

Bennett announces commencement speaker Ruby Dee

Ruby Dee, a versatile and gifted actress, will address the 118th annual Bennett College Commencement on Sunday, May 10, at 11 a.m. The ceremony will take place on the campus quadrangle. Dr. Gloria R. Scott, president, will bestow approximately 82 degrees to graduating seniors.

Dee, the product of Harlem's American Negro Theater, studied acting with Paul Mann, Morris Carnovsky, and Lloyd Richards. She is perhaps best remembered on stage as Lutibelle in *Purlie Victorious*; as Lena in Athol Fugard's *Boseman and Lena* for which she won an Obie, and as Julia in her Drama Desk Award-winning performance of Alice Childress' *Wedding Band*. Additional state productions include *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

She was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 1988 and the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame in 1989 with her husband, Ossie Davis. Dee recently appeared on *American Playhouse* as the author and star of *Zora is My Name* — an adaptation based on the works of Zora Neale Hurston and on Broadway in Ron Milner's *Checkmates*.

For Dee, television has provided some of the most fulfilling challenges of her career as an actress.



Ruby Dee

Not only did she receive the 1983 ACE Award for her performance as Mary Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, but she also produced programs through Emmalyn II Productions Co., Inc., and Enterprise founded by her and Davis. Together they presented a PBS special, *Martin Luther King: The Dream and The Drum* and conceived the critically

acclaimed PBS series *With Ossie and Ruby*, which they co-hosted and co-produced with Kera/Dallas and WHMM/Washington, DC. Other production credits include two hour-long segments of *A Walk Through the Twentieth Century* with Bill Moyers, and *Today Is Ours* for CBS. Among her other television credits are the Hallmark Hall of Fame's *Decoration Day*, for

which she won an Emmy as Best Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or Special; *The Golden Girls*, *The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson*, *Lincoln*, *Windmills of the Gods*, *The Atlanta Child Murders*, *All God's Children*, and *Roots: The Next Generation*.

Dee's film career has included such roles as Ruth in *Buck and the Preacher* and Rachel in *The Jackie Robinson Story*. She was Leah in *Countdown at Kusine* produced for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She and Davis appeared in Spike Lee's movies *Do The Right Thing* and *Jungle Fever*.

As an author, Ruby Dee has adapted two African folktales for children — *Two Ways to Count to*

Ten, which won the Literary Guild Award for 1989, and *Tower to Heaven*, released in the Spring of 1991. *My One Good Nerve* is a collection of her short stories, poetry and humor.

She and Davis recently narrated the King James Version of *The New Testament* available on audio cassette, produced by CCI. In the Spring of 1991 they released their first home video cassette, *Hands Upon The Heart*, a collection of some of their best television performances.

Ruby graduated from Hunter College, and after 42 years of marriage, she and Ossie Davis have three children and seven grandchildren.

The power to overcome.



British broadcasters seek access to evidence in King's assassination

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — British broadcasters considering a mock TV trial for the confessed killer of Martin Luther King Jr. want court permission to run lab tests on the rifle found at the murder scene.

In a Criminal Court petition, Thames Television PLC of London is requesting access to evidence gathered in Memphis during the King investigation.

The evidence, including the rifle identified as the murder weapon, is stored in a Criminal Court property room.

King was slain at The Lorraine Motel in 1968 while helping organize a strike by Memphis sanitation workers.

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee when King died, is serving a 99-year prison sentence on his guilty plea to killing the civil rights leader.

Ray has tried often over the years to take back that plea. His requests for a trial have been denied.

Jack Saltman, a producer for Thames Television, said a documentary on the King murder might

take the form of a mock trial or some other judicial proceeding.

"I feel that's a very interesting method of looking at a story," Saltman told The Commercial Appeal, the city's morning newspaper.

Thames produced such a program a few years ago looking into allegations that Austrian leader Kurt Waldheim had Nazi ties during World War II.

The King documentary, if it comes about, would be broadcast next year.

The Thames petition, filed by Memphis lawyer Wayne Emmons, is scheduled for a hearing Friday before Criminal Court Judge John P. Colton Jr.

"We're basing this effort on the quickly changing feeling about releasing information, especially in light of the JFK film on the Kennedy assassination," Emmons said. "This information should be made available for the public good."

A Circuit Court judge last year rejected requests by two Memphis men both claiming to own the King rifle. They said the legal rights to the Remington 30.06 had been

obtained from Ray. Prosecutors said the rifle, as a murder weapon, belonged to the state.

The main investigative files on King's death are in Washington where they are under seal until the year 2029. They were gathered by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

King's death has led to speculation he was the victim of a conspiracy, and there have been calls for the House to open the committee records.

"There's nothing in those files that would change the course of American history," Rep. Louis Stokes, an Ohio Democrat who chaired the committee, told *The Associated Press* early this year.

The Thames petition includes an affidavit from William F. Pepper, identified as a British lawyer who has represented Ray during his imprisonment.

Pepper says Ray has no objection to the broadcasters' request.

A telephone message left for Ray at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville was not returned.

Teens talk about statistics common among black men

CHARLOTTE (AP) — About 250 black teenagers spent Saturday talking with 150 adult mentors about changing the statistics that are common among many black men.

The setting was the first conference of Save The Seed, a Christian-oriented mentor program trying to better the chances that more black teens will become responsible black men.

They talked about resisting peer pressure, careers, problem-solving skills and personal growth.

"These kids came because they knew they could learn something," said Chris Lilley, 15.

Save The Seed, founded 18 months ago by former Charlotte City Council member Ron Leeper, tries to reach teens through schools and churches.

"We're not modeled on another program," Leeper said. "We're developing it as we go along."

It's not easy work, he said. Earlier this week, two Charlotte boys were shot to death.

NeShawn Americk Burton, 16,

was arguing with friends when police say another youth shot him twice in the chest with a .357-caliber pistol.

On another street, George Forte, 10, died when he was shot by stray bullets, police said.

Michael Gilliam, 13, read about those killings. At Save The Seed, Michael found people who understood.

"If every black child did this with Save The Seed, maybe we wouldn't have the crime problem we do," he said.

MacLeod hired by county to coordinate OFF initiative

Ann Scott MacLeod has been hired by Forsyth County to coordinate the Opportunities For Families (OFF) initiative. The OFF initiative, which is supported by a multi-year grant of \$1 million from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, is targeted to assist pregnant and parenting teenagers and their families move from welfare dependency to self-sufficiency.

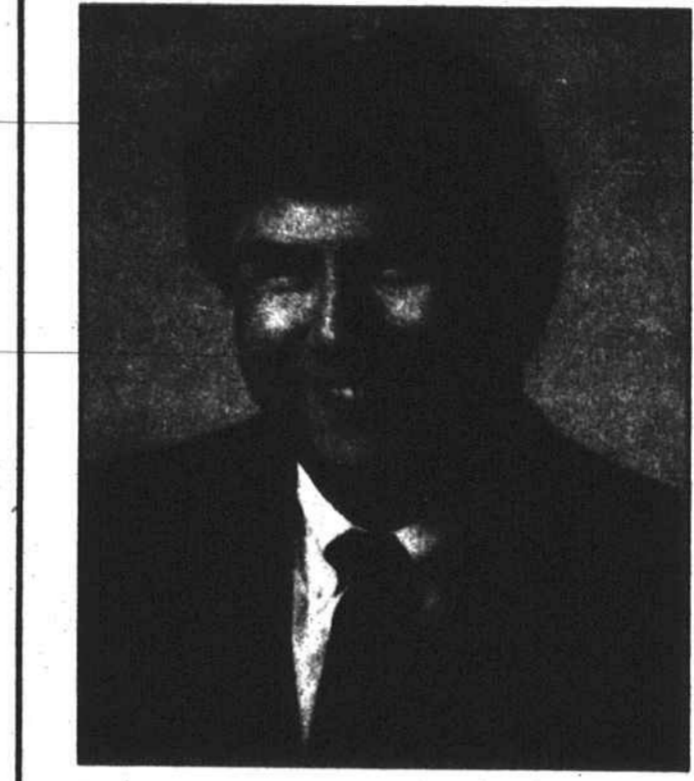
MacLeod was selected from 34 applicants for the position by a

team which involved consumers, county and non-profit representatives. She graduated from Longwood College in 1973, received her Master of Social Work degree in 1975 from Virginia Commonwealth University, and worked in Florida as Clinical Social Worker and Manager of Vocational Programs.

She has been employed for 12 years at the Winston-Salem Urban League as a member of the management team, moving from director of

programs to vice president for program development and public relations. She has worked with the OFF initiative since June 1990, serving on the planning task force, process committee and serving as a resource/facilitator in the racism group.

She was instrumental in starting The Black Family Focus and Teen Mothers Program and has served on the Child Care Task Force, and chaired the United Way Work/Family Task Force.



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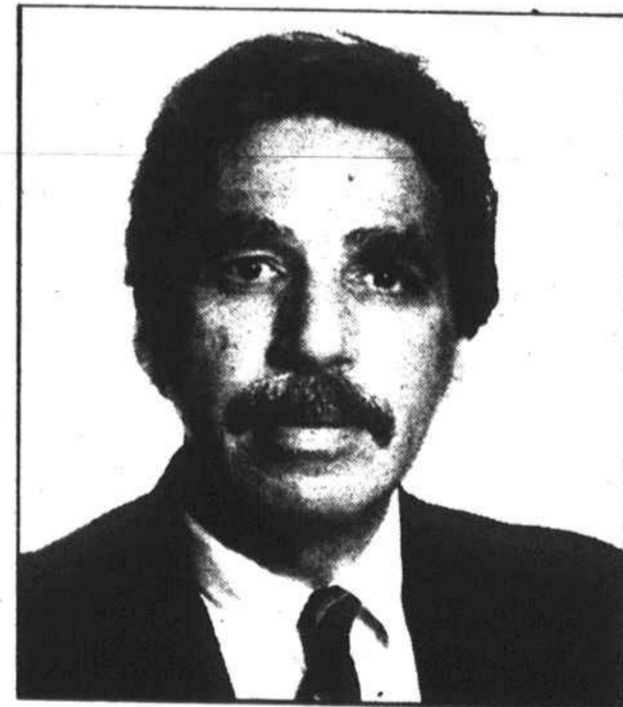
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