

## Students remain soap fans

FRANCES SILVA  
Special Projects Editor

One element of the media that has captured the fascination of millions is soap operas. Included in those millions are Blacks, who, despite poor representation, continue to view and support the programs.

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slot, and I got hooked," said Renee Branch, a sophomore from Fayetteville, N.C.

Kraig Holt's reasons for watching his favorite show, and ABC's top ranked soap opera, *General Hospital*, were somewhat different. "I like to see the action and all those devilish people coniving. It let's me know what I'll have to look out for later on in life," he said jokingly.

Holt, a junior from Baltimore, Md., does not watch the soaps in terms of Black and white simply because few Blacks appear in roles on the soaps.

"Basically the soaps show middle to upper class Blacks who often act like middle to upper class white," explained Mike Wilcher, a sophomore from Washington, D.C.

Wilcher also added that he thought the shows were an escape from reality but he admitted that some of the situations created do happen.

Gisella Wiggins, a freshman from Spring Lake, N.C., agreed that the shows do delve into reality. "I think that basically you do find some Blacks like that," added Wiggins, whose mother was a social worker, as is Nancy, a Black character on *All My Children*.

Although Mary Ellerbe, a freshman from Pinehurst, also felt that the Blacks on the soaps were believable, she expressed a desire to see their roles ex-

panded and made more realistic.

"The soap operas don't go into the families of the Blacks. I'd get a large number of Blacks and create some problems," she said.

Wilcher advocated changing the types of Black characters depicted in the shows. "I'd show Blacks from all different economic levels," he said.

Branch's suggestions for improvement in the soaps also concentrated on the writing. "Maybe if there were more Black writers they could portray the Black personality better. Black and white problems are totally different. They don't deal with Black problems on the soaps," she remarked.

However, Holt conveyed a thought that perhaps many Blacks who are hooked on soaps have entertained at one time or another:

"It'd be nice to have an all Black soap opera," he said.



## Choir making concert plans

DENISE JOYNER  
Staff Writer

Several Black groups are established here on the UNC campus. Whether it be music, theater, or dance, BSM has it.

It is still early in the semester so students can still hear any publicity concerning possible participation or just for your entertainment pleasure.

Highlighted this week is the Black Student Movement Gospel Choir. The choir has already made plans for this fall. Aside from the usual gospel concert on campus once a semester, the choir will sing in Upendo one Sunday per month, in conjunction with the United Christian Fellowship.

Other plans for the fall are tentative at this point. Since auditions were recently held for the choir, those plans will begin to take shape soon.

People who missed auditions last week will probably have another chance in the spring to tryout. In the meantime though, the choir wants students to just come out and enjoy the music.



Lori Williams singing in choir

## Album has Hawkins' touch

Walter Hawkins' new album *Do Your Best*, is what one might call a sneak preview into the kind of music that will be coming up on future albums.

*Do Your Best* is a mixture of Black gospel combined with a hint of jazz and pop music. Hawkins is breaking away from the traditional pattern and style that appeared on *Love Alive*, *Love Alive II*, and *Jesus Christ Is The Way*.

*Do Your Best* contains a new rendition of "MacArthur Park" (sung by his

sister Lynette), originally a Donna Summer hit. This is a classic example of the type of music that appears throughout the album. Some of the other songs are "Do Your Best" (title song), "Will You Be There," and "What Then."

People used to Hawkins' traditional style of presenting music may not be able to adjust to this new musical transition. But despite his experimentation with a new style, the album still has that distinctive Walter Hawkins touch and that's what makes it good.

Mitchelene King

### An Arts Editorial

## Soaps lack Blacks

Many college students watch soap operas, and are a large part of the viewing audience. Many Black students in this audience are dedicated to the soaps, but are given very few roles to identify with.

Frank and Nancy Grant are the two Black characters on "All My Children". Used as tokens when they debuted in 1973, Frank and Nancy were given soapier roles in 1976 when the couple separated and remarried other characters.

Although Frank and Nancy were able to get more than stereotype roles on AMC, too few other serials develop Black roles.

The reason for this is the fact that the soaps are afraid to lose their white au-

dience. In the 1970's "Days of Our Lives" and "Search For Tomorrow" were prime examples.

"Days of Our Lives," the NBC soap popular among housewives, cancelled a mixed marriage that had been scheduled in the script due to letters from its white viewers.

"Search For Tomorrow," which debuted in September 1954, almost had to call it quits after nearly 20 years when it televised several episodes of a Black youth center during the mid-70's.

For the upcoming '80 season, expect few changes, afterall, all the children will still be illegitimate, there will be rapes, adultery and affairs in all the main soaps, but few will commit themselves with a large Black cast.



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