

Daily Nebraskan

January 18, 1993



Vol. 92 No. 83



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Tanya Sherrod, right, a sophomore business accounting major, smiles as she sings the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," at a candlelight gathering in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Friday at Broyhill Fountain. Rickey Riley, a freshman business administration major, is at left.

King vigil lauds legacy, power to dream

By Kara Morrison
Senior Editor

In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one professor Friday encouraged everyone to apply talents, courage and determination to make dreams realities.

Michael Combs, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate professor of political science, spoke to about 50 people at a candlelight vigil at Broyhill Fountain honoring the life and dreams of King.

In his address, Combs recalled a celebration in which fifth- and sixth-grade children were acknowledging King for making it possible for black and white children to play together. Combs said King's legacy exceeded this.

"Dr. King was about empowering people. ... He empowered us to dream great dreams." Combs said it was Dr. King who made him, as a youngster in Baton Rouge, La., dream of becoming a university professor in a time when that dream seemed unrealistic.

"He also asked us as a nation to stop dreaming small dreams," Combs said.

Combs said Dr. King made America begin to dream about an equal society and to realize the importance of diversity and

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—Michael Combs, UNL associate professor of political science

multiculturalism.

But Combs said dreams of equality and diversity would not be realized until African Americans held political offices and leadership positions in places where they did not constitute the majority — places such as the chancellorship at the University of Nebraska or of Harvard.

Accompanying King's philosophy of empowerment, Combs said, was "a philosophy of love, peace, justice and an appreciation for the worth of all people.

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The vigil, sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, honored "a great man and a great movement," Andrew Huff, a junior broadcasting major said.

Kelli King, a freshman general studies major, said she thought the vigil was a needed event and that it went well.

"Dr. King would have been proud of the progress we've made, but we have a long way to go," she said.

Graduate student and Alpha Phi Alpha member Reginald Chandler also said he was glad people came to support the accomplishments of King, but expressed a need for the university community to unite more frequently than at yearly commemorations.

After Combs' address, the group lit candles and sang.

Graduate student George Thorn, another member of Alpha Phi Alpha, said the candles were lit "as a symbol of hope and encouragement for a better tomorrow."

New year brings tough decisions for regents

Standards raised despite opposition

By Kristine Long
Staff Reporter

After two hours of debate Saturday, the NU Board of Regents passed a resolution creating higher admission standards for the university system.

But the decision was not without opposition. Five minority representatives appeared before the board to express their concern for minorities and inner-city youth who don't have the educational opportunities to meet the standards.

The new standards, which will be implemented in the 1997-98 school year, require high school students to have four units of

English; three units of math, social studies and natural sciences; two units of foreign language and one unit of any academic subject. At UNL, students will be required to have four units of high school math.

In addition, students must be in the top 50 percent of their graduating class, have an ACT score of 20 or above, or score at least 850 on the SAT.

Eddie Staton, Omaha Mad Dads representative, said hundreds of parents and students feared those standards would be too tough, and a lot of students would be discouraged by them. "We will see more kids turning to the streets," he said.

For some "education is the one way to get out," Staton said.

Dr. George Garrison, UNO faculty senate vice president and chairman of black studies, said the university was created in an "attempt to make education available to those who would otherwise not have a chance at education."

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Board faces cuts, presidential search

By Kristine Long
Staff Reporter

Facing the challenges of a decreasing budget, improving student services and the search for a new NU president, the NU Board of Regents started its new year Saturday.

President Martin Massengale addressed the board with hope for the future, despite financial problems.

"Looking ahead into 1993 and beyond, our challenge is clearly going to be to press for excellence, even as we struggle with financial stress," he said.

Regent John Payne of Kearney proposed a

U.S. blasts Iraqi capital with missiles

Warships fire Tomahawks on nuclear weapons plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Sunday fired a shower of Tomahawk cruise missiles on a nuclear fabricating plant eight miles from downtown Baghdad to make "the political and diplomatic point" that Iraq must comply with United Nations resolutions.

In a crescendo for President Bush's final weekend in office, U.S. forces shot down a MiG-23 warplane and struck an Iraqi air defense installation before warships launched more than 30 Tomahawks into the night skies near Iraq's capital.

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White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the United States had targeted the non-nuclear cruise missiles at a nuclear fabrications plant in response to a series of weekend military provocations by Iraq.

In New York, the United Nations rejected Iraq's latest conditions for weapons inspection, raising the possibility of further U.S.-led raids. U.N. officials want Iraq to allow unconditional travel into Iraq by U.N. weapons inspectors and guarantee their safety.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "is determined to create a confrontation in the closing days of the Bush administration," and emphasized that Bush would not flinch.

Cheney referred to Saddam as a "pathetic figure" for testing the U.S. presidential transition and the United Nations coalition that defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War.

President Bush was at Camp David for the weekend and made no statement.

The attack put Saddam on notice that the United States was willing to hit him close to home. Like last Wednesday's hostilities, it was a limited action unlikely to expose U.S. forces to much risk.

Baghdad was lit by bright blasts of anti-aircraft fire from Iraqi gunners. It was not immediately known whether the attack was successful.

"We don't have a damage assessment at this point," Fitzwater said.

However, an explosion wrecked the lobby of the downtown Al-Rasheed hotel, and reports said two people died and up to 30 were injured in several parts of the city.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the casualties were caused by falling anti-aircraft shells or American missiles.

A Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said U.S. military planners "absolutely" had not targeted the hotel. Although

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