

King's Words Challenge Nation to Dream

By COURTNEY WEILL
Senior Writer

More than 200,000 people — black and white, young and old — gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963, to demand "jobs and freedom" for all U.S. citizens.

On this hot, muggy day, those on the crowded Mall, along with millions of television viewers, discovered the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of a color-blind society.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

"I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a

dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Though many leaders of the black community took the podium before King, including Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Whitney Young of the National Urban League, it was King's words that grabbed the attention of the nation.

"Dr. King brought to life the hope that someday we could walk together hand in hand, that despite all this, one day we could smooth out our differences," said William H. Johnson Jr., a New York City policeman who provided security for the march. "It was a matter of being inspired and moved. It was an awfully sentimental and spiritual experience for me."

In his speech, King criticized the nation for not living up to its possibilities, for continuing to abuse blacks 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

"One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination," he said.

King called for an immediate end to the oppression that left blacks in poverty despite an economic boom. He said the time had come for the black race to cash their check with the bank of justice.

"Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."

King emphasized the importance of nonviolent action, an ideal that the crowds honored that day. The mass gathering caused no problems for the 2,900-strong Washington police force and the 2,000 members of the National Guard on hand.

King called on the audience to resist feelings of bitterness and hatred and fight with dignity and discipline. He told

the crowd to return home with confidence that the current state of racial affairs could and would be changed.

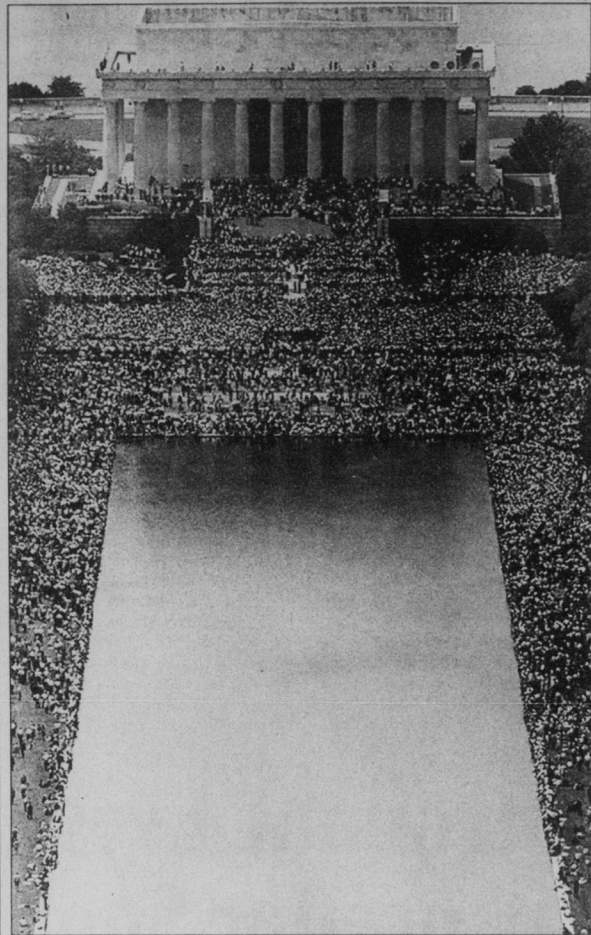
"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

After this last exaltation, the crowd joined together to sing what would become the anthem of the civil rights movement — "We Shall Overcome."

During his speech, King proclaimed, "1963 is not an end, but a beginning."

He could not have known the momentum he bestowed on the civil rights movement that day would still be in motion more than 30 years later.

The Special Assignments Editor can be reached at dth@unc.edu.



The August 1963 "March on Washington" drew more than 200,000 people to the Lincoln Monument to hear the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

BRADY

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do," he said. "I felt ready for it and felt the University could use my talents."

Conner, who received a letter endorsing Brady from a supporter in early February, praised Brady's credentials. "He's obviously a very impressive man," Conner said. "In terms of being chancellor, his only experience in academia is as a student."

Brady's longtime friend Carole Rexer said she wanted the committee to consider Brady. "It would be such a loss for the students if he isn't given the same consideration as they would give any other well-qualified candidate."

Rexer said other astronauts had become chancellors across the country. "To become an astronaut makes getting into Harvard or Yale look like child's play," she said. "Just because he hasn't come up through the academic ranks doesn't mean he wouldn't make the best chancellor."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

GRADES

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ates would be at a disadvantage when competing with students from other universities where grade inflation was not curbed. "If we do this by ourselves, we put our students at a huge disadvantage."

Turchi said, "Top-notch students are going to get into graduate level programs no matter what."

The committee's report and its proposals to thwart a rising GPA would

need approval from the faculty before they are implemented. Turchi said this approval should be attained.

"With the exception of those who have made public statements about the report, I have only heard positive comments."

Schwartz said the faculty would never approve the proposal. "We may be divided on many things, but we are unified in that we don't want someone outside dictating how we teach."

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GOTHAM

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been discharged from the emergency room.

Any information concerning the attack should be directed to either the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2760 or the Chapel Hill-Carrboro CrimeStoppers at 942-7515.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

COMMITTEE

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UNC General Administration in the state legislature last summer.

The senate passed a \$3 billion bond proposal, but the initiative stalled in the house when many lawmakers argued that it should be approved by a public vote. The legislature could not reconcile the proposals by the time it adjourned.

UNC-system President Molly Broad, who recently shied away from a plan to

impose a \$275 fee across the system to address capital needs, said Crotts' recommendation lent credence to the bond package idea.

"The state really isn't going to have the revenue, and yet we have this very strong balance sheet that shows the state is very capable of maintaining bonds."

But Broad said compelling legislators to issue billion-dollar bonds without a vote of the people would be perhaps the most daunting challenge in UNC-system officials' quest for funding. She said leaders needed to convince lawmakers

the needs warranted immediate action.

Their chance will come when the committee travels to university and community college campuses across the state in coming weeks to make their own assessments. Administrators and student leaders, many of whom attended Monday's meeting, will likely spearhead these efforts, Broad said. "I want to give (committee members) an opportunity to talk to real live students and faculty."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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John David Smith
will speak about his book
Black Judas
William Hannibal Thomas and The American Negro

Wed., March 1 at 3:30pm

William Hannibal Thomas, who served with distinction in the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War, was a nationally known and self-professed critic of his own race. **Black Judas** tells the story of Thomas's transformation from a critical but optimistic black nationalist to a cynical black Negrophobe.

Dr. Smith is the Graduate Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at NCSU where he teaches courses on the American South, the Civil War, and slavery. He has authored thirteen books, and received numerous fellowships and awards.

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