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we protected with all our might. Once our customary dishonesty was uncovered and jerked out into the middle of the room in front of everybody else, we found it difficult to be dishonest.

It was hard work, but good work. Certainly none of the whites in the room enjoyed being screamed at and cursed at by a black man with a microphone and an accusatory tone. When they tried to disagree with Thornton, he'd say, "There goes that white superior attitude."

But he was right. And bit by bit, we were able to admit it, in this highly confrontational race relations seminar designed by Dr. Charles King. Dr. King died this past September, but his work is carried on by Matthew Thornton, who trained under Dr. King for five years, Joyce Williamson, who worked with Dr. King for 25 years, and associate Bea Edwards.

We are uncomfortable with change, and we use laughter and ignorance in defense. We laugh at those who dare to suggest that a woman might make a better leader than a man: that a black could effectively manage a white division. Laughter and joking are too often used as tools to mask dishonesty and prejudice.

Being part of this seminar was hard work for everyone - but good work. And, as Thornton reminded us, no two-day seminar is going to give a recipe for race relations, a cookbook for affirmative action: but, if we continue to be honest, we will find it harder to hold on to our blindness and ignorance when racism and sexism stares us in the face, and what is more, we will find it impossible to keep quiet.

Race relations

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He is smaller in stature than the six-foot, swarthy Dr. King, but he makes up for it in gustiness, inchutzpah. He has a deep respect for the man whose shoes he now fills.

"Dr. King was a man before his time. Twenty-five years ago he was preaching this, and organizations were not willing to act on it. If there ever was a man who gave his life for the ultimate goal of helping people, it was Dr. King. Very few people are willing to make the commitment he did."

Leadership Winston-Salem first brought Dr. King to Winston-Salem for its members, and has since coordinated many of his seminars for corporations who sponsor the course here. Annette Scipio, direc-

I am a white woman. I realize that a lot of folks think Sheridan Hill is a black man, but that's an assumption based on unfounded prejudices. I have worked at black firms and been a racial minority for the past three years, and there have been a few moments when I thought I wasn't prejudiced. But each time, I caught myself in an old reaction, an ignorant thought pattern that proved me wrong. I don't even need to name those, they are so prevalent and so deep-rooted, we all know what they are.

Some folks started this class somewhat more enlightened than others, and some merely thought they were more enlightened than others. I hope and pray that none of us went home Tuesday night proclaiming ourselves as experts on racism and sexism. The whites in that room can consider themselves quite privileged to be allowed to listen to black people talk about what it's like to be black: "It's answering your beautiful, bright little girl when she asks, 'Mommy, why do white people call us niggers?' ... It's explaining to your grandchildren how white people made us slaves and sold us off one by one ... It's telling your niece she is a person of worth and dignity, never mind the fact that a white boy spat on her at school."

The white men in that room should consider themselves honored to be allowed to listen to women and blacks describe what it's like to be excluded from decision-making, expected and even asked to get the coffee, not invited along on the quasi-social outings, last hired/first fired, not promoted, to silently watch as your ideas are stolen, your suggestions ignored until they are

affirmed by a white male.

Each of us got a dose of much-needed medicine. But let us not think this work is over. Whites will never know what it is like to be black. Men will never know what it is like to be a woman. But men must understand that women don't want to be like men, and whites must realize that black people don't want to be like white people: we simply do what we must do to survive, and white men like to be emulated.

If we are honest, one by one, whites will realize that black people can be black and make immense contributions to the company, to society. Men will slowly realize that women can be both feminine and strong, beautiful and smart, women can be as physically unappealing as men (beer belly, balding, thick

glasses) and still make valuable contributions to the organization, to the world.

What men should want for women is not that they be secretaries, mothers, beautiful, or charming. Men should want women to be self-actualized.

I don't want my children to be a writer because I am: I want to give them opportunities to develop a multitude of skills and talents to find their own path. Whites should not expect blacks to meet white standards: they should respect their differences and realize that treating everyone equally is not the same as treating everyone fairly.

We are different, and we have different needs. But it is our differences that make us beautiful. It is our differences that make us valuable.

PAGE SOUTH

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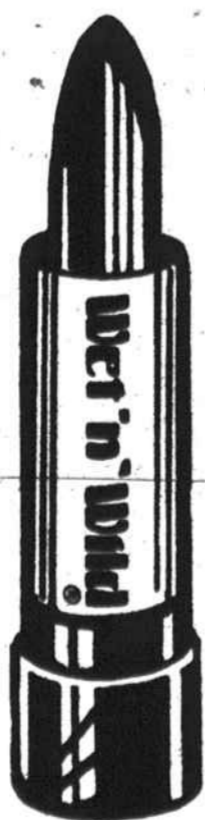
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Christmas message

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meets the eye. We really believe that indeed that "one solitary life," lived by that one man more than 2,000 years ago really did mean something special to all of us — not just to the Christian folk — but to all of us.

We really believe that love, goodness, justice, peace, understanding, forgiveness, kindness, perseverance, trust, generosity, gratitude, pride, understanding, reason, zeal, thoughtfulness, talent, strength, stamina, spirit, sensitivity, self-respect, self-reliance, self-control, reconciliation, integrity, intellect, joy, morale, mutuality, optimism, perspective, prudence, recompense, desire, endurance, ethics, faith, forbearance, and forgiveness, — love — all of these qualities —

are essential to truly living the abundant life. The problem is: We just can't do it by ourselves. (Smile)

And so we pause to celebrate Christmas, realizing that why we as individuals have not yet been totally successful in our own efforts to embody all of these many good qualities ... somebody did it over 2,000 years ago! And despite our shortcomings, we nevertheless, do have the capacity.

Thank God for this day. It serves as a great reminder of the good that lies within all of us.

***Don't Forget To Take Your Family to See *An African Odyssey* — The Perfect Christmas Celebration.

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Bey, "is giving Mr. Hamlin a certificate of recognition recognizing that The Awakening Giants joins the Winston-Salem community in thanking the Black Repertory and Larry Hamlin for actively promoting black history and culture through the arts 365 days of the year."

The Awakening Giants is an organization that was founded three years ago to promote cultural heritage and ethnic understanding between the different races. It is a multicultural and multi-religious organization with a primary focus of bringing about harmony and producing activities that unite people despite their racial, cultural

and religious differences.

Hamlin said that receiving the award from the organization was an inspiration to continue serving the artistic needs of the community.

"I'm profoundly pleased anytime those in the community recognize the efforts of an organization such as the North Carolina Black Repertory Company," said Hamlin. "It gives us the inspiration to continue to utilize the arts as a way of helping to improve the quality of our lives, and also to continue to act as a keeper of the story of our history, our heritage, our culture and our ancestry."

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