

# Editorials

## Memorial For Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 20, 1986, The United States held its first federal holiday for a black person. The birth of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., was celebrated by people all over the world. Federal offices were closed along with some other agencies.

All over the United States, people paid homage not only to Dr. King, but also to what he stood for, equality for all men. Even in Fayetteville, more than 500 people gathered to hear Belton Joyner, the United Methodist Church's Executive Director for the N.C. Annual Conference and Council on Ministers. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was the keynote speaker at an international conference in Atlanta sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. Later in the evening of the 20th, Harry Belafonte and Bill Cosby were the cohosts of a celebration. In Washington's Kennedy Center, Stevie Wonder, Eddie Murphy, and others held a celebration honoring Reverend King. In Atlanta, King's Widow, Coretta

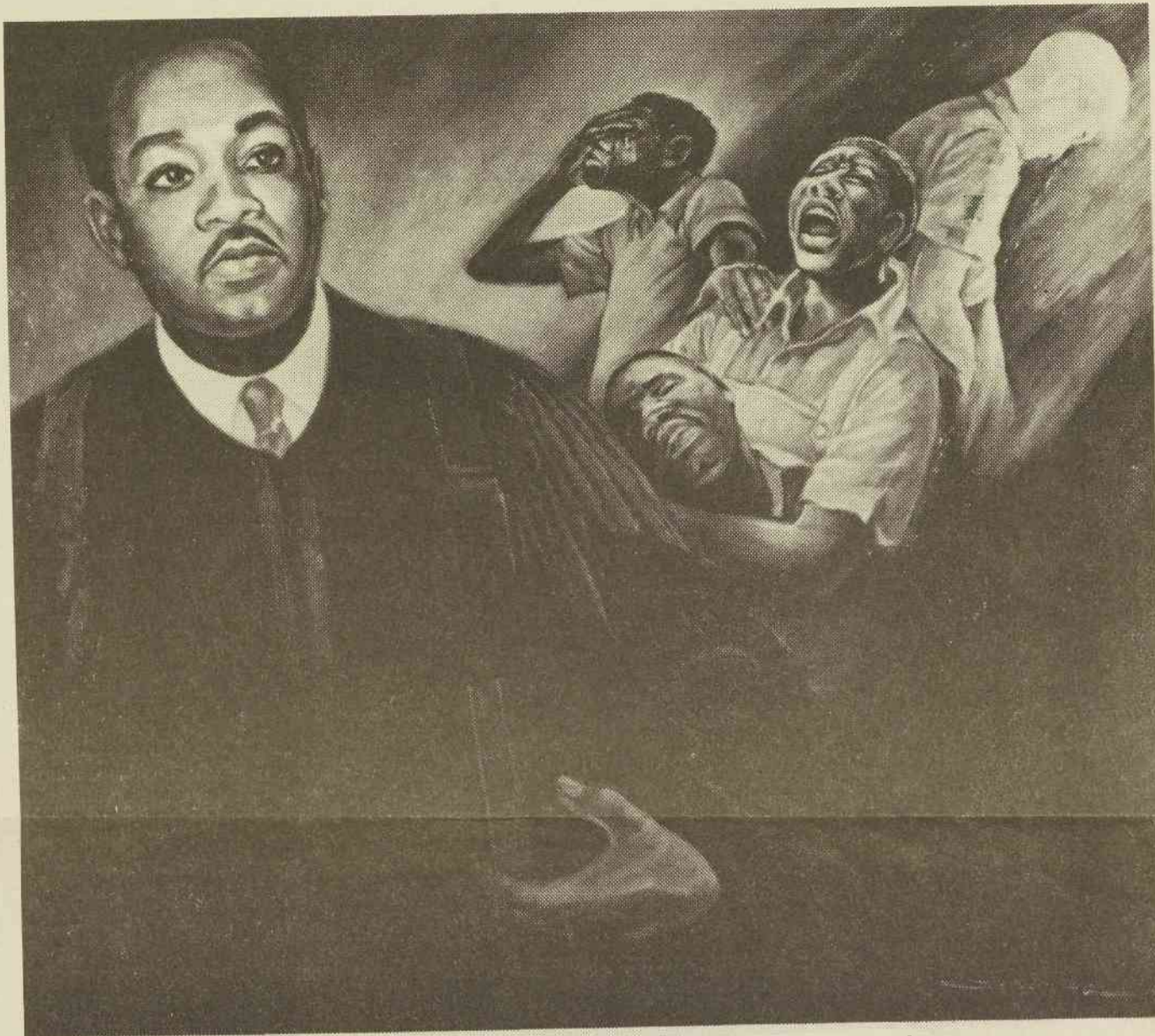
Scott King was joined by Patti Labelle and others for a celebration at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

Vice President George Bush, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, and Senator Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., attended a ceremony at Ebenezer Baptist Church to help in the commemoration of King by presenting Bishop Tutu with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Prize.

Now, if all of these famous and very busy people could take a day off, if the federal government could close down most of its offices losing approximately 18 millions of dollars in holiday pay and paying people for a day they did not work; if all of this could happen, why couldn't Fayetteville State University take the day off to do the same?

Many students, regardless of their motives, were upset by the fact that there was no celebration of the holiday for Dr. King.

Even if it only means a reshuffling of already given holidays, perhaps the administration should consider taking the necessary steps to make Martin Luther King's birthday an official school holiday.



## Student Forum

Monday, January 21, 1986 was a national holiday recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday. Fayetteville State University however resumed scheduled classes and in doing so aroused the attention of many students. When asked how they felt about not having classes cancelled, our responses were:

I hated it; just about every other Black College had the day off except us. I think there should be a change in the Student Government. K.K.

I feel that we should have had the day off because he was the one who helped the black people get started in school and other educational fields. The black colleges should have paid tribute to him by staying from class and to celebrate. R.C.

I feel that this university, being a predominantly black institution, let the students and the black

community down by not observing this holiday. We are often reminded to remember that we are black college students, and without Dr. King's help, we may not have been able to get an education at a black institution. I hope next year the administration will wise up and use their intelligence and recognize the holiday. Mark Greer

I feel that since FSU is a black college we should have had the whole day off to honor Dr. Martin L. King, not just a couple of hours. I feel what he did for us took more than a couple of hours that we gave him and his next birthday we should honor him with the whole day off! A.S.-Student

Considering that we're students and that we've learned so much about Dr. King, and to know how much he has done for us, not only as blacks, but for human beings as well. I think that from now on out, that us students be able to

celebrate Dr. King's Birthday with a day out to remember what he has done for us.

I feel that we students and the Administration at FSU should have the day off. If all other black schools and some businesses had the day off, we the students should have had the day off too. I was angry about this and others were upset too! Student

On the subject of the Reverend Martin L. King Jr. Holiday, I found it very hard to believe that Fayetteville State University did not celebrate Monday in no shape or form, or fashion. Why did we as blacks fight a long and narrow path to get this and celebrate a great holiday? But yet this day went unnoticed on campus when it arrived! How does this as black Americans look to others? Shelton G. Watson

## Editor's Welcome

First of all, on behalf of the other staff members, I would like to welcome all students, faculty members, and administrators to their first issue of *The Voice* in the Spring Semester of 1986.

This semester, *The Voice* is going to attempt to adjust its scope so as to concentrate on the role of the student in the University. *The Voice* is going to focus on the student through reports of student organi-

zations and any other activities that involve students.

*The Voice* is staffed almost entirely by Freshmen this semester. Perhaps these people, who are new to the university, can add a little "new blood" to the paper. The freshmen are still unattained by total assimilation into the system of apathy that plagues the university. Maybe, the sight of freshmen taking the reigns

of leadership will inspire other students to get involved in campus activities.

Remember, it is never too late to get involved with campus activities. Fayetteville State University has more than 70 organizations that students can join. Yet, the students are always complaining that there is never anything to do. Get involved; join in and make things happen.

## Editorial Policy

All editorials that appear in *The Voice* are an expression of opinion. The comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of any body within Fayetteville State University except for the

individual writing the editorial.

*The Voice* invites all letters of comment or criticism. The letters do not have to be typed but legibly written. The letters should be signed by the writer and

delivered to the office of *The Voice* located in the Rudolph Jones Student Center. All Letters Are Subject To Editing To Protect *The Voice* Against Libel.