

High School Level (9-12)

1

PLACE

Rachel Osborn

I. One Nation
From sea to shining sea
and in the valleys of the Appalachians,
and snaking down the Mississippi waters
and lying in the crevices of Yellowstone National Park;
Hovers in the picnic baskets of Sunday Church dinners,
released through the mantras in every mosque,
vaulting in celebrations, *El Baile Folklórico*.
Fifty states are blessed by the coiled lasses of
Western Montana, and the country sings its
praise. All in a Nation.

II. One Dream
I fled to America, from Hitler's Gestapo, she'd tell me,
Don't forget my Dream. Apples and honey on
Rosh Hashanah, fried lakes at Chanukah, covered
heads on the Sabbath, candles blazing until
midnight. Her dream is not lost, but treasured in a shining
sea of Immigrant Aspiration. Reverberating dreams, seen
in the windows of every American family at
the dinner table. Where did they come from? When?
Why? For the same reason as my *Oma*.
She had a dream.

III. Bells
Jingle bells and liberty bells and the silver bells on slender bronze
fingers that play the pungent songs of concentrated passion. I feel musical.
I've had a dream: of equality and of liberty and of fulfillment and
of all the other nouns that make America America. Cries of
thanks and hymns of praise are emitted through the bells
that play the country's tune. *America, America*, they cried as
the rotting wood of the Mayflower met the virgin Plymouth shores,
God shed his grace on thee! And such waters have cultivated the
buds of dreamers since, sustained by the songs of
the liberty bell, *Let Freedom Ring*.
From sea to shining sea.

2

PLACE

Brodie Erwin

Race is an expanse that eternally separates the brotherhood of mankind
A tempest of color that wears away all foundation of our souls.
Visions of equality, thoughts of liberty, glimpses of a perfect utopia all
Sweep away in a dream deferred.

The words of pamoos, the song of the free simply
Never let our color come between you and me.
A burden of unrelenting pressure
carried on the backs of the masses each day.
Take the easy road and speak with the voice of the bigot
Or follow a higher path and be the voice of hope.

3

PLACE

Chandni Patal

"ONE NATION... ONE DREAM: LET FREEDOM RING"

We are the young and the old
We are the healthy and the diseased
We are the rich and the poor
We are the educated and the illiterate

We are a rainbow of races
We are a potluck of religions
We are a fusion of sizes and shapes
We are one nation

We want happiness and joy
We want friendship and love
We want trust and honesty
We want justice and commitment

We want to enjoy liberty
We want to feel safe
We want to have unity
We want to experience one dream

We let our tears flow
We let our children starve
We let the innocent die
We let crime take place

We should let our smiles run wild
We should let our laughs be heard
We should let love take over
We should let freedom ring

We are 300 million people, but we are only one nation
We have 300 million goals and aspirations, but let us wish to achieve
Let us have the desire to attain equality for all
Now is time that we, together, let freedom ring

Avondale minister to head King group

By Kevin Aldridge
THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

AVONDALE, Ohio - The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who battled Bull Connor in Birmingham and marched with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been named interim president and chief executive of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Shuttlesworth, 81, replaces King's son, Martin Luther King III, who resigned to take over the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change from his brother, Dexter. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a nonprofit human rights organization, was founded by King Jr. in 1957.

"I consider myself an old soldier on this battlefield," said Shuttlesworth, who fought to overturn segregation beginning in the 1950s. "This is a time when the SCLC needs me and the country needs the SCLC to return to its Christian principles."

Shuttlesworth, pastor of Greater New Light Baptist Church in Avondale, was a founding member and organizer of the Atlanta-based organization, and has served as both its secretary and vice president. Appointed last month, he is expected to serve six to eight months.

"Reverend Shuttlesworth was a natural fit to serve in this position until a permanent candidate can be identified," said Dr. Claud R. Young, the organization's national board chairman. "His knowledge and experience in dealing with civil rights matters and direct action will help to steer the organization until a replacement is named."

Shuttlesworth said he wants to lift the status of the organization by focusing on strengthening and increasing the number of affiliates around the country. He said he also hopes to inspire youths to become more involved in the struggle for civil rights.

"This country seems to have

gone backwards since Martin died," Shuttlesworth said. "The SCLC has to again grip the conscience of America like it did during the civil rights movement."

The minister did not rule out using the new position as a pulpit to speak out against injustices in Cincinnati. The city is still reeling from riots in 2001. Racial tensions heated up again two weeks ago after a 41-year-old African-American man died in a videotaped struggle with six police officers.

"I think the country was shocked at the police beating," Shuttlesworth said. "Those images should burn in the consciousness of America."

"I will always teach respect of policemen and support of policemen, but we need to question professionalism that ends up in brutality," he said. "We don't ever want the pro-

fessionalism or procedures of police to end up in the destruction of people's lives."

When asked if he would

support the economic boycott organized by local civil rights activists as his predecessor

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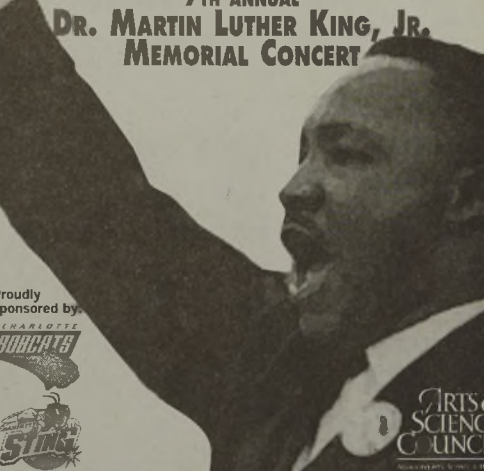
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

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