Comedian adds humor to OSU issues

By Tracey L. Stein
Lantern staff writer

Violence, alcohol and safety are campus issues that will be addressed tonight in a new program, "The Magic of Community: Celebrating 125 Years."

Bertice Berry, former host of Fox Television's "Bertice Berry Show," and doctor of sociology, will kick the night off with issues specifically designed for the Ohio State community.

The program's mission is to improve the community for OSU students, said Cynthia McDonald-DeVese, program coordinator for the Community Development Program.

Berry was chosen to speak about building a better community because she is familiar with campus issues and has a subtle approach towards them, McDonald-DeVese said.

Her humor increases student awareness of important campus issues like binge drinking, she said.

Berry tours the college circuit and speaks on issues facing students, McDonald-DeVese said.

From 1991 to 1994, Berry was voted campus comedian of the year because she tries to approach issues in a humorous manner.

Berry will speak tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Independence Hall.
OSU students, staff honor King

Drake Union gathering features civil rights movie

By Stacia Marie Twitty
Lantern staff writer

About 85 students and staff gathered at the River Den in the Drake Union Monday to celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., slain civil rights leader of the 1950s and 1960s.

Students watched a video entitled "The Long Walk Home," starring Sissy Spacek and Whoopi Goldberg, which was followed by a community dialogue.

"The film dramatizes some of the events that took place during the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama," said Rebecca L. Parker, director of the Ohio Unions.

"We want to show how both the black and white communities were affected by the boycott," said Cynthia McDonald-DeVese, coordinator of the OSU Community Development Program.

When people think of the civil rights movement, they only think of the black community's participation, but people from the white and Jewish communities helped in the movement, she said.

"Everybody had a part in the civil rights movement," McDonald-DeVese said.

The film touches on race relations, gender issues, and community cohesion, she said.

"The dialogue will address how these issues affected the community then and how they affect the community now," McDonald-DeVese said.

The roles of black and white communities and the climate of the boycott were discussed after the film.

"I think the reason we have this holiday is because of passive resistance," said James Clamese, a junior majoring in journalism and black studies. "You do not hear about the Malcolm Xs and the Marcus Garveys because they went outside of the system."

The historical significance of religion was also discussed.

"I think religion is deeply rooted in the black community," Parker said. "But it was separate from the politics of the community."

Segregation is still a part of American society, said Leonard Turner Jr., a junior majoring in psychology.

"Whites live in their communities in the suburbs and blacks live in their own communities," Turner said. "It is ignorance that keeps us apart."

This film is the first in a series of campus forums and community dialogues sponsored by the Ohio Unions and the Community Development Program of the Office of Student Life, said Lenora Barnes-Wright, director of the Office of Judicial Affairs.