



At a recent meeting, JCL members shared their excitement about the coming year. Pendergraft Photo

JCL returns

By Anna West
Reporter

Carpe diem! The Junior Classical League (JCL) has returned to Grimsley after a two-year absence following a request for the club to leave the 1993 JCL convention.

Grimsley has had a Latin Club for these past two years, but was never recognized as a member of the National JCL, which requires acceptance by the JCL administration. At the closing ceremonies of the 1993 convention, Grimsley's JCL chapter got a little too spirited and rowdy for the administration's liking and was asked to leave. However, this year the Latin Club will also hold a chapter of JCL and will attend the state JCL Convention in the spring of 1996. This year's JCL chapter is presently anticipating a trip to either Paramount's Carowinds or Busch Gardens in Virginia in late spring.

At their first meeting on Thursday, October 19, the members of the club elected the 1995-1996 JCL officers. Seniors Patrick Kinlaw and Anna DeCasper are the president and vice president, respectively, junior Sarah Pendergraft is the secretary/treasurer, senior Alec Ferrell is the sergeant-at-arms and freshmen Sam Cone and Brian Katz with sophomore Ingrid Chen make up the 1996 JCL convention planning committee.

The state JCL convention is an an-

nual gathering of all JCL chapters in North Carolina in the spring of each year. Activities and competitions include a Latin skit in either Latin or English, a team-built chariot race, a Latin art exhibition, various athletic competitions including a swim meet, track races, frisbee throws, and softball tosses. There are also two academic competitions, one in the form of a written test, and the other, the Certamen, which is similar to a High IQ Bowl with questions pertaining to Roman history and the Latin language. The convention offers an opportunity for JCL chapters across North Carolina to meet and get to know each other and share ideas. Katz says, "One purpose of the JCL convention is to spend time with our fellow JCL members."

Katz and Cone both attended the 1995 convention on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus with their JCL chapter from Aycock Middle School. Cone says, "We got to walk up and down Franklin Street, whoop up on Page, and we won the whole convention!"

At the 1996 convention, Cone hopes to perform well again. "We want to win the Omni Award, which you get if you enter something in every event, and we hope to have someone from Grimsley run for a state position," Cone says. State positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, tribune, and parliamentarian.

As far as goals for the club this year, Cone says, "We want to make our chapter bigger and get more people to come to meetings and to be involved. We'd like to have more parties with more food, too, to increase involvement and excitement at the meetings."

"And, of course, have fun," Katz adds.

Dr. Frost, a Latin teacher as well as the staff advisor for the club is optimistic about the club's commitment. "We hope to do three interesting things this year at least. We know what these things are; we are undaunted in our commitment to our doing of these three things. If there are any other things, we don't know yet."

Marchers share their experience

By Brian Schiller
Reporter

It was more than one year ago that Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan first claimed to have received a vision from God giving him the idea to hold an enormous rally directed at black men to discuss the problems that plague black communities in America today. This vision was transformed into the Million Man March.

The march finally occurred on Monday October 16, 1995.

Estimates on the number of black men that converged on Washington D.C. for the widely publicized Million Man March range from 400,000 to 2,000,000. When Mr. Joel White first heard about the march he decided that he would make the trip to Washington.

"It was my obligation as a black man," said Mr. White, "I wanted to do something to show I recognized the problems that are in black communities, and how much of the responsibility falls on the shoulders of black men."

The march, which brought one of the largest crowds ever to gather in the Mall in Washington, has been surrounded with controversy from its very beginning. Much of the controversy stems from Farrakhan's association with the march. In the weeks before the event Farrakhan fell under heavy criticism for remarks in which he referred to Jews, Vietnamese, Arabs, and Koreans as "bloodsuckers", saying that these groups drained money out of black communities but put nothing back. In the past, Farrakhan has made other anti-Semitic remarks which have prompted labels such as "separatist" and "bigot".

Many different groups representing a wide variety of people expressed their concern for the march's outcome. It was feared that the march might do nothing more than polarize racial groups in America that were already drifting apart.

Even now that the march is over, the controversy refuses to die. Immediately after the march the Park Service released official estimates placing the crowd at 400,000 individuals. However, march organizers claimed that the number was closer to two million. Mr. White estimated the crowd to have been around 1.5 million and called the count of 400,000 "ridiculous."

March leaders have filed a lawsuit against the Park Service claiming the count was lowered to reduce the march's effectiveness. In response to the lawsuit the Park Service has considered ending its role in the business of estimating the size of the crowds that attend events such as the Million Man March.

Mamadou Niang, a senior who attended the march, recalled that after he arrived at 2:00 A.M. on Monday morning march organizers began to announce over the speakers the estimated size of the crowd. There were more than 500,000 by 6:00 A.M., and more than 1,000,000 by day-break. At one point during the day it took Niang 40 minutes to walk the distance of one city block.

The march drew many famous black leaders to Washington to speak to the crowd. People such as Maya Angelou, Ben Chavis, and Jesse

Jackson spoke throughout the day. The final speaker was Farrakhan who spoke for two and a half hours in the late afternoon. Farrakhan's speech covered many topics from criticism for the black men who attended the march to accusations about the true motivations and thoughts of the writers of the Constitution.

"He stepped on everybody's toes," said Mr. White.

Niang said that he saw Farrakhan's message as, "You can't make peace with someone if you

can't make peace with yourself. You need to start with your own people and work outward."

One important purpose of the march was to counter the negative image of young

black men that is being promoted by the media today.

"The march proved to the country that the stereotypical myths and images put forward depicting the young black man as naturally violent and aggressive are false," said Mr. White.

"The worst thing we can ever do is not talk about problems. It is time to bring them out and talk about them. It is the only way to work things out," said Niang.

Mr. White said that the main effect the march will have on his life came from the vows that Louis Farrakhan asked everyone in the crowd to take on Monday evening. The men vowed never to raise a hand or a weapon in an act of violence towards another human being except in a case of self defense, to never abuse a child or to allow a child to be abused in their presence, and to never use derogatory language towards women. Mr. White said that the vows caused him to adopt a stronger commitment to himself, his family, and the community, as well as a desire to seek out knowledge of the past of his people and pass it on to his son and others.

It was these vows that Mr. White also cited as being the most important potential area for change to come out of the march. It was Mr. White's hope that if all of the participants live up to their vows, and if they carry these values into the lives of several other people, and they in turn affect several more the effects could canvass the entire nation.

Both Mr. White and Niang repeatedly stressed the harmony and peacefulness of the event as one of the march's most important successes.

Mr. White described the march as, "A day of unity, harmony, and respect. If it could be duplicated a lot of the country's problems would take care of themselves, particularly race relations."

Niang summed up the purpose of the march, "It was a day of atonement. The reason it was called the Million Man March and excluded women is because we are the ones that have problems. We are down at the bottom of the barrel and we have to uplift ourselves by redefining our roles in society, by making sure that we can make decisions in our communities, by being registered voters, and by working together to make peace with ourselves before we can make peace with others."

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- Mamadou Niang



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