

FEATURES

Interest and enthusiasm a must in RA selection

THERESA ANN WILLIAMS
Co-Editor

Application forms are presently available for Resident Assistant (RA) positions for the 1980-81 academic school year.

The basic criteria for the positions include second semester sophomore, junior or senior standing, an overall 2.5 quality point average, a sincere interest in working with people and enthusiasm.

Serving as an RA involves a time commitment of 17 hours per week. Next fall they will be paid \$3.35 per hour.

Some of the expectations and roles of resident assistants include helping freshmen in their transition to college, serving as counselor, educator, administrator and enforcer in the dorm. They also serve as resource personnel for the university and are expected to have a knowledge of the university.

Jody Harpster, Acting Associate Director of University Housing, cited a special need for more Black resident assistants on campus. He stated, "the department of university housing recognizes the special needs of Black students on this campus. Without Black RA's it's almost im-

possible to meet these needs."

Harpster stated that he has a personal commitment in increasing Black involvement in the program. There are presently 10 Black resident assistants out of a total of 146. There is one black assistant resident director and two Black resident directors.

There will be an applicant orientation meeting on Sunday January 13 at 7 p.m. in 100 Hamilton Hall.

The selection process lasts four weeks during which three types of interviews take place. This includes individual one-on-one interviews between a candidate and a present RA; group process interviews and panel

interviews.

Applicants must also note that they are applying for the position of RA in general and not just for any specific area. Application forms are available in the resident director's office of each dorm, at the Assistant Tower Manager's office in Granville Towers, and at the housing office in Carr Building.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on January 14. Final selections will be made by February 12.

Harpster urged all qualified Blacks who are interested in the program to apply.

Choirs enjoy spreading the gospel in song

BSM Gospel Choir

BEVERLY SHEPARD
Special Projects Editor

"Many people have had some experience but most just have an interest in singing in the choir, making it the best that it can be," Leslie Dula, president of the BSM Gospel Choir said.

Since its beginning in 1971 with Francine Cummings as the first president, the choir has personified fellowship and cultural unity on UNC's campus.

In 1974, the BSM's participation in the state-wide Gospel Choir Festival at Duke University resulted in its being awarded first prize — a trophy and \$500. Of the 42 members of this year's choir, have entered no state competitions, they anticipate television appearances and the possibility of recording an album.

This year the choir has 18 new members. Tryouts, consist of singing the scale, singing alone for solo potential, and singing along with the other members and are conducted at the beginning of fall semester and again in the spring, if positions are needed. Members from the previous year do not have to try out again. "Once you try out, you just have to come back and reaffirm your membership," Dula said.

Rehearsals are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00. After the first twenty minutes of rehearsals, reserved for the transaction of business, practice is open to the general public.

The choir usually has one performance per week at a church or civic event. The choir's ability "to spread the word of God through song and testimony and to help fulfill the cultural needs of surrounding areas," is enhanced by pianists John Brown, Marlon West and Renee Ray.

Generally the pianist presents the particular songs he would like to teach the choir. Vanessa Garrett, musician representative, proceeds from this point to organize rehearsals, select the director and soloist and decide which songs will be performed in the concert. Directing is open to all members who display the ability. Presently there are six practicing directors who meet individually with Vanessa to insure their use of the same technique, to diminish personal styles that could cause confusion for choir members and to learn each new song.

Like any other organization, the BSM Gospel Choir has experienced its share of ups and downs. It has managed to hold its own without the director

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New Generation Singers

PARCEASTA DORSETTE

"Love, the love of singing, of serving, and the fear that I might break their necks" according to Oren M. Marsh Jr. the director of the New Generation Singers, are the factors that hold the group together.

The New Generation Singers, who were invited by the third floor Executive Committee of Hinton James, performed in the recreation room on Monday, Nov. 12.

"The audience was somewhat subdued" in James. "But some churches that I've been too were like 'The First Church of the Frigidaire; therefore we have to pump ourselves up," he said.

"We're dedicated. We're from all over Durham, from various denominations, but we're basically protestants," he said. "They take a rest and complain if there's nowhere to go to sing." The members of the group "stick together," Marsh said.

"We pray one minute and fight the next, but my word is gospel, if they do not want to abide they get the hell out," he said. Although, the group requires auditions, the decision can be waved by his overall decision. His only requirements are interest and pride.

The group has been singing for ten

years and were inspired by The Oral Roberts World Action Singers, The Edwin Hawkins Family and The Martin Luther King Operation Bread Basket Choir.

He said he chose "The New Generation Singers" as the name for the group because, "I wanted something that was catchy to young folk and something you could use in church and not feel embarrassed."

Over the past ten years, the group has had 124 members, they've played at every high school and every Black church and white church in Durham, they've taken a trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and visited New York twice.

The future for the group is "to get better." Marsh said "praise and far as I've had it, I want them to come to know it."

For fifteen years, he performed with "The Jamming Jammers." They began in some fraternity house on Cameron Street, but their first performance was held in Ehringhaus Dormitory. "I felt that any instruments used in a combo (a small jazz or dance band) could be used in a choir and I married the two factors," he said. The New Generation Singers now have these instruments in their choir: tambores, drums, a piano, guitars and a saxophone.

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