

Gospel vibrations

by Rosevelt Farmer

Editors note: Farmer is a graduate student in Linguistics.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "O God Our Help in Ages Past," "The Star Spangled Banner", etc. are just a few of the so-called standards considered to be expressive music basically of the "other expression" which seem to be disappearing in many Black gathering. What's replacing it? You mean...so you don't know? Obviously, you haven't heard the BSM Gospel Choir lately.

The BSM Gospel Choir is doing "Its thang" in Black Gospel Music! How do I know? Well, let me turn you on to some aspects of the living word.

It was a warm, sticky, beautiful "Black" night last fall, when I first heard the choir and believe you me, the sounds that came from the 10th floor of James sent exhilaration vibrations of the living word of our Black inheritance as

expressed in gospel.

As I approached James dormitory, the music got louder, hand clapping became more rhythmic and my brotheers and sisters were praising Divine Providence for "not moving the mountains, but giving them the strength to climb them." Yes, the choir realize that they have a long way to go and this they welcome as a challenge.

The choir has been acclaimed as having one of the best gospel pianists in these U-N-I-T-E-D States. If you've heard her "tickle the 88 keys of ivory," this you can attest is another aspect of the living soulful-word. Miss Francine Randolph (Miss BSM '72-73) is truly a James Cleveland-Aretha Franklin protegee and also an excellent soloist.

This is a talented group of young people. Talents vary extensively which makes the repertoire more appealing. They are too numerous to mention all of them, but here's a few: Mona

Simmons, alto, does a remarkable interpretation of "Precious Lord Take My Hand"; Theresa Whitley, alto, is featured singing "He's All You Need to Get By" assisted by Tony Torain, tenor, a new addition who presents a challenging "call and response technique" from the audience; Warren Carson, tenor, who exemplifies a melodious voice singing one of his rendition of "Lord Don't Move This Mountain"; Wallace Peppers, who hails from Wilson, North Carolina, as a bass soloist, demonstrates his versatility singing "Swing Low Sweet Chariot"; Cheryl Moore, known from coast to coast as she captivates the audience with "I Made a Vow" and Linda Davidson, a new functional member, in her debut "Give Me a Clean Heart."

People wonder if the BSM Choir is affected by Zodiac. It seems no matter what sign you are there's a place in the group for you. Your contribution may be "small" or "large", the group appreciates it and makes it usable. This dynamic nucleus is always seeking for improvement, attainment or experimenting with new ideas.

At the present time, the following offers are functional: Larry Mixon, Business Manager; Linda Davidson, Treas. Sec.; Tony Torain, Program Director; and Francine Randolph, Pianist-Director.

The group expects its new colorful robes in approximately 2-3 weeks. This is one of the major projects that has materialized. It is hoped that the robes will arrive in time for their extensive tours this spring, the Black Arts Cultural Festival and their long deserved anniversary which is expected to be one of their biggest extravaganzas on campus.

Yes, the BSM Gospel Choir has high aspirations for the future and all of us are prayerfully hoping better things to come in an effort that our B-L-A-C-K Consciousness will be monumental and soul-winning. Certainly, nothing, nothing! refreshes one's mind more than a few minutes of quiet-reflection, prayer and a "Gospel Song" as expressed by The BSM Gospel Choir. Finally, Black-Gospel Music speaks an unspeakable message to the world and reminds us to Live On! Think On! Sing On! Right On!

Asante—Kwa Heri

"Some Black students have not done their homework and seem to think that the militant movement began a couple of hours before or after they joined it... The heritage of Black militancy and struggle is like a relay race. Gabriel Prosser passed the torch on to Denmark Vesey, who passed it on to Fred Douglass to Dubois and Garvey to Robeson to Malcolm and Martin and on to Rap and Stokley."

--John Oliver Killens

"A society that drives its members to desperate solutions is a non-viable society. A society to be replaced."

--Frantz Fanon



Jones wants to be involved

by Linda Florence
Staff Writer

The Reverend Preston Jones, Chairman of Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church, has recently been appointed Black Chaplain at the University. Though the duties of Chaplain Jones have not been specifically defined, he expects to spend most of his time as counselor and advisor for Black students.

Jones hopes to be looked upon as a fellow Black among the students. "I have had the same kinds of problems and I am presently involved in the same struggle that confronts them," Jones said.

Jones realizes that it will take time to get to know the students and to establish rapport with them. "Right now my main interest is to listen to the students to find out where they are and where they would like to go," Jones said. "After getting some perspective of their goals, then I will try to help them to achieve their goals," he added.

Jones does not like to be classified as a typical 'religious leader' because it usually suggests too many traditional implications which he thinks

should be done away with. "I'm not a religious leader per se," Jones explained. "I'm concerned with all types of problems in all areas." Jones believes that the Black church has always been a great asset and focal point for the community but has failed in many instances as an agency of change in the lives of Black people.

"We are not attempting to change the Church but the Church should re-evaluate its message in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Jones explained. "The church should be involved with social and all issues that the people face."

Jones thinks that the white church should re-evaluate its message also, "and become involved in matters of justice and equality for all people." Jones then quoted from the book of Amos. "... Let justice fall down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). "Any church must take this mandate of the Prophet if it is serious," he said.

To explain this mandate Jones suggests reading Luke 4:18-19.

When You Have Forgotten Sunday: The Love Story

And when you have forgotten the bright bedclothes
on a Wednesday and a Saturday,
And most especially when you have forgotten Sunday—
When you have forgotten Sunday halves in bed,
Or me sitting on the front room radiator in the limping afternoon.
Looking off down the long street
To nowhere,
Hugged by my plain old wrapper of no-expectation
And nothing-I-have-to-do and I'm-happy-why?
And if-Monday-never-had-to-come—
When you have forgotten that, I say,
And how you swore, if somebody beeped the bell,
And how my heart played hopscotch if the telephone rang;
And how we finally went in to Sunday dinner,
That is to say, went across the front room floor to the
ink-spotted table in the southwest corner
To Sunday dinner, which was always chicken and noodles
Or chicken and rice
And salad and rye bread and tea
And chocolate chip cookies—
I say, when you have forgotten that,
When you have forgotten my little presentiment
That the war would be over before they got to you;
And how we finally undressed and whipped out the
light and flowed into bed,
And lay loose-limbed for a moment in the week-end
Bright bedclothes,
Then gently folded into each other—
When you have, I say, forgotten all that,
Then you may tell,
Then I may believe
You have forgotten me well.

Gwendolyn Brooks

Black Oscars are anticipated

By Mary L. Lacewell
Staff Writer

It is almost that time again — nominations for the academy awards. The nominees for the awards will be officially announced on Feb. 12, however, the academy has leaked out clues as to who the possible nominees will be. The major clue came when the academy's technical branches revealed their preliminary selections in eight categories (cinematography, editing, art direction, costumes and three aspects of music). Ten selections were made in each of these categories of which will be only five nominations.

Judging from these 10 selections in the various categories, a number of noted movie critics have speculated on who will be nominated in the major categories. If these speculations can be believed (and I think they can), Blacks will for the first time play a prominent role in the major categories such as Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress.

'Sounder', the Robert Radnitz-Martin Ritz story of a Black share-cropper family in rural Louisiana around 1934 is expected to be a main contender for the Best Picture nomination. 'Sounder' is one of the few Black films on the market today that gives a realistic portrayal of the plight of the Black man in America. 'Sounder' is not only admired for its almost superb script (in terms of depicting reality) but the photography is so beautiful that it possesses a dream-like quality.

Two Black actresses, Cicely Tyson starring in 'Sounder' and Diana Ross featured in 'Lady Sings the Blues', are speculated to be key prospects in the Best Actress nominations. Cicely

Tyson gave a very moving performance as a loyal sharecropper's wife, an understanding mother and, most of all, as a Black woman who was in love with her Black man. One must admit that this depiction on the screen is a rarity now days. Diana Ross, making her acting debut in 'Lady Sings the Blues', came across like a veteran professional. Her portrayal of the triumphs and tribulations of Billie Holliday was close to perfect.

Both of these young Black actresses gave superb performances and I for one would not want to be on the committee that would have to eliminate one of them.

'Sounder's' white director, Martin Ritt, is much talked about as a possible nominee for the Best Director award. Before directing 'Sounder', Mr. Ritt had a distinguished career as a maker of socially-concerned films. This movie could only have added to his prestige in this area due to his excellent directing as witnessed in the performances of the cast.

Other Black names have been mentioned in different categories. Handsome Billy D. Williams and comic Richard Pryor, both Black stars in 'Billie Holliday', have been mentioned as possible nominees for Best Actor in a Supporting Role. Richard Pryor's brilliant comedy routines rescued the picture in many of its weak spots. Billy D. Williams' portrayal of the comforting and understanding boy friend was indeed remarkable.

It has also been speculated that Curtis Mayfield's 'Super Fly' album will pick up the Oscar nomination for the Best Musical Score in a movie.