

Tomorrow's Martin Luther Kings

On January 15 we will once again celebrate the birthday of a great American and citizen of the world: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many school children will recite his I Have a Dream speech given at the 1963 March on Washington and we will pay tribute to a great religious and moral leader of our lifetime.

But in the course of remembering Dr. King's life, it's important to remember that when he came into the nation's limelight as a leader of the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 he was only 26 years old.

As the civil rights movement showed here in the United States and the anti-apartheid movement did in South Africa, young people are often in the forefront of social change.

Who, then, are the future Martin Luther King, Jr. in our time? Who are the young people who are working for justice for their people?

While the media often ignore the stories of young people working for positive change, the good news is there are many young people who are about the business of justice for all. Here are the stories of just two of them.

Angela Brown

Angela Brown is the only American winner of the Reebok Human Rights Award, an international award honoring young human rights activists working on the front lines for social change. We in the Commission for Racial Justice are especially proud of Angela because we have watched and encouraged her from age 14, when she organized young people around education and voter registration.

A child of the civil rights movement, she has been involved in the environmen-

tal justice movement from its inception and Angela now works with the Southern Organizing Committee and Greenpeace in organizing young people across the South around environmental justice issues.

Her successful work helped to prevent the installation of PVC plant in Wallace, Louisiana and a hazardous waste incinerator in Noxubee, Mississippi. She

up again."

Justin was named North Dakota Indian Student of the Year in 1994 by the North Dakota Indian Education Association and was selected for Who's Who for three consecutive years. A natural leader, Justin has served as National Vice-Chair for UNITY, the United National Indian Tribal Youth Organization.

UNITY believes that as

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

Bernice Powell Jackson

is also an assistant pastor at Saint Delight UCC in Louisburg, N.C.

To today's young people, Angela Brown says, "Our generation is faced with a continual epidemic of drugs, the culture of violence, the sin of racism, the pain of miseducation, the divisiveness of class, and the indecisiveness to truly end sexist oppression. As young people we can not continue to aid in these kinds of environmental atrocities. It is our human right all over this world to work, live and play in a healthy environment. I hope all people, but especially young people, will hear my call to struggle and demand their human rights."

Justin Deegan

Justin Deegan is an Arickara/Sioux from the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

Currently a student at the University of North Dakota State University at Fargo, Justin's Indian name is We Cha Sha Nahzin, which means "Standing Man" in Dakota Sioux, a name given to him by his father who taught him that "when a man falls down, he must get back

Indian youth, their members can make changes through their 12 inter-related goals - Unity, Spiritually, Family, Heritage, Health, Environment, Sovereignty, Mental, Service, Education, Physical and Community.

An athlete and scholar, Justin is also a Sunday School teacher in the church which his mother pastors in Bismarck.

Justin is working with other Indian youth to make the world a better place for themselves and their people, he says, "I have become more aware of education for myself and for other Indian youth. I realize it is a tool for us to become more prosperous and spiritual. Throughout my journey I have dedicated myself toward protecting our environment and being drug/alcohol free."

One of Justin's role models is Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and he hopes to one day be elected to public office and serve in Washington.

Justin Doogan and Angela Brown are just two of our future Martin Luther King, Jr.s. I think Dr. King would be proud.

(Bernice Powell Jackson is Executive Director of United Church of Christ Commission For Racial Justice.)

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

This page is dedicated to a man who didn't see the world in black and white.

Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 1996

Miller

Letter To The Editor:

To The Editor

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that injustice anywhere was a threat to justice everywhere. He said this about segregation and discrimination: "Let us never succumb to the temptation of believing that legislation and judicial decrees play only a minor role in solving this problem. Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless." (Quotation from Strength of Love)

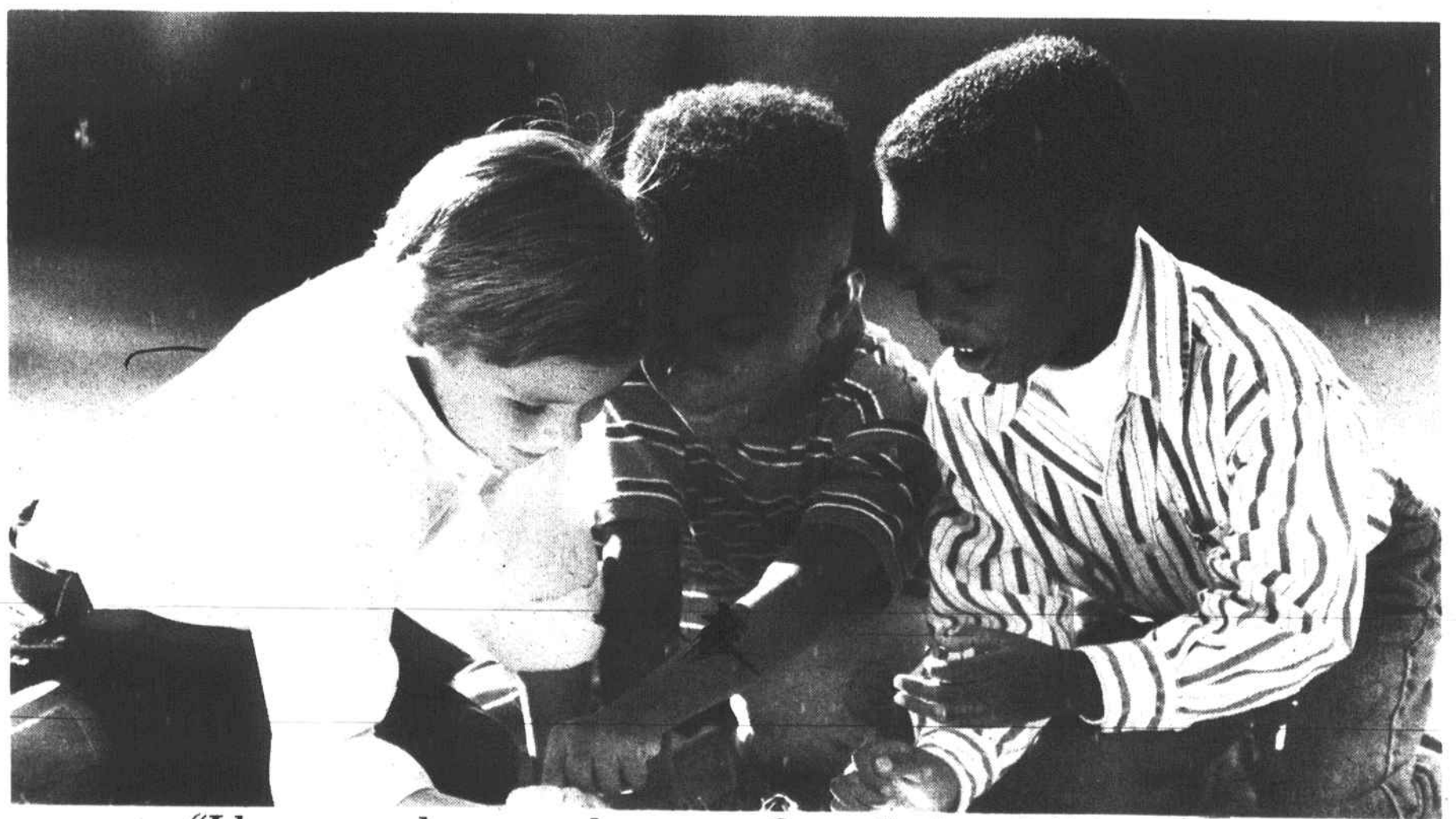
What might Dr. King have said about our current treatment of the immature members of our species?

Dr. King devoted his life to opposing the choice to discrimi-

nate on the basis of race. But one week after his birthday we observe the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which freed us to choose to discriminate fatally on the basis of "wontedness," physical maturity, appearance, sex, health, dependence, sentience, parentage, or any other criterion, including race, if it is done before birth.

Are these criteria any less arbitrary or subjective than race? By what logic shall we choose criteria for excluding others from the protection of the human community? What does the acceptance of such criteria for destruction say about the content of our character?

Sincerely,
Alfred Lemmo



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

When it comes to service, everything matters.®

Helping people realize their dreams is the best way we know to honor Dr. King's memory.

At First Union, we have a commitment to the communities where we live and work - to invest in them - to promote business -

to make loans available to people with special credit needs - to conduct free financial seminars that help turn your dreams into reality. So come talk. We like to listen. And we're ready to help.



©1996 First Union Corporation. Banking offices in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Member FDIC.

FIRST UNION