

Speaker Discusses Exploitation of Martin Luther King's Dreams

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Staff Writer

In honor of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday Monday, Jan. 16, PSH guest speaker Valeria Harvell praised King's dreams and reminded the audience that nothing has been more exploited by the mass media and politicians than those dreams.

As one example of this exploitation, Harvell referred to the excerpt from his "I Have A Dream" speech that talks about little white children and little black children holding hands. She said she heard that same excerpt three times already on the MLK holiday.

Harvell told the audience of more than 50 students and faculty members that there was more to King's dream than that excerpt.

"Integration in its truest dimension is shared power," explained Harvell, who is an instructor in black studies and director of the summer bridge educational opportunity program at the Penn State Ogonitz campus. Harvell is currently a doctoral student in the African American Studies department at Temple University.

Five months before his death, King's dream had turned into a nightmare as he saw the nation doing nothing to change the cycle of poverty, she said.

"I saw my dream turn into a nightmare as I watched the war in Vietnam escalate," Harvell

said, quoting King. "Yes, I am personally the victim of a deferred dream and blasted hopes."

Harvell said King appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1965 as Man of the Year, but by 1967 he was not included in the 10 most admired people.

She asked what caused this downward spiral, answering that "King repeated with recurring frequency — something is wrong with the economic system of our country. Something is wrong with capitalism."

"Why do people have to pay a water bill in a country that is two thirds water?" Harvell asked, quoting King's question.

According to Harvell, in King's "A Time to Break Silence" speech in 1967, he condemned involvement in the Vietnam war and accused the government of making jobs at home by waging war abroad.

She said he also accused Congress of being the most racist body in all of America. After these accusations, calls from King were no longer accepted at the Oval Office.

Shortly after his relationship with the government deteriorated and his popularity decreased, he was assassinated.

Harvell talked about his ethical beliefs and emphasized that he advocated non-violent resistance. She said being nonviolent was the

only sane approach.

In discussing King's nonviolent protests, Harvell repeated something that was said to King: "A Negro man can't demonstrate with us because, if attacked, he will strike back."

Then she focused on the audience, telling them to think about how they would have responded to that statement, but not to dismay because racial problems are not over.

"The fastest growing KKK membership is right here in Pennsylvania," Harvell said. "All of you will have the opportunity to show what it is you would do."

As further evidence that the struggle is not over, she explained that unemployment is higher now than it was in 1963, and she said half of all black babies are born into poverty today.

In addition, Harvell, focused some of her speech on a sermon Dr. King gave titled "The Drum Major Instinct."

Gloria Young, president of the Black Student Union, explained when introducing Harvell that "After studying Dr. King's life, I found that his 'I Have A Dream' speech was not his best speech."

Young read an excerpt from that speech in which King is discussing how he wants to be remembered: "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for

justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; say that I was a drum major for righteousness."

Harvell explained that what people usually know about King is some part of the message from his "I Have A Dream" speech or that he was a Nobel Peace prize winner. So she likes to discuss some of the many other aspects of his life.

"He entered college at the tender age of 15 and he acquired a Ph.D by the age of 26," Harvell said. "Yes indeedly, I do admire this man!"

Although her speech was intensely serious, she managed to get a chuckle out of the crowd as she was reviewing King's grades in college and she said, "He got C's in public speaking."

She continued to commend King's achievements, highlighting that entering college with an eighth grade reading ability, did not prevent him from attaining his goals.

"King had an excessive drive for excellence," Harvell said.

Harvell ended her speech with an excerpt from "Remaining Awake through a Great Revolution." In reference to the young people today, she said they wind up sleeping through a great revolution.

Harvell's final advice was to "Take a look at ourselves and decide what it is we can

contribute," she said. "Just be sure we keep moving."

Young and Tanya Salmon, vice president of the Black Student Union, organized the discussion to commemorate Dr. King's birthday. Their goal is to hold a Martin Luther King convocation annually.

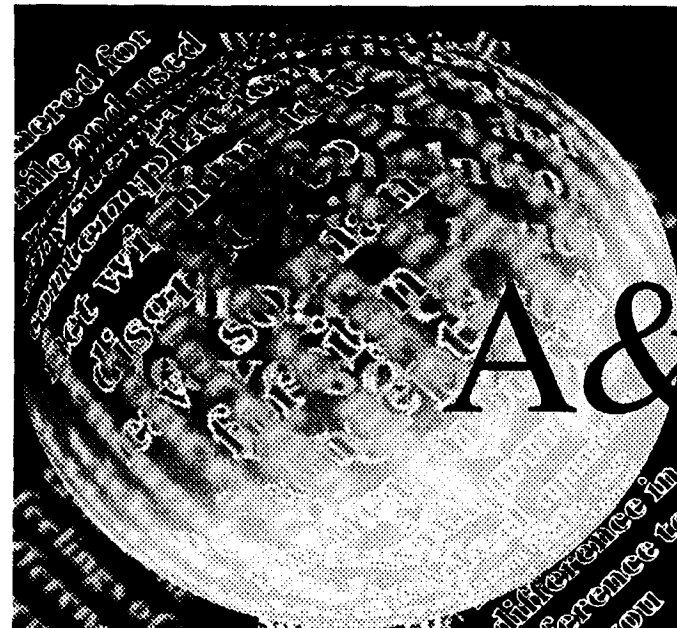
"Although the university does not officially commemorate Dr. King's birthday, we think it is important," Young said.

As Harvell emphasized the significance of this holiday in her speech, she said, "After nearly 400 years, we have a national holiday for one African American leader. There are many more black heroes and heroines whose words and deeds are worthy of a national holiday."

She listed several other African Americans who have made an impact on society including, W.E.B. DeBois, Booker T. Washington, Rosa Parks and Malcolm X.

"Let us recall Malcolm X, a street-talking hoodlum who came to be spokesperson for African Americans," Harvell said. "And on this day, let us say, I will expand my intellectual horizon by any means necessary."

The crowd broke into applause as Harvell said, "Let us pause on this only day assigned to one lone African American... and say thank you for a job well done!"



Maya Angelou to Appear Locally

Maya Angelou, one of the great voices of contemporary literature, will be appearing at Franklin & Marshall College at 8 p.m. Thursday March 23, and at Harrisburg Area Community College at 7:30 p.m. Friday March 24.

As a poet, educator, historian, bestselling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, the works of Maya Angelou have appeared in countless publications including *Life*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Essence*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *The New York Times*. She has written 10 best sellers, performed at the inauguration of

President Clinton, and lately has been writing for Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions. Her current book of poetry is entitled, "I Shall Not Be Moved."

Infused with passion and exuberant vitality, Ms. Angelou continues her work and lectures throughout the country and abroad, sharing the black experience and educating her audience on the human condition. She strives to make audiences aware that each person can endure, dream, fail, and still survive. She upholds this through her sharing and giving of songs, poems and stories, making her presence dynamic and compelling,

leaving every audience visibly moved by each performance.

Unfortunately, word has it that the HACC appearance has sold out, but you can still catch her at F&M the night before. This lecture is free and open to the public, however, you still need to obtain tickets. (Only two per person are allowed.)

Tickets can be picked up at the Steinman College Center information desk between February 15-20. The Center's hours are Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - midnight, Sat. 9 a.m. to midnight; & Sun. noon-midnight. For more information, please call 717-291-4087.

Pointer Sisters at York Strand

Ruth, Anita, and June, the dynamic trio known as the Pointer Sisters will be at the York Strand at 8 p.m. February 23.

Famous for their hit singles "Slow Hand," "I'm So Excited," and "Neutron Dance," the Pointer Sisters recently paired up for a duet with Clint Black, called "Chain of Fools."

Being raised by a fundamentalist Christian minister did not hinder the sisters from pursuing their music career.

"We couldn't go to parties or buy records or listen to the radio, only on Sunday and only to the gospel show," said Anita in a recent interview.

The Pointer Sisters alternate being lead singers, thereby not singling out one of them as a star.

Tickets range from \$34 to \$40, and are available by calling 717-846-1111.

Chameleon's 10th Annual Blues Festival

Lancaster area blues buffs can catch a three-day blast at the Chameleon starting 7:15 p.m. Friday, February 17. Starting that Friday, will be The Barons, followed by Linwood Taylor, Carey Bell, Tino Gonzales, The Mighty Sam McClean and Bobby Parker. The Steve Guyger Band opens Saturday night at 7:15 p.m., followed by Michael Hill's Blues Mob, The David Earl Band featuring O.C. Nunn, Queen Bee & The Blue Hornets, The Clarence Spady Band and the Uptown Rhythm Kings. Sunday will be No-Booze Blues night for all ages, beginning at 6:30.

Tickets are \$10 Friday and Saturday in advance (before 8 p.m. the day of the show), and \$12 after 8. Two-night tickets are \$16. For the all ages show, tickets are \$5 at the door. For information, call 717-299-9684.

The Chameleon is located at 223 N. Water St., in downtown Lancaster.

"Falsettos" Coming to HCT

The jubilant, courageous musical about all kinds of love in a thoroughly confused world in which happiness, parenthood, psychiatry, Judaism and AIDS are intermingled, "Falsettos," is scheduled for March at the Harrisburg Community Theater. Falsetto's is the winner of a Tony Award for Best Book and Score, and has been called the "...first great musical of the '90's," by Time Magazine. The show will continue from February 24 through March 12. Tickets are \$18 for evening and \$16 for matinee performances, and are available by calling the HCT Box Office at 717-238-7381.



Catch the NACA Novelty/Variety Act of the Year nominee for 1993 at 9 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, in the Dining Commons.

While solving a mystery, you can win cash prizes and t-shirts. One hundred percent audience participation, guaranteed. The Event is Sponsored by SGA.

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Positions Available for students interested in providing a summer of recreation for special needs children and adults. Beacon Lodge Camp, located in Central Pennsylvania, is seeking camp counselors for summer camping program beginning May 27 and ending August 16. IN addition to general counselors, there is a need for WSI, Canoeing Instructor, Archery Instructor, Crafts Instructor, Nature Specialist, Nurses and Lifeguards. The summer offers a well-rounded program of activities from bowling to overnight canoe trips down the Juniata River. To request an application and/or additional information, write: RR1 Box 315, Mount Union, PA 17066-9601 or call 814-542-2511.

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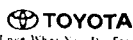
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