

Arts expand

An awareness of black culture capitalized

By VANESSA SIDDLER
Staff Writer

projection, gestures, nonverbal expressions and enthusiasm.

Carolina offers much. To the basketball fan, a nationally ranked Tar Heel team is bragged upon. To the junior Einsteins, Carolina boasts a number one in the South university rating. There are radio stations and newspapers, pamphlets and print-outs, professors, dogs, everything. Enough to lose yourself in the crowd.

Fortunately, black culture has not been lost. In song, in dance, in readings, the black community still offers the opportunity to witness, or become a part of, an appreciation of black heritage. Check the ways:

Ebony Readers

The Ebony Readers are known for their performances of dramatic readings from prominent black poets. On-stage, they work around a central theme of love and peace, and derive from that theme poetry or prose readings which present a black perspective.

The Readers originated when a slated one-performance interlude of four years ago was so well received by the student body that the effort continued. Today the group boasts 15 to 20 minutes and, in addition to on-campus performances, receives invitations from all over the state. Readers research their material, evaluate one another, switch pieces when necessary and for dramatic effect, sometimes use music as a background. Pieces are never actually read, but are memorized with only infrequent references to notes.

Anyone interested in dramatic reading is eligible for tryouts. These require that the perspective reader do at least three pieces before a panel of Ebony Readers which always includes two graduate students in speech and English. Performers are judged on

Black Student Movement Gospel Choir

A piano, bass guitar, lead guitar, drums, bongos and most of all, enthusiastic Christians provide the ministry in song known as the Black Student Movement (BSM) Gospel Choir. Ranked number one in the western part of the state by the Intercollegiate Choir Contest, the BSM



The Opeyo Dancers, a black troupe of about twenty members, perform original routines set to contemporary music.

Gospel Choir does extensive traveling, has appeared on channel 8's Gospel

Expo, received an invitation to Georgia to sing at a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King last Thanksgiving, and has appeared in concert with renowned gospel singer Shirley Caesar.

In addition to traveling, at least two concerts are given on campus in Great Hall of the Union a year — always to a full house. Singers provide their own personal testimony as well as the witness of song.

The choir contains approximately 50 members, has four pianists, three steady directors, and refuses to receive credit for any of its accomplishments. They give credit to Jesus.

Tryouts for the choir are held each semester and require only that a song be sung for the part desired (alto, tenor, bass) before the musicians. Practice is then held twice weekly.

Opeyo Dancers

Either in solo performance, duet, or the whole group of 21, the Opeyo Dancers represent a black perspective in modern dance. The dances are original, the music contemporary, the dancers very graceful. Given two weeks notice and a theme to center a show around, the group is usually available for performance. Generally, a concentration is made on on-campus activities, although the group has danced at the Pan-African Festival in Raleigh, dances at Chapel Hill High School yearly, and receives numerous invitations.

Along with a yearly engagement to perform at the Miss BSM pageant, the Opeyo Dancers also yearly prepare a show of their own. This show is generally done during the spring semester at Memorial Hall and centers around a special theme.

In preparation for the performance, dues are collected at each practice, providing a budget by spring with which to purchase albums, costumes, materials and props. A costume committee and prop committee

complete the technical areas of the performance.

Black Ink Newspaper

Black Ink is the official publication of the BSM. Editors say it is neither militant nor discriminatory and does not seek to substitute the *Daily Tar Heel*, but only take over where it leaves off in reference to the black community.

The newspaper is feature and news oriented and will publish this year bi-weekly 2,000 copies. Its readership scopes both the black and white communities.

New reporters are always welcomed.

Black Christian Fellowship

Desiring a fulfillment of spiritual needs — then the Black Christian Fellowship (BCF) is the place. This non-denominational group of approximately 70 members and many followers is traditional of the black form of worship and is open to any and all persons. Service is held weekly in Upendo Lounge in Chase cafeteria at 11:00.

The BCF also provides for its members ladies, men and general bible studies weekly, a BCF choir, a prison ministry, team recreation in volleyball and basketball and potluck dinners. Yearly the fellowship sponsors a weekend retreat, a formal banquet, revival and parent's day.

Although BCF caters to students on campus, an outreach arm known as the Chapel Hill Team Ministry contains a group of dedicated followers who minister to the needs of area communities.

The BCF's only requirement for membership is love of Jesus.

Reader's Theater

The Reader's Theater seeks to stimulate black culture by allowing its



Staff photo by L. C. Barbour

The Ebony Readers are one of several black culture groups on campus. Started four years ago, the Readers have about twenty members.

members to find and organize a program on some aspect of the black experience and then present it. The show "I Been Buked," for example, shows the nationalism of the Negro during the ante-bellum period and contains speeches, poetry, and songs all written during this period in history. The readers portray such well known characters as Frederick Douglas, Marcus Garby and Francis Harper.

Unlike traditional readers theater, this group of approximately 11 members all appear on stage at once forming a semi-circle. All are dressed simply and no scripts or scenery is used.

The Reader's Theater seeks to be both inspirational and educational and offers tryouts to any interested person. The readers are available on call.

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Benefit concert features local artists

A benefit concert will be held this Sunday afternoon in the Forest Theater on the UNC campus across from Cobb Dorm on Country Club Road. Proceeds will go to the North Carolina Memorial Hospital Children's Burn Unit to establish a children's library. Many local musicians are donating their time for the concert. They include Barry Gabel, Joe Horacek, Diane Gooch-Shaw, Frank Dieter, Jim Magill, Emy Reeves, Lise Uyanik and many others. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted. Starting time in the Forest Theater will be 2 p.m. In case of rain, the concert will be held in Memorial Hall. Bring a picnic basket and enjoy a Sunday afternoon of sunshine and good music.

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