

Point

Counterpoint

Students debate emphasis of King holiday

On January 18, our nation (and probably many other nations) recognized and celebrated the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. On this particular day, we paid homage to a martyr who fought tirelessly for the equality and togetherness of all people. This seems to me a most disheartening reality of America's recognition of the struggle for civil rights.

Someday, Americans will have to recognize the King holiday for what it truly is. The holiday signifies the battle for civil rights that was fought by millions of Americans throughout their lives.

There are two ways that Americans can celebrate the successes of the civil rights movement. Americans must first remember that Dr. King's loud cries for equality and justice would not have been heard if others had not committed their lives to the movement. We have to remember Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., who fought for civil rights before his son was even born. We must remember that Malcolm X and Marcus Garvey sought to renew faith and pride in a race that had known nothing but oppression for hundreds of years. We have to notice the writings of Nikki Giovanni, James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, and Maya Angelou, who risked their careers to denounce the horrible treatment and discrimination that minorities and women faced and still face today. Jesse Jackson, Douglass Wilder, Shirley Chisholm, and Carol Mosley Braun are recent and current examples of the obstacles overcome for minorities and women in the political realm. Don't forget the softspoken Rosa Parks whose refusal to submit to Jim Crow laws made her a symbol of equality.

Secondly, the recognition of the triumphs and tribulations of civil rights advocates can not be limited to annual ceremonial programs. Instead, they should be remembered every day of our lives. After all, they fought for the things we take for granted today. In the 1950's thousands of people walked various distances to avoid riding the bus in the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott. People of all ages suffered humiliation and lost their lives to eat in nice restaurants, to drink from water fountains, and to vote in elections. Also remember that there wouldn't be a Hope Murdock, a Katherine Ku, a Nadia Ali or a Neasha Bryant attending Meredith College if not for the sacrifices made in the Civil Rights Movement.

Can we fathom dying for the prosperity of future generations? Can we imagine being denied our basic rights because of our race, religious background, or gender? No ... we'll never be able to imagine participating in the turbulent struggle for civil rights. Therefore, we owe some recognition and appreciation to those who did every day of their lives.

Neasha
Bryant



Jeaneen
Logan



When we think of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his birthday, we remember events like the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, the March on Washington and the famous "I Have a Dream" speech among other things. The key to whatever memory we may have is the man behind it, Dr. Martin Luther King. He serves as the father of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s in most people's minds. He stood for such ideals as peace, equality and brotherhood, some of the same ideals that motivated the movement as a whole.

Many Americans, both African-American and white, respect and admire Dr. King namely for his message. Those who watched and listened to him could not help but be drawn to his masterful voice and his assertive manner. His message of non-violence probably created so much appeal from the American public. People were familiar with the ugliness of the movement — how African-

Americans were brutalized in the streets and how seemingly respectable citizens behaved in ways that disgusted and embarrassed society. What intrigued many people was Dr. King's approach. It was through methodical, rational, and legal means that Dr. King encouraged America to respond to crisis. He made it a priority to remain within the system in the pursuit of equality in this country so that all people could enjoy the benefits and opportunities entitled to them by birthright.

Today Dr. King serves as a symbol to all Americans. He is an inspiration to many because of his ideals and his dedication to those ideals. We see Dr. King as unique because at a time when this country suffered violent, miserable circumstances, he found a way to see beyond emotion and to think of a way to improve his world. For all of Dr. Martin Luther King's efforts, we who continue to embrace his memory are eternally grateful.

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best friend, big sister,
little sister (or
yourself)?

The Junior class has the
perfect gift!

Juniors are selling "A Meredith Angel Loves You" boxer shorts. The boxers are \$9 each. They will be on sale this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in the cafeteria during lunch and dinner. Come order yours today!

MEA Movie

Far and Away

starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman

Friday, 7 p.m.
Kresge Auditorium
Bring your friends!