

Ohio University expresses tribute to Dr. M. L. King

The verdict and the battle-cry reverberated off the walls of Memorial Auditorium at Ohio University as Kijiji Cha Wau Weusi (the black community) paid tribute "in their own terms" to fallen leader Martin Luther King.

In painfully explicit speeches and poetry, dance and music, the black students praised King to the assembly of nearly 2000 for his dissent against the status quo. They praised him for seeing, although not until the end of his life, the "promised land" — the ideology of black liberation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written by Carol Towarnicky for the Post, the student newspaper at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

But King's early ideologies were rejected.

"What will last on the already washed-out minds of Americans?" black student Andrew Love asked.

"The marches for civil rights — rights that should have already been inherited? The endeavors for integration — that is, the affixing of plastic minds into the rotten fruit of American reality?"

"The non-violent philosophy — which perpetuated the faggotness in the black man's already questioned manhood?"

His deep and often blind faith in the mystical deity in the clouds? It never answered him, it only answered his enemy," Love said.

"... the best confused you, Martin," black student Jim Steele said in a poem, "Montage for Martin": "made you the prince of self-delusion leading blacks into a mythical fantasy,

a dead-end alley known as integration, also known as suicide.

made you the apostle of absurdity with 30 million blacks as the punch line

... jived you and connived you into dreams of Paradise Lost,

into sitting on your ass, into marching "in," instead of "out,"

into praying to an unmerciful spook..."

Steele attacked the white man, who with his "Jekyll and Hyde personality," he said, sought to eulogize King, "to make you a two-time loser: loser in life, loser in death."

Although his ideology was wrong, Steele said, near the end King saw the truth, "and who and what you are hurtled you

to the mountain top," he read.

"But the beast saw that you saw and shot you dead. Down, dead, ... convicted in life for not knowing,

convicted in death for knowing."

What King finally knew, apparently, was the ability to see things in "black perspective, which means," Love said, "all of us or none of us."

King should be remembered, Love said, because he left the seed of dignity that has almost perished from this civilization.

King's greatness, black student McKingley Broadus suggested, lay in his dissent against the status quo. Broadus attacked Ohio University in particular for being a part of the "sick society," in which, he said, a minority are dissenting.

He charged the University with practicing "educational and economic genocide" by continually raising fees, and added that students choosing a major have "only chosen a place in an impersonal machine that will turn them into robots and prepare them for a place in that sick society."

"Ohio University ... places materialism over humanism, and as long as it remains materialistic there will be conflict," he said.

Steele pointed to King's last speech, and the "promised land" that he spoke of in it as an acknowledgment of "group consciousness ... that we as a people will make it."

"The death of Martin Luther King represents an attempt to prevent change," Steele said. Reality is another problem in White America, he added.

"And black people represent change in reality. They are — in fact — change and reality."

"We are slaves on twentieth century plantations called car factories, and IBM and Pillsbury. And universities and high schools. We are a colonial people who have no say. We are allowed to talk, but have no say," he declared.

This will change, though, nothing in history which has tried to impede change has ever succeeded, he said.

"I will die in the rubbish-filled street of the concrete jungle," he read,

I have no dreams to offer, Martin. Nothing comes to the dreamer but dreams.

I have only my life and black reality.

... because the spiritual world got filled up with corniness and death..."

Dim lights, spirituals and dance emphasized the black students' apparent disgust at the "world filled up with corniness and death."

At one point in the program, after a singing of King's favorite hymn, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," the black students walked to the front of the stage chanting different phrases, in a cacophony which grew ever louder and louder. The chanting descended to a whispered, "Peace ... peace ... peace ..." and then rose to "Peace ... and power ... and power ... and POWER," until all the students were screaming "POWER" in unison.

But perhaps the most telling, most profound expression of disgust at the "corniness and death" that they spoke of was represented when Steele, near the end of the program, strode to the podium and began a traditional eulogy of King.

The other black students stormed him, and pantomimed beating him. Overcoming him, they began to drag him off the stage.

"Father, forgive them, they know not what the hell they do," he gasped as they pulled him off, hands outstretched.

Andrew Love walked to the podium and repeated what Kijiji Cha Wau Weusi had said in dance and poetry and music for over an hour:

"Martin Luther King is dead."

Applications available for yearbook positions

Applications are now being accepted for managing editor positions on the 1970 Cornhusker yearbook staff.

Seven managing editors and a panel editor will be chosen. Interviews will be held Sunday afternoon, April 20.

"We're looking for people with new ideas, creativity and a desire to contribute to a successful yearbook," Bob Thacker, 1970 editor said. "Past Cornhusker experience is actually not necessary. We're more interested with what a applicant wants to accomplish with his job."

Applications are available in the Cornhusker office, room 51, Nebraska Union. Applicants should return forms and register for an interview appointment by Friday, April 18.



Next year's Cornhusker yell squad will include three new girls: Kay Calkine, Annette Hudson and Lynn Smith. The three were selected in tryouts before spring vacation.

Applications taken for Stillman exchange

Any University student interested in broadening his or her college experience may want to attend next fall's classes at Stillman College.

The small Presbyterian college located in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and the University have an exchange program where Stillman students have a chance to attend a large university and NU students have the chance to experience a semester at a Negro college.

Kathy Riesselman, chairman of the ASUN selection committee, says that anyone who is interested may apply. The only requirements are a 2.0 grade average and an interest.

"Most of the students who have spent a semester at Stillman come back with a changed attitude toward blacks. They are able to accept the black as a person and vice versa," Miss Riesselman said.

Many are as impressed with the experience of attending a small college as they are with their experiences with black students, she added.

Interested persons may pick up applications at the ASUN office or talk to Miss Riesselman. The deadline is April 25.

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