

State and Local

Prairie View students told dream of change should be daily goal

By Sheryl Taylor
Reporter

The celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was Monday, but his dream of social change should be a daily goal for everyone. This was the major focus of Yolanda King's speech at Prairie View A&M University.

Speaking to a full house at the university King, the daughter of the civil rights activist, said "the dream of eliminating racism that is still present in society is a dream that we must not let be deferred."

She feels that many people have emerged partially out of poverty and have become "laid back," forgetting that the civil rights movement inspired other

movements to bring about change.

"The civil rights movement wasn't a mirage or just a television show," King said. "It was live in living color."

King emphasized that the greatest miracle of the 20th century was seeing President Ronald Reagan sign the bill proclaiming Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

She said that the priorities of our government are warped because they place more emphasis on defense than education. There are people that cannot read or write but the government insists on spending a billion dollars a day on defense, she said, and the "fear of it all is that we still don't feel safe."

King said that even though we may think that the Jim Crow era is dead, in actuality he is still around "alive and kicking," as was demonstrated in the Forsythe, Georgia protest march and the killing of three black men in Queens, New York.

In the final analysis King feels that the root of today's problems is not racism, but greed. "Greed is a perverted and excessive desire to be number one," which is embedded in the psyche of humanity, she said. "We can not afford to sit around and hope that some one will save us. . . . We need to get up and stop sitting on our apathy."

"We can build a world where people can live as brothers and sisters. To live without my fa-

ther's dream would be a nightmare and we must not let the dream be deferred."

At the close of the program the entire audience joined hands and sang the spiritual song "We Shall Overcome."

Yolanda King is a producer, lecturer, actress and director of cultural affairs of the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She is also co-founder of the performing arts company Nucleus, which is devoted to promoting positive energy through the arts. She attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she received a B.A. in theatre and African-American studies.

Texas officials fear prison admissions will force closing

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas prison officials feared a large number of new inmates admitted Thursday would push the system beyond a court-ordered population cap and force prison doors shut for the second time in a week.

At least 190 inmates were expected to be admitted Thursday, while only 65 were known to be released, Department of Corrections spokesman Charles Brown said.

Thursday's deliveries included prisoners from the state's most populous counties of Harris, Dallas, Tarrant and Bexar.

"We'll probably be OK today," Brown said. "But tomorrow we'll probably be in the same posture as we were last Friday."

Prison officials closed the doors to new inmates last Friday after the prison population exceeded the 95 percent limit set by the Legislature to avoid overcrowding in the nation's second-largest prison system, behind California.

Paroles over the weekend helped reduce the population, allowing officials to reopen Monday. Since then, however, the population has crept back toward the limit.

Monday's count totaled 38,238 inmates, or 94.68 percent of capacity. By midnight Tuesday, there were 38,250 inmates, or 94.72 percent of capacity. That was 114 inmates short of the 95 percent limit of 38,364 prisoners.

Wednesday, the count rose to 94.80 percent, or 38,288 inmates, just 80 short of capacity.

The results of Thursday's admissions and departures would be known midday Friday.

The capacity limit was set in 1983 after a federal judge ordered officials to take steps to reduce crowding.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, who ordered sweeping reforms in Texas prisons in

1981, already has issued a contempt order against the corrections department, saying the agency failed to live up to agreements made in 1980 to improve inmates' living conditions and staffing in the prisons.

The judge gave the prison system until March 31 to meet the standards or risk fines of up to \$800,500 a day.

The board said it would appeal the contempt order.

Feathers fly over new plan for bordello

LA GRANGE (AP) — Feathers are ruffled again over the notorious La Grange Chicken Ranch, whose spectacular closing in the early 1970s was immortalized on stage and film in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

The flurry this time is sparked by a plan to commemorate the famous bordello by selling of 45 million square-inch plots of ground around the original site, by building a museum to tell its history and by staging an annual "Chicken Fest" on Memorial Day.

The chamber of commerce is endorsing the plan while the city council and the La Grange Ministerial Association are hot in opposition.

The two latter groups are urging residents to join in "openly and strongly opposing this blight on our homes, our families and the generation to come."

Fayette County Commissioner Dan Beck said the commissioners have not taken a stand on the issue and he has no problem with the project as long as it is legal and conducted with dignity.

A&M grows despite lack of state funds

University expansions continuing

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

Texas A&M University is growing by leaps and bounds. Leaps and bounds? How about expansions and buildings.

In a time when the state is strapped for funds and anxiously searching for a way out of its financial dilemma, A&M is managing to build, expand and remodel. It has been able to do so because its building funds come not from the state budget but from a state endowment.

The University draws money from the Available University Fund, which is the income generated by the Permanent University Fund. The PUF money comes from an endowment of land in West Texas.

Dan Whitt, assistant vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, said nine major projects are in the works.

One of these projects, the new chemistry building, is scheduled for completion in March. The nearly \$18 million facility will not replace the old chemistry building, Whitt said, but will be used primarily for research. The old building

will be renovated a wing at a time for classroom and laboratory use.

The first of the three wings to be renovated is under design and the renovation should run approximately \$3.6 million, Whitt said.

He said employees of the University's physical plant currently are moving into their new \$6.9 million facility.

Also, the \$4.4 million renovation of the Halbouty Geosciences Building should be finished in June, while the \$15 million engineering building for the Texas Transportation Institute and Department of Civil Engineering is scheduled to be completed by September.

A \$1.7 million renovation of the Veterinary Medicine Complex is under way and should be wrapped up by next month.

The departments of Horticulture and Forest Science are scheduled to get four new greenhouses with a total price tag of \$500,000, and the A.P. Beutel Health Center is being expanded and remodeled and should be finished this month, Whitt said. Unlike the above projects, this \$2.2 million construction job is being financed by

health center funds from student fees, he said.

And Food Services' reserves are paying out almost \$5 million for the rehabilitation and improvements for Duncan Dining Hall.

Separate from these projects was the removal of asbestos from the Memorial Student Center during the holidays.

Ben Woods, Physical Plant engineering and design supervisor, said the asbestos was detected when workers went to make repairs in the ceiling of the MSC.

The 60,000-square-foot area was cleared of the asbestos to prevent workers from having to deal with it. Woods said there is no state or federal law requiring the University to strip all its buildings of the suspected cancer-causing agent.

The asbestos removal, paid for from University center funds, cost \$450,000, and Woods said there is no plan to remove asbestos from other buildings until workers are faced with it.

"As they (workers) deal with these buildings, they will have to deal with it," Woods said.

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The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (MSC OPAS) presents the irresistible Cambridge Buskers Thursday, January 29 in Rudder Auditorium at 8 p.m. Michael Copley and Dag Ingram were Cambridge University students who began their career as street musicians (buskers) playing classical music to earn train fare. Since busking is illegal in London, they were arrested. Since then they have played the concert halls of the world in order to live outside the confines of jail.

Hear them for yourself! Dag Ingram plays solo on the piano accordion and Michael Copley, flutist, comprises the rest of the orchestra (33 other wind instruments) — sometimes with more than one instrument in his mouth at a time! The San Francisco Examiner calls them "astounding musicians!"

This delightful performance will surely sell out. Reserve your seats today! Tickets are on sale at the MSC Box Office, 845-1234. VISA and MasterCard accepted.



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