

section.
"He has good experience and provides continuity to the office," Morrissey said.

Morrissey is awaiting Rice's decision.

Buckwalter, president of the Nebraska Realtors Association and a past president of the Omaha Board of Realtors, is a certified general appraiser. He would focus on real estate valuations and computerization of appraisal methods.

DiSilvestro has a bachelor's degree in political science and journalism from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He recently worked in the department of research and planning for former Gov. Ben Nelson and headed former Sen. J.J. Exon's Omaha office.

DiSilvestro would serve as community liaison when real estate is re-evaluated, explain the valuation process to the public before conducting re-evaluations.

Nebraska law requires anyone who serves as assessor or deputy assessor to hold a county assessor's certificate. Morrissey said Buckwalter will take the state's county assessor qualifications exam in February, and DiSilvestro will take it in the fall.

In other action, the County Board decided to make a back payment of \$93,600 to the private firm providing health care at the county jail.

Wexford Health Sources Inc., which took over health care at the jail in March, requested an increase in monthly payments, saying it had to hire nine medical staff members more than what it calculated in bidding the contract.

The back payment covers payments of \$31,200 for October, November and December. Payments will be spread over 12 months, beginning July 1, the county's next fiscal year.

The county pays Wexford a base fee of \$127,000 a month.

The fee is adjusted quarterly.

The county amended the contract to pay Wexford an additional \$100,000 over the remaining term of the contract, effective Jan. 1.

The county will pay Wexford \$191,400 for the first year.

Coffees Again

By Erin Grace

Residents can expect to see legislators at the State Capitol on Saturday.

The session is the legislative session.

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A DAY FOR DANCING, SINGING: Dancers from Omaha's Salem Baptist Church perform Monday at the Creighton University Skutt Student Center in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Education Called Key to King's Dream

BY ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Had it not been for the G.I. Bill, which helped open higher education to black veterans after World War II, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would not have had foot soldiers to carry his message, a civil-rights leader said Monday night at the Civic Auditorium's Music Hall.

Arthur Fletcher, keynote speaker for the city-sponsored event commemorating King's birth, was one of those foot soldiers.

A war veteran who went to college, Fletcher used positions in state and national government to work toward civil rights. Fletcher is also a former head of the United Negro College Fund.

"For the first time, we had college campuses crawling with black students," Fletcher told an audience of about 150.

"Without education, King's greatest speeches would not have had the impact required to set the forces of change in motion."

And after three decades, some of those changes can be seen, Fletcher said, in the increase in the number of black doctors, lawyers and business leaders.

"I cannot find an area where we don't find African-Americans participating," Fletcher said. "The burden is on us now. King's movement has succeeded to the point where you can't say we're not involved."

But, Fletcher said, this participation is just a start.

People must discover their individual gifts and use them to the best of their abilities, he said.

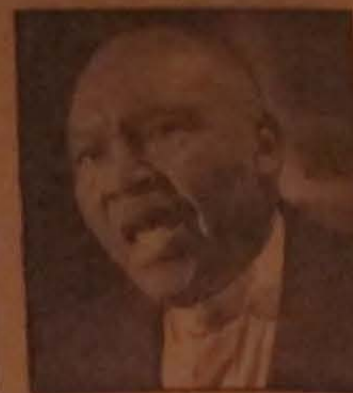
"There's a role for you to play," he said.

Fletcher said that as the national government downsizes, it is up to communities to participate in how government funding is spent. One of the last mountains that needs to be climbed, he said, is the one of economic inequality.

And the way to close that gap is through education, he said.

"If you don't have any education oil in your lamp, you cannot see opportunity," he said.

Fletcher called on parents to stress education, especially as society be-



"I cannot find an area where we don't find African-Americans participating. The burden is on us now."

Arthur Fletcher
Civil rights leader

King Commemoration Delay Sparks Petition at Westside

BY ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the day after the national holiday commemorating his birth is like celebrating the Fourth of July on July 5.

That's what a Westside High School student says.

Angry that no mention was made of the slain civil-rights leader in Westside classrooms Monday, junior Erin Bauer, 16, and another student circulated a protest petition.

Of the 483 who signed, most were students. Some were cafeteria workers and hall monitors.

Principal Phyllis Uchtman said the school had tried since the beginning of the school year to line up speakers for the King holiday, but two cancellations forced the school to hold speeches Tuesday instead.

Arthur Fletcher, former head of the United Negro College Fund, and Samuel Cornelius, who formerly administered the nation's anti-poverty program, were scheduled to address the students.

Uchtman said Fletcher and Cornelius will be kicking off a series on diversity for the rest of the week.

Bauer, who presented the petition to Uchtman after school, said the effort wasn't about trying to get a day off school. Omaha and Millard School Districts did not hold classes Monday.

"We really don't know anything about Martin Luther King to begin with," she said.

"The majority of the kids didn't even know it was Martin Luther King's birthday. If he was so important, then it should (have been) acknowledged."

comes increasingly technological and information-based.

"If we don't write ourselves into the future, we have no one to blame but ourselves," he said. "I didn't say it was going to be easy, but the ball is in our end of the court."

During the two-hour event, several community leaders spoke, including Mayor Hal Daub, and "Living the Dream" service awards were given.

Wendy Buckley, senior pastor of

First Lutheran Church, opened the program with a prayer. City Councilman Cliff Herd read a proclamation from the city calling on people to "be drum majors for justice."

Awards were presented by Daub to The Aframerican Book Store, 3226 Lake St.; Jane Batt, executive director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and Ivan Gilreath, for his work with organizing youth sports teams.

Colorado Boy, 14, Is Killed in Motorbike Theft

Cannon, Colo. (AP) — A 14-year-old boy was killed Monday when he was riding his motorbike north of his residence, Alderden said. "The boy pursued the individual and was later found shot 300 to 400

yards from the residence, the sheriff said.

The Creighton Osteoporosis Research Center

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