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Cole links King's past to our present

Emily Mann

Associate Editor

In the auditorium of a college that once refused black students admittance, the community gathered to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who worked tirelessly so that no one would again be excluded from anything based on the color of their skin.

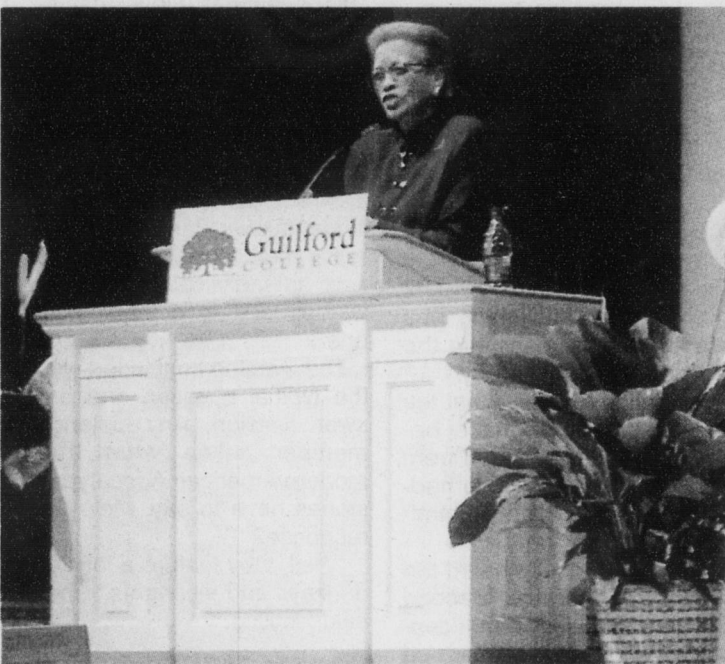
Jan. 19 came to a close at the college with a Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative celebration and candlelight vigil. The celebration centered on the speech of the president of Bennett College, Johnnetta B. Cole.

Cole, who earned her Ph.D. in anthropology from Northwestern University, focused her speech on what she believed King would have said if he were at the college, speaking primarily about the war in

Iraq and Sept. 11. Referring to her field of expertise, she also reminded the audience that to anthropologists, there is no such thing as "race." Addressing the audience as brothers and sisters, she started her speech by recounting how when no one else would allow King to speak in Greensboro, Bennett College asked him to speak, and he did so on Feb. 11, 1958.

After connecting King to local history she moved to the present, saying, "We must not only remember him, we must learn from him."

Cole went on to speak of travesties around the world from ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia to genocide in Africa and the war between the Protestants and Catholics in Ireland. She then focused on the United States, looking at not only acts of



Emily Mann/Guilfordian

Dr. Cole lectures in Dana Auditorium on Jan. 19

hate based on race, but on gender and sexual orientation

as well. She then brought her speech to the events of Sept.

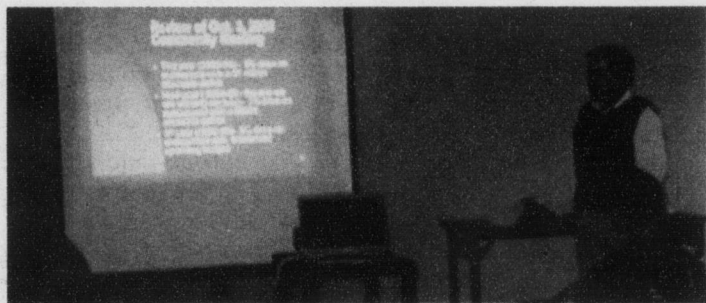
11, saying that King would have been filled with joy about the compassion it brought out in neighbors and also deeply saddened about the hatred it caused.

Speaking of King, Cole said, "It seems to me Dr. King would have opposed the acts of our government in the act of waging war [on Iraq]."

Cole referenced again and again King's policy of nonviolence and anti-war stance. Her connection of King to today, yesterday, and tomorrow brought her two standing ovations. At the end of the night Cole was presented with the newly established Dream Keepers award that is given in honor of King by college Vice President and Academic

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Tuition increase of 6.5% projected



Mary Layton Atkinson/Guilfordian

Budget committee chairman Raymond Johnson

Mary Layton Atkinson
Editor-in-Chief

A community budget committee meeting was held on Jan. 14 in the Founders Gallery to discuss the progress the budget committee has made since the last community meeting on Oct. 3.

The committee is working to reduce the college's draw on

the endowment (which spiked to 14 percent in 2001 and stood at nine percent in 2003) as well as toward balancing the operating budget by the 2005-2006 academic year.

"I believe the budget committee made a firm commitment not to balance the budget unfairly on the backs of one group or another," budget committee chairman Ray-

mond Johnson said. "The committee is attacking the problem from both the revenue and expense sides, using many approaches."

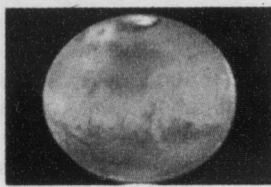
College president Kent Chabotar also believes the burden of balancing the budget is being fairly distributed.

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speaker
visits

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Rover
lands on
Mars

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Kerry
wins
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