

CAMPUS

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration

1By Karen L. Peiffer
Capital Times Staff

When fish are transferred from their fishbowl to a larger container they continue swimming in the same small circle until one fish realizes the existence of new territory and breaks away from the group to explore. One at a time the others eventually follow suit.

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth L. Warren, speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration held recently in the Gallery Lounge, observed the fish phenomenon as a small child. Then, it was fascinating to her; today, it is symbolic of the progress Afro-Americans have made in society.

With the exception of the American Indian every American can trace his ancestry back to another homeland and can boast of a culture, Warren said. Enslavement stripped the Afro-American of his identity, she said.

"I'm grinning--I'm not upset." "We took it, and we made it," she said, eliciting victorious shouts of approval and nods of agreement.

"We are there," Warren proclaimed. Opportunities abound, and we must break away from the fishbowl circle and explore new waters, she said.

Warren believes success is within reach for people of all races, but we academically claiming if she, a grandmother of seven and great-

grandmother of five, could graduate with a bachelor's degree in social science from Penn State Harrisburg so could anyone else.

As we begin the new decade Warren believes Afro-Americans have finally come full circle.

Douglas Wilder is a prime example of what it means to come full circle. He is the grandson of a slave, but he is also the governor of the state of Virginia--the landing place of the first slaves and the capital of the Confederacy.

Warren's dream for the 1990's is twofold: that our nation will rise up and uphold the true meaning of its creed-- "...that all men are created equal..." and that her children will not be judged by the color of their skin.

Punctuated with her dry, quick-witted sense of humor Warren's talk was uplifting as well as amusing. About her childhood fascination with fish she said, "I was always curious--they call me nosy now."

Junior Jesse Lonon's reading of King's "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence," Warren said. King, she stated emphatically, can attribute his success to the close relationship he had with God.

At no given time, Warren insisted, did King address blacks only--he called for the unity of all people of all races.

"It takes black on white to make white legible," Warren said.

Warren encouraged the students present to excel personally and

must be willing to work for it, take risks, and meet challenges head-on. With the tone of preacher Warren said it will not suffice to sit back and lament over hardships--nothing will be accomplished through self-pity.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. went to the mountain top," she said, "but we're still at the bottom."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a wonderful role model because he broke away from the fishbowl circle and spearheaded the civil rights movement, senior Shanell Woods' interpretation in sign language of segments of the program, and junior Christine M. Simmons' songbird voice in "It is Well with My Soul" together with the resounding gospel choirs of Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church made the Birthday Celebration one of the most meaningful and memorable programs hosted by Penn State Harrisburg.

*Tarnhelm co-editors
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Mowery are looking
for entrants in the
Tarnhelm '90 contest.*

Cash awards will be presented to winners in each of three categories: poetry, prose, Photography/graphic

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Include proper postage for notification of acceptance and/or return of material.

Do NOT put your name on individual works. All work is to be judged anonymously.

Enclose a separate sheet stating your name, address, phone number, major and option, and current term status.

Submissions are to be dropped off in the *Tarnhelm* Mail slot in room 216.

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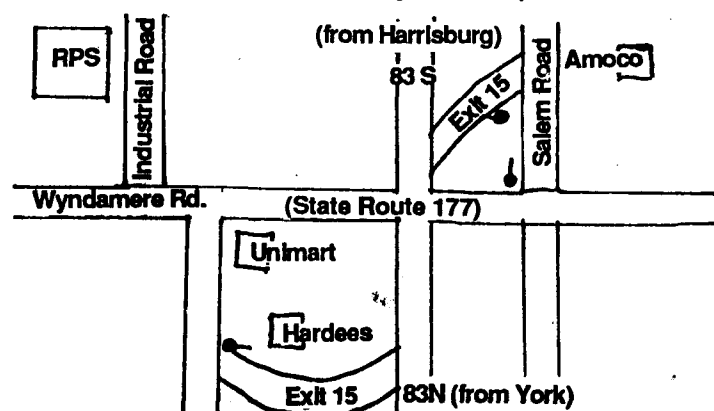
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