

Black Ink

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Symposium to discuss roles of black women

by Denise Moultrie
News Editor

Beginning March 25, history will be made at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For the first time, a group of outspoken black women leaders will gather for a three-day symposium which will address the leadership roles black women hold, changes in these leadership



Eleanor Holmes Norton

roles, and what roles exist for the future of black women.

Melodie Barnes, chairman of the Student Outreach Committee, said the symposium, entitled Black Women's Leadership: Challenges and Strategies, stresses roles black women play in their homes, at work and in society as a whole. "The symposium address all facets of black women's leadership—from grassroots to the more formal leadership capacities," she said. Topics of discussion include last year's International Women's Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and women in poverty."

Barnes said she hoped this year's symposium would begin a tradition at UNC. The number of groups sponsoring the symposium should be indicative of a desire that people have to discuss these topics, she said. "I hope it helps increase an awareness about what goes on... because often black women are left out," she said.

Even when there is mention of women like Coretta Scott King, it is

often in terms of who their husband's are, she said. Barnes said the symposium would be beneficial because, "black women have a culture of their own and the symposium will serve as a network."

Kim Jordan, a member of the Student Outreach Committee, said the purpose of the seminar was to educate people about black women in leadership roles and to bring together people who were interested in leadership. "This is an opportunity for us all to get exposure to black women as leaders. This may dispel a lot of stereotypes people have about black women. We will learn how to aspire to go into these positions," she said.

The symposium offered a chance for people to see the relationships of all types of leadership expressed by black women, she said.

Jordan said she expected the symposium to cross lines dividing the community. "The symposium is not just for women in college, or just women period. Anybody who wants to



Paula Giddings

participate can participate," she said.

The symposium is dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Pauli Murray who, because of her race, was not admitted to UNC as a graduate student in 1938. This occurrence was not rare for that time period, but the irony exists in the fact that 53 years earlier, Murray's white great-aunt,

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N.C. Fellows Program has four new members

by Kimberly Brooks and Janet Roach

Four black students were recently accepted into the North Carolina Fellows Program, a program that helped its members develop various leadership techniques.

The members, Sherri Belfield, Eileen Carlton, Walter Murray and Richard White, said they hoped to explore new avenues of leadership and they expressed excitement about their acceptance into the program.

The application process was designed each year to select the elite group of freshmen with leadership potential, and letters were sent to freshmen at the end of their first semester, said Program Director Cynthia Wolf. She said she received more than 200 applications this year.

From those applications, 80 students were chosen and they underwent preliminary interviews after which the field was narrowed to 40 students who were reinterviewed. After all interviews were completed, 20 students were chosen as Fellows.

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Eileen Carlton

photo by Tammie Foust



Walter Murray

photo by Tammie Foust

Relationship workshop probes dating problems among blacks

by Richard White
Staff Writer

Deceitfulness, sex without commitment, interracial dating, materialism, and expectations - these are several topics discussed Tuesday night, Feb. 25, 1986, at the "Black Male-Black Female Relationship Workshop" sponsored by the Mu Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as part of their Black History Month celebration.

According to Chip Tillman, president, the idea for such an event came up in a chapter meeting as a program that would be of campus interest to "address internal oppression - getting along and bettering our understanding to better support each other." He added, "We must help and support ourselves before looking to others for help."

At 7:00 p.m., 26 females and 10 males sat in a circle bubbling with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Valary Irvin, a UNC Ph.D. candidate in counseling psychology and a graduate assistant at Student Development and Counseling Center in Nash Hall, and Kenneth Smith, a

junior comparative literature/prelaw major with previous male/female and black/white relations, were experience facilitators.

Irvin began by stating the goals and establishing the rules for the workshop. The goals of the workshop were to sensitize the participants to the complications of black male/black female relations, enlightenment as to why choices other than the norm are made, and most importantly, to provide a supportive setting for sharing and exchanging thoughts about the status of relationships as well as exploring potential ways of receiving them. The rules included being sensitive, open, respectful and considerate.

Session I dealt with responses to the following question: "What are some of your feelings when you see a black male with a white female or a black female with white male?" Responses included questioning of authenticity, anger, equal opportunity, casual sex, the "forbidden fruit" syndrome, and hatred of one's race.

Session II involved approximately 55 enthusiastic black males and females. Both groups elected a

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