

# The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

Bill Amlong, Editor

Don Walton, Business Manager



Pamela Hawkins, Associate Editor

Terry Gingras, Managing Editor

Rebel Good, News Editor

Kermit Buckner, Advertising Manager

# Martin Luther King Jr.

1929-1968

"Every now and then I think about my own death and I think about my own funeral. . .

And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell him not to talk too long.

"Tell him not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize—that isn't important. Tell him not to mention that I have 300 or 400 other awards—that's not important. Tell him 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 just like for somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody."

—The Late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, speaking to his congregation at Ebenezer Baptist Church the first Sunday of last month.



From The Charlotte Observer

## Letters To The Editor

# Is Progress Forseeable?

To The Editor:

When President Kennedy was shot and killed, it was possible to call the act an individual one not representative of even a small segment of our population. Few persons violently opposed the President, and the entire nation mourned his death and felt a personal loss. The violent death of Dr. Martin Luther King should have received the same response, for not only did he campaign for human rights, but he also refused to advocate violence when many Negroes considered it the only way to achieve their long-neglected goals. The response to his murder, which I have seen both on this campus and in Chapel Hill, has been alarming. Some students said that although they opposed murder, they thought that King deserved his death by his repeated entry into potentially dangerous situations. They said that he had no business "causing trouble."

The reactions have mentioned are in the minority, but this minority is too large to be ignored. Even some ignored or opposed many of the programs which he supported. Both of the two Virginia Senators quoted in "The Daily Tar Heel" as grieved by King's death have consistently voted against civil rights legislation. How much has been done to erase the problems outlined by the President's Commission on Civil Disorders? Is there any progress forseeable in this state, which can immediately order suspension of the sales of alcoholic beverages, but cannot end the injustice and frustration which make this measure necessary?

President Johnson, whose response to Detroit's riots last summer was to proclaim a day of prayer, must devote more time and effort not to attacking violence, but to using the financial strength of this country to end the intolerable conditions in our cities and tenant farms, of both races. Racism exists everywhere, even on this campus, and it is up to those who see it to

attempt to end it, however difficult that may be. Apathy, which is present in all of us, will prevent progress, if it is allowed to continue. It is unfortunate that only such things as death and rioting can expose the problems in this country. I may be speaking in vain by writing this letter, but I have seen progress toward racial harmony in other parts of this country, and believe that it is possible in this state and where it is obviously lacking.

Carl Parker  
412 Mangum

## Scared 'White'

To The Editor:

I am writing this letter because I feel it must be written, for myself if no one else.

This is a time of mixed emotions: sorrow at the death of one of the great minds of these times; anger at the ignorant whites who sit on their tails bemoaning the fact that they're not allowed to buy beer; regret the blacks

who feel that proper mourning for their lost leader is burning and looting.

I am white, white as a sheet you might say, because I'm scared. Sooner or later all hell is going to break loose, yet there are still some people who are content to think that it won't touch them. Ridiculous! This Black Rebellion is going to touch, no not touch, hit and right in the face, every person in the country. Anyone, black or white, who thinks it won't is a damn fool.

I've never had to worry about whether or not I would be admitted to restaurant. I've never had to fight for my rights. I've never lived in a ghetto. What's going to happen has been brewing for a long time. Its regrettable that no one had the foresight to do something about it before it was too late.

John L.  
Ehringhaus Dorm

# Martin Luther King: A Moral Colossus

To The Editor:

Analogies are inevitable. But we do not know the pride the Jewish nation had in Moses. We do not know the sorrow with which His disciples saw Christ die. We do not know the courage Ghandi instilled in his fellows.

Comparisons are inadequate. John Kennedy died a man; death transformed him. Martin Luther King lived a moral colossus; death could add nothing to his stature. He leaves an emptiness in America—an emptiness impossible

to measure. The white man has lost his conscience. The black man has lost his leader. Our generation has lost its savior.

Words are futile. Actions alone will do. It was dignity which Martin Luther King gave his people. It is dignity which this university can help confer. Let us be now committed to the vision of our lost leader: one America. Let us begin.

Peter L. McNamara  
Assistant Professor  
of English

# Small Glimpse Of What It's Like Being Black

To The Editor:

The following is a letter written the day before Martin Luther King was killed. Everyone involved was white except one of the detectives. As I stood in front of him and the other detective, weeping and pleading with them to do something, I said that I now knew something of what it is like to be a black. Just a small glimpse, but it hurt so awfully. The black detective was visibly shaken by what I said and then took my name and address and the license plate. I apologized for my hysteria but said that while I had read about the police behaving like this and believed what I read, experiencing it gave it a dimension that I was totally unprepared for.

The way the establishment in this country has treated others, whether Vietnamese, communists, blacks, radicals is very similar. Their policy has been unenlightened, fearful, totally absent in any love and-or respect for humans and the diverse styles of life that can exist. For this idiocy we have all paid, some of us more than others. And we surely shall continue to pay. Dare we hope that from whatever follows there will be within it the seeds for a society

superior to what we have known. How to get there and what it should be like must be our central problem.

Chief of Police  
City of Durham  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Sir:

Today I was with a group of people who were peacefully marching in two from the Duke campus to the Draft Board where two young men were planning to turn in their draft cards in protest against war.

As we crossed one of the streets at the intersection of Morgan and Morris in Durham all the cars I could see on the street were crossing had stopped—except one. This car kept moving, steadily and slowly, right towards one of our group (George Vlasits). The driver was clearly paying attention to the path on which he was proceeding. People started to call out but he wouldn't stop. I thought surely he would stop but he proceeded and plowed into George's back. George was thrown forward but regained his balance and didn't fall to the ground. George then called to the police officer sitting in

a car right at the intersection—the same officer that had been riding along side of us for the whole route of the march, or a significant portion of it.

The officer looked straight in the direction of the incident (his car was facing the incident and he was sitting at the driver's wheel facing forward.) He didn't come. Just sat there. George wanted to move on with the marchers. I remained and got the license number of the car that hit George. I then went over to that officer and asked him why he hadn't arrested the man who hit George. The officer said nothing. I asked him several questions but he maintained that he saw nothing even though he was sitting there the entire time and had kept his eyes on us all during the march and the driver of the car didn't zoom away instantly—he could have been apprehended with ease. I then saw and spoke to two plainclothes detectives with your police force. I asked them if they saw the incident and they said that they did. At first they told me that they took no action because they couldn't unless there was a complaint. Later, they granted that they could indeed make an arrest. But they didn't. Finally, they took my name and address as well as the license plate

number of the car in question and they promised me they would pursue it.

Sir, when that car hit George I was shocked, for before today I had seen only teenagers playing around threatening to do that. But when the officer failed to come over, to investigate, and-or arrest the man who knocked George from the back I was sickened. Our politicians speak of the importance of law and order but how, I ask, is law and order to be respected if citizens so clearly see a violation of respect for it by the very people whose prime duty it is to uphold it. The officer did as much to undermine law and order as any man or woman convicted on the basis of the arrests your police department makes. While the two plain clothes men were more congenial and less patently derelict they too failed.

And, if you allow this sort of thing to go on in your department and allow that man who drove that car to believe that he has police protection in the violation of the law, then you too will be severely derelict in the duties of your job, which duties are serious and terribly important and consequential to the kind of society we have.

Sincerely,  
Judith Weinberg