

Dear Dr. King, Behrend celebrates MLK Day

Photos and Design by
Colleen Gritzen/Photo Editor

On Monday, Jan. 20 Behrend community honored the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a campus-wide celebration.

The day began with a "family breakfast" at 7:30 a.m. in Dobbins Hall Gazebo. The breakfast included a short presentation illustrating the importance of the campus community coming together.

At 4 p.m., classes were canceled for a special program in the Reed Union Commons. *Dear Dr. King...* included presentations by faculty, staff, students and family members. The program included a performance by the St. James A.M.E. Church Male Chorus.

The celebration concluded with a presentation by Dr. Robert Bullard, professor of Sociology and Director of the Environmental Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. His lecture, "Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Equality," took place at 7:30 p.m. in the Reed Union Building Commons.



Spiritual Melodies: The St. James A.M.E. Church Male Chorus sang heartfelt spirituals setting the mood for the ceremony.

I really wanted people to personalize the event and program. It was designed to have people figure out for themselves what Martin Luther King meant to themselves and how his life impacted each reader's life. I think people are still trying to better themselves. There are countless people out there that are still concerned with improving the lives of those around us. This is proof that Dr. King's dream hasn't died!

-- Jacquette Wade

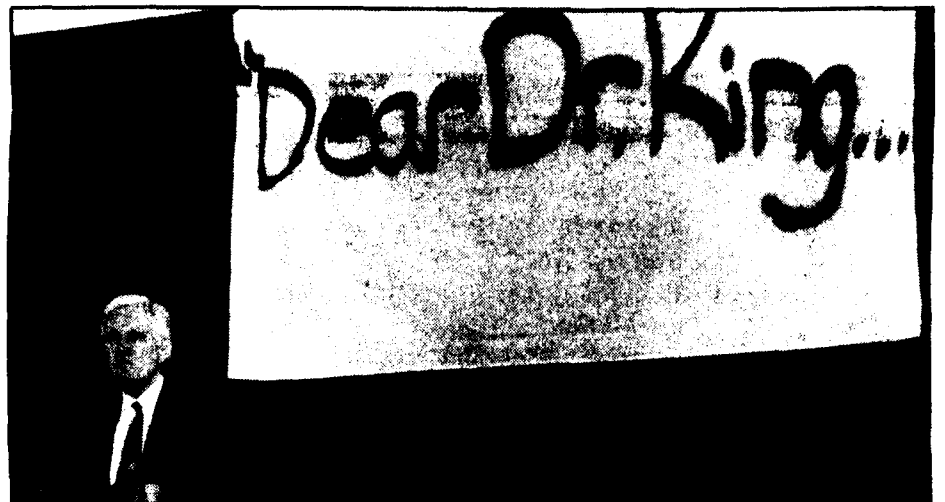
Coordinator, Residence Life and Human Relations Programs



Dear Dr. King: Roxanna Kelly, Colleen Fromknecht and Thian Tran read passages from their letters to Dr. King about his contributions to society and the effects his beliefs had on them.

I asked my nine year old son if he knew who you are. He told me you were a man who made a speech and then was shot in the back. When I asked him what the speech was about he thought for a minute then replied, "Freedom." He is learning lessons from your life also. They may not be the same as the ones I learned, but I know that they will be valuable as he grows up and carries on with his life.

--Colleen Fromknecht, Student



As Things Began: Dean Lilley opens the ceremony with his recollection of high school in the deep south as segregation laws were just beginning to break down.



Singing Together: Amaya and Sequoia sing together showing that Dr. King's dream has begun to come true--that black little girls and boys would play with white little girls and boys as equals one day.



Times Are A Changing: Natasha Brooks, Anne Marie Welsh and Greg Fowler tell Dr. King how times have changed and that members of Generation X have realized that the only way to overcome racial tension is to accept America not as a melting pot, but a salad.

The Meeting

BEHREND-Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. will come alive on stage for a fictitious meeting and debate in *The Meeting*. The performance will provide a powerful and insightful examination of the thoughts and motivations behind the philosophies of these civil rights leaders. *The Meeting* has proven itself an inspiring and emotional performance.

Members of the Pin Point Theatre will present *The Meeting* at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Reed Lecture Hall.