

We Got Next

A MUSIC REVIEW

By Eugene Scott



Gospel music's monarchy has done it once again. The Winans family has produced award-winning artists such as The Winans and Bebe & Cece Winans for decades. With the recent release of the Grammy-nominated debut album from Winans Phase

2, The Winans family proves that they have no plans to stop anytime soon.

The sons of the gospel group The Winans, Carvin Jr. (19), Marvin Jr. (19), Juan (17) and Michael (16), combine in four-part harmony to make up Winans Phase 2. This generation of gospel music's most famous family demonstrates their music ability on their R&B-tinged, contemporary gospel album, *We Got Next*.

Winans Phase 2, gospel music's answer to the Backstreet Boys, recruited some of the music industry's most well known producers for their debut project, *We Got Next*. Their first single, "It's Alright (Send Me)", was penned by Rodney Jerkins, the master-mind behind the success of many hits including Brandy and Monica's "The Boy is Mine" and Whitney Houston's "It's Not Right, But It's Okay".

Grammy-award winning lyricist Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds chose to lend his expertise on the mid-tempo, Boyz II Men-flavored track entitled "Just for a Day". Showcasing their vocal diversity as well as lyrical ability, Winans Phase 2 recorded a remake of the Bee Gees "Too Much Heaven" and helped co-write "Come On Over" with producer Narada Michael Walden.

This group's potential is evident when listening to this recording. Unlike many children of successful recording artists, Winans Phase 2 verifies that they can hold their own when it comes to their musical talent. When gospel music is the topic of discussion, Winans Phase 2 proves without question that they've definitely "Got Next"!

Eugene Scott is a freshman, Physical Ed., Exercise, and Sports Science major who can be reached at escott@email.unc.edu.

Shades of Justice

A Book Review

By Eugene Scott

Linda McKeever Bullard's debut novel, *Shades of Justice*, is more complicated than a network television soap opera. This African-American female writes in the style of famed African-American female author Terri McMillan (*How Stella Got Her Groove Back*). Even though the comparisons to McMillan have made Bullard's rise to the top of Black bestseller lists meteoric, Bullard has an incomparable style of her own.

The plot focuses on Gwen Parrish, an attorney who has a passionate desire to become a judge in Houston, TX. It is a city notorious for not awarding positions of power to blacks, especially women. Because of her desire to practice law, an occupation that her father does not consider a "real job," Gwen's parents have disowned her. Further perplexing Gwen's life is her daughter, Ashleigh Lee, whose wish to live with her father creates numerous complications. To add fuel to the fire, the complexities of being newly-wed to a white man do not make Gwen's life any better. To keep her head above water, she seeks support in her best friends, Willette and C.C.

Although all three women graduated from Texas Southern University and founded the Black Female Lawyers Association, their careers and personal lives could not be any more different. C.C., the only black female judge in Harris County, is the envy of Gwen. But what Gwen doesn't know is that C.C.'s many dark secrets could destroy her professional life if they are ever publicly revealed. Willette, the daughter of the most powerful black man in the county, is Gwen's ticket to the bench. By sleeping with Willette's husband, Gwen hopes that he can persuade Willette to convince her father, the county commissioner, to appoint Gwen to the judicial bench.

When everything seems to be improving for Gwen, Willette's father is mysteriously murdered. A string of events also occur after this tragedy that tests Gwen's marriage: a custody battle over her only child and betrayed friendships. As secrets begin to reveal themselves, Gwen realizes that she is not only losing people incredibly dear to her but also seeing their hidden personalities.