

Editorial: MLK Jr.'s Birthday a reason to celebrate

By Wendy Kelly

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday symbolizes a variety of reasons for celebration. For me it is a time of remembering the absurdity and horror of people proudly oppressing and segregating African-Americans in society. It is also a time of reflecting upon the amazing amount of love and faith King and his followers had for humankind. But most of all I am in awe of King as a civil rights leader who forced all of America to examine how they could not possibly justify racism. King spurred a movement in which the United States of America had to stand by its Declaration of Independence.

It goes without saying that we have come a long way since the 60's, yet the end of this journey is not really in sight. Because I am a part of the first generation that attended desegregated schools all the way through, I feel privileged. But how has this changed

my life or yours in comparison to, say, our mothers? It is still not widely accepted to date across racial lines, become best friends or to sit in church with those from another race. But yes, in comparison to our mothers, we have our token friend from a race different than our own that allows us to justify to a politically correct world that we are not prejudiced.

At this intersection of the journey we must decide what equality really means. Do we relate to each other without regard to ethnicity or do we try to find a way to celebrate our cultures without alienating people? The most difficult but obvious choice appears to me to be recognizing each other's history and discover and honor it with child-like enthusiasm. Without question this will be the most challenging choice of direction, and I hope I can rise to the occasion as our journey forward undoubtedly demands.

Calendar of Events

By Arinn Dixon

January 13 - The North Carolina Symphony and Ballet South will perform the full ballet of *Swan Lake* at 8pm in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. General admission seating only for \$25; student discount is \$18. Call Ticket master at (919) 834-4000 for tickets.

January 19-20 - The North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh will show the movie "Muriel's Wedding" as part of its Winter Foreign Film Series: Australian Cinema. The movie will show at 7pm and 9pm. Tickets \$3 at the door.

January 20 - The Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Festival will take place noon to 5pm at NCSU's McKimmon Center. There will be a variety of free activities for adults and children. Call 515-4516 for more information.

January 26 - The Bull Durham Blues Festival Benefit will be held at 8pm at the Carolina Theater in downtown Durham. The festival will feature Saffire-the Uppity Blues Women and is sponsored by St. Joseph's Historic Foundation Inc. Call 1-800-683-1709 for more information.

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