

# Features

## BSM Gospel Choir Concert Tribute to DeAudra Robinson

by SHEILA WILLIAMS  
Business Manager

The Black Student Movement Gospel Choir held its 17th Annual Fall Concert on Sunday, November 8 in Great Hall. The performance was a tribute to former choir member DeAudra Robinson, who was in a fatal car accident this summer.

BSM president Kenneth Perry welcomed the audience of about 100 to the evening's concert. BSM Gospel Choir secretary Michele Martin followed with a brief history of the choir.

Greg Bargeman gave a powerful introduction of the choir, suggesting to the audience "clap your hands, sway from side to side, stand up and move," if they felt like doing so.

With Kent Brooks on piano, Ivan Edwards on bass guitar and Demetrice Williams on percussion, the choir entered dressed in blue cummerbunds and bow ties. Sounding very strong and forceful, they sang an original song entitled "Praise Him", by pianist Kent Brooks.

After this song there was no doubt in anyone's mind that this choir had come to sing, and sing they did. Patrick Johnson and Stacie Blakeney, co-presidents of the choir, thanked everyone for coming and promised a good show. This promise was not broken.

Under the direction of two new talented directresses, Robin R. Cox and Sabrena Joyce Mervin, the choir followed with "Jesus Lord of All", also written by the talented Kent Brooks. "Use Me as Thy Servant" and "God's Got It" got the crowd to moving.

The tribute section of the program

was arranged by Kent Brooks and included very heartwarming and touching renditions of "Near the Cross", "Safe in His Arms", and "I Shall Wear a Crown".

Following intermission, the choir again reigned supreme with "Jesus You've Been So Good to Me", "With My Whole Heart", "More Like Jesus", and "Never Shall Forget", to name a few. The word "encore" was mentioned, but unfortunately the audience was not graced with one.

The concert was a huge success. The new directresses gave an excellent performance — strong and meaningful. They poured their all into it. Both felt that the concert went well considering all the hard times they had in the beginning. But they worked hard and the outcome was success. Robin says she never enjoyed working with anyone as much as Sabrena, and with an attitude like that, you know they are an unbeatable combination.

The audience also agreed that the concert was a smashing success. As junior Cedric Brown stated, "They worked it". It was the best concert since my freshman year."

Wanda Tucker felt that because many students have difficulty going to church on Sundays, it's good to hear something inspirational like the choir singing. "It gives us energy and the inner strength to go on."

Bravo to the BSM Gospel Choir, the directresses, the musicians and the co-presidents for a job well done. The choir should grace the UNC campus with more outstanding performances like this one.



Lee Greene. (photo by Sherry Whitesides)

## Faculty Profile: Lee Greene

by GERDA D. GALLOP  
Staff Writer

Perhaps one of the most popular and well-respected members of UNC's black faculty is Dr. Lee Greene, Professor of American Literature.

"He has this way of relating what we learn in class to current topics and even student life here at UNC," said junior Gwen Hodges, a former student in Greene's English 85 class.

Greene was born in Rutherford County near the North Carolina foothills, where he grew up and graduated from high school. He then went on to earn his undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Greene commented that student life for blacks at UNC when he was an undergraduate in the late 60's was entirely different than it is for blacks students at UNC now.

"It was fun despite the negative things. There were 17 blacks in my graduating class, and only about 30 to 40 total black students on campus. We had a chapter of the NAACP and a chapter of CORE that superceded the BSM", said Greene.

Social functions like greek parties were practically non-existent, said Greene. Instead, black students interacted in small groups and developed close and lasting friendships since they numbered so few.

Interestingly, Greene feels that black students didn't experience as much hostility towards them from whites as blacks do now, because whites didn't see them as a force.

"Racism wasn't as blatant in the 1960's but things became hostile in the 1970's when blacks came in larger numbers. Whites feared losing control and domination", said Greene.

Black males were suspect of everything, especially concerning incidents that involved white females. You could be sitting in the library and campus police would ask you to show identification or even attempt to prevent you from entering a building, said Greene.

Currently, Greene serves as

Chairperson of Affirmative Action and as a member of the Housing Advisory Committee, the Chancellor's Committee for Scholarship and Financial Aid, and the Afro-American Studies Advisory Committee. In addition, Greene was formerly an Assistant Dean in the School of Arts and Sciences. Greene also belongs to several professional organizations.

From 1973 to 1975, he taught English and American Studies at the University of Michigan and has given lectures "from Murphy to Manteo". Among his numerous recognitions and honors include two teaching awards and three national fellowships. Greene published a book, *Time's Unfading Garden* which is the story of a black poet of the early 1900's.

Greene saw his admittance to UNC as "paving a way for those who are here to be here and to make a positive difference for the next generation". However he feels that black students are facing a crisis situation.

The difference between students now is that we more carefully looked out for our own welfare. Black students will have to take a much more assertive role or they'll see less students here like there were in the 70's."

Greene feels that black students have become far too passive and particularly at UNC, are not getting a realistic picture of the world.

"Students forget that history moves in a cycle, and they'd better become much more assertive about looking out for their own welfare on their kids won't even be able to come here."

He urges black students to become active in the BSM and black student concerns and issues so that future black UNC Tarheels can be given a fighting chance.



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The Ivy Pledge Club Probate Show.  
(photo by Sherry Whitesides)