

Dr. King Remembered

By Nicole Burkholder

Capital Times Staff Writer

In honor of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Penn State Harrisburg hosted a celebration of its own. Monday's events drew students and community members to the Harrisburg campus to pay homage to the great civil rights leader.

The day began with a presentation of *A Family Song*, written by PSH's own Dr. Dorothy King.

Along with the musical guidance of Grenoldo Frazier and Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood, the team created a story of four generations of African-American singers and the impact of important historical events in black history such as *Brown v. Board of Education* had on the family. The show was met with great success.

Later in the day, the celebration continued in the auditorium with a program entitled "This Little Light of Mine".

PSH student and SGA member, Serena Silverman, began the program with a warm welcome from Penn State Harrisburg.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Signs of Love, a local youth group, jumpstarted everyone in attendance with a rousing Gospel song entitled "A Blessing Come Through".

The young people of Signs of Love range in age from 4 to 16 and use sign language to interpret gospel music.

The group performed several times throughout the program, signing both traditional and popular songs.

Two "glow-in-the-dark" numbers and one including a dance routine were big crowd-pleasers.

Donna Howard, Assistant Coordinator of Non-Traditional Student Affairs, stepped up next to introduce the featured guest speaker, Derrick Span.

Span has been quite an influence as a civil rights advocate, particularly in a previous post in Binghamton, N.Y.

Currently, Span is the Director of the Governor's Project for Community Building.

Span began by musing about what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have to say about the current state of America.

To answer such a question, Span prepared a fictional letter from King to the United States of America upon entering the 21st century, entitled "A Message for

the New Millennium."

The letter began by congratulating the country on all of the technical and scientific achievements that have been reached since King's assassination in 1968.

The achievements made in computers and the space program were heralded, but the letter also stated that our "ethical achievements still lag behind the technical and scientific."

Span wrote that King would note that America has "made the world a neighborhood, but not yet a sisterhood or a brotherhood."

According to Span, King would still regrettably notice the unfortunately high levels of xenophobia and ethnocentrism that is just as representative of America as apple pie.

Span believes that King would urge us to "demand that people live together in truth, justice, and goodwill."

In true honor of King, Span stressed the need to eliminate violence as the pathway to our goals.

He closed with the comment that "America is an unfinished dream", stressing that in order for that dream to be realized we as Americans must keep the dream alive in our hearts.

Rev. Clarice L. Chambers, President-Elect of the National School Board and Pastor of Antioch Tabernacle, also spoke.

After seeing a second presentation by Signs of Love, Chambers commented on how wonderful it was to see the amount of young people interested in King's legacy.

She reminded the audience that "each of us play an integral part in making America better," and that success starts with the children.

Dr. Dorothy King, Assistant Professor of Social Science, introduced an excerpt from the previously performed *A Family Song*. Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood and Grenoldo Frazier then performed a moving song from the play entitled "Be A Light."

Dr. Janet Widoff, Director of Student Activities, closed the day's events. As did the previous speakers, Widoff urged the audience to be "a strong reflection of the legacy left to us by Dr. King."

WPSH, 88.9 FM, Is Ready to Go

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running was already there nor were they instructed on how to make it work.

Being novices at working a radio station didn't help. "We didn't know anything," Moist said. "We taught ourselves how to use the board," added Gutierrez.

Having that as their starting point and with little faculty input left the staff was largely on their own.

"The biggest problem was finding out how this station could broadcast and what we would need to make it run," Moist said.

The equipment needed to make the station run was found, but two pieces were missing. Those pieces were already hooked up on the tower inside the station and, with a flick of a switch, WPSH was on the air.

The problem was that the signal really wasn't going anywhere. To do that, the transmitter boxes and cables that had been sitting around unnoticed had to be hooked up.

Originally, according to Director of Student Affairs Don Holtzman, the transmitters and cables were to have been installed in the residence halls. That plan was scrapped because the residence halls were closed.

The station remained off the air until March 1999 when the cables were run from WPSH's studios on the third floor of Olmsted Building through the televisions in the Audio-Visual Technical room to the television in the Lion's Den.

That was the only place on campus the station could be heard and even then it was just during lunch hours.

The transmitter boxes and cables were purchased from LPB Communications, Inc. in Philadelphia.

Moist said he tried calling LPB Communications for months to get them to come to the studio and correctly wire the equipment so that the entire campus, not just the Lion's den, could hear WPSH's signal.

By chance, Moist said, he got to speak with someone from LPB Communications but was told that to properly do the job, more cable would be needed.

As it turned out, only half of the necessary equipped was received in 1996.

The station got the go-ahead to buy the additional equipment. According to Holtzman, approximately \$4,000 of the original \$12,000 grant money was unused.

The remaining grant money plus \$10,000 in additional funds from the Student Activity Fund was used to buy the rest of the needed cables and transmitter boxes.

In addition, Holtzman said, \$2,000 was given to the station from the provost office and approximately \$1,000 more was provided by student activities.

Getting the equipment was one thing, but getting someone from LPB Communications to install it was something else.

No one was on campus during the summer of 1999 so any installation project had to wait until the fall.

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After several rescheduled visits, LPB Communications hired a subcontractor from Long Island, N.Y., to install the transmitter boxes and the cables in the Olmsted Building and the Capital Union Building (CUB).

The job was completed last month. Holtzman is pleased with the results. "It's working better than planned," he said.

The station is not an FCC-licensed station because it does not broadcast the way traditional radio stations do.

Instead of having a tower to broadcast the signal, WPSH uses cables that radiate the signal to a small area.

"You can hear us in here [the Olmsted Building], the CUB and in between," said Gutierrez. The station operates at 88.9 FM.

Getting the station back on the air wasn't the only priority for the staff. Upgrading antiquated equipment was another problem that had to be resolved.

The staff, through their approved budget, purchased several much-needed items.

"We got two minidisks, a CD changer and a CD burner," said Gutierrez.

"We bought a new CD player and new record player," added Moist.

Gutierrez said the station purchased the CD burner to aid the staff when they are hired to DJ an event.

"To take a crate of CD's was a pain so we wanted to cut CD's with different types of music," Gutierrez explained.

Moist said that it was to benefit the station in the studio as well. "At the time we didn't have a CD changer so it was to make a compilation CD that was 20 songs long. We could pop a CD in and go to class and it would still be playing when we got back."

Although some of the equipment is old, the staff is happy with what they have. "We pretty much have everything we want right now," offered Moist.

That may be true as far as equipment, but not true where staffing is concerned. For now, it's just Moist, Gutierrez and Grissinger in the studio.

Although they would like to have more staff, they also want people who are willing to work hard.

Gutierrez hasn't seen that type of dedication from too many students here. He said, "As soon as someone sees they have to do work, they don't want to do it. They just want to come in the door, turn on the microphone and play all the CD's they have in their car. That's all they want to do."

Gutierrez summed up the staff's frustration with other students. "It's disappointing when I'm eating lunch downstairs [in the Lion's Den] and I hear somebody say 'Does this campus have a radio station?' and their friends laugh 'Yeah, it's a joke.' Well come up and do it."

Students have the chance to do just that. WPSH is looking for any student who is willing to commit to working in the station.

Opportunities are available for those who want to read the news, sports, or any other on-air job. In addition, the staff needs people to do many behind-the-scenes tasks such as answering the telephone.

Interested students can call WPSH at 948-6396 or stop by the station at W343 Olmsted.