

Writers Forum

By GEORGE B. RUSS



MRS. MARY SHAW

The evening was coldish and drippy from a recent rain and, definitely, not an infusement for leaving the cozy shelter of home and an evening of Sunday television to trek across town to see and hear a junior male chorus perform. No matter the new Chinese-red robes nor the dedication of the supervisors nor the promise of soulstirring gospel in song by a number of choirs and choruses: The Junior choir of Union Baptist Church; the Mt. Calvary Choral Ensemble; the UBC Senior Male Chorus; the

Glory Bound Gospel Chorus and, Woods Family Singers. Nevertheless, you give yourself an injection of that old homebrewed panacea for the lethargic church goer: "I'll get up and go to work come Monday morning." So, off you go, startled by your own docility, hoping the deed will sustain your nebulous reasoning.

The occasion was the celebration of the U. B. C. Junior Male Chorus' 8th Anniversary; Theme: "Musical Festival."

As the evening progressed,

the theme took on proportions of a "Musical Extravaganza." And the last vestige of your fatuousness vanishes as you listen to the "Happy Am I" singers.

The new generation has really put glamour into its presentations; vivid colors: mango greens; Chinese Red, Deep Purple; sound effects: instrumental and the rhythmic slapping of hands. The spirit of the occasions are overwhelming — cacophonous — are — inspiring — joyous!

The Junior Male Chorus has twenty-one active members, two advisors, a pianist and two supervisors.

ROSTER OF OFFICIALS
 President John Durant
 V. President, Michael Wilson
 Secretary Ray Thompson
 Asst. Sec'y, Leonardus Ross
 Treasurer Timothy Cates
 Chaplain Frank Pratt, Jr.
 Parliamentarian Anthony Parrish

Advisors: Mrs. Myrtle Cates, Miss Annie M. Dunnigan and Rev. John Caldwell
 Pianist Grover Wilson, Jr.
 Coordinator, Mrs. Mary Shaw
 Colors: Red and White
 Goal: Look up and not down
 Look forward and not back
 Look out and not in,
 Lend a hand and be a friend.

The Junior Male Chorus was organized in August, 1965. They were formerly the Grady Davis Baseball League under the direction of Milton Currie. As the Baseball Season neared its closing, Mrs. Mary Shaw had an idea that should keep the young men together and should, at the same time, give a place in the church's worship services: A Junior Male Chorus.

Mrs. Shaw discussed her newly conceived idea with the pastor, Dr. Grady D. Davis—the idea was readily received and adopted by the pastor and church.

On the third Sunday in September 1965, 16 young men sang "Old Time Religion" and "Leaning On Jesus." They were proud and honored that they had lifted their voices praising God in song—of giving service.

As time passed, naturally, some of the young men out grew the Junior Chorus and left to join other singing groups. Some of these young men were Essex Fields, Jr., Anthony Timberlake, Walter Kee and Van Clark, Jr.

Smooth sailing has not been the course for the J. M. C. to follow. Our numbers have shifted gradually and sharply at times—from sixteen to five—and the interest of the young men in church activities was something to reckon with at times, but Mrs. Shaw never lost faith in the fellows; "the boys are dear to my heart and my daily inspiration," therefore, she clung to a faithful few and through unceasing prayer was able to salvage and establish the present representative group of splendid singers. "God has blessed us to grow in numbers and in the spirit of true Christians. God, Mrs. Shaw explained graciously, has enabled us to travel to many places to give service. We were a part of the Rev. Linwood Daye's Anniversary celebration at Norfolk, Virginia. Also, we enjoyed a trip to Fayetteville, N. C. where we were guest singers on a church program. Speaking of church programs, we have appeared on programs in various churches around the city."

Mrs. Mary Shaw, the lady with the smiling brown eyes, enjoys working with young people and devotes much of her time and effort in developing a superior male chorus. She is a member of the Willing Workers Missionary Circle; the Rus-Sanders Singers and the Dorcas Class. Mrs. Myrtle Cates, a comparatively newcomers to the U. B. C. family, is a fervent worker and adds her talent and enthusiasm to that of Mrs. Shaw and the other staff members in developing one of the finest Junior Male Chorus in the city of Durham. Mrs. Cates is a member of the Rus-Sanders Singers.

CATTLE SICKNESS

Grass tetany is illness of cattle which sometimes results from grazing lush spring grass. North Carolina State University extension specialists explain that the condition is brought about by an abnormally low magnesium and calcium level in the blood serum. The illness can be fatal to the animal. The most common treatment is the intravenous injection of calcium gluconate with magnesium.

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By the way...

by Joe Black



The progressive 60's have come and gone. Today, as we find ourselves struggling with the tensions of the 70's, we wonder: whatever happened to all those hopeful programs the "great society" started, a decade ago.

In retrospect, community action projects have not been the end-all solutions to the Black man's problems.

And one thing has become very clear. A clenched fist is almost powerless, if it is empty when opened. If we are to maintain the forward thrust of our struggle, there must be something more tangible about our clenched fist. Something real inside it. Something that represents a greater power base.

Political power? Yes. But it must be based on economic power. The power that comes from owning more businesses. Holding more high paying jobs. Being able to spread more wealth where it will do more good.

An easy accomplishment? You know the answer to that. But if the evils of slavery couldn't derail the freedom train, then we can surely pay the extra price of time, training, education, and—most important—dedication; to earn a greater slice of our nation's economic wealth.

As a symbol, a clenched fist is right on. But remember, a clenched fist can't talk. Like money can talk.

Joe Black
 Vice President
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