

Daily
Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dream continues

Americans must work to make King's dream reality

Today the United States celebrates the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose dream of freedom and equality for all Americans has yet to be completely realized.

King brought the Civil Rights Movement to all American people, for all American people. He lived and died to correct the injustices of his time, because he knew the cause was a noble one.

Today, we as Americans must honor King by continuing his dream. From this day forth we must make his dream *our* dream; we must live our lives to see our dream become reality for all Americans, regardless of race, color, creed or sexual orientation.

We as Americans must stop any injustices we see -- from sexual or racist comments to physical abuse of one another. We must not rest until the wrongs are righted. Then and only then can we call the United States a free nation that believes in equality for all.

Then and only then will our dream be realized.

-- Curt Wagner
for the Daily Nebraskan

Conquering apathy

Student involvement is needed at UNL

With a 5-3 vote Saturday, the NU Board of Regents opened the door for University of Nebraska students to finally get involved in the governmental process that most affects them.

Regents passed a resolution to record unofficial votes of student regents from the three NU campuses.

Recorded votes can give students a stronger voice, but only if they use it.

Because of regents' concerns about student apathy toward university issues, the vote has been adopted only for a one-year trial basis. If regents do not notice improvements in student input on issues, the vote might be taken away in December.

As University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Regent Jeff Petersen said, the unofficial vote will make student regents accountable to their constituents. But this accountability must be a two-way street. Regents must meet with students, and students must contact their regents to tell them how they feel about issues.

Every semester, students complain about the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, student fees and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

They complain about poor faculty salaries and the rising cost of higher education, among others.

Although many complaints are justified, it is all too often that students can do nothing more. This trend needs to stop.

Much is happening this semester that will effect NU students for the next few years.

The Nebraska Legislature will reconvene Tuesday. Gov. Kay Orr has presented her budget and questions need to be raised about the amount of money appropriated to the university for faculty salaries, research and other budget items.

UNL's Committee for Fees Allocation will decide in the next few months how much students will pay in fees next year, and where that money will be channeled. Through ASUN elections in March students will vote for a new student regent, and for student representatives from their colleges for the next year.

A 5-percent tuition increase looms over university students' heads.

Students need to be aware of these issues and get involved in governmental processes.

They need to lobby the Legislature through the Government Liaison Committee to increase funds for financial aid, faculty salaries and other issues.

They need to attend CFA and student government meetings, to vote in ASUN elections, to voice their opinion at any meeting where it's needed. This is the only way they can get what they want.

When students get involved, they can make changes.

-- Amy Edwards and Curt Wagner
for the Daily Nebraskan



Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

Flame still burns in some hearts

Guest columnist praises Americans who stand up for rights

Today, America has the unique opportunity to be a part of one of the greatest struggles and dreams to be written in the pages of history. Today, all Americans have an opportunity to be drum majors for freedom and justice.

You may have been too young in the 1960s; you may have hid behind legal niceties, such as it is a "Negro" problem, a local problem, a Southern problem, or a non-judicial problem. The commemoration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and achievements gives all of us one more chance.

This national holiday captures the courage and leadership of a man, the longing and hopes of a people and the potential of a nation. Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement revealed to the world the flame of freedom and opportunity that burns in the hearts of all people -- regardless of political and economic persuasions, or cultural and racial origins.

When African-Americans were brought to Jamestown, Va., in 1619 and were enslaved, the flame of freedom burned in their hearts. The insurrections of Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman's "Underground Railroad," Frederick Douglass' mammoth efforts in the abolition movement, the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League and Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall's well-orchestrated campaign against Jim Crow were all

manifestations of that eternal flame of freedom.

This flame of freedom continues to burn, and has fueled the presidential aspirations of Rev. Jesse Jackson in two historic campaigns, seeking to remove some of society's final political and economic barriers.

opinion READER

This flame radiates with such intensity that it could not be extinguished by the cruelty of slavery, nor by the inequality of Jim Crow, nor by the oppression and brutality of the Ku Klux Klan and White Citizens' Councils. This flame is a God-given thirst and hunger which propels all people towards the land of democracy, of self-determination, and of opportunity. This flame invigorates their capacity to struggle, providing a sense of purpose. This flame enables oppressed people to labor in the vineyard of freedom although it is guarded by overseers of racial bigotry and discrimination, or overseers who seek to deny the humanity of fellow citizens.

I believe that this perpetual flame fueled the courage of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement. If we remember our history, the same flame was ablaze in the hearts of Benjamin Franklin, Crispis Attucks, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Salem Poor and countless others in their unprecedented struggle against the tyranny of King George

and England. Thus, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement represented, and continue to stand for, the best in the American dream and the history of civilization.

Unfortunately, too many Americans in both the North and South abandoned their heritage, transforming the Constitution into a document of hypocrisy, rather than a document of freedom and justice. Through his leadership skills and his commitment to freedom, justice and non-violence, Dr. King taught America to believe in itself. He inspired America to put aside the Constitutional and legal barriers that faced each African-American and other individuals discriminated against.

There is, however, much yet to be done. The workplace must be free of racial and sexual bigotry. Our schools and universities must become centers of learning where all students have an equal opportunity to succeed. The vestiges of racial, ethnic and sex discrimination must be eradicated from the body politic.

Therefore, the struggle for freedom and justice must be joined. The struggle must be joined by all freedom-loving people -- regardless of color, creed, sex or national origin. We must be thankful that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement opened a door, an effectual door for all of us -- a nation and a people.

Michael Combs is a UNL associate professor of political science and pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church

letter TO THE EDITOR

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

editorial BOARD

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Curt Wagner, editor; Amy Edwards, editorial page editor; Jane Hirt, managing editor; Lee Rood, associate news editor; Lisa Donovan, columnist; Diana Johnson,

wire page editor; and Chuck Green, copy desk chief.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.