

Point of View

David Rankin, a member of the North Community Association and advocate for affordable housing, made some very important points. Rankin stated that it takes only one highly motivated person, like Martin Luther King Jr., to make a change. He went on to say that things worth changing are things worth fighting for. So chose your battle and get involved.

Before the march began, Faith Tabernacle Choir sang "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" to get everyone motivated. The first historical point in which we marched around was Silent Sam, a Confederate War memorial erected by the Daughters of Confederacy and the university on the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1913. We then marched down Franklin Street where hundreds of black high school and UNC students were arrested. Farther down near Carrboro was the black business district in 1960 where high school students from the all-black Lincoln High staged the first sit-in in 1960.

Then we marched down the corner of Cotton and McDade Streets. During the Civil Rights Movement, it was a place for black youth to meet apart from others in the movement to decide their course of action. Continuing, we stopped by the Hargraves Recreation Center. The building was built due to a rebellion in 1937 by blacks for a recreation center. The white civic leaders felt it was a worthwhile project. The last stop was the First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. It is one of the oldest



UNC Student Body President Reyna Walters delivered MLK day speech on the steps of the post office on Franklin Street.
Photo: Delvin Davis

and largest black churches in Chapel Hill. One of the churches where Civil Rights rallies were held.

When asked why they came out to the march and rally, people responded in the following way:

"To keep the dream alive and promote unity,"

"To promote affordable housing, and to celebrate a man who gave his life for our freedom,"

"I wanted to take a stand for equality because actions speak louder than words"

During the march, we chant sever-

al songs such as "We Shall Not be Moved" and "Hey Hey! Ho Ho! Racism has got to go!"

The march and rally was a great success. The goals of the event were to educate people on the issue of affordable housing in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and to get people involved in the community. Both goals were accomplished.

We should learn from this event that standing still will get us no where. We will remain in the hands of the oppressor as long as we do not get involved. We will never reach equality by doing nothing. Better said by Mr. David Rankin, "Choose your battle and get involved."