

Commitment to Dr. King

Northwestern is closed today to honor a martyr for human rights, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was a patient and brave man, the kind of man who could pass that patience and courage to his followers. The spirit of non-violence was tested in Birmingham, in Selma, in Cicero and in Memphis. It prevailed.

But now that Dr. King has been slain, the non-violent movement has lost its leader. The weekend riots show the attractiveness of the alternative of violence to thousands of black Americans. White America and white Northwestern grieves partly because Dr. King symbolized the least disruptive process of gaining civil rights.

We have urged Northwestern administra-

tors, faculty and students to strive to give black Americans a stake in society. We have urged passage of a strong and meaningful open housing ordinance in Evanston. This must be done.

A Northwestern administrator appeared before Evanston's City Council last night to assure support for open housing in the city. The petition drive and orderly marches of last spring must be duplicated to achieve the enactment of a stronger open housing measure.

Northwestern declares that it does not discriminate on a racial basis in housing or admission. But this is not enough. The fraternity system has remained a bastion of white exclusiveness, with some important exceptions. Last

spring we asked black students to give the existing Greek system a chance. It failed. We can no longer oppose their natural desire for a full social life. Northwestern officials should react favorably to the request of black students for the reactivation of predominantly black fraternities and sororities.

The death of Dr. King has brought to the fore the racial problems that white America often ignores. We, as members of the Northwestern community, must act to lessen and alleviate the difficulties for blacks at NU and in Evanston.

Without this commitment the spirit of non-violence and racial cooperation will have died with Dr. King.

The Liberal Veneer

The veneer of some Northwestern liberals wore off yesterday and revealed a startling hypocrisy.

A crowd, almost exclusively composed of white students and faculty, was led to Crown Center yesterday to urge a stronger Northwestern participation in the struggle for civil rights in Evanston. This certainly belongs in the liberal political scheme.

But what followed did not. A select group of the steering committee went inside Crown to speak to NU administrators, including President Dr. J. Roscoe Miller. Dr. Miller knew about the planned demonstration. He had prepared a

statement and was ready, even eager, to face the crowd.

The steering committee delayed that. They cornered Dr. Miller for 45 minutes and prevented him from going outside. The crowd, not knowing of this ploy, thought the president was unwilling to talk to them and their anger grew. When he did emerge from Crown Center, Dr. Miller was unjustly made the villain and subjected to catcalls and insults.

The steering committee, composed of the likes of Richard Klimmer and Lance Sobel, grad students; Christopher Lasch and George Fredrickson, history department faculty members; and undergraduate Allan Foster, trampled the

notion of freedom of the press, too. This is a particularly blatant hypocrisy for those who are active in the American Civil Liberties Union.

Although NU administrators were willing to allow a Daily Northwestern reporter into a meeting between the two groups, the steering committee members objected. What did they want to hide? While practicing their right of assembly and free speech, they denied the right of freedom of the press (access to information) to us and through us they blocked your right to know as a Daily reader.

The tactics of the steering committee were deplorable. The liberal veneer was very thin. And the hypocrisy showed through.

Letters to the Editor

Keep the Faith

Just a moment of reflecting. . . a moment when reflecting seems a useless waste of time. . . when silent contemplation does little more than frustrate and anger. This moment, upon the death of a national leader, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, a man who advocated an aware outlook concerned with the meaning of human conscience — whose ultimate interests went beyond those of racial ecumenism and equal opportunity and centered on such things as selflessness and a real feeling for the lot of humankind.

It would be a horrible realization indeed, to discover that because of his death, the principles represented by the doctrine of Martin Luther King would be written off as illusory fantasies of an impractical idealist. . . that his assassination would only serve to confirm the beliefs of a twentieth century where angry young men are the fashion and ego-centrism and cynicism reign, disguised as intellectualism; it would be tragic if Martin Luther King's death were only a substantiation of this faction's doubts in the ultimate good of people and nations — in the ability of this good to be supported to the farthest extremity and eventually established.

I would hope, rather, that such an incident would motivate the nation to unify and take up the program that King adopted. . . to believe in the "impossible dream" enough to work for these ideals and the probability that one day we would find them commonplace.

This letter is not meant to outline courses of action for a society struggling to remain united, nor is it meant to constructively criticize or publicly persuade. . . for it was written when logical per-

spective was losing ground to the emotions of one who has suffered a very real loss, and looks, powerlessly, into the cold eyes of a country that offers little sympathy. It is merely an expression of a hope for those who feel no sense of personal obligation, or for those who are too sickened to persevere any longer. . . just a hope that their faith won't be lost.

Penne Pigott
CAS '70

To the Grave

Dr. Martin Luther King is dead, and his country and people are slowly withering away (more rapidly as a consequence). The summer approaches — and its heat shall be intensified in many American cities by burning hatred and raging fires. This cannot serve to fuse the people of this nation, or melt away hatred and violence. And so we shall observe the gutted buildings crumble along with ourselves.

Respect and understanding have vanished in this land: and the common interests which our shores create, have dissipated into a grey mist. Agitators succeed in stirring hatred and revolt; while those seeking peace and equality for all men can garner only weak and skeptical followings.

A good man has died. We shall ultimately follow Dr. King — not to a realization of his ideal peace and land of indisputable freedom — but to the grave! And it may be sooner than any one of us thinks, for it is happening here and now! But Dr. Martin Luther King has surely earned his peaceful rest.

Eric Pepper
Tech '71

Small Students

How revealing was the brief account of the Student Senate meeting of April fourth (Daily Northwestern, April 5,) which unhappily coincided with the death of a great humanitarian and American! "Her (Caulfield's) statement that Dr. King had been shot and had just died stunned the audience for a few seconds — then the autonomy discussion resumed." What an outrageous interruption it must have seemed to your petty minds and small ambitions. How utterly insignificant must the death of a man and the death of an ideal seemed beside the awesome question of dorm autonomy.

What, to you, after all, is human justice beside your right to liquor, to sex and to the pretense of dormitory self-government? What, after all, is service to an undying belief in the dignity of man when set against your pursuit of gratification of the everlasting me? This is the right you really believe in isn't it; the right of mind for intoxication, the right of ego for recognition and influence. For your ears have been deafened to the cries of an oppressed people by the eloquent majesty of your own whining voice and your eyes have been blinded to the injustice and corruption of our sick and dying social order by the over-whelming vision of your own importance. You weep not for the passing of a man and of a sacred principle but from the frustration of your selfish desires, like a child who has been refused a piece of candy, or a toy. How distorted is your perspective, Northwestern student. How utterly small you are!

Can you never see beyond your pettiness? Can you never realize

that your smug, blonde lives of comfort are being lived at the expense and in ignorance of human suffering? Look not to the assassin but to yourself, your unremitting hedonism, the gutter of your selfishness. For it is you and no one else who has murdered Martin Luther King just as you murdered Christ and Socrates before him.

And no, the passing of Dr. King was not merely the "death of a lot of moderation" — how unguardedly you expose yourself. Can it be that you mourn for yourself and for the safety of your life more than for the violent end of a monumental human being? Can it be that the safety of your father's business and of your home overshadows your concern for the triumph of vicious hatred and ignorance over understanding and love?

Look at yourself, Northwestern student. See how small you are.

Lawrence Miller
CAS '69

Dr. King's Failure

This morning near the Grill I met a large group of Negro students silently walking by. Thinking that it was a demonstration in memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King, I asked where they intended to go so I could join them.

The first few that passed by literally thumbed their noses, but otherwise ignored me. Then one young man said an obscenity. The last emphatically stated, "You can't come."

Such behavior only emphasizes the depth of Dr. King's failure.

Anne Marie Eberhardt
CAS '70

Lost Humanity

Who was your hero? Martin Luther King? Malcolm X? John F. Kennedy? George Lincoln Rockwell? It doesn't matter. He's dead.

There has always been hatred but the decision to pull a trigger and end a life is made more frequently and casually than ever before. Respect for human life has reached an all-time low in United States history. The universal problem solver is a bullet in the neck. Abraham Lincoln experienced the fact that one can't please all the people all the time, but is one obliged to die because of it?

One is compelled to ask, "Why?" Maybe we are growing less human. The bigness of everything around makes one insignificant in comparison. Ask yourself how much you matter to A&P, Macy's, or IBM. I despair because I feel powerless to stop the growth and domination of giant industry and even larger government. As I feel myself approaching the state of a statistic, I feel less and less a man. Clearly, it is easier to kill a statistic than a man. Humanity, where have you fled?

Harry Hempy
Grad

Deserve Rules

We think that if students are too immature to follow university rules, then they simply don't deserve to have them.

Steve Lubet CAS 70
Bobbie Frysinger CAS 70
Cathy Lynch Jour 70
Wendy Bortnick CAS 70
Gail Perlow Sp 71
Barbara Swauik Sp 69
Joe Vass CAS 68