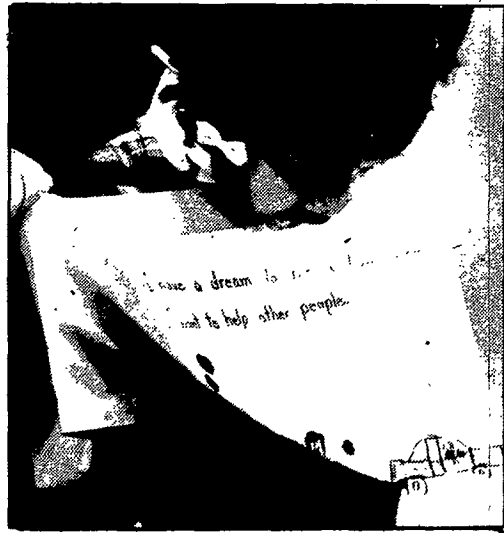
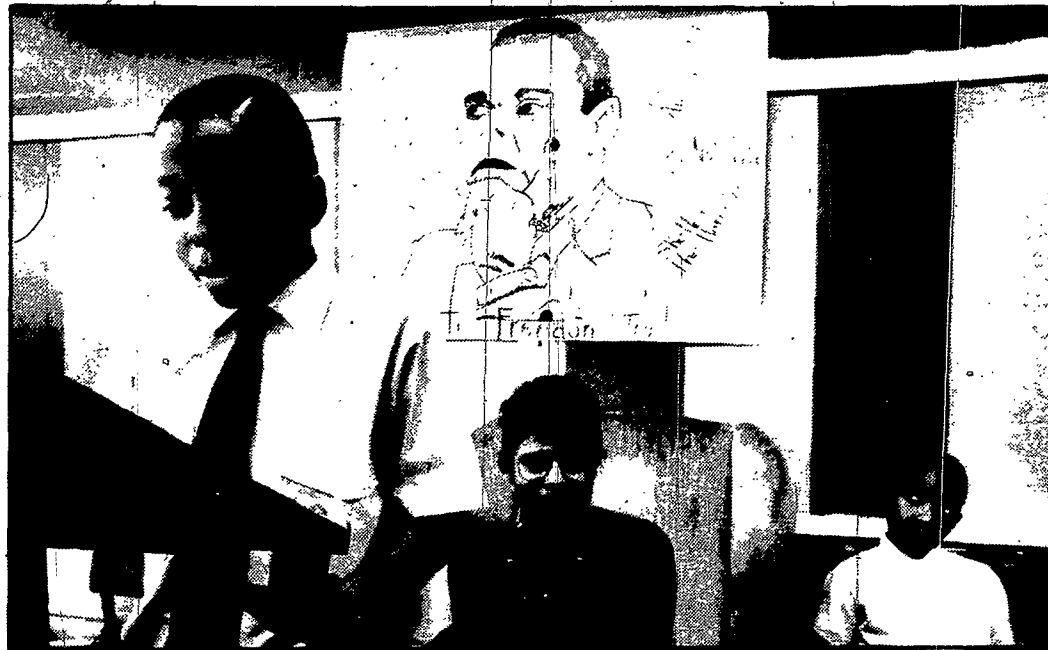


St. Monica's students mark King's Day

Students at St. Monica's School celebrated Martin Luther King Day with an assembly Friday, Jan. 12. Mark Williams (right) read from King's unforgettable "I Have A Dream" speech, while other students recited prayers they had written to commemorate King's causes. Others presented art work representing their hopes for the future. Danielle Sims (below) contemplates her desire to become a police officer.



Courier photos by
Babette G. Augustin



Student creates video to explain meaning of freedom

By Sean McNamara
Freelance writer

ROCHESTER — Nazareth Academy sophomore Teknaya Watson has won the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Arts and Sciences competition for a video she wrote and produced on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The video, which stars Watson's family and friends, uses a song and dramatizations of events in King's life to explain the meaning of freedom.

"Maybe if more people would listen to things like this, they will come to see what (freedom) means," Watson said.

Watson, 15, traveled to Albany last Friday to receive the award, which includes a check for \$500 and an all-expense-paid trip to a July workshop on nonviolence in Atlanta, Ga.

Her video uses skits to illustrate themes



Friends and family members served as the cast for Teknaya Watson's award-winning "I Have A Dream" videotape. Pictured here is the final scene, in which the entire cast sings the traditional civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."

taken from King's memorable 1963 Washington speech, in which he exclaimed, "I have a dream today! Someday little black boys and little black girls will join hands with little white boys and little girls and walk together as sisters and brothers."

Nazareth sophomore Keesha Fleth establishes the tone of the video with an impressive rendition of the song "I Have a Vision," which details King's achievements.

In Act I, King as a child learns about segregation and racism from his mother, played by Fleth. Fleth then re-enacts the nonviolent disobedience of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman, triggering the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott.

Also re-enacted is a scene at a North Carolina Woolworth's lunch counter, where blacks are refused service. After be-

ing turned away from the counter in the video, King says "We'll just keep coming back everyday until we're served!"

Watson, who previously won a state playwriting competition, learned about the contest through an adviser to a school club. She then scripted and cast the video, shooting it in just a few hours.

"With the video, you can express yourself more. If you're face-to-face with the person, it's more effective," Watson said of her choice of the video medium.

She hopes the video will both convey King's teaching and inspire others to continue his work.

"A lot of people are still prejudiced, but they just don't show it as much," Watson said. "People have to keep the dream alive. If we all work together, we shall overcome, and the dream will come true."

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