

# Black Ink

The essence of freedom is understanding

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## Robinson lectures on MLK, human rights

by Kenneth Harris  
Special Projects Editor

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"There is something to oppose besides communism," Randall Robinson said. In 1976 he was named the

executive director of TransAfrica, a Washington-based blooby group for Africa and the Caribbean.

Robinson's lecture, "the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr." was delivered on the birthday of the slain civil rights leader. On Jan. 20 King's birthday was observed; however North Carolina did not officially recognize the day.

"I sorrow to think that the only thing we have opposed in this country since World War II is communism," Robinson said. "Whatever side the Soviet Union is on, we're on the other side of the issue."

The 44-year-old Robinson commented that while on a recent trip to Cape Town, South Africa, he was amazed at how much the cities resembled America. He said he was angered to see a country so similar to

the United States denying its people some basic freedoms. He then criticized corporations such as B.F. Goodrich, General Motors Corp. and IBM for investing in South Africa.

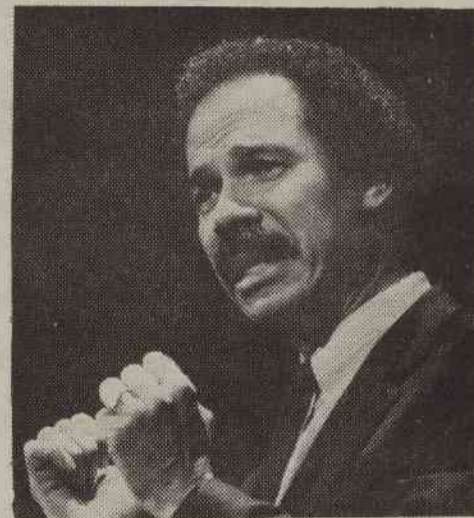
"I was walking down the street in Cape Town and I said all this looks familiar," he said. "I said this not only looks like America, this is America."

"Our nation is and has been for the last 40 years on the wrong side of the issue," he continued.

"Let us ask our corporations to come home," Robinson said. "Let us ask our Congress to impose economic sanctions."

The news media and the American public are partly to blame for the injustices occurring in other nations, according to Robinson. The

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Randall Robinson delivers the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lecture at Memorial Hall on Jan. 15.

## MLK birthday made holiday except in NC

by Shirley Hunter

On Jan. 15, 1981, it became evident that the 100,000 marchers who converged on Washington, D.C., were dedicated to one cause—the fight to make the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a national holiday. The march was the culmination of a long struggle to legally celebrate the birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

After several thousand letters had been written and several petitions signed, the battle was waged. Led by the efforts of such prominent, outspoken leaders and King's wife Coretta Scott King and Stevie Wonder, a battle was fought that took years to win. Finally, in 1983, the bill that would officially make the King Holiday a reality, was voted on by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. After a long bout with opponents, including N.C. Senator Jesse Helms, who objected to the holiday because of the cost of another holiday, the bill was signed on Nov. 3, 1983 by President Reagan. It officially made every third Monday in January a federal holiday beginning this year. Under the bill, state and local governments were not required to close schools and banks, although 17 states did so.

In North Carolina, there was no mandatory closing of schools and banks, but some schools, such as North Carolina Central University did observe the holiday by suspending classes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill did not suspend classes this year.

According to Vice Chancellor of University Affairs, Harold Wallace, a special committee that planned the celebration of Dr. King's birthday decided it would be better to celebrate the holiday differently.

The committee, along with the Carolina Union, planned the visit of the King Lecturer, Randall Robinson, on January 15. A candlelight service preceded the speech by Robinson, which was recognized as the official observance of Dr. King's birthday.

Wallace said the committee, which was composed of members from such groups as the Black Student Movement, Student Government, the Campus Y, and the Afro-American Studies Curriculum, would be available to accept proposals suggesting the holiday be celebrated by suspending classes. This would come in the next few years, Wallace said.

A member of the committee, Archie Ervin, said that such a sugges-

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Dr. Floyd McKissick delivers a speech at a program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. photo by Tammi Foust

## McKissick challenges blacks to continue struggle

by Suzanne Jeffries

Blacks must rededicate themselves to the principles of the Civil Rights struggle and carry it one step further by becoming producers in America's economic society, a Civil Rights activist said Jan. 12 in a speech in Great Hall.

"We live in an economic society and although it's nice to work for

someone, it's also important to produce, own and manufacture and to fully participate in American society," said Floyd McKissick.

"We're (blacks) not seeking to integrate by going into a Holiday Inn," he said. "We want to own three or four inns whether they be the Holiday Inn or the polka dot inn."

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