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Dr. M. L. K., Jr. Suspected Students Busted By Authorities Forgotten? Action Taken Against Illegal Drug Use

By Daniell Hartness and Kathryn Letterman

By Chad Smith

"How can this college give us S.A.L.T. (Servant and Leadership Training) and yet neglect to give attention to one of the most prominent servant leaders this nation has ever seen?" remarked freshman Henry Logan, after the nation observed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 17.

Schools and businesses across the nation paid special tribute and respect to a man that has forever changed this nation, Martin Luther King, Jr. However, that was not the case at M-AC.

Many students expressed their feelings and opinions on the matter and wondered why there was not even mention of his name or how he has affected the lives of not just the minority, but people of all races and all cultures. "I feel somewhat disappointed that M-AC does not attempt to recognize Dr. King, Jr.'s Holiday. I do not say this because I am an African-American, but because this man is a significant individual in history. He stood for equal rights for all individuals, not just blacks. Failure to recognize his importance, to me, means that somebody does not care to realize his importance to all our lives today," commented concerned student Shon Snipes.

Four students were suspended last week after a police investigation, in cooperation with M-AC. The parties involved were charged with all or some of the following: contributing to the delinquency of a minor, hosting parties where illegal drugs were possessed or consumed; possession, consumption, and distribution of illegal drugs.

Vice-President for Student Development Charlie Lance explained that originally, the rumors about students using drugs began last semester. Then, the situation became more serious as other students and staff members expressed concern and eventually, specific names were disclosed.

Lance contacted the Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) and compared notes. Lance assumed the MEG, based on their reaction, had an investigation already in progress. In fact, Lance and the MEG had in common the names of the students that

were allegedly involved.

Lance heard direct eyewitnesses, police testimony, and saw hard police evidence against the suspects. He was, however, asked to refrain from taking any action on the students. The police informed Lance that there was another student in question, and explained that taking action against the others at this time may tip the other one off.

The investigation continued throughout last semester, and police finally moved on the Wednesday following registration. One suspect's room was searched, however, the police chose not to bring charges against the items that were found. The MEG gave jurisdiction of the matter to Lance and the situation was handled administratively.

The four students involved admitted guilt to all or part of the charges given, and all were suspended with a twenty-four hour time period in which they had to be off

campus. All charged withdrew officially from the college, and this discrepancy will not be on their academic record. The four students will technically be eligible to reapply in the fall.

Some students were angry about the action taken by the administration. "I think the school is more concerned about its name than about the people involved. If they are so convinced that these people are 'druggies', then why didn't the school offer them some help?" exclaimed student Cindy Willis. Willis' roommate, Julie Giegerich added, "What's a 'Christ-centered' image anyway?"

Senior Eric Bush offered a different approach, "I think it's very sad that this had to happen, but I also find it wrongheaded to expect the college, or any other institution, to be Christian on our behalf. If people really care about those who were caught, they should call them or go see them and offer whatever support is needed."

Snipes was not alone in her statement, many students commented that it did seem odd that nothing was done to honor the respectable Dr. King, Jr. "It's a shame that we can't support America--what made America, and what changed America. Why was there no reflection made on the man that was the essence of a servant leader?" noted junior Shalimar Kinsey.

In talking with President Hurt, he stated that nothing was intentionally

done to neglect students from celebrating this holiday, and that he will look to be better prepared for next year's holiday commemorating the late Dr. King, Jr.

"When I first came here, it used to really bother me that nothing was done for Dr. King, Jr.'s Holiday, but I have learned that it is not intentional and meant to offend students.

Last year I read a part of one of Dr. King, Jr.'s speeches, but with such

a heavy workload this semester, I wasn't able to prepare anything. One person can't do it by themselves. It takes everybody pulling and working together," shared senior Donna Buggs. Buggs continued to comment that students need to get involved and change things they have compassion about, adding that if students are offended or hurt by what goes on at this college then they need work with one other to share the dreams that they have.

Temperatures Plunge Below Freezing...

M-A Hall Not Equipped to Handle Merciless Winter Weather

By Joyce Downs

A furious Arctic air mass from Canada that swept across the Mid and Eastern parts of the U.S. was responsible for last week's bitter cold weather that hit M-AC and its neighboring towns. On Sunday, January 16, Asheville hit a record low of -1 F and Black Mountain went down to a chilling negative three degrees.

Professors and students alike have been forced to cope with this fiercely cold weather. Due to freezing rain, on Monday January 17, various M-AC professors were not able to leave their homes because of the very hazardous road conditions. This resulted in the cancellation of many classes.

English and French professor Dale Britton who lives in Hendersonville, located an hour drive from the college, was forced to stay home that day. "There was a layer of ice on everything," exclaimed Britton.

Student's concern was to try to keep warm, especially residents of M-A Hall, because of the problems with the radiators and windows. M-A Hall's Resident Director Paula Johnson states that there have been many complaints about the radiators not generating enough heat to warm up the rooms and that the chilling air penetrating through the windows added to their discontent. The maintenance crew was helpful as

to attend to the dorm's problems by cleaning out the radiators and moving furniture away from them so that the heat could easily circulate. As far as the problems with the windows, "I gave them duct tape," remarked Paula Johnson.

Off-campus students as well as on campus residents fell victims to the grim cold spell that this part of the country was experiencing. SGA Vice President Janie King who resides off-campus was without running water for four days because the extreme cold temperatures violently ruptured a water pipe in the laundry room, forcing the building to shut off its running water. "I've had

to go up to school to shower...etc.," replied King when she asked how she was coping with this situation.

Despite the biting weather however, exchange student from South Africa Queen Musengwa expresses a liking toward it. She claimed, "It's a fun experience." Chris Cauley, a senior, and Katherine McIlwain, a junior, agreed except that they "wished it would snow". On the contrary, Stephanie Harrison from Hickory, North Carolina, expressed, "I'm ready for summer." She may have the right idea as temperatures are predicted to warm back up into the 50's and 60's for the next few days.

6.6 California Earthquake Damages Kramer's House

Friends and Relatives of Oblander, Shoemate, Wright Affected

By Daniell Hartness

Southern California received their wake up call by an earthquake about 4:30 Monday morning on January 17. The earthquake reached a 6.6 on the Richter scale. The earthquake effected residents up and down the eastern coastline from San Diego to Seattle, Washington. This was the largest earthquake in California since the 7.1 tremor in San Francisco in 1990.

This earthquake seemed more traumatizing than most because earthquakes usually arise deep within the earth, and when it does reach the surface, the impact is not as intense. This one, however, was

shallow and started near the surface of the earth. Therefore, the initial blow and the aftershocks were intensified.

The actual quake lasted for about thirty seconds, which is more lengthy than most, and after shocks were still occurring a week after the earthquake. There have been over one thousand after shocks since the incident.

Students Jennifer Kramer, Denise Oblander, Kleigh Shoemate, and Mark Wright were directly affected by the disaster. Kramer, a freshman, lives in Chatsworth, California. Chatsworth is near the epicenter, which was the center of the earthquake.

Kramer's house was severely damaged, however, no one in Kramer's residency was seriously injured.

Shoemate, new student and sophomore, is from Bakersfield, located an hour from Los Angeles. Shoemate's family survived unscathed. Oblander, a freshman from Visalia, received no damage. Her grandparents, however, live in Los Angeles but were not hurt.

Wright's grandparents live in Vista, which is one hour away from Los Angeles however, they, too reported no injuries. Intense damage occurred nonetheless. There

were brick walls and chimneys down, water pipes were broken, buildings were levelled--in some cases destroyed, also there were freeways and airports torn down and out of electricity and water.

Some say that this earthquake shows the wrath of God. Kramer expressed that "God was definitely there because through all the damage, there were not a lot of casualties." Although this may show the grace of God, Oblander offered another perspective, "I feel God has to create natural disasters for us to wake up and realize what is important--our lives, not material items."