

LAYTON

People B

Stay in school

MLK III stresses education to Kendrick Middle students

By Nathan Isenhardt
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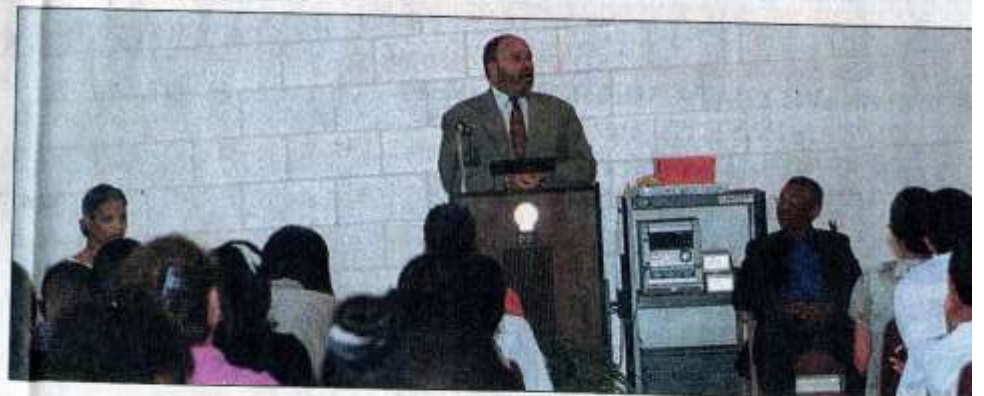
Students at Kendrick Middle School listened intently as Martin Luther King III delivered an address to the seventh-grade graduating class on about the importance of education.

King, the eldest son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., paid a special visit to the school last Friday to speak to students on about topics ranging from violence to heritage to the use of slang terms.

Using animated gestures and a booming voice, King continually emphasized the importance of education, as well as respect and spirituality.

During his speech, King told students it's important to set goals for themselves and to challenge themselves so they can reach their full potential.

"No matter what we choose to do within our lives, it's very important that we prepare ourselves, and preparation takes a long time, because nothing in life is easy," he said. "But each one of us is a very special entity because God



Martin Luther King III addresses students at Kendrick Middle School during the school's end-of-the-year assembly. Student Melvin Carter, whose parents are personal friends of the Kings, given the duty of introducing the speaker, who spoke on the importance of education.

Staff photos by Jody E

come our best as well."

According to King, fundamentals such as reading, writing and math are the foundations of that preparation and that having a firm knowl-

icans of all races today, by reminding them at one point African Americans were expected to pay the bus fare at the front of the bus, get back off the bus, and then reboard the bus in the

e people file

Mack

Administrative
Assistant,
Flint Circuit
Judicial
Family
Violence



Mack, a native of Elberton, has lived in Mc... 10 years. She and her husband, Greg, have three children. Their son, Lance, is 17 and a junior at Henry County High School, and their daughter, Sydney, is 12 and in seventh grade at Kendrick Middle School. The family attends the First United Methodist Church. Mack has worked for the Flint Circuit Court as an Administrative Assistant for 14 months. She said she was involved in the council through Judy Perdue, a friend of her church. Mrs. Mack said her experience with domestic violence in her first marriage led her to want to help other women.

the most satisfying aspect of your

woman finally leave with her children strong and independent on her own. Here, and I know how hard it is. To see her become strong and to know that I in some way is my greatest reward.

your advice to young people?

says telling my kids to stay in school, grades and get a good education so they can get a good job one day. That is very important

a favorite book?

wise Whisperer." I thought it was better than the other.

your favorite movie?

recent favorite movie is "What Women Want" because it is great for women if men knew what they really wanted?

your favorite quote?

evil, see no evil, speak no evil."

an outstanding childhood memory?

the lake with my family. Every week we would go to Clark Hill Lake in Lincoln. We had some great times there. I have since my father passed away that the best memories were made with him.

what you do in your spare time?

it is getting to be summer, I will do a lot of fishing. I also enjoy crocheting. My vacation is usually spent on field trips with my family. Next week I am going to Hershey, Pa., on a vacation with my daughter.

talent, and when we decide what we want to do with it, we must work to hone that craft, to let it become the best it can become so that we can be-



"Whether you are African American, Latino or Hispanic American, Asian American, European American or Native American, we all must learn our heritage. When we understand that heritage, then we can come together," he said.

King also spoke of his father, who was also committed to education and mastered reading at an early age.

"One of things I want to say to you today, as students, is that it's so important to master reading, for there is nowhere that you cannot go through a book," he said.

He chronicled his father's outstanding academic achievements and civil rights victories, bringing the audience back to a time in 1955 when Rosa Parks sat down on a bus.

He reminded the students of how many

options are available to Amer-

"When the white sections of the bus would get up, black passengers were told to stand up. Ten times black people would deposit their money, get off the bus, and the bus would just drive off. I say this because you can only begin to move forward when you know where you've been," he said.

King went on to speak about the tragedy of his father's assassination and how the spirituality his father had instilled in him prepared him to cope with it and not become bitter toward society.

"I was 10 years old when my father was killed, but we coped because we had been raised with a proper spiritual foundation. We knew that no matter what way or another, it would all work out OK," King said.

Students nodded their heads in agreement when King began speaking of each individual's responsibility to prevent violence in their own lives by making thoughtful choices and not choices driven by hatred.

He ended his address by explaining to students the importance of how the many lessons he has learned in his life, such as the importance of communication, brotherly love and self esteem, have helped him and said he hopes the students learn from his experiences.

The conclusion of his speech was met with a roomful of resounding applause and followed by an enthusiastic question and answer session.

Melvin Carter, who introduced King, said he was impressed by the man's words.

"I thought the speech was definitely OK