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Racism from page 11A

His presentation was largely upbeat, echoing the vision of the late civil rights leader.

"We have a continuing celebration of Martin Luther King's life," Adams said, "and reannunciation of Martin Luther King's dream."

"As long as we celebrate his life and declare his dream — even as we're doing in Farmington this morning — we have great signs of hope and reasons to believe."

The large crowd, which included many Farmington area government and community leaders, listened intently. But, not all of Adams' statements went unchallenged.

Audience member Ed Duncan asked Adams to clarify his statement that the 1970s saw a massive release of drugs in the black community to control the people

"just as the British controlled China with opium and heroin."

He asked Adams who, in particular, has tried to control the black community with drugs.

"It looks to me like they are trying to rip off everybody," Duncan said, "and it's doing untold damage to all races and all cultures."

Adams admitted that is was a hunch and couldn't be verified. But he questioned why the United States government was able to catch Manuel Noriega, "and yet can't subdue those who feed this poison and death to our children."

Adams was also asked by Mark Sommers, pastor of North Farmington Community Church, to reflect on his controversial statements made during the Detroit mayoral campaign. The com-

ments were made during a campaign gathering for candidate Sharon McPhail about outsiders dictating who the next mayor would be.

Adams was quoted as saying, "They want a nice mayor. They want a mayor who will shuffle when he's not going anywhere, scratch when he's not itching, and grin when he's not tickled. But I want a tough mayor."

The pastor said he apologized for those remarks, which he called unwise in a political context.

"The statement that was made and the way it was used did not, certainly didn't, represent the essence of my soul or the meaning of my spirit," Adams said.

Adams added he sees the election of Dennis Archer as a positive step in overcoming the hostility that has divided the region.

He sees other signs of hope such as the election of President Bill Clinton and U.S. Sen. Carol Mosely-Braun, who is black. Both counted on support from black and white voters, Adams noted.

Adams said nonwhites must continue to fight discrimination, but not to do so self-servingly. He added people should not use structural injustice as an excuse for a lack of hard work, either.

"In other words, we must not blame everything that goes wrong on racism," Adams said.

The challenge to whites, he said, is to believe in a future that does not depend on the degradation of anyone else.

"Believe people are great, not because of their color, but because of their character," Adams said, "not because of their group, but their basic humanity."

OBITUARIES

JACQUELINE M. PONKE

Mrs. Ponke, 36, of Oxford Township, formerly of Farmington, died Jan. 8.

Mrs. Ponke grew up in Farmington, graduating from Farmington High School in 1975. She moved to Oxford Township in 1987.

Mrs. Ponke started as a co-op student at Dr. Alan Bredin's dental office while in high school.

Mrs. Ponke enjoyed bowling, cake decorating, home decorating, needlepoint, arts and crafts. She loved horses.

Survivors include: her daughter, Ashley; mother, Helen Lutz;

sister, Mary Louise Freeman; brothers, Stephen Lutz Jr. and Dennis Lutz.

Services were at the Santele & Son Funeral Home in Garden City. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

Memorials may be made to Ashley Ponke Fund, care of Oxford Bank, 60 S. Washington, Oxford 48371.

SHANE LEROY WELTCH

Mr. Welch, 27, of Novi, and a longtime resident of Farmington Hills, died Dec. 31 at the Univer-

sity of Michigan Hospital.

Born in Garden City, Mr. Welch was a construction worker. He was a graduate of Farmington Harrison High School. He loved fishing and hunting.

Survivors include his wife, Rhonda; son, Dillon; parents, Nicole and Harold Welch; sister, Shannon Welch of Farmington Hills; brother, Shawnly Welch of Philadelphia; niece, Courtney and nephew, Shawn.

Services were at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Redford, with the Rev. Ken Kauchek officiating.

EDITH VIVIAN MOSLAK

Mrs. Moslak, 73, of Farmington died Jan. 10.

Born in Clearfield, Pa., Mrs. Moslak was a homemaker.

Survivors include her daughter, Judith; sister, Jackie Stanwell; 2 nephews and one niece.

Services were Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Norbert Kendzierski officiating.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Michigan Cancer Foundation or the American Lung Foundation.

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