

MLK

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tion would have to be brought forth formally. "In terms of altering, he said, it would have to be formally proposed to the academic calendar committee." Ervin said, then, the administration would have to agree to the proposal. He stressed that any student group could bring up such a suggestion.

Sibby Anderson, BSM President, said the BSM did not have enough time to plan for the celebration this year.

"It was expressed to me that students would like to see the holiday officially observed on campus," she said. Next year, Anderson said, students may band together and ask for an official observance, but this year, ribbons were worn to commemorate the day.

The question of the holiday has brought out several differing opinions on how the holiday should be celebrated. Deidre McMullan, a sophomore from Charlotte, thinks Dr. King's birthday deserved more attention than it received here. "He was a

Robinson

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news media has limited the public's view of the world by only covering the events not the preceding actions, he explained.

"We are a very, very narrowed-minded, poorly-educated population," he said, adding that Americans are single-mindedly focused on the containment of communism and nothing else."

Robinson said: "Democracy rests on an enlightened citizenry and to the extent that the citizenry is not enlightened, they are not involved. So there is no point in blaming Congress and President Reagan. In the last analysis, it is we who are to blame."

In the past, Americans tended to associate change with communism, he said.

"Martin Luther King was accused by J. Edgar Hoover as being a communist," Robinson continued. "So are they all those who seek change in the status quo? South Africa is a country in which blacks are denied constitutionally everything."

Reflecting upon his age, Robinson encouraged college students to become more active in seeking social change for the oppressed, not only in South Africa, but in other parts of the world as well. He called it a way of achieving a person's self respect.

"There is no price too high to pay for your own dignity," he said. "My self respect is beyond everything in importance."

"Get going, get active and get

leader in changing some of the views that led to the country not being united." She said "We were a country of blacks and whites, not Americans."

Dawn Witherspoon, a senior from Kannapolis, N.C., agrees that more activities could have been scheduled for the holiday here, but she does not believe suspending classes would have been feasible. She said several other people have achieved in the United States, yet their birthdays are not celebrated by suspending classes.

While the battle wages on how the holiday is celebrated, it must be noted that the Robinson speech was not the only activity sponsored by the University. Several independent activities, included a speech contest and lecture.

It should also be noted that the holiday did not go without recognition in the surrounding areas of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. In fact, in Carrboro, some town employees and state employees had Jan. 20 off, according to Hilliard Caldwell, originator of the legislation making this possible. According to him, students did not

vigilant," he continued. "If you don't, don't honor Martin, because that was how he lived."

Robinson said he was sure apartheid would end "within the foreseeable future." "The important thing is how long and at what price?"

"Let us understand that with great wealth and power goes great responsibility. Apathy will be the death of all us," he continued.

Robinson was born in Richmond Va. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Virginia Union University and later attended Harvard University where he received a law degree.

In 1983, he received the Congressional Black Caucus Humanitarian Award for his work for Civil Rights. In 1982 he received the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Drum Major for Justice Award.

Robinson's speech was the first of a two-part series to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Feb. 6 W. Wilson Goode, the first black mayor of Philadelphia and a Seaboard, N.C. native, will deliver the second memorial speech.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Carolina Union Form Committee, the Black Student Movement and the Office of the Chancellor sponsored Robinson's speech.

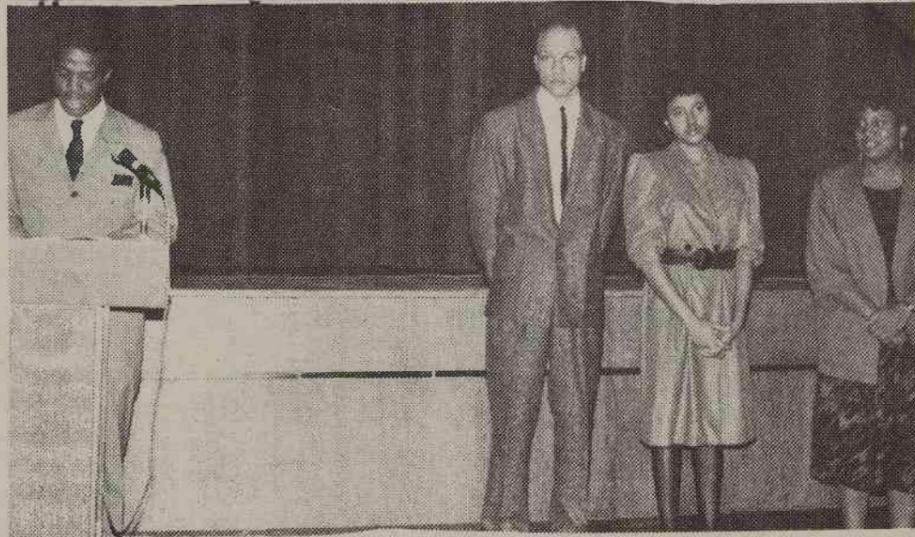
Before the lecture, Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham presented Black Student Movement President Sibby Anderson with the fourth Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a junior possessing outstanding leadership qualities.

have to attend school and teachers were excused from their jobs. The 12-month employees had to take a personal holiday.

Caldwell said there was some opposition to the legislation, because

of the cost encountered by the town by shutting down for the day, but this opposition did not cause a major problem.

He said the public reacted positively to the legislation.



Kenneth Smith introduces the three contestants: Janet Roach, Greg Bargeman and Joyce Ward.

McKissick

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McKissick spoke to more than 150 people attending the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration sponsored by the University's Mu Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. An oratorical contest was also a part of the evening's celebration.

McKissick is former director of the Congress of Racial Equality, an organization seeking equal right, educational, political and economic opportunities for blacks. He also worked closely with famed Civil Rights leader King during the 1950's and 1960's.

McKissick and King attended school together and received their undergraduate degrees from Morehouse College in Atlanta.

"I could talk about Dr. King for five hours," he said. "When you respect a man like King, you respect yourself," McKissick told the audience. "So I commend you for being here today."

"I challenge you to make this day a day of strong commitment to yourself, for you are your people," McKissick said.

"Your ability to dream a dream and your ability to aspire will help to carry the struggle one step further," he added. "Start dreaming as other men dream so that you can control your destiny."

McKissick said the most important thing about celebrating King is for blacks to recognize the past and make plans for the future.

Sophomore broadcast journalism major Janet Roach won first place in the oratorical contest with her speech based on the topic: "Why We Can't

Wait," also the title of one of King's books. Roach spoke about the need for black pride to help continue the struggle for freedom.

She also said that blacks should take control of their own economic and political situation. "There are too many of us riding on the backs of too few of us," she said.

Roach said she was excited about winning but she did not enter the contest just to win. "I felt I had a message for blacks on campus to hear."

For winning she received \$25 and the book, *Martin L. King Jr., A Profile*, edited by C. Eric Lincoln. Joyce Ward, a junior political science and economics major from Wilson, won second place. She too received the book and \$15. Junior Greg Bargeman from Beaufort won third place and \$10.

Bargeman said he wanted to give a speech on black unity and the contest was a good opportunity for him.

Kenneth M. Smith, a member of the sponsoring fraternity, said that the fraternity hoped to increase awareness of the life and achievements of King and to challenge the new generation to aspire to new goals and achievement."

He said the fraternity chose McKissick as speaker because McKissick and King worked so closely together during the Civil Rights Movement. Smith said McKissick shared in many of the planning strategies of the movement and he was an integral part although he was not as much in the forefront as King.

Smith said the fraternity was pleased with the attendance.

The BSM Gospel Choir sang three selections as a part of the celebration.