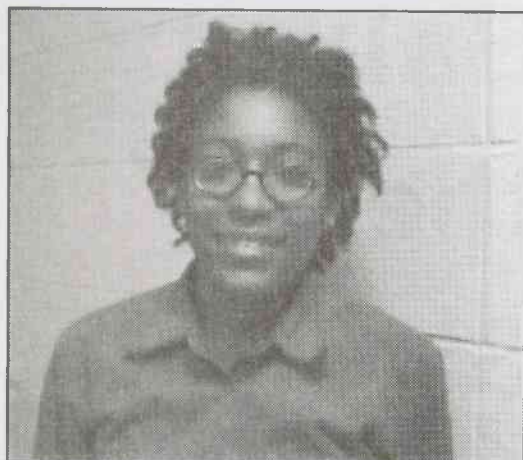

A Tribute to Black Women



By Courtney McSwain

When registering for my spring 99 semester last year I came across Afro-American Studies 66, "Black Women in America," taught by Dr. Valerie Kaalund. I figured this would be a good class for me to take, seeing as how I am a black woman living in America. I thought, "Obviously, this is the class for me." Upon entering the class, I was very excited; yet, I had no idea how much it would come to mean to me.

Imagine being a young black woman coming from a high school with an "advanced placement" curriculum and having never discussed black women in my American Studies class. To think I never even thought about the role of black women in the suffrage, feminist, or civil rights movements. I never

contemplated the significance of black women's clubs as a tool for racial uplift or thought about how the stereotypes of black women affected my life. I'd never even known a woman named Audre Lorde, who so eloquently stated poetry's function in women's lives as if she were directly speaking to me, even existed. And think about how excited I was to research the roles of black women in motherhood while watching my instructor embrace her child while she taught her own students.

The class "Black Women in America" not only inspired me to continue my studies in the Afro-American tradition, but also has given me the tools to articulate myself as a proud black woman. As we celebrate Black History Month, let us think about our history as the key to our future. As Americans it is important for us to embrace all of the history that is rooted in the soil of this country. As African Americans it is essential that we take an invested interest in learning about our crusaders, our fathers and our mothers so that we can express ourselves as a proud people.

YOUR BRIDGE TO A NEW WAY OF LIVING



THE
VILLAGES

FEATURES:
5 MINUTES FROM CAMPUS
PATIOS/PRIVATE DECKS
TWO POOLS
FITNESS CENTER

APARTMENTS

LOCATED IN CARRBORO
1000 SMITH LEVEL RD.



EMAIL: VILLAGESBNPROPERTIES.COM