

OPINION PAGE

Quotes OF THE WEEK

"Dr. Seed will not do human cloning in this country."

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, referring to a possible congressional ban on human cloning experiments similar to the work Chicago physicist Richard Seed plans to pursue

"I feel really betrayed by our alumni. They're supposed to support members in the house. We were trying to improve, and they just stabbed us in the back."

Kappa Sigma member Kevin Reiner, after Kappa Sigma's charter was suspended during winter break

"You could hear his voice crack every now and then, but it wasn't like you'd expect. He got a little emotional, and he told us thanks for everything."

NU left guard Aaron Taylor, observing Coach Tom Osborne's unusual display of emotion in the NU locker room after the Orange Bowl

"They found a way to win. How they did it isn't as important as the fact that they did do it."

Long Beach Press Telegram reporter Steve Guiremand, giving the reasons why he voted Nebraska No. 1 in The AP Poll

"I guess I want to be remembered as one of the great quarterbacks in Nebraska history."

NU quarterback Scott Frost, when asked what he wanted NU fans to think of him

"I have to make my own decisions in life and my own career in life. ... I think I will do a very good job up there."

NU running back Ahman Green, on why he chose to enter the NFL draft a year early

"I can see no benefit coming from the reduction of one school day from the academic calendar."

Academic Senate President James Ford, explaining why he helped the Senate vote down a proposed fall break

"I consider (the award) the frosting on the chocolate fudge cake. And I love chocolate fudge cake."

Sociology professor Keith Parker, about winning the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Volunteer of the Month award for January

"We always kind of felt it was more quality than quantity, but quality doesn't necessarily pay the bills."

Joe Kopp, Theta Chi vice president-elect, lamenting the closing of his greek house because of insufficient funds

"We can keep our most promising students in Nebraska by giving them an incentive to study here and stay here."

Gov. Ben Nelson, justifying the proposal dubbed the "brain gain" legislation during the State of the State Address

Haney's VIEW



Guest VIEW

Kings for a day

Holiday represents struggle for justice

By Khaled Taha
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Bloomington, Ind. (U-Wire) — While I sat listening to my professor go through the syllabus the first day of classes, I was immediately taken when the professor read a quote. A short quote — eight words to be exact. Yet these eight words by Miguel de Unamuno y Jugo set my mind blazing full speed ahead: "They may conquer, but they will not convince."

Then the question: What do these words mean? Simple. Although we might be in a situation in which we are conquered or subjugated, our spirit and vigor cannot be crushed. Perseverance, standing strong against all odds and holding on until the wrong can be righted are all encompassed.

So what? Why is it significant now, if ever? Monday, we will commemorate the birthday of one of the greatest leaders of our time, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In Unamuno y Jugo's words, I saw the persona of the Rev. King, the spirit of the civil rights movement and the nature of the continued struggles of second-class citizens and oppressed people everywhere.

Whether you are talking about Tibetans under Chinese domination, the Gypsies in the former Yugoslavia or the indigenous peoples of this continent, this continued struggle is momentous.

Although many years have passed, social, economic and political struggles still rage. Why is it after years of domination and intentional disassembling of repressed cultures have we seen the rejuvenation and revival of these societies? The answer is clear: Justice is an attainable goal. The road ahead might be long and

"King didn't set out to address racism only against blacks in America. ... He set out to create an atmosphere where race is not an issue. He envisioned a society in which who you are is your defining characteristic."

hard, but the idea that one day might come is enough to fuel the passion of those striving for this goal.

These lessons have been taught again and again throughout history, yet we must pay close attention to those occurring in the modern era, for they reflect where we as a nation and as a people are heading. It's not so much what divides us but rather what makes us the same. I'm sure we've all experienced racism at one time or another, and that common experience should bring us together as a whole. Yet how many of us can say we willingly recognize the situations of others and directly relate them to our own experiences?

King didn't set out to address racism only against blacks in America. Instead, he set out to create an atmosphere where race is not an issue. He envisioned a society in which who you are is your defining characteristic. A society where race, color and creed are nothing more to the next person than the clothing you wear. They are your exterior, your temporary shell, until you leave this world. Skin color is not a means on which judgment is passed, nor a means by which dominance is established. To those who continue this momentous struggle, we know where the road goes, but we don't know how long it is.

Through the efforts of many in our community, we are able to take a day off from school in order to honor this man who has inspired millions. What will your Monday have in store for you? How many will even think about King, what he stood for or his struggles during the civil rights movement?

I honestly don't believe the entire reason for getting this day off was to sit around and think about King and what he stood for. Rather, it's to think about the difference his actions made in this country and how his efforts and struggle got us traveling down this long, hard road to justice and liberty for all. Only through continuing and pushing on through activism and education can we shed the light on those who exist in the sunless world of hate and racism.

Have we made progress as a country? Our thoughts might differ, but we agree our trip down this road is not done. A utopia is really an impossibility, but justice — through perseverance, hard work and faith your efforts will help progress — can and will take us leaps and bounds closer to our ultimate goal.

So after you get up at noon Monday, remember the day has been set aside to commemorate a great visionary who still needs your help.

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