

Dream Lives On In Annual BCC Program

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. would have turned 63 years old on Jan. 15. Nearly 24 years after his assassination, his dreams of human equality live on.

"I know the dream's still alive," said Velma Williams, recruitment and admissions coordinator for Brunswick Community College's Office of Student Services and a member of BCC's Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee each year.

"Programs such as this and other celebrations that people have every year show that, just as community programs that work for the betterment of all people do every day," she said Friday night following a program celebrating King's life and his dream.

In his popular *I Have A Dream* speech given almost 30 years ago, Dr. King shared his vision of black and white children playing and learning together, as well as all people living in harmony side by side.

Performances Friday by BCC students, two speakers and the Cedar Grove Young Adult Choir from Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Supply dramatized the theme, *Keeping the Dream Alive*.

The fifth annual celebration at BCC included students for the first time this year, a move instigated by Joyce Hewett, BCC's director of business programs, said Ms. Williams, and one that was pursued in an effort to draw more students to the event.

"We loved having students involved in it," Ms Williams said, adding that she believes that more students and young people than ever before joined the crowd of about 75 people who attended.

Wilmington City Councilman Richard Snyder spoke of his emotional experiences while supporting Dr. King's teachings early in Snyder's political career. He remembered the poignancy of reading *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* while bouncing his young son on his knee, and read part of that historic letter to Friday night's listeners.

"Imagine the look on a child's face," Snyder related to the crowd, as he read Dr. King's story of telling his daughter she couldn't go to the playground because it was for white children only.

Snyder went on to remind the audience that "having an open mind isn't important if there isn't passion and commitment behind it."

If King were alive today, said Snyder, he'd be working to give children better educations and to end violence among youths.

Dick Lee, announcer at WCCA Radio in Shalotte, spoke also, relating his experiences as a participant in 1963 March on Washington while attending American University.

He told of the media's responsibility in helping keep the dream alive, through public service and the creation of positive role models and opportunities for employment.

The Cedar Grove Young Adult Choir entertained the audience between student performances with stirring renditions of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "(That's Why I'm) Safe In His Arms," and "He Whispers to Me."

Student performances focused on keeping the dream alive through improved education, better health awareness and the basic foundations of faith and religion.

One student actors, Regina Alexander of Southport, said she was glad to participate.

"It's not a question of 'is the dream's still alive', but what are we doing to fulfill that dream? What are we doing to keep it alive?"

She portrayed a young woman chatting with her girlfriend, and coaches the young woman to think more carefully about her sexual and romantic activity and well-being, including the benefits of safe sex and abstinence.

"I think the dream Dr. King had is still alive, of course," she added, "but we as a people, black and white, have a long way to go."

Those interested in helping with next year's King celebration can contact Velma Williams, 919-754-6950, in BCC's Student Services office.



BCC STUDENT PERFORMERS (from left) Johnny Grant of Southport, narrator, and actors Jerry McCrary of Bolivia and Leron Pankey of Southport are among the BCC students dramatizing the program's theme "Keeping The Dream Alive".

12 Local Students Nominated

Twelve Brunswick County students have been recommended for Governor's School in the area of academics and the performing arts.

Governor's School is a state-run summer residential program provided to selected high-ability high school students.

Held on two college campuses, the school allows students to pursue a specialized interest in depth, while also providing an overall academic program that stresses development of thinking and leadership skills.

Two students from each local high school were recommended in academic areas, while four students from South Brunswick and one each from West and North Brunswick were recommended in the arts.

Students who are nominated in the performing arts must audition as

part of the selection process. According to Gloria Yount, public information officer for the schools, the students are as follows:

From West Brunswick High School, Monekia Gause, 10th grade, natural science; Allison Keill, 10th grade, English; and Laurel Keese, 11th grade, dance;

From North Brunswick High, Zachary Miller, 10th grade, math; Christine Lloyd, 10th grade, natural science; and Margaret Dees, 11th grade, instrumental music; and

From South Brunswick High, Justin Rhode, 10th grade, math; Thomas Fritchey, 11th grade, math; John Midgett, 11th grade, art; Jennifer Hardee, 10th grade, choral music; Melissa Love, 11th grade, art; and Tash Sellers, 11th grade, art.

Healthy Meals Are Possible At Restaurants

Can persons concerned about their cholesterol levels order a healthy meal when dining out?

A healthy menus seminar next Thursday, Jan. 30, will explain how local cooks, restaurants and individuals can prepare or order meals that are low in saturated fats, cholesterol and salt.

Sponsored by the Adult Health Program of the Brunswick County Health Department, the free seminar is open to the public and will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Participants will meet in the food lab of the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service building at the government center in Bolivia. Cooks there will prepare some healthy dishes for participants to sample.

"Our project this year grew out of

a realization of the numbers of people who live in and visit our county and have a concern about low cholesterol diets," said Rita Hatcher, public health educator at the health department.

"When we conduct cholesterol screenings, we always get questions from clients on restaurant meals," she said.

Health department nutritionists will discuss the different kinds of fats, why to avoid foods high in sodium and how to read and understand food labels. Restaurant owners Glen Hieronymus and Pam Doxey will give tips on creating and marketing low-fat and health-conscious menu selections.

For more information, call Ms. Hatcher, 253-4381.

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