

# Community celebrates King, charges county with racism



Photo by Mike Cunningham

Afro-Americans from all walks of life joined the annual commemorative march in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Thousands attend commemoration service

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Drug infestation in our communities, the high number of teenage pregnancies and political unrest are interruptions in the lives of Winston-Salem residents that they must overcome if blacks and whites are to realize Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, said the Rev. Joseph Jones, challenging the crowd of more than 1,500 in attendance at the Tenth Annual Noon Hour Commemoration of the slain civil rights leader.

Rev. Jones' comments came on the heels of one of Dr. King's sermons, "Interruptions," delivered by Ernest M. Wade, director of minority affairs at Wake Forest University, during the program in the

Benton Convention Center.

As he walked the earth, healing the sick and raising the dead, Jesus was frequently interrupted, said Dr. Wade, his deep and melodic voice

hummed Dr. Wade. "The life of Jesus was constantly broken by interruptions."

After explaining how costly and far reaching some interruptions can be, Dr. Wade instructed his congregation as to the proper way to respond to them.

"Face them as a part of reality. Develop something on the inside to endure them; that's the healthy way, that's the creative way," he said. "When life's problems hit you, don't jump! Go out and write a song. The great question of life is not when will you have the interruptions, the great question of life is

how you deal with the interruptions."

Putting Dr. King's speech in perspective for the 1990s, Rev. Jones said, "We must not use these words to

### Service at MTVPH

By KAREN H. JONES  
Special to the Chronicle

An evening service at Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church culminated Monday's celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The speaker for the occasion was the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. He spoke of the need to "Stop the violence; start the

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bringing back the memories of the pastor and prompting amens from the audience turned congregation.

"Someone out of the crowd would come to interrupt him,"

## N.C. Black Repertory Co. gives special performance

By ROBIN BARKSDALE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Making sure that no segment of the community was left out of Monday's Martin Luther King Day observances, the North Carolina Black Repertory Company again staged its special celebration at the Arts Council Theatre.

In keeping with its own mission of bringing Afro-American arts to the Twin City, the Black Rep used the occasion to showcase some of the area's leading talent.

Larry Leon Hamlin, the company's executive/artistic director, said that the celebration of artistic talent is in keeping with the spirit of King Day observances.

"It is extremely important for the public to know that black arts are very much a part of the struggle," said Mr. Hamlin. "The arts also played a part in the civil rights struggle. This celebration that we have is an opportunity for black artists in the community to share in celebrating the dream, but in our own special way."

The observance, held Monday night at the Arts Council Theatre, featured monologues, gospel choirs, comedians and rap dancers. Auditions were held last month to pinpoint the leading

talent at Monday's program represented a sampling of the skills that are in the community. He said he chose to showcase the artists on Dr. King's holiday because the civil rights leader's effort helped make it possible for such artists to perform in public.

"We remember him with this celebration and it recalls his dream," he said. "Auditions are open for any artist in the community. We are extremely fortunate each year to find new black

artists in the community that may have never performed in public. If it hadn't been for the celebration, the public wouldn't have known about them. It's important to give them an opportunity to showcase their talents. And what better way than at a celebration honoring Dr. King."

Mr. Hamlin said that he prefers to maintain the family-type atmosphere at the celebration so that everyone can share in honoring Dr. King.

"We looked around at all the observances and there really weren't any that were really conducive to young people," he said. "The idea is that it is for the entire family. We felt that there was a void in that there were few programs that involved young people in observing the holiday. Our program attracts young people, middle aged people, older people, everybody."



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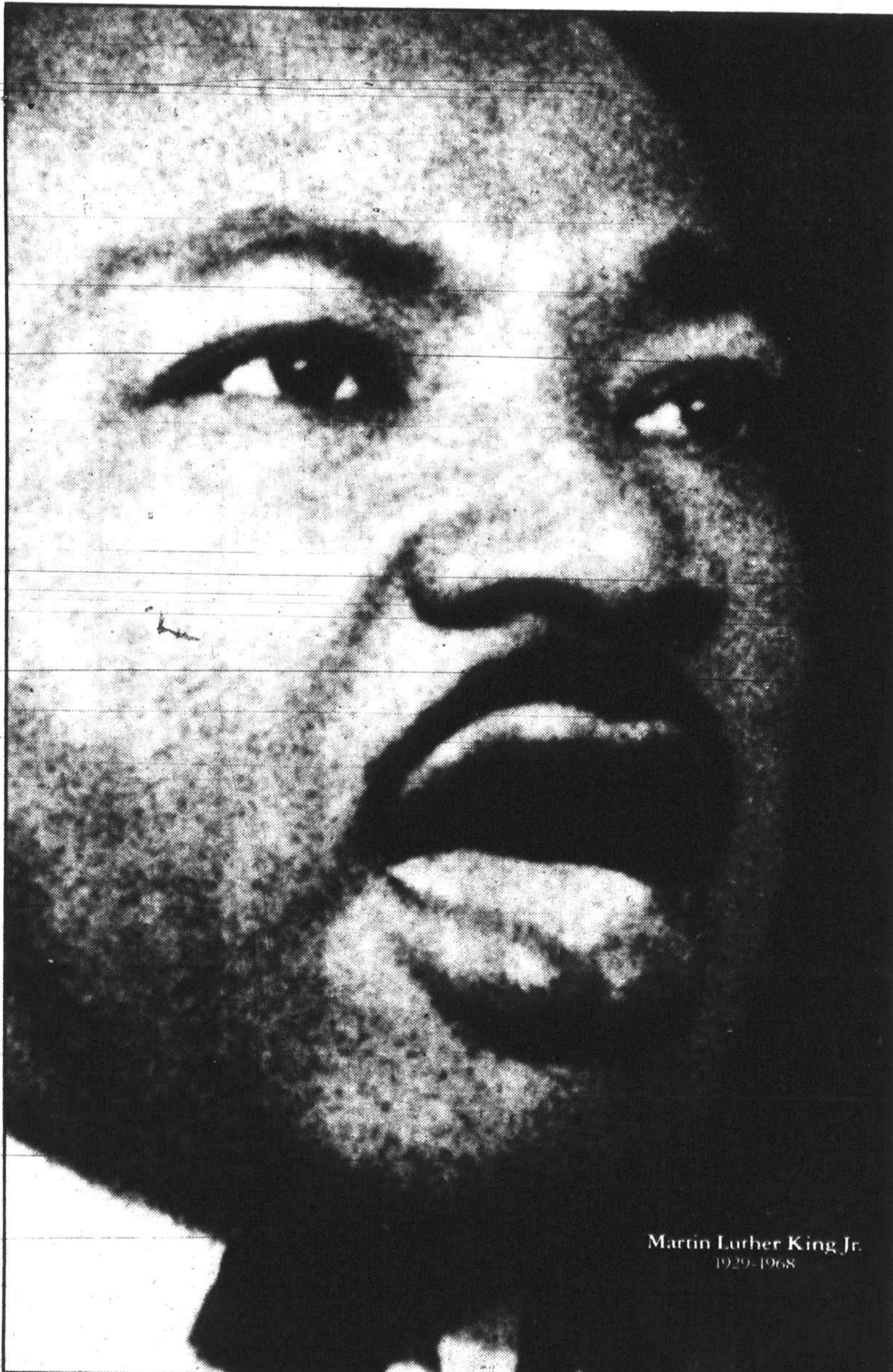
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