

Phi Theta Kappa Recognized At Regional Convention



Phi Theta Kappa wins Honors at the Regional Convention in Charleston, SC. Left to right are Dr. Barbara Holt, Ray Hill, Darrell Jeffries, Bruce Monks, Jason Maloney, Dr. Jo Hendrix, Don Whitten and Jerald Weaver.

-Photo by Bob C. Thompson

Members of the Wilkes Community College Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), recently attended the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention in Charleston, SC, where they received special commendation.

For the past year, the fraternity has been working toward a Five Star rating which required it to complete projects in each of four categories known as the Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship.

The WCC chapter successfully completed the requirements and was one of eleven chapters that received the Five Star Award. They were selected from sixty-eight chapters throughout North and South Carolina.

In addition, the group received Honorable Mention for Communications which involved keeping the national office informed of their activity each month.

According to Dr. Josephine Hendrix, an advisor to the group, "We

have worked very hard to fulfill all of the requirements for the Five Star Program and the recognition in communications. I am proud of what our students have accomplished."

PTK was also recognized as "Most Improved Chapter" for which they received a plaque and a \$100 scholarship that will assist two WCC students in attending the Annual International Convention in Anaheim, CA, April 7-9.

Jason Maloney and Don Whitten, both WCC PTK students, will represent WCC at the International Convention where they will receive international recognition.

The achievements of the WCC chapter will be cited in the 1994 International Awards Program, a special publication honoring the winning chapters. The program is distributed to more than 2,500 chapter representatives that will be attending the convention.

Walk Defensively: Look Left, Right and Left Again

Most people imagine horrible crash scenes of twisted metal when they think of motor vehicle accidents, but there is an often overlooked factor in many of these accidents — the pedestrian. Each year about 7,000 pedestrians are killed, according to the National Safety Council, and another 50,000 suffer disabling injuries.

During some part of the daily routine, everyone is a pedestrian: getting to school and to work, walking to a parked car, going shopping, or engaging in recreational activities.

Because a hazardous situation exists any time foot traffic and vehicular traffic mix, the National Safety Council offers this safety advice for pedestrians:

✓ Do not assume that vehicles will stop at traffic signals or obey other traffic laws. Look left, right and left again before you cross, even if you have the "walk" sign.

✓ Don't challenge traffic, even if

you have the right of way. At a corner, first establish eye contact with the vehicle driver.

✓ *Don't Drink and Walk* is just as valid for pedestrians as *Don't Drink and Drive* is for motorists. About 25% of pedestrian traffic deaths involve alcohol impairment on the part of the pedestrian with no alcohol impairment on the part of the driver.

✓ Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching vehicles in rural areas or places where there are no sidewalks. Get to the side of the road when traffic passes.

✓ Exercise particular caution in inclement weather when roads are slippery. You could fall and traffic might not be able to stop.

✓ Wear bright clothing to be seen easily during the day.

✓ Carry a lighted flashlight at night and wear clothing trimmed with retro-reflective material.

Long Live This King

He was shot. Killed!

His race and religion hardly matter. What matters is that he strove to do something he believed right. That right was a pursuit of justice, and he fought for it all his life nonviolently like Gandhi (India), Bishop Tutu (South Africa), Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams (Northern Ireland).

Many people, though sorry he was shot, blamed his meddling. After all, he had been warned many times:

- "Stay in your own backyard."
- "You got it made, man. Cool it."
- "What for all that speechmaking? Doesn't do anybody any good."
- "Be careful. Some bigoted nut will get you if you don't stop."

But this man refused to stop. The warnings and live-and-let-live advice suited the weak, the frightened, the uninformed. He would live and help live.

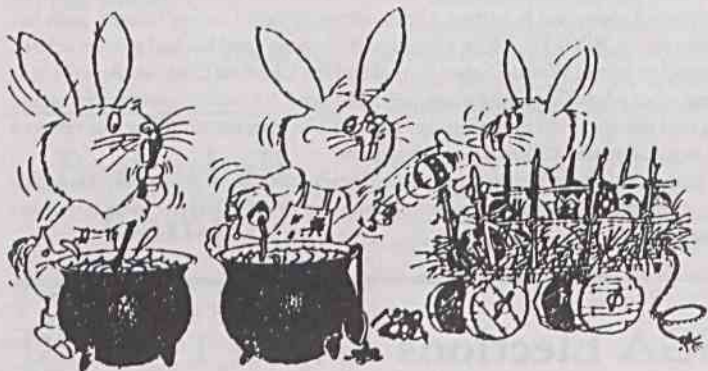
So he spoke not with guns but with simple words: "I have a dream..."

He preached not complacency and acceptance but fairness and justice: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

He marched not with hired thugs but with American citizens: "Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time."

He dreamed not of failure but of equality, of brotherhood/sisterhood: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

And though this man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed April 4, 1968, Americans celebrate his birthday the third Monday of each January. Yet does he live!



Nature Teaches Humankind

Many "modern" inventions have been used by nature for years:

• The hummingbird is a helicopter in miniature. It can go up or down, backwards, and hover over a blossom while gathering nectar.

• Jet propulsion is used by the squid as it sucks and expels water to move itself about.

• Camouflage is a boon to the chameleon. It can change its color from yellow to gray to green, blending in with its environment, thus escaping its enemies.

• The scorpion's tail is the perfect

hypodermic, used to inject poison into its enemies.

• The snake uses an anesthetic to paralyze its prey before making a meal of it.

• Suction cups are used by marine creatures such as sea snails and abalones to cling to rocks.

• The snowshoe rabbit has natural snowshoes.

• Radar has been used by bats for centuries. As the bat flies, it sends out sharp cries which bounce off objects, telling the bat where it can go safely.