

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 CENTS

## County NAACP honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Approximately 100 people participated in a local service honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday. The celebration began with a motorcade which wound through downtown Hertford, ending at the First Baptist Church.

Several county churches worshipped together in a service hosted by the First Baptist Church. The service was coordinated by the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP). NAACP Vice President Henry Felton chaired the event.

Speaker for the evening was the Reverend William M. Sawyer of New Bethel Baptist Church. Sawyer spoke of the work begun by Dr. King, which he said is still unfinished.

He told the crowd, "We've come too far to turn back now," and encouraged them to continue the fight for equal rights.

Sawyer likened the equal rights movement King symbolizes to the life of Jesus Christ. When Christ was hung on the cross, he told the congregation, some bystanders asked why He did not use His power to come down. Sawyer said Christ probably thought of His ministry over the years, of all that He had accomplished and said to himself, "I've come too far to turn back now."

Sawyer encouraged the worshippers not to give up on the work spearheaded by King. "Martin Luther King was the Moses of our people," he said.

He said King knew he would not live a long life because of his work, but he continued on in spite of this. King, Sawyer said, had gone too far and accomplished too much to turn back.

According to Sawyer, total equality has yet to be realized. He said that blacks still face discrimination. He encouraged those gathered to register to vote, and to exercise that right.

Sawyer related that there are now some 7,000 black elected officials in the United States. He said that years ago, people said that blacks would never hold office, nor would they ever field a viable candidate for the presidency of the United States. But, Sawyer remarked, perseverance paid off,

and Jesse Jackson came close to winning the Democratic presidential nomination.

"We've come this far, but we still have a long way to go," he stated.

Shouts of "Yes, Jesus" and "Amen" could be heard throughout the sermon which was delivered in word and song.

NAACP President John London also addressed the congregation. London said that county police and offices, including the school system, discriminate against blacks. He dubbed the Social Services staff "lily white," and said he doubted statements made by officials that blacks who had applied for job openings there were not

hired because white applicants were more qualified.

London cited the appointment of Durwood Reed to fill the unexpired term of county commissioner W.W. "Welly" White as an example of discrimination. "They had a chance to put a black on that board," London said. He stated that although the appointment of a black to the board would not have given the race any voting strength, it would have given them a voice in local government.

London went on to say that even the local system of justice is partial. He said that arrests and sentences often depend on who committed a crime and in what part of town.

He promised to continue the fight

led by King. "I'm not going anywhere," he said, adding that he would be in the forefront of civil rights activism.

Henry Felton thanked the group for assembling to celebrate the life and death of King. He emphasized King's method of peaceable assembly to bring about change.

Felton related a story of one of King's rallies where a speaker had a crowd so excited they were ready to burn a building. King, according to Felton, calmed the crowd, avoiding violence.

A combined choir comprised of members of local church choirs provided music for the services.

The service marked the fourth year the NAACP has sponsored a program honoring King.

### Local amateur talent scouted

Discovery Talent Search, the nationally syndicated television program, will begin auditions in this area to select talent for the television special talent for the television special to be broadcast on WFL-TV, channel 22, for the Raleigh-Durham television area. The Discovery producers will be in the area within the next few weeks to begin the selection of local talent to be videotaped for the show. Ten finalists will be selected for the show within 2 age divisions: five in the junior division (ages 16 and under) and 5 in the senior division (ages 17 and over). The first place winner will be awarded \$1,000 in cash. Last year's winners from the Raleigh-Durham area who each won \$1,000 in cash were the singing group, the Fabulous Four of Mt. Olive, North Carolina and actress Starina Catciatorian of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Auditions may not exceed 3 minutes in length and may include a wide variety of talent such as singing, dancing, acting, dramatic readings, magial acts, lip-synching, or any variety of talent that has entertainment value and exhibits the participant's ability and skill. Discovery Talent Search is a Performing Arts Development Program designed to encourage local talent development through participation in community television and reward excellence. Local winners and finalists on the show will have the opportunity to participate in the national contest, where the winner of each division will win \$5,000 in cash.

The Discovery Nationals were recently held in Baton Rouge where \$5,000 in cash was awarded to the winner of each division. The winners are: Jackie Sprinkle, Bayou La Batre, AL (Junior Division); Gary Copen, Nashville, TN (Senior Division).

Discovery Talent Search has now accepted over \$95,000 in cash to deserving amateur performing artists around the country.

Everyone has an equal opportunity to appear on the television show regardless of age and is invited to call for an audition appointment. There is no charge for the auditions. Auditions are being held for all ages, men, women, children, individuals, and groups. To schedule an audition for the show call toll free 1-800-422-6946 (in Louisiana call toll free 1-800-375-4946).

### State DOT board approves funds for U.S. 17 work

The N.C. Board of Transportation has awarded a \$230,487 contract to a Wilson firm to repair US-17 Business north Hertford in Perquimans County.

The contract was awarded to S.T. Wooten Construction Co. by the board at its meeting January 13 in Raleigh. It calls for replacing support pilings and concrete slabs that carry the highway over a swampy area south of the intersection of US-17 Bypass and NC-32.

Philip P. Godwin of Gatesville, who was reappointed by Governor James G. Martin to represent Perquimans County on the board, causing portions of the road to sink.

Godwin said two sections of the road, one 177 feet long and the other 32 feet long, will be repaired. Repairs are expected to begin next month and are scheduled to be completed in August, he said.



Members of the combined choirs sing inspirational hymns at the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration Monday night.

### Club celebrates Jaycee Week

The Perquimans County Jaycees will join with Jaycee chapters across the nation January 15-21 to observe National Jaycee Week. The local Jaycees, like their counterparts in other communities, sponsor many community activities such as the 4th of July festivities, the Christmas parade, and the Senior Citizen's Christmas party.

The week has been set aside nationwide as a celebration of the beginning of the Jaycees in St. Louis in 1915, when founder Henry Giessemer formed a young men's civic organization that in 1920 became known as The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1965, members of the organization changed the name to The United States Jaycees. In 1984, the mem-

bership changed its bylaws to admit women as regular members. Going into its 69th year, The U.S. Jaycees, a leadership training organization based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has approximately 240,000 members in 5,000 American communities.

The Perquimans County Jaycees, chartered in 1974, began the week with a joint worship service at Up River Friends Meeting. The highlight of the week will be the annual Distinguished Service Awards banquet on Wednesday night. At that time, outstanding citizens are recognized for their contributions to the community.

The local chapter is very active, raising funds for Muscular Dystrophy, the N.C. Boys' Home, Cystic

Fibrosis, the Jaycee Burn Center and Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The group also sponsors the Red Cross Bloodmobile, underprivileged children's Christmas gifts, and drug awareness programs, and also participates in the state's Adopt-a-Highway program.

Several former Jaycees are now leaders in the community as town councilmen and county commissioners. They cite their Jaycee leadership training as a step towards community involvement.

The Jaycees are open to all men and women ages 21 through 39 who are interested in service to the community, developing their leadership skills and personal growth.

### Rogers is Morehead Scholarship candidate

Derrick Rogers, a senior at Perquimans County High School is presently in the continuing competition for the Morehead Scholarship. The scholarship valued at \$9,000 a year is a prestigious award given only to those scholars who demonstrate outstanding ability and potential in a variety of realms. Derrick was recently selected to the 9 member Daily Advance All-Academic Football Team with a grade point average of 95. Derrick, Perquimans quarterback for the past two years, was a second team pick on the All-Albemarle Defensive Team as a punter. While making the team as a punter he was second in total passing yardage in the area with 625 yards while passing for 11 touchdowns, tops in the area. Derrick, who received the schools best all-around athlete award as a junior has been the starting catcher on the baseball team since the 9th grade having earned All-Conference and All-Albemarle honors in that sport. He was a key player on the Region I baseball team which won the gold medal in last summers state

games played in Chapel Hill and Durham. Several Division I and II are in contact with Derrick. He has also been a catcher on the Post 40 American Legion Team since the 9th grade, having received an award as the best defensive player last summer. Derrick played on the basketball team the past two years and is a Beta Club member. He also has been a band member since the sixth grade playing the trumpet and is active in youth groups at the Hertford Baptist Church. He was chosen Homecoming King by the student body to high light his senior year. Derrick has been employed part time after school and during the summers at Woodards Pharmacy since August of 1987.

Derrick was chosen to compete for the Morehead Scholarship by a local committee which interviewed students from Northeastern and Perquimans High Schools. The second set of interviews will be held in January in Williamston at a district competition. After that, for the lucky ones, the finals in Chapel Hill.



Derrick Rogers was interviewed Tuesday night in his continuing quest to receive the Morehead Scholarship.

### Literary magazine seeks poetry

Submissions are now being accepted for the ARGUS Literary Magazine, a College of The Albemarle student-produced publication which will also feature this year for the first time poetry from area residents.

The deadline for receiving submissions at the college is February 28, 1989. Writers who would like their submissions returned must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

"We've opened up this publication to persons not enrolled at College of The Albemarle this year to

increase community involvement and to help have wider input," said Gerri Ballance, a COA student serving as acting assistant editor for the literary magazine. "We would like also to create greater community awareness about everything that is available at the college. Many people in the community don't even now they can make use of COA's library."

Jim Bridges, English professor at the college, is serving as the advisor for the student publication. Other students working on the magazine include Ella Icenhour,

editor; Stacy Hewitt, business manager; and Anda Hall, secretary.

Ballance, who has also been assisting Hewitt as business manager, said financial support for the ARGUS Literary Magazine, is welcome from local individuals and community groups interested in the arts.

Persons interested in sending submissions may mail them to ARGUS Literary Magazine, College of The Albemarle, P.O. Box 2327, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27906-2327.

### Albemarle Hopeline begins fund drive

Albemarle Hopeline, a counseling service and refuge for abused family members, is asking for financial contributions to meet the growing need for their services.

Funded largely through federal and state grants, Albemarle also receives local support from area civic organizations and churches. Individual financial support also helps Albemarle Hopeline staff members provide the wide range of services needed in northeastern North Carolina.

"We have sufficient qualified staff," said Hopeline Director Pat Youngblood. "It is space we now need so desperately."

Several thousand women and children have sought help from Hopeline since it began operating seven years ago. These victims of sexual assault, child abuse, and teen dating violence have come from Camden, Chowan, Gates, Perquimans, and Pasquotank counties.

Services such as counseling and crisis intervention expanded four years ago to include emergency shelter for victims when an old home in Elizabeth City was purchased to serve as headquarters for the organization and provide a safe harbor for the victims.

Services have continued to expand and broaden to meet the

growing needs of the increasing population in northeastern North Carolina. "Today, our shelter stays so busy there simply is not enough room to counsel and provide the emergency shelter that is needed," said Youngblood.

Long in need of additional space, Hopeline staff members have found a building that would provide the extra room they so badly need. However, they are several thousand dollars short of the purchase price of the building.

"Last year we raised almost \$8,000 in our fund drive," said Youngblood. "This year we hope to double that amount."

With the additional money, Youngblood said Hopeline could continue to expand their services and have the space to help more people. "We now use a comprehensive approach to domestic violence," she said. "Counseling is vital for long-term changes in people's lives, and we also now deal with all child abuse not just sexual abuse in children."

For more information about Albemarle Hopeline, interested persons may call Youngblood at 338-5338 in Elizabeth City. Donations may be made to Albemarle Hopeline, P.O. Box 2064, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

### Florida woman in accident

A Florida woman was the driver of a car that careened out of control on U.S. Highway 17 south of Hertford Sunday afternoon.

Betty Yost, 60, of 4612 Player Court, Tampa, Florida, was traveling north on Highway 17 when she ran off the road on the east shoulder, according to the accident report filed by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Y.Z. Newberry.

After running off the highway on the shoulder softened by the rain of the past few days, Yost lost control of her 1982 Chevrolet station wagon. The vehicle crossed Rural Road 1344 and hit a ditch bank on the north side of RR 1344, coming to rest in a ditch on the east side of U.S. 17.

Upon answering the 2:00 call, Trooper Newberry summoned the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department Response Team. It appeared that Yost was trapped inside the vehicle. The team responded with four volunteers and assisted in getting the passengers out of the automobile, according to Sid Eley, a member of the team. Eley said that the team did not have to cut the vehicle.

Yost complained of pain and was transported to Chowan Hospital. No information concerning her injuries was available. An unidentified passenger was uninjured.

Damages to the car were estimated at \$1,500. No charges were filed.

### College to observe Black History Month

On February 1, 1989, thousands of Americans will participate in an historic event. For the first time in history, Black History Month will have a national kickoff unlike any other. A major telecommunications event will bring together distinguished experts on the contributions of blacks to this country with audiences at colleges and universities, military installations, secondary schools, national associations, and federal and state agencies.

College of The Albemarle will be part of this national kickoff when the teleconference Beyond the Dream: A Celebration of Black History is brought to both the Elizabeth City and Dare County campuses via satellite starting at 1:00 p.m.

The two-hour telecommunications event will be interactive, so those attending will have an opportunity to call a special toll-free number and ask questions "on-the-air."

Beyond the Dream is sponsored by the publishers of Black Issues in Higher Education and will originate from the nation's capital,

Washington, D.C. The program will present a mosaic of the past, present, and future of black participation in American society and culture.

The format for the teleconference will combine narrated film footage by leading American citizens, revealing observations by prominent celebrities, and live discussions with distinguished experts. The six major program segments to be covered during the

program will include education; politics; business and economics; social issues; the military; and arts, entertainment, and sports.

Beyond the Dream: A Celebration of Black History is intended to be just that, a celebration. Those attending will find the underlying theme of the program to be one of uplifting appreciation of where black Americans have been, where they are today, and what needs to be done to ensure them a vibrant future.

The public is welcome to attend this special kickoff for Black History Month at College of The Albemarle. No admission will be charged.