

Graham underrated

HUBERT GADDY, JR.
Staff Writer

Larry Graham has been in the music business for a number of years, but like so many other talented performers in the industry, he hardly ever receives the amount of recognition he deserves for his efforts. Not only does this multi-talented artist possess an extraordinary ability for playing the bass guitar, his vocal range is unmatched by many in the music world.

One in a Million You is Larry Graham's latest album on the Warner Bros. label. It includes the hit single, "One in a Million You" and nine other selections which are masterfully done by Graham along with his wife Tina. In addition, the former bassist for Sly and the

Family Stone also had a hand in the production and arrangement of the material.

Well performed music and well-written lyrics add to its strengths. Graham plays a variety of instruments, including bass guitar (Sunshine), drums, and keyboards. He demonstrates his vocal skills by delivering a deep, full sound on all the tunes. Provided the cuts from this album receive adequate airplay, Larry Graham could have a gold record on his hands.

If you enjoy music that is fun, entertaining and with a lot of variety, then *One in a Million You* is definitely worth your time and money. Let's hope this album will finally give Larry Graham the recognition and success a "One in a Million Performer" should receive.



Ensemble

Arthur Hall's Afro-American Dance Ensemble won't be here until March, but students can get guaranteed seats now. The Carolina Union sells season tickets to performances for \$15.



Fame

Fame

If you liked the movie, you'll love the soundtrack. It features songs like "Fame," "Out Here On My Own," and "I Sing The Body Electric."

Book will sharpen sensitivity

Book Review of *A Shot Walk* (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc.) John Slade, Acting Arts Editor

"Life is just a short walk from the cradle to the grave," says Cora James's father in Alice Childress's novel *A Short Walk*. And for Cora, the adopted daughter of Bill and Etta James, the walk is indeed short as she steps through the first half of the twentieth century at a surprisingly swift pace.

The novel begins in 1900 off the coast of South Carolina with Bill and Etta James discussing the future of the deceased Murdell Johnson's baby daughter. In no time at all, Etta has persuaded her husband that they should be the couple to bring up the orphaned child. And for the following twenty-eight chapters Childress conducts a trip through a woman's life and fifty years of Black history as experienced by Cora James.

Cora James compels interest to say the

least. Although at first a bit weak-minded, Cora evolves into a strong-willed character after she realizes that as a Black woman she occupies the bottom slot on the totem pole. In the first half of the novel she is clouded by social history and men who dominate her. Not until she decides to leave her first husband, whom she doesn't love, does she realize that her first obligation is to herself, a theme sounded throughout the novel.

Aside from Cora, two other characters also demand attention. One is Cecil Green, Cora's first boyfriend. After being attacked by three white youths, Cecil leaves South Carolina for New York, where he becomes involved in the Marcus Garvey Movement. His genuine concern for the pitiful situation of Blacks is skillfully drawn out, and I applaud Childress for treating the Garvey issue with thoroughness and insight.

The other character who stands apart from the rest is Cora's second cousin,

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Empire, one of most successful

BONITA WALKER
Staff Writer

One major film from the summer that is certain to receive an Academy Award nomination is *The Empire Strikes Back*. This motion picture, described as one of the most successful movies of the year so far, was a sure winner from the beginning, largely due to its forerunner, *Star Wars*.

Why is *Empire* so outstanding? Ob-

viously the dazzling special effects and the distinguished costumes contribute to the film's success, but also important is Billy Dee Williams in one of the major roles.

Williams' role is significant because he has once again broken the Black stereotype in films of the poor, depressed, uneducated character. His other notable effort in this area was his role as former football star Gale Sayers in *Brian's Song*. In *Empire*, Williams plays

Lando Calrissian, a wealthy captain of industry. Although in the beginning Calrissian appears to be a cold and calculating moneymaker, he soon enough becomes a conscious-ridden hero.

Even though probably not Williams' best effort to date, he nonetheless does a fine acting job in *The Empire Strikes Back*. But more important, is that his role adds to the short list of positive Black characters in white films.