freshman year, and during the fall of 1985 he was one of 14 teaching assistants for BA 71, an accounting course.

He assisted David Hoffman, an associate professor in the Business School, and he taught two discussion sessions on Thursdays to review material and course assignments.

Brown said he enjoyed the teaching assistant position for which he applied.

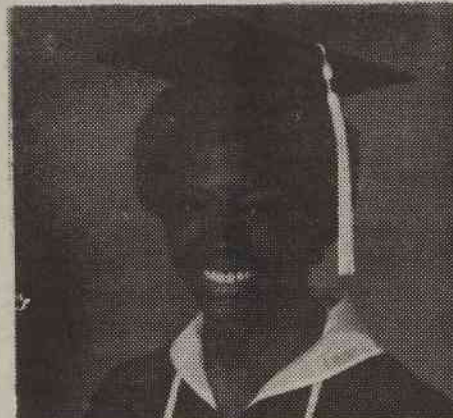
He said he has succeeded here at UNC because, "I learned early on to balance my activities with my classwork."

During his freshman year, Brown said he depended on advice from upperclassmen on class schedules, course loads, etc.

Vanhooke said her mother, who is a clerk typist at UNC General Administration, motivated and helped her to succeed as a freshman. "Because mom works here, I've been able to meet several campus leaders including President Friday."

She usually went to her mother if she had problems and her mother told her what she needed to do to straighten them out, she said.

Vanhooke attributed part of



Janeen Vanhooke

photo courtesy of Janeen Vanhooke



Jack Brown

photo by Tammie Foust

blacks' academic problems to high school backgrounds. "There's a lot of pressure to perform and if you don't know how to study already, it's hard to find out as a freshman."

Attending the School of Science and Math helped Vanhooke successfully make the transition from high school to college, she said. "I had already been exposed to a college-like atmosphere, so I didn't have too many problems."

She said a lot of blacks don't utilize the programs set up through Dean Renwick's office. During her freshman year, she had a good minority adviser, Lisa Richardson, who is now a first year medical student at "We talked a lot about my adjusting and how classes were going," Vanhooke said. "If I needed anything,

I knew I could go to her."

Brown agreed that blacks should utilize the programs Renwick's office has to offer.

Both he and Vanhooke said they were not sure why blacks don't actively participate in many campus organizations.

"I guess a lot of black students have a problem with getting into organizations because they don't feel like there's a place for them," Brown said.

Vanhooke said she felt that a lot of black students used college as a means of finding themselves which wasn't bad, but a lot of people black and white spend four years here and after they're finished have no career goals.

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