

Unity Day: UNC-Housekeepers' Dr. King Celebration

By Margo Crawford
Ink Guest Columnist

When Sister Betty Daye came to my office at 8 a.m. on Jan. 6 and asked if Ms. Holloway, the BCC office manager, would play for the Housekeepers' Unity Day celebration of Dr. King's life and if I could say a few words, I said I'd be honored. Monika had already accepted.

She said to me, "Talk about what Dr. King would say about this situation we are in." "Sister Betty," I said, "I will be there on the 15th and I will try to say what I think Dr. King would say about the housekeepers movement."

This was the parameters of my message after reviewing some of Dr. King's writings from the text, *A Testament of Hope*, (ed.) James M. Washington. During this century, we have been called many things—negroes, coloreds, Afro-Americans, Blacks, and now African Ameri-

cans. All of these terms refer to our status in this society, which is not one of equality with others.

Who are we? you ask. We are God's children who came at some time in our history out of Africa. We are not better nor are we any worse than any of God's other children. We are dignified as any that walk the face of the earth.

They call YOU housekeepers on campus. Well, let me tell you, we are all keeping the house, the campus. And, the house (campus) is not too clean when it comes to issues of equality.

Surely YOU often feel that YOU are moving nowhere in achieving this. But, at least you have started. YOU would like to be called Mr. and Ms. instead of by your first names (unless you are welcomed to call others by their first name).

YOU want to be respected by supervisors as you respect them. These goals, YOU will achieve if

you do not get weary and stop working toward them.

YOU think you have problems! Well, Sisters and Brothers, we all have big problems on this campus, but most of us are not even aware that there are problems! One of our problems is that we have been sold some strange ideas.

We ARE called by fancy titles, unlike you, but I am sorry to say that we use these titles to separate from YOU! Yes, YOU, our Brothers and Sisters! As long as we are separated from YOU by our fancy titles, this is not a clean house.

If Dr. King was here on this campus, I believe, he'd definitely be in attendance at this, your special dinner because he had eyes to see your dignity.

He had blessed ears that heard your problems, and he had a heart that would not let him hide behind his fancy title and not do what needs to be done for you to receive decent

wages on this campus.

Your dinner/lunch time would be his, too, often, because he would never want to get too far away from you in spite of the fact that you'd be doing the housekeeping and he'd be teaching philosophy. (Our housekeepers have lunch at 8 a.m. because they start at 4 a.m.) He'd find a way to let you know and let the University know, "We are brothers and Sisters."

Dr. King would tell us to speak up and tell the truth. The truth is that YOU need to make a salary that will at least give you an opportunity to care for your families adequately.

The spoken word is very powerful. Dr. King would go to those in power and SAY to them that YOU must have an advancement in salary and that supervisors must respect YOU or receive low evaluations or lose their jobs.

He would have you pray about the situation. A movement, to Dr. King, was an action plan to achieve your goal. Dr. King encouraged us to take up the cross of protest. The plan should include the problem,

the discussions to solve the problem, and the protest to achieve the goal if the discussions do not succeed.

He believed that "God is not the author of this earthly hell that we experience because we are Black and because we are not rich."

And, finally, as much as we have struggled for the free standing BCC building, I am convinced that Dr. King would put YOUR cause, the need for a decent salary for your families, before the need for a big fancy building!

Dr. King often said, "We are the only ones who can straighten up our backs. You can't ride a man's back unless it is bent."

So, Sisters and Brothers, let us straighten up our backs and our minds and begin to speak up about equality as Dr. King taught us.

Crawford is the director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center.

It's that time of year again:

A Look At Campus Elections

By Stormie Forte
Ink Staff Writer

The spring semester brings several wonderful events to Carolina. Basketball, a final semester for seniors and of course campus elections.

Last year this time there were several qualified candidates competing for a variety of positions.

Unfortunately there was a student body president candidate who decided to run for the office as a joke.

Well the joke was on the campus because he won and today he still has absolutely no idea what he is doing and neither does this campus or anybody else.

This year there is a clean slate of candidates running and once again the student body president's race has a few comedians competing for office.

It would truly be a mistake for one of these candidates to win

the election. The state legislature is desperately trying to raise tuition at state supported schools, the money from which will not be returned to the school system.

Carolina will be going through internal problems, especially with less money, more students, and fewer classes. Therefore it is important to forget the present and look to the future. The student body must place an emphasis on experience when it comes to selecting a student body president.

The Daily Tar Heel, the Carolina Athletic Association, and the Residence Hall Association will also undergo changes in leadership and these offices are important to the campus in many areas, and candidates with experience are a definite asset to each of these organizations.

The student congress elections are very important because this organization is in control of the money collected from student fees (translation: power of the purse).

Many student organizations such as the Black Student Movement and B-GLAD have a difficult time getting their budgets approved by student congress. Here again, experience has to be a factor in the election.

Finally, the BSM will be holding elections soon. This year the BSM made many improvements in the organization and hopefully the leadership that is selected will continue the internal changes.

Therefore, it will be crucial to select leaders with the vision to do what is best for the organization and its members.

If there are persons interested in helping with the campuswide elections or the BSM elections, then go by Suite A of the Student Union, where the offices of the student elections board and the BSM are located.



Chris Miller and Adam Burns, candidates for senior class office, received *Black Ink* endorsement.