

Martin Luther King Day at St. Augustine's College

By M. Jacquie Jones

Most students at St. Augustine's College were not born when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis. Those alive were probably too young to understand what happened on April 4, 1968 and why he was killed. Yet on Jan. 16, a day to ponder his impact on racial harmony, equal opportunity, economic parity and social justice, these students observed the King holiday with the sincerity and urgency of yesteryear.

Lighted candles in white, sand-filled paper bags lined the walk ways of the campus of St. Aug., placed there by the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Dr. King's fraternity, with the help of members of the Student Government Association and other Augites. The memorial service, held outside in the mall area of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union, featured fraternity members, Miss St. Augustine's College and college officials all urging silent onlookers to keep the dream alive.

"We are the result of the dream," said Dr. Wiley Davis, student affairs vice-president, who recounted his first time seeing Dr. King at the nearby campus of Shaw University. Earlier, at a prayer breakfast, St. Aug's College president, Prezell R. Robinson reminded those attending that "all of us cannot be (Dr.) Martin Luther King, but in our own small way, that still, small voice can tell us that there are things we can do to push the struggle forward."

Students participated in a march in Raleigh's downtown area and an evening program at the Raleigh Civic Center. It was one of several across the state at which Blacks and Whites gathered to remember the man who, for many people, symbolizes civil rights.

In a voice reminiscent of Dr. King's, one student echoed the famous "I Have A Dream" speech. The stage was set for the day's guest speaker at the Civic Center-Dr. King's nephew, Reverend Vernon King.

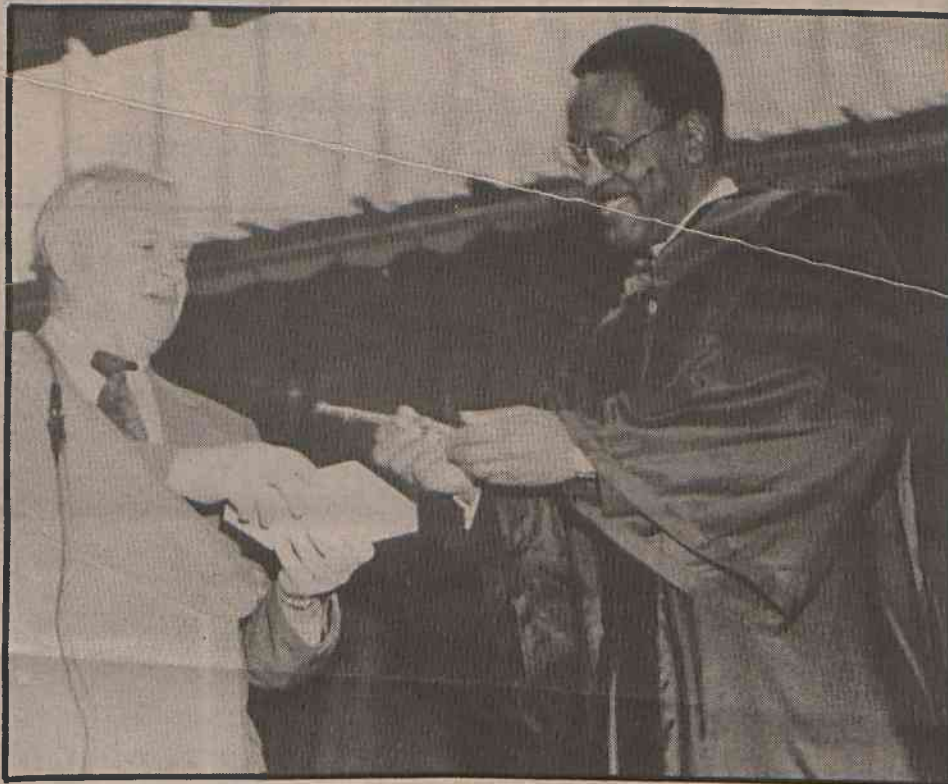
Rev. King, a faculty member of the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, addressed the many young people in the ecumenical service. He intoned a recurrent question: "What has happened to the dream?"

"Too many people became concerned about money and forgot about the fact that some of our brothers and sisters are falling by the wayside." Rev. King said, "Still now there are some states that won't celebrate the holiday. It tells us that everybody is not progressive-minded about freedom."

Rev. King spoke on the achievements Blacks have made in the past. "...That says to me that, yes, we've made some gains. But if we don't keep on progressing, we're going to start regressing...There are still problems in America for Black Americans. I don't know about Mr. Reagan, but I've seen some racism."

Later that Monday night, racism reared its ugly head again as a stark reminder that the struggle is not over. A bomb threat interrupted the final moments of the musical finale, marring a day that the evening news broadcasts called a "success." No bomb was found.

"This is just a reminder of the types of sick people we have in our society," said Monique Legette, vice-president of the Student Government Association at St. Aug's College. "But with every disappointment, we shall overcome."



THE KEY TO THE CITY - With pleasure, Dr. Therman Evans, convocation speaker, receives the key to the city of Raleigh from Mayor Avery Upchurch.

Convocation

By Julie E. Moody
Associate Editor

St. Augustine's College displayed its usual flair for excellence at the 122nd Founder's Day Convocation in the Emery Gymnasium on Jan. 26, 1989.

Among the platform guest were President Robinson, Dr. Roundtree, Dr. James Boyer, Rev. Dr. Cyril Burke, The Honourable Avery Upchurch, Mayor of Raleigh, Dr. J.J. Sansom, Jr., Treasurer, Board of Trustees, and Dr. Therman Evans, Vice President and Corporate Medical Director of CIGNA Corporation.

Greetings were delivered by Dr. Sansom, Mrs. Marlene Jones, President, National Alumni Association, Gregory Dent, President, Student Government Association, Francisco Martinez, President, International Students, and Jeanna Hunter, Miss St. Augustine's College.

Rally for King

By Donna Page

On Monday, Jan. 16, 1989 the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha sponsored a rally in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions to mankind. The rally was held in front of the MLK Student Union. Because there was not a very big turnout, everyone was asked to come closer together. At this time, Tony Pendleton stated the purpose of our gathering and Ms. Monique Leggett, vice-president of the SGA, welcomed all and thanked everyone present for their support.

The program started with a silent prayer followed by Michael Outlaw recited an excerpt from Dr. King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech. The words which Outlaw spoke so convincingly and with such force were felt by all. Outlaw then expressed his own feelings of how he hoped that we as a people would continue to make the world a better place.

Afterwards, several people from the audience were allowed to participate in the program by reciting smaller excerpts from

Dr. Therman Evans, the keynote speaker, delivered an inspirational address to all gathered in the gym on the importance of Education. He stressed that students who do not take education seriously ridicule the past struggle of those who fought to make possible education for Blacks. Evans emphasized that "Knowledge and Education are Freedom," and that "Ignorance costs more."

The St. Aug's Concert Band, under the distinguished direction of Dr. Harold Jefferies, III, played, excellently, Carl Strommen's melodious tune "Chelsea Bridge." The College Choir under the direction of Dr. Sevalyn Smith, rendered "Lord, I Don't Feel No Ways Tired" by Hall Johnson. The direction of Mark Joyner and Chelsea Brown, rendered "The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow."

Members of the Legislative body were inducted as full-fledged members of the Student Government Association 1988-1989 by President Robinson.

several of Dr. King's speeches. Following this Dr. Davis, vice-president of student affairs, reflected back to the day when Dr. King was assassinated and what went on here at St. Aug's. Dr. Davis said, "We should not be discouraged by the number present because great things are often accomplished in small numbers."

The program continue with an alumnus of St. Aug's, Gerald Sherman, telling us that we as students should appreciate and take advantage of the opportunities available here at St. Aug's. He said, "We should hold our heads high and stand up for our beliefs by believing in ourselves."

Then Miss St. Augustine's College, Jeanna Hunter, stepped up to the podium and said what many of us were probably feeling. "Because most of the people present were very young or not yet born during the days of Dr. King's fight for civil rights, we only know what we've been told or what we've read, and it is somewhat difficult to reflect on a man we never really knew or a time in

Insurance executive urges St. Aug students to be prepared

Raleigh, NC - "You must be prepared." Was the advice given St. Aug's College students by Dr. Therman Evans, Vice President and Corporate Medical Director of the CIGNA Corporation, the fourth largest insurance company in the U.S.

Evans was the keynote speaker during the College's 122nd annual Founders' Day Convocation this week. The young medical doctor, who came to CIGNA from serving as second vice president and corporate medical director of Connecticut General Insurance Company, subsidiary of CIGNA said a person who is cool is a person who is prepared.

He reminded students of what blacks went through in order to learn to read during the 1800's. "Nobody is going to do something for us, we must do something for ourselves," said Evans. Blacks were maimed and beaten in order to convince them that they "should never pursue knowledge, because knowledge and education is freedom."

"Nothing is more important than our education," Evans went on. He called the rapid reduction of black males attending college and dropping out of high school frightening.

"There are more black males in prison in the state of Maryland, than there are in college," said Evans. He said Black America was going backwards, partially because we are not taking advantage of educational opportunities."

Evans cited a recent study that showed that black Americans are receiving less medical care for the same medical problem. He said the number one cause of death among young black males between the ages of 15 and 35 is homicide, and nine times out of ten, "We are killing each other," he added.

What's so ironic about all of this, said Evans is that "We don't make the guns we just use them. We don't make the drugs, we just use them. We don't make the knives we just use them," he added.

"You must have a sense of purpose. Life has a universal principle. You must give if you expect to get. Ignorance always cost more than education," Evans said.

"There are three types of people in the world. The smallest are those that say lets make it happen, the next largest are those who watch it happen, and he called the largest group those that ask what's happening. There are two many asking what's happening, you must know what's happening, and make it happen."

Happy 122nd Birthday, St. Aug

which we never lived. Still we try to remember with those who were fortunate enough to have been a part of this movement. We continue to listen, learn, and hopefully do our part in an on-going struggle for civil rights," Hunter said.

The program concluded with everyone joining hands around the center of the quadrangle and singing "We Shall Overcome" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing."