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The life of 'The Dreamer'

Next week most of the nation will celebrate the life of "The Dreamer." The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a giant of a man, a character for whom no single adjective could do descriptive justice.

His life of commitment, his moral strength and human compassion are indelibly printed on the pages of world history. Festivities and special observances across the nation will, no doubt, highlight him as a leader in the struggle for social justice and the battle against poverty.

No enlightened person would deny that he had a major impact on the civil rights movement. Many would credit King with most of the economic and social progress made by Afro-Americans during the past three decades.

It is easy to think of King in terms of the people who benefited from his courage and foresight. Most of us tend to think of King as more than a man; we think of him as a movement. We remember with passion his "I Have a Dream" speech.

King was fearless; he dared to set moral standards for the world. On an international scale he decried racism, imperialism, individualism and militarism. He challenged the nations of the world to embrace peace and humanity.

But more important, he set stringent standards for himself, recognizing all the while that he, too, was an imperfect being. He once said, "There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us."

With sincere humility King wrote his own epitaph when he delivered his "Drum Major for Justice" speech shortly before his assassination in 1968. No individual, this year or in years to come, could do as good a job eulogizing King as he did himself. In so doing, he left a challenge for every human being on this planet who would aspire to a life where moral principles outweighed materialistic considerations.

The poignancy and profundity of those words are what we wish to highlight this year on the occasion of the third national celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. We ask that you consider these excerpts from his "Drum Major" speech, and let's all vow to live so that when we die our living will have mattered.

"Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize ...that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have 300 or 400 other awards ...that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school.



"I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody.

"I want you to say that day that I tried to be right and to walk with them. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity.

*"...I just want to leave a committed life behind."
 May Peace be with you.*



Howard Beach is everywhere

NEW YORK -- The attention of the nation was focused recently on the verdict handed down in the Howard Beach case. For more than a year, Howard Beach has seemed the epitome of racially motivated violence. The image of a horde of white youths chasing three Afro-American men through the streets like dogs, until finally forcing one of them to his death, seemed the ultimate horror.

However, no Afro-American in this country is exempt from racially motivated violence -- not even Afro-American police officers. A recent case in Prince George's County, Md., a suburb of Washington, has proven this all too clearly. The county, which has a long history of racist violence, has a steadily increasing Afro-American population. However, the police force still remains predominantly white.

On Dec. 14, 1987, James L. Gordon, an Afro-American member of the Washington police force, was shot to death in his own home by a white policeman from Prince George's County. Gordon, 40 years old, was a 17-year veteran of the D.C. police force. The white officer, Cpl. Robert Raimond, though only 27 years old, had already been cited twice for police brutality in Prince George's County. In one case the complainant was awarded a \$4,400 judgement against Raimond for use

of unnecessary force in a traffic case. But Cpl. Raimond was cleared by a police trial board, and so he remained on the force.

to remain in the house during the investigation. A Washington police officer called the non-cooperation "highly irregular," adding, "(D.C.



CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

Last month Raimond was allegedly investigating a suspected burglary in the home of Officer Gordon, the Afro-American officer. Officer Gordon had recently arrived home. When the Afro-American officer moved toward a window in his own house, the white officer shot him through the window. The white officer claimed he thought he saw a gun in Gordon's hand. Officer Gordon died a short time later, on the floor of his own home. A neighbor says the white officer never identified himself, but had only yelled, "Freeze."

When an ambulance with paramedics arrived, the county police would not allow them to enter to treat Officer Gordon. County police claimed other intruders might still be in the house. Then when five Washington officers, including a homicide lieutenant and a district commander, arrived on the scene, they were not

police) never turn away an investigator from another police unit."

Several Afro-American police officers on the Washington force have openly called the killing racially motivated. They suggest that because the house was located in a middle-class neighborhood, and because it had a two-car garage that held Officer Gordon's Mercedes Benz, Cpl. Raimond assumed that the Afro-American man he saw in the house could not be its owner. On a recent call-in program on a local Afro-American radio station, some officers asked to be authorized to go in and get the white officer to bring him back to Washington in order to ensure a fair trial.

The Gordon killing is not an isolated incident in the county. Back in December 1986, Sir Kaylin Edwards,

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How to give and to receive

NEW YORK -- Suppose you got up one beautiful morning feeling your usual wonderful self and headed off to a high-paying job -- with a very promising future. Christmas is only a few weeks away and the Spirit is everywhere.

You are also a woman who has knocked down another barrier of sexism. You are averaging \$1,800 every two weeks as a salesperson in the men's department at one of Winston-Salem, N.C.'s better stores. "Just think what I'm going to earn during the Christmas week," you're thinking to yourself.

Things are going well outside the workplace, also. You are proud of your work as an avid Jesse Jackson-for-President Campaign volunteer. "Support Jesse Jackson; he needs his own," you wrote in the "Mailbag" column in the Winston-Salem Chronicle, the leading Afro-American paper, read by the city's best

in one of the paper's columns -- "Someone You Should Meet" -- you were highlighted. You are known for your work with the Big Sisters of the Triad and at your church, St. Peter's Church of God



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

Apostolic, as a hard worker and a fierce enemy of drug abuse.

Your three years at Winston-Salem State University (where this writer received his first honorary doctorate) have really paid off. "I wish everyone were as happy as I am," you must have thought.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, 1987, however, God had a test for you.

Just before the store closed on that fateful day, the personnel man-

ager asked you to step into a private room, where you were introduced to "an officer" and "interviewed" by the loss prevention manager of the store.

You were questioned about two

purchases charged to your credit card, one for \$142.95 and the other for \$116. Of course, these charges reflected a 30-percent discount because you are an employee of the store.

You freely admitted that you had allowed your nephew and a close friend to use this restricted card more than once. For these acts, you were promptly charged with

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Campaigning in the new year

TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

NEW YORK -- The 1988 presidential election campaign is likely to turn on the minority vote, but the many presidential contenders will not win Afro-American and Hispanic votes unless they understand America's need for policies and programs that lead us to a new era.

The candidates must begin by addressing America's ugly, hidden issue. Because the present policies have bred intolerance, a litmus test for every candidate will be his or her condemnation of all forms of racism -- in word and in deed. There will be no progress while racism is alive and well.

There are other priority issues, too.

One is education. One-third of the workforce will be Afro-American and minority. Up to half of those workers will be from poverty households. Many will be dropouts. They'll lack the skills required in our economy.

We've stopped investing in people -- and especially in young people at risk. All the talk about making America competitive again is nonsense without a massive commitment to educate and train our young people -- beginning with the poorest, the most vulnerable, the most at risk.

And if the politicians say we can't afford that, we'll have to tell them we can't afford *not* to do it. Studies show that investing in education and in training programs makes people employable taxpayers instead of consumers of welfare dollars. Such programs are actually cheaper because they return more to the Treasury than their cost.

The candidates also need to focus on developing aggressive policies that meet the urgent health, housing and survival needs of the poorest among us.

Families aren't homeless today because they like sleeping in parks or shelters -- they're homeless because the government and the private sector have stopped building low-income housing.

And today's biggest national scandal is the scandal that so few poor people get Medicaid or welfare assistance.

Less than half of all poor people get cash aid; 10 million poor people don't get food stamps; 30 million poor people don't get housing assistance, and virtually every means-tested program for the poor serves only a fraction of those eligible.

Social welfare legislation is needed to assure access to education, to training, and to work opportunities as well as to quality day care.

It should include universal coverage of all poor people, and to benefit levels no lower than the poverty line.

Resources and assistance should be targeted to the poorest, most vulnerable of the poor, especially young mothers at risk of long-term dependency.

The private sector has to be part of the process of progressive change, too. It needs to do more to move minorities up the corporate ladder, and to start doing more of

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CHRONICLE CAMERA

Budding meteorologists reveal origins of the snowfall

Snow -- the Triad and most Mid-Atlantic states saw lots of it recently. More than eight inches of the fluffy white stuff was dumped on the Triad area.

Some statistics report that last week's snow storm was one of the worst experienced in Winston-

Salem in more than a decade.

But, what is snow? What can be both beautiful, creating a postcard like winter wonderland scene and at the same time, produce hazardous driving and dangerous hardships for the city's homeless?

Snow is actually frozen water

vapor which comes from clouds. The vapor is formed into tiny crystals in the clouds at temperatures below freezing. Snow flakes (or snow crystals) are said to be only a few millimeters in diameter, however, some snowflakes have been reported measuring larger than the

palm of a person's hand.

Scientists also believe that no two snowflakes are alike. Viewed under a microscope, snow can yield an entertaining array of hexagonal symmetry.

Snow is also a favorite of children who often find themselves

preoccupied with developing snowmen (and women) or reasonable facimiles thereof. Snow ball fights have also become a favorite pastime in recent days.

This week, Chronicle Camera asked local children, from ages

four to 13, how snow is made and where it comes from.

A variety of interesting answers were received, and although the comments could not be included in the most prestigious scientific journals, they generally had the right idea.



"Snow comes from the clouds. When a lot of them form together they make rain. If it's cold they made sleet and snow."
 James Young
 Age 11



"It comes from the sky. God just gets mad and it comes down."
 Lamont McCall
 Age 13



"It comes up from 'the sky.'"
 LaShann Howell
 Age 4



"Snow's from the atmosphere, up."
 Alex Miller
 Age 6



"Snow is rain that has been completely frozen."
 Christina DuBose
 Age 9