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MLK Memorial Celebration Held

The Black Church Studies Program and the Black Student Caucus of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary held its Eighth Annual Celebration of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 16, 1978 at the seminary.

The students who organized the celebration (among them Wayne Davis, Chairman of the 1978 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, John Cook, President, Black Student Caucus, and Dwight Webster who served as Moderator) used as their format a worship service. Mr. Cook opened by cautioning the congregation that the service was not intended to funeralize Martin Luther King, Jr., but to celebrate life. He stated: "We gather...hoping to bring together minds from all over this great nation, to let the world know that every time you kill one Martin Luther King, Jr., another rises to take his place."

The welcome address was followed by a commemorative statement from the Hon. Thomas P. Ryan, Jr., Mayor of Rochester, who proclaimed January 16, 1978 Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The service was both musically and spiritually enriched by the University of Rochester Community Gospel Choir which sang "Show Me the Way", "Can't Give Up Now", and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". The choir performed under the direction of Mr. Alvin Parris.

Certainly one of the most inspiring parts of the two and one-half hour program was the presentation of awards to two essay contest winners who wrote on the subject of the life and work of Dr. King. Maurice C. Howard, an eighth grade student at St. Monica's School and Inez Jones, a tenth grader at Benjamin Franklin High School were cited for their superior essays. The students read their award-winning essays to the crowd of 300 or more people. Young Mr. Howard approached the podium, stood for a long moment in pregnant silence, then exclaimed "Whew" to the delight and applause of the audience. Both Mr. Howard and Ms. Jones received standing ovations after delivering their essays.

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This Week in Black History

January 15, 1929: Michael Luther King, civil rights leader, was born in Atlanta, Ga. He later changed his name to Martin and went on to become one of the leading forces in the civil rights struggle of this century. Dr. King entered Morehouse College with the intent of becoming a doctor, but he was so greatly influenced by the college president, Dr. Benjamin Mays, that he decided to study for the ministry. He was ordained by his father in 1947, graduated from Morehouse in 1948, and entered Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., where he graduated in 1951. King earned the doctor of philosophy degree from Boston University in 1955. With a desire to revolutionize the status of the Southern Black, Dr. King led a group of Atlanta ministers to form an organization which later became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Prophet of peace in a time of trouble, he led the successful Montgomery bus boycott. Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, King became the impassioned voice of a people oppressed, upholding the philosophy of nonviolence until his death by a sniper's bullet, April 4, 1968.

MLK Celeb., cont'd

Guest Speaker for the event was the Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a friend and colleague of the late Dr. King. Rev. Shuttlesworth, who pastors the Greater New Light Baptist Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, delivered a "fire and brimstone" account of some of his experiences in the civil rights movement. Rev. Shuttlesworth, along with Rochester Councilwoman Ruth Scott and Mr. James Perkins, founder of the Black Seeds (a children's performing group), received awards from the Colgate-Rochester Black Student Caucus for their outstanding achievements and contributions to their communities.

The program closed ceremoniously when everyone, standing, joined hands to sing "We Shall Overcome."

--ERW

Free Listening for the Visually Impaired: CHOICE Magazine Listening Service offers a fine, interesting, free service, consisting of 8 hours of listening monthly. Selections include a wide variety of subjects from excellent newspapers and magazines. An 8 rpm speed record player is needed to play these selections and can be obtained from the Library of Congress, on a free permanent loan basis. For information on a free subscription, as well as an application form for the record player, write to: CHOICE, 14 Maple Street, Port Washington, N.Y., 11050. This service is sponsored by the non-profit Lucerna Fund.

Harvard's City and Regional Planning Program provides comprehensive training for professional practice in the public and private sectors. Its graduates are prepared to deal with the increasingly complex urban and regional problems faced by federal, state and local governments. The master's degree in city and regional planning is a two-year program designed around four central and distinctive features: a carefully planned first year curriculum, a strong commitment to the practical solution of real problems; a flexible set of electives focused on one or more substantive areas; and the faculty's research on urban and regional planning, policy analysis and administration. For more information stop by Lattimore 107.

The Department of Counselor Education at the State University College at Brockport is in the process of recruiting students for its Program to Develop Counselors for Minority Groups leading to a degree of Master of Science in Education. The Department is looking for twenty participants, ten full-time and ten part-time, who are interested in acquiring competencies to counsel non-traditional types of clients: minorities, handicapped, economically deficient, inmates/ex-inmates of correctional institutions, etc. All participants must have received a bachelor's degree prior to June 1, 1978 to be eligible for admittance into the program. The deadling for application is March 4, 1978. For more information and application forms, write: Dr. Katharine Webb, Dept. of Counselor Education, State University College at Brockport, Brockport, N.Y. 14420.

Tutors Needed

You can make 1978 the best year ever! Baden Street Settlement is recruiting volunteers for its Tutoring Program which resumes on January 16, 1978. The program is designed to provide elementary school children with a one-to-one learning situation, two afternoons a week, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. The semester will run through April 27. An orientation workshop will be held Saturday, February 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Those interested should call Paulette Namisnak at 325-4910.

Black Colleges Because

The colleges founded for Black Americans are a national asset. These institutions with limited endowments, low tuitions, lack of wealthy alumni, minimum support from the federal government and foundations have produced more for the dollar in developing human resources than any other type of institution in this country--perhaps even in the world.

The Black Colleges are essential to the continued development of educational opportunities for Blacks in this country. The return on an investment...in the historically Black Colleges, in the social, economic, cultural and educational development of this nation is incentive enough to warrant their survival and support.

...If you take a look at the Black College alumni, you will notice the significant role they play in local, national and international events. The facts of what the Black colleges have done in the educational arena of this country attest to the importance of their survival now.

...There are many misconceptions about Black Colleges such as graduates of Black Colleges are not prepared to enter integrated graduate schools. Yet, Black Colleges in general have developed programs designed to provide their students with the preparation they need to participate in society as productive individuals.

Critics also stated that Black Colleges are examples of segregation, yet many Black Colleges have a white student enrollment as high as 15% and as much as 30 or 40% of their faculties are white. White colleges enrolled only as much as 5% Black students and only a few Black faculty and they are considered integrated.

...The United Negro College Fund was founded in 1944 because the long struggling funds of Black institutions and education was in deep trouble. Gifts from individual benefactors and foundations had been cut in half. It seemed certain that without some financial support many would have to close their doors and others would fall below quality standards. The many Black college presidents were forced to spend much time on the road touring cities in the northeast and midwest, soliciting and pleading the cause of the Black youth to anyone who would listen... Dr. Frederick Patterson, then president of Tuskegee Institute, called all the presidents of private Black colleges together for "pooling their small monies and making a united appeal to the national conscience," for current operating funds. The result of the meeting was the organization of the United Negro College Fund in which 27 colleges joined and, to date, the fund has raised more than \$150 million in its 30-year history, and raised a record \$11.9 million for its 41 colleges in 1974.

Blacks comprise better than 11% of the population of the U.S., yet only 3% of the U.S. graduates are Black, only 1% of all lawyers, optometrists, less than 2% of all dentists and 3-4% of current dental school enrollees.

--Taken from an article by Frank Willis in "Communicade", 6/21/75