

Luther King Jr.

A Dramatic Tribute To Dr. King

By Vincent L. Smith

In the midst of another act of history being set, many mysterious experiences take place. Not long ago preparations were being made to pay tribute to one of our fallen kings, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Various persons from numerous walks of life entwined themselves in activities to stress the essence of what this man's life stood for while he lived, as well as he continues to live in the minds of many.

Arrangements for January 15, 1981, the date of the slain leader's birthday has taken a mark throughout the world as it significantly relates to history. Thousands interacted to this day to tell the world to recognize the natural birth date as a national holiday in America and furthermore acknowledge the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Among all the tributes scheduled for that day, one would have to think the march on Washington coordinated by recording artist and entertainer, Stevie Wonder, would have to be by far at the peak of events that were scheduled for January 15, 1981.

Although local and state efforts were being made national attention was the highlight of the day. Unfortunately, nine others and myself weren't able to attend. Yes, we had made preparations to go and were on our way.

On the brisk morning of January 15, 1981, at approximately 3:50 a.m., nine St. Augustine's College students and one staff member left en route to Washington, D.C. to participate in an effort to help legalize Dr. King's birthday.

John Jolly, president of Saint Augustine's SGA was coordinator of the trip and driver of the fifteen seat van. The majority of people who planned to go were present and accounted for and prepared properly to make the trip. While loading on the van and getting ready to leave campus, Stevie Wonder's recording, "Happy Birthday" happened to be

playing, which heightened our spirits for the journey ahead.

After riding ten to fifteen miles outside of Raleigh, weather and road conditions began to appear hazardous. Five miles later the conditions proved themselves quite evident. John Jolly seemed to be driving along quite well, when all of a sudden, the van hit an ice slick and began to swivel from side to side.

From the rear a voice beckons "take your foot off the brake, take your foot off the brake." Jolly replied calmly, "I don't have my foot on the brake." At that point an array of alarmness filled the van. Now the vehicle appeared to have straightened out although it may have been hydroplaning.

This was only temporary, because passing over the bridge was another ice slick. This ice slick was a tremendous hazard to us as it took control and spinned the van completely around, off the road, and forced the

rear end of the van a yardstick out of a creek, and the front end facing forward leaning and tilting on the embankment where we were lodged.

Fast thinking and self-control allowed all of us to exit the van without major injury. Other than the excitement of it all, everyone seemed physically and mentally safe, except two people, one being a victim of a possible back injury and the other being a leg injury.

After everyone was present and accounted for, we began to consider rescue techniques, as well as safety measures for our location. Unfortunately, the lights on the van were pointed practically straight up the road; so this didn't shine too favorable in signaling passing vehicles. We were left with no other alternative than to stand on the side of the highway and try to flag down passing motorists.

During the process a passing motorist encountered the same ice slicks and made a complete turn and almost traveled off the highway to where we were standing. At another point, two semi-trucks were speeding down the highway when a camper trailer passed them unstably in the area where we had been standing.

After rescue units had arrived, three other vehicles in our vicinity had accidents. After an hour and a half, those who needed medical attention were taken to the hospital and the others were safely on their way back to campus.

Thanks to passing motorists, rescue units, and most definitely the Grace of God for sparing our lives through such a traumatic experience. Although we had a rough night and a long morning before the day ended some of us were still able to participate in the local and state commemoration to Dr. King.

In Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

By Austin Cooper

On January 15, 1981 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have been fifty-two years of age. In Washington, D.C. over 100,000 persons, led by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Stevie Wonder, and other notables marched.

The purpose of this march was to appeal to the United States Congress to pass the proposed legislation of Congressman John Conyers to make January 15 a National Holiday.

I can think of no other person within this century who is more deserving of this special recognition than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For he has truly proven himself to be a dedicated leader of his people. This he did for thirteen years. When those around him were afraid to stand up and speak out for that which was right, Dr. King did so and gave others the courage to also.

He was not afraid to die for that he believed in because he believed that death was a cheap price to pay for the freedom of his people, both

born and yet unborn. His plea of "If anyone should be killed, let it be me" was prophetic and much more than a histrionic burst. Although his words were eloquent and moving, his actions in behalf of his cause spoke far louder.

His philosophy was nonviolence and passive resistance was his method or means of achieving his goals. One has to understand that his approach to the problem of racism was the logic of his religious training.

Having Mohandas Gandhi as his mentor, he sought to use the same methods as used by Gandhi when he led his countrymen in their revolt against the British. Dr. King regarded the situation during Gandhi's time and the situation of the Negro in America to be almost the same.

He was quick to question those who believed that violence would win us our freedom. How could a minority, comprising of but ten percent of a prosperous and powerful nation, revolt against a system that controlled practically all commercial commerce and all weapons?

He believed that by protesting in a nonviolent manner, the plight of his people would be dramatized in order for the whole world to see the unfairness of white America to the Negro citizens. He understood that this country could not advise other countries on practicing democracy and equality without looking at herself first.

There is not one person today who has not benefited from the life and the work of Dr. King in some way or another. While we all may realize how great a leader of us he was, we cannot afford to sit around and wait for another King to walk on the scene and take up where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left off in 1968.

It is up to us to do this, to support our Civil Rights Organizations and if you are not satisfied with the work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or the National Urban League, then get together with those who share your dissent and organize to form your own Civil Rights Organization!

But, do not just sit back and criticize. There are far too many black people in the world as of now who have already taken this attitude.

A Memorial: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Vinecia Bunch

On Thursday, January 15, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, rendered a memorial service in behalf of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The opening prayer was by Danny Mitchell followed by the introduction of the occasion by Dennis Haggray. The scripture was by Charles Edwards.

The college Gospel Choir sang two selections. Brief remarks were given by Student Government representative, Michael Cox. Austin Cooper presented the speaker for the occasion.

The speaker, Dr. Wesley McClure, Executive Assistant to the President, spoke mainly about how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s works effected black America's life of today. He also emphasized the importance of students setting goals and the importance of religion.

Mr. Don Haynes gave the litany. The benediction by college chaplain, Rev. Ronald N. Fox followed remarks given by Dr. Thelma Roundtree, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Salute to King

By Ida Bulluck

He was tall, broad and handsome
With skin the tone of mahogany
His eyes bright with life
and with a grin he showed his pearly whites
His smile was that of hope and faith
and a glimmer of cheer
And from his lips the word "no"
one would never hear.
A strong Black man oh yes he was
He preached of a dream he had
which derived from Love
Striving for freedom and what was right
This man had so much influence among his people
That on the evening of April 6 in 1968
They took his life.

Ode to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

We
are thankful for the men...
(those men),
Who've led us through the segregated den;
into a world, though timely inspired,
we thank the man-Godly desired.

We
are thankful and apparently rid,
though battles rage on, with bigotry hid,
disguised in love, shattered hate;
while equity is upon us-
we still wait.

And thankful we are
for Carmichael's sound,
Ghandi and boycotts,
Montgomery bound.

Meredith, Mississippi
and Rosa's bus,
integration seekers,
their sit-ins, a must.

For posies and horses,
cramped jails...
burned crosses;

Fire hoses, the voting right
of a peace winner's visions,
morality's fight.

We
are thankful... Yes,
for the bigot's stare:
his maddening charm
and brutal care.

for without his cause we'd not have seen
nor been inspired through the truths of King,
who from balcony thrones did chose to fight,
with God's own guidance as his might.

Yes,
until the day of that thunderous gun,
this myth deemed King
led masses as one.

We
are thankful
for marches,
the dream,
for baptismal warriors,
for
Martin Luther King.

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Littered at Charles Galleries, Inc., Virginia Beach, Va. 1980

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

The National Negro Anthem
By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies, let it resound loud as a rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over away that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way, Thous who hast by thy
might,

Led us into the light, keep us forever in the past, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, True to our God,
true to our Native Land.