



Discovery program featured in Ink

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Chavis talks of history, survival at program



The Reverend Ben Chavis

Photo by David Squires

LAWRENCE TURNER
Managing Editor

The last time the Rev. Ben Chavis spoke at UNC was in 1969, when times were different, he said.

But, when he returned to UNC Feb. 6, to deliver the major address for the "Discovery" program, he raised his fist in the "Black Power" salute as he might have done 12 years ago.

Chavis was the keynote speaker at "Discovery," a conference on Black American issues sponsored by the Black Student Movement and other campus organizations. The conference was held Feb. 6-8.

A member of the Wilmington 10 and a civil rights leader, Chavis, 33, is field director of the Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice.

He was invited to speak on the importance of celebrating Black History Month.

Because Blacks have survived through American history when "all the odds were

stacked against us," is reason enough to celebrate Black History Month, Chavis said to an audience of about 200.

"Black history is important in world history" and should not be confined to America, he said. It is "a history of protest, a history of struggle, a history of genocide," he added.

The minister cited the recent murders of Blacks in Atlanta and Buffalo and the high Black infant mortality rate as examples.

The civil rights struggle for equality has never ended, Chavis said, calling for a "freedom struggle" for Blacks to survive in the future. He cited six ways to survive.

The first way is for Blacks to demand accountability from Black leaders so that they will heed the needs of Black communities, he said. Lack of accountability exists on the local, state, regional and national levels, Chavis said.

The next move, he said, is to solve that problem through the National Black Independent Political Party, in which he is active. "We must declare our political in-

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Ashe says jobs exist

TERESA BLOSSOM
Arts Editor

When he was 12 years old, Arthur Ashe went to Durham to play in an all-Black tennis tournament because he was not allowed to play in white tournaments.

Twenty-six years later, that tennis court is part of a parking lot on the campus of NCCU and Ashe is retired from tennis after suffering a heart attack in July, 1979.

Ashe, who rose to the top of his profession as the first Black man to win at Wimbledon, is in his fourth year as a representative of Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance. He recalled that first tournament when he visited the UNC campus recently to speak to minority students about career opportunities in the insurance industry.

"Job opportunities in all areas are better for Blacks now than when I was growing up," he told a crowd of about 40-50 in Great Hall.

Ashe said that the insurance industry had recruitment programs geared especially toward minorities because most companies lose their minority employees within two years for various reasons.

The problem stems for a lack of knowledge about insurance in Black communities and from different values, he said.

"Black America doesn't look at money the way white America does. If we've got it, fine. If we ain't, we ain't," he said. "Also, we've never had enough to go into long-term planning."

The industry is also overshadowed by the

sexier image of the banking field, he added. Ashe explained that only 10 percent of the jobs had to do with selling. The other 90 percent involve work similar to that in banking.

Ashe said that minorities don't benefit from money earned by insurance companies because there are no Hispanics or Blacks in key positions to make decisions about how that money is spent.

Because minorities are not in decision-making positions, red-lining occurs, Ashe said. Insurance companies "red-line" areas which are considered high risks. Blacks and the poor usually live in these areas.

Insurance companies view things in ethnic terms, Ashe said. For example, Blacks with hypertension and sickle cell are charged higher premiums.

"Black actuaries are needed too because we have special problems which insurance companies don't address," Ashe said.

Applicants must pass a screen test and go to Hartford, Conn., for six weeks of training. All degrees are acceptable for a master's degree in business administration is needed for security and bond analysis. The starting salary is \$15,200.

Internship programs in various job categories are available at the home office level. Students should write or visit a local office for more information.

Ashe encouraged the audience not to wait until the senior year to look for a job. He advised students to keep a portfolio of ten companies and to find out as much as possible about these companies.



Arthur Ashe

"Instead of being chosen as a second semester or third quarter senior, you want to choose," he said.

Ashe also advised Blacks to take public speaking and Spanish courses. According to him, Blacks will not be able to survive politically in the '90s without the Spanish, because census figures reveal that they are the next rising minority.

He pointed out that Black women should prepare themselves to deal with registration for the draft too, since the present administration wants women to register. Crude census figures show that Black women outnumber Black men by 1,100,000 and that nearly 40 percent of Blacks are under 15.

Ashe writes a syndicated newspaper column and a tennis instruction column which appears in eight magazines around the world. He is captain of the Davis Cup team.

Ashe, whose autobiography will be out in September, is also the 1981 campaign chairman for the National Heart Association.

The speech was sponsored by University Placement Services and the Student Government.

Students perform for inmates

While Black History Month progresses, many persons across the country gather to rejoice in their Blackness. Although many persons in the nation's prisons were overlooked in the celebrations, inmates at a federal prison in North Carolina were not.

Recently, 27 students from UNC traveled to the Butner Federal Correctional Institute to perform for the inmates during Black History Month.

BSM Chairperson, Mark Canady, who opened the program said that even though all facets of the month could not be explored, he hoped the inmate enjoyed the presentation.

The program, which featured Jerome Moore reciting original poetry, Donna Whitaker dancing an original work called "Africa" and the BSM Gospel Choir singing three selections, was sponsored by the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

It was part of a week long celebration that included performances by groups from Shaw University, North Carolina Central University and St. Augustine's College.

Approximately 75 of the 310 inmates at the predominantly black minimum security prison attended the show.

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