

In Perspective

Keep The Faith

Thoughts of being home, eating holiday meals, strengthening family and friendship ties, hanging out, and attempting to catch up on sleep make it difficult to maintain full concentration on class assignments and daily responsibilities. Just as exams cause us to look inside ourselves to discuss what motivates us, so does the holiday season.

Our sense of community becomes more apparent as the seasons change. We are more willing to accept and to express emotions. It is at this time of the year that we gather our families and friends and even contribute to the Salvation Army outside our favorite department store. This festive occasion is not just a time for eating and celebration, but a time for introspection.

This is a great time to clean our mental attics. We can strive for a renewal of our spirits so that we can reach for new academic, spiritual, cultural, and social heights.

Accordingly, the very nature of the season causes us to explore our deepest thoughts and feelings. We re-evaluate what is important to us as we uncover the ideals and principles of sharing that we have internalized. This is a great time to clean our mental attics. We can strive for a renewal of our spirits so that we can reach for new academic, spiritual, cultural, and social heights.

During this season, as we become more aware of those things for which we are thankful consider this: Do we appreciate each other at UNC?

Despite our many efforts to distinguish ourselves as members of the esoteric, we share a commonality — a desire for the human spirit to triumph.

Upon our January return, keep in mind that we have a national holiday to celebrate and a legacy to commemorate. Although this holiday season comes but once a year, let's capture its essence and make it evident throughout this school year.

Best wishes on final exams. Eat right and rest well! Warm Holiday Greetings.

Richard J. White, III
Assistant to the Editors

"A Singing Stream:

A Black Family Chronicle"



The musical legacy continues (photo by Reubena Whitted)

A *Singing Stream* started out as a movie to depict a Southern Black family's struggle through racial discrimination, poverty, family break-up, racial readjustment of schools and the changes of a tenant farmer to a landowner. Mrs. Bertha M. Landis, the oldest surviving member of the family at 87 years of age, tells about the family's survival through the pitfalls of the South. She also talks about the family singing as a group, as individuals, how they became singers, and the fame and fortune that they received as singers.

Since singing ran on both sides of the family, Mrs. Landis and her husbands' family, she continued the *Singing Stream* by teaching her children how to sing. Mrs. Landis' ability to sing was brought out by her multi-talented father. Mrs. Landis' father played the harmonica, the banjo, and the fiddle, along with teaching the church choir to sing their pitches. Teaching Mrs. Landis to sing led to the singing career of most of the older children of the Landis family. Two members of the Landis family are actively involved in their singing career with the Golden Echos.

The Golden Echos consists of John Landis, Claude Landis, Mike Austin, Andrew Green, Luther Foster, J.P. Jenkins, Sidney Brodie, Jimmy Upchurch, Manager Wilbert Malone, Brian Malone, and a former member who played by special request, Kenneth Daniel. Each member strongly agrees that the group is still progressing. Speaking with a few members of the Golden Echos, after a brief performance after the movie, it was easy to see that they have a strong

singing relationship on and off the stage. Jimmy Upchurch, one of the newest members of the Echos says, "[Singing] gets us closer to God. It feels nice to play in front of a crowd who can feel what you play."

The Echos seemed to have grown stronger since the filming of the movie that portrays a family full of talent and enthusiasm. Not knowing what the movie was going to be really about, Tom Davenport started filming the documentary and soon stumbled onto a family full of talent. Taking five years to finish filming and editing, Davenport didn't have any idea which way the film was headed so he kept up production.

Kenneth Daniel, a former Golden Echo who now plays and sings with a few cousins, was asked to come on-stage and play with the group. Replacing Brian Malone, Wilbert's son, on the guitar, Kenneth showed the crowd that he still had the talent as a musician. After his performance, he had a few words to say to the *Black Ink*, "The feeling was still and I had a great time. The group [Echos] is better because they have their own unique style that fits them. They are getting better with what they are doing."

Talking to Wilbert and Brian Malone about the group showed that their playing in the group has kept their father-son relationship strong. Brian being the youngest member of the Echos at 13 years old is truly a magnificent accomplishment for a teenager. Wilbert says, "It feels great to play alongside of my son and with the Echos. Brian has always been interested in playing with the Echos since he was 5 years old."

Asked if there was anything he wanted to see happen, he replied, "I want to see Brian travel more and get a chance to see the world from a different perspective."

Finally getting a chance to talk to Claude Landis, he had a bit to say about the group and the filming. "Filming the movie was a new experience for me and cutting records was exciting. At first, the film was talked about amongst the group and then it spread [into the community]. We mostly got our exposure to the public when we sang at folk festivals in New York and New Jersey."

Claude Landis had one more thing to say just as we were leaving. He said with a smile, "Remember, you can reach your goal only if you try."

Learning about a family who is in love with its work shows others that not all people do things that they don't have to. Many people do things because they want to. As Mrs. Landis said in the film, "I want something that my children can benefit from." Teaching her children how to sing put them on the road to their happiness and their success. It went so well that they were rewarded for their faithfulness in singing and in God.

Black Ink

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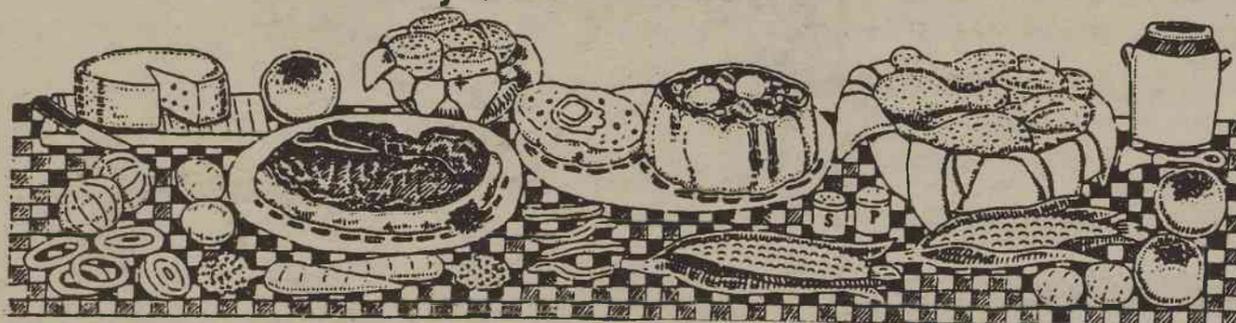
The **Black Ink** is published by students of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill every two weeks during the regular academic year, excluding holidays and examination periods.

The **Black Ink** is the Official Newspaper of the Black Student Movement and is designed to cover events of the group and other issues of interest to readers of **Black Ink**.

Comments and editorials written in the "Perspective" section reflect views of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the **Black Ink** Staff.

The **Black Ink** Office is located in 108D of the Carolina Union. The mailing address is Box 42, Carolina Union, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. The telephone number is (919) 962-4336.

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