

Festivities show hope for King's dream

KING from page 1

Officials at the Lied Center estimated morning attendance at 600 people for the kickoff to the day's celebrations. About 1,100 people attended last year's morning King convocation at the Lied Center, even though classes were held.

About 125 people attended a program on cultural diversity performed by four members of a Chicago company called SST Communications during the afternoon. Smaller groups attended other presentations.

Celebration committee member Eureka Daye, director of organizational development and human resources, said participation was good.

"I think this is a wonderful turnout considering that schools are closed and businesses are closed," Daye said. "People still came out and showed their support."

Estrella Howell and Neda Molai began their show of support by watching Voices of Destiny, Lincoln High School's contemporary and gospel choir. While choir members clapped and sang to the accompaniment of electric keyboards and a trap set, a diverse crowd nearly filled the Nebraska Union's north entrance lobby.

"It was emotional," said Howell, a sophomore clothing and textile design major. "It was just neat to see such a large part of the university here celebrating the day."

Molai, a junior management information systems major, said she could not have attended the events if she had classes. Both she and Howell said they were surprised the university canceled classes.

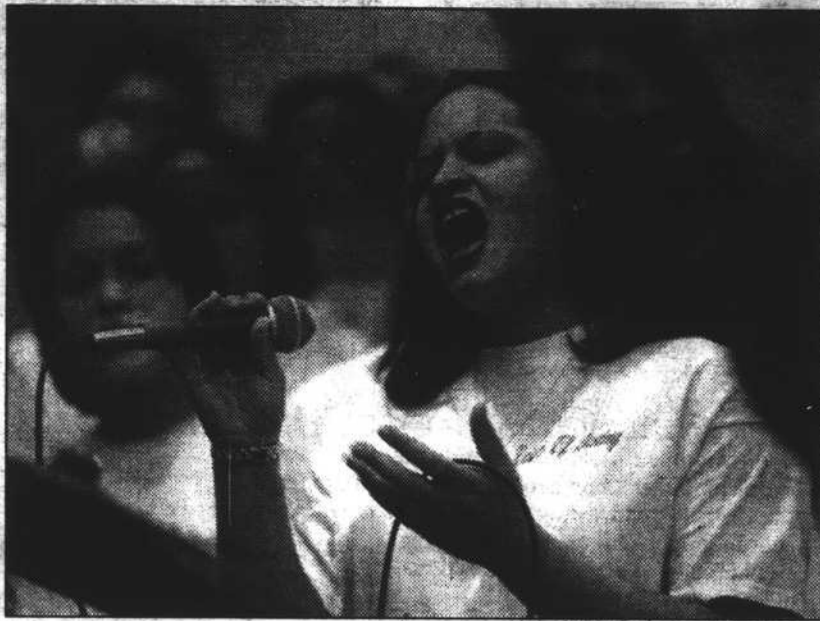
"I think they finally opened their eyes," Molai said.

Chancellor James Moeser opened his remarks at the morning program with similar sentiments.

"For the first time, we have truly taken the time to honor Dr. King," he said.

The Board of Regents approved canceling classes for the King holiday in February 1998. Last year's King Day celebration included events at the Lied Center and the Nebraska Union, but classes continued.

UNL student LeAnna Karre and five friends made it to the Lied Center in time to watch the Lincoln



HEATHER GLENBOSKI/DN
DEMETRIA HASSEL, a senior at Lincoln High School, sings with the Voices of Destiny mixed choir in the Union on Monday.

Community Gospel Choir close the morning event.

Karre, a senior graphic arts major, said she wanted to be personally involved in the day's events. One of her friends, Katie Faust, a junior environmental studies and sociology major, said she could not attend last year's events because she had classes.

Jermaine Flennoy, a food science graduate student, said he was disappointed that classes weren't canceled last year. This year, he was disappointed more students didn't come to the Lied Center program.

"I think a lot of students used this opportunity to go home," he said. "I think they should use the opportunity to support positive programs like this."

The program included the signing of a partnership agreement between Alcorn State University in Mississippi and UNL. The partnership includes exchanging ideas, students and faculty members.

Chancellor James Moeser presented exemplary service awards to Leola Bullock, a Lincoln civil rights activist, and Miguel Carranza, an associate professor of sociology and ethnic studies, for their work in promoting King's dream.

Carranza, a past chairman of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status

of People of Color, encouraged action.

"I'm here to tell you today that it's not enough to keep the dream alive," he said. "We have to make that dream a reality."

Carranza said incidents such as the dragging death of a black man in Texas this summer and the recent beating death of a gay man in Wyoming are evidence that society still struggles with rights and violence.

Lincoln is not immune, he said. He uttered three names, offering no editorial about any of them: Francisco Renteria, Candace Harms and Randy Reeves.

Renteria died while in the custody of Lincoln police. Harms was murdered while she was a UNL student. Reeves was scheduled to die in Nebraska's electric chair last Thursday, but the state Supreme Court delayed his execution.

Everyone must "wake up, speak up and act up," to overcome society's problems, Carranza said.

Members of Junebug Productions and Roadside Theater started and ended their morning performance of songs and stories with a chant:

"Blessed are those who have struggled. Oppression is worse than the grave. Better to die for a noble cause than to live and die a slave."

Talk-show host Berry speaks at MLK event

BY GABRIEL STOVALL
Staff writer

Nationally known talk show host Bertice Berry demonstrated Monday how elements of humor can be used to teach a valuable lesson.

Berry was the keynote speaker at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lied Center for Performing Arts for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day events.

The program culminated a weekend of activities that celebrated the legacy of the slain civil rights leader. The theme of the weekend's activities was "More Than Just a Day ... Remembering, Reflecting, and Renewing."

Berry, who is the host of USA Network's daily talk show "USA Live," used an analytical yet amusing approach to challenge the audience - which filled more than half the seats - to not only remember, but enhance King's dream of racial equality and harmony.

"This is really more than just a day," said Berry, who holds a doctorate in sociology. "Like a diet, we have to maintain King's dream for our whole lives in order to be successful."

Berry, who has spoken at various other engagements in Nebraska, received a friendly welcome, especially from UNL students, who felt she was the best speaker for the occasion.

"Berry has been to UNL before and is a very charismatic speaker," said Sara Russell, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. ASUN was instrumental in bringing Berry to UNL.

"We felt that her ability to entertain and educate as she speaks would allow her to be better

received by a larger audience," Russell said.

Students as well as faculty members were pleased with the way that Berry was able to both amuse and inspire people on how to achieve King's dream.

"It applied to me and encouraged me to be focused in renewing the dream," said junior broadcasting major Tolandra Coleman. "She also explained the steps that we need in order to achieve that success."

Berry pointed out not only the importance of King's dream, but the importance of making the dream fit into audience members' own lives today.

"The dream has to evolve," Berry said. "We can't just stay in what King said, we have to move also to pursue our own dreams."

Berry made it known that her message was for people of all ages, races and genders, but there were those who saw a personal element in Berry's message.

"Bertice Berry's message was enjoyable because of her speaking conviction," said Venita Kelley, an assistant professor of communications studies, and African American studies.

"It's important to see and support a black woman who rises above the times when black women were not supposed to be heard," she said.

Just like many others who have achieved massive success, the road was not easy for Berry. She encountered many hard times and warned others about running into serious doubt, but she also assured those things can be overcome.

"Doubt came with my limitation of choices," she said. "But as choices became greater, I started to realize the small turning points that came in my life every day that helped me."

Task force will seek to cut administrative costs

REGENTS from page 1

recommendations have been used by the university to upgrade its administrative processes.

The administrative efficiency task force will use the committee's recommendations as a guideline for its proposal, Smith said.

Ron Burns, chairman of Burns Capital Partners of Omaha, will head the group.

Regents Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo and Drew Miller of Papillion

will also serve as members.

In other business, the regents discussed a request to use \$12 million of the Othmer Endowment to provide matching funds for new endowed distinguished chairmanships and professorships.

That \$12 million is a part of the \$125 million donation from Mildred Topp Othmer, an Omaha native and UNL graduate.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser said the purpose of the endowments is to

appoint scholars who could enhance the quality of academic programs, as well as create high national visibility.

The endowments would focus on recruiting scholars pre-eminent in their fields through nationally competitive searches, he said.

But regents Miller and Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill disagreed with some broad statements found in the request.

They both said the university needs to focus more on the state, rather than on obtaining national visibility.

Hassebrook proposed an amendment that would have added specific guidelines for the proposed positions, which he said would benefit the state. The board did not approve the amendment.

Regent Chuck Wilson of Lincoln

was against Hassebrook's amendment.

"I object to that," Wilson said. "It is unnecessary to have to determine where excellence will be."

But Smith reminded the regents they need to remember the university's land grant mission and its responsibility to the state.

Hassebrook agreed.

"In my judgment, if we achieve national prominence but don't fulfill our mission, we would have failed," he said. "We are a land-grant institution, and we have an obligation to this state."

The regents voted to approve the program, with only Hassebrook casting a dissenting vote. The program goes into effect immediately and will end Dec. 30, 2000.

The regents also heard a report from the universitywide committee on diversity.

UNL Affirmative Action Director Linda Crump assured the regents the university was doing better overall than it has in past years, including an improvement in recruiting and retention of minority students, faculty members and staff.

"We are doing lots, but there is more to be done," she said.

Some of the committee's concerns include a lack of coordination and communication of diversity efforts between campuses and campus climate issues systemwide.

"There are things being done in all of these areas," Crump said. "But we would like to see more proactive leadership."

Online stores offer cheaper books, no lines

BOOKS from page 1

days. "They receive their books earlier than almost anybody else, because our warehouse is located in Illinois," Bates said.

Bates said Internet bookstores have become a big success. However, he couldn't give a percentage of students buying textbooks online because most of the online college bookstores started in August 1998, which he said didn't allow enough time to estimate.

"But our sales are much higher than we initially expected," Bates said.

Schroeder said that an advantage of buying books at the University Bookstore or efollett.com is that students can be sure they will get the right editions. The University Bookstore sells all required editions. Misty Sallinger, a freshman in the Teachers College, bought her books for the spring semester at the University Bookstore in the basement of the Nebraska Union.

She said it was easy to call in her reservation and pick up the books when she would be on campus. But for the fall semester, she will consider ordering books on the Internet.

"I saw on a flier today I could save

money on books," Sallinger said.

Alvin Sueper, a senior economics major, won't consider ordering books online. He said it was more convenient to buy books on campus.

Sueper can buy all the books he needs at the University Bookstore in 20 minutes, he said. And after his purchase, he can immediately start reading.

The money he could save online doesn't attract Sueper. Although textbooks can be cheaper on the Internet, many online bookstores charge a shipping fee, he said.

"Saying five or 10 bucks on books is not worth it."

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