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MLK assembly moves many

By Jacob Noble
STAFF WRITER

On Monday night, meetings, discussions, and presentations culminated as students, faculty, and members of the community entered Dana auditorium to pay tribute to the slain civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.

The service included music by the Ambassadors for Christ choir from Winston-Salem that caused some to jump from their seats.

The night was not just musical however; Bessie Carter, a member of the Guilford, community recited scripture while Anthony Staples delivered a speech of King's. History Professor Adrienne Israel also added historical insight into the King's life.

For many the most powerful part was students' reflections.

Kemba Bloodworth started her reflection off with excerpts from

"Someone Died for Me," written by children of Selma, AL. Especially moving was the repetition of the phrase "and they didn't even know my name." The room was silent while Bloodworth shared what she has learned from King, who "had a belief system that was rooted in a faith shaped by a religious experience of African people American born. This black faith is an intangible thing, but I know it when I see it. I know it when I hear it, and I know it when I feel it."

Bloodworth's emotion, clarity, and, most importantly, sincerity led the crowd to great applause.

Chermika Walker also received applause after giving a powerful speech conveying a dream of her own while reminding the audi-



MATTHEW LUEHLKE

John Fearington addressed the crowd at the MLK candlelight vigil Monday night.

ence that the night should also celebrate those who came before and after King, "This is not so much a King celebration as it is a celebration inclusive of King with all due respect to Kwame Ture, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman..."

CCE student Deena Hayes gave the final reflection of the night. Hayes explained that she did not normally participate in activities like the service. One of her con-

cerns about this celebration and others like it is "how easily we are distracted by the glamour of celebrating and how soon we forget the tragedies that bring us together."

Hayes reminded the audience that King, Malcolm X, and Medgar Evers were all assassinated and that though 32 years have passed since their deaths, the climate which they were subjected to is still the same. She believes that this current climate, which reeks of the past, was also responsible for the death of Darryl Howerton and the dragging death of James Byrd in Jasper, TX.

The reaction to Hayes's speech was noticed by senior Barrett Wiley, who said, "I looked to the left of me, I looked around me, and I didn't see that many white people clapping." Whatever their reason was, Hayes's message was clear, "Suffering and oppression is as alive today as it was during Dr. King's time."

The service ended with a candlelight vigil in which students first sang the black national anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and then proceeded to walk candle-in-hand to Boren lounge.

While many thought the mass meeting and candlelight vigil were beautifully executed, the lack of attendance by members of the community stood out in some students' minds. "For the turnout that we got and the consciousness that's supposed to be here on campus, the turnout didn't reflect that," said Terrance Wilson, a senior.

This program was formed with the efforts of AACS's new President Casaundria Penn, John Fearington, Yumika White, and Santes Beatty.

Memorial service Saturday will honor Professor Emeritus Ed Burrows

From Staff Reports

While a majority of students at Guilford were still toddlers when Ed Burrows, who passed away on Dec. 17th, 1998, retired after 30 years of teaching history at Guilford College, his legacy is still important.

During his tenure at Guilford he strongly influenced many students and pressured the administration and board of trustees to admit African and African American students. In 1962, Guilford admitted students from Kenya, but still excluded American students of African descent.

Robert G. Williams, the Voehringer Professor of Economics, said of Burrows, "If you take all of the professors who had a strong impact on students, in terms of the numbers of students influenced, he's probably number one in the latter half of the century."

In addition to his efforts to provide civil rights to African Americans, Burrows was later in-



Ed Burrows

COURTESY ROBERT G. WILLIAMS

involved in gay and lesbian issues, though as he explains in his autobiography, he repressed his own sexuality for many years, choosing to focus on the issue of race relations.

Burrows' life and contributions to the Guilford community

will be honored at a Quaker memorial service on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in Sternberger auditorium.

Over his years at Guilford, more than 50 students who would otherwise have been unable to afford tuition lived at Burrows' house, said Williams, and "they're all coming back to this memorial service. I highly recommend that students go to this memorial service because they're going to hear reflections on his life. He was a very complex character and they're going to get a sense of his complexity."

He continued to say that the issues with which Burrows dealt are still important today. "Those issues are not dead: racism, homophobia, violence as a solution. Those issues are not dead, we all have a lot to learn from him."

Editor's note: The Guilfordian will have a more detailed look at Edward Burrows' life and influence at Guilford in next week's issue.