

King for a day

"This is exactly the thing Dr. King would have wanted: youth carrying on the torch of freedom for the future."

Moira Ferguson, chairwoman of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

"On April 4, 1968, a man was killed and a new idea was born."

Ken Tucker, recruitment retention specialist for multicultural students, Southeast Community College.

"As an ethnic student, I think it would be great to go to a university that has ethnically sensitive students, faculty and administration."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior Tagi Adams

"(Martin Luther King Jr.) helped transform America and pulled it kicking and screaming into the 20th century."

Lela Shanks, a keynote speaker at the University Convocation and speaker for the Nebraska Humanities Council.

"He walked with kings, but he died for garbage men. He died for what you can be, not what you are."

The Rev. Don Coleman

Students hold King forum

■ Speakers and minority student groups promote UNL campus involvement.

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

The usual lunch-time crowd of students assembled their value meals, class notes and textbooks around the impromptu stage and podium constructed in the Nebraska Union's main TV lounge.

Instead of the daily dose of Rosie and Oprah, students gathered to hear messages promoting understanding and involvement.

Campus and community groups assembled throughout the day in the union to honor the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. and encourage students to participate in that dream.

The Rev. Don Coleman, a local civil rights advocate, compared King's dream to a bank account America could collect on.

"We are here today with Dr. King's check saying: America, show me the money," he said.

"We have made the deposit," Coleman said, "but we must learn more of others to understand our heritage and diversity."

Coleman urged students to become involved with their community to get a better understanding of others.

Minority student groups used the forum to make the student body more aware of their groups' roles and their goals to create better understanding at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

A combination of videos and speakers was used to show examples of the discrimination these minorities still face today.

Each organization had 30 minutes to reach students with its message.

The University of Nebraska Inter-Tribal Exchange President Vernon Miller explained how discrimination such as the use of Indian sports mascots hurts American Indians and how ignorance and insensitivity has hurt American Indians throughout history.

Donny White, president of the Afrikan Peoples Union, asked the audience to use its imagination to help him paint a picture of life as a minority student.

Then the APU promised to help minorities with the transition to UNL.

Students from the Mexican American Student Association tried to show that anyone, not just



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
AMBER PRICE of Lincoln dances to a Mexican tune Monday afternoon in the Nebraska Union. Price is part of Sabor Mexicano, a children's Hispanic dance group that was performing in honor of King.

"We are here with Dr. King's check saying: America, show me the money."

THE REV. DON COLEMAN
speaker

African Americans, can participate in the civil rights movement.

The group showed a video about Cesar Chavez, a Mexican-American labor leader.

The Women's Studies Association chose to show a video about the role of women in the civil rights movement.

In the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Student Association presentation, Alison Knudsen, president of the group, used a video to show the hatred that often surrounds the gay community.

"We challenge you not to judge someone by the color of their skin or the gender of the person they

love, but by the content of their character," Knudsen said.

The day's events ended with a performance by Sabor Mexicano. Five girls in long, flowing, colorful dresses danced traditional Mexican dances.

The rhythmic thunk of their heels hitting the hard wooden stage resounded with the strength of a proud culture.

As the dancers kicked up their heels, the audience clapped along in a show of the day's message: understanding.

Reporters Lindsay Young and Anne Heitz contributed to this report.

Students, community members march for King

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Assignment Reporter

Students and community members became one with diversity and united in pride Monday by marching through downtown Lincoln to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.

The third-annual Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Rally, not only brought students and the community together, but it showed students' concern for the need to continue diversity education, Audrey Bates, rally coordinator, said.

"The Youth Rally was something that had to be done," Bates said. "The march gives students the chance to show their support of Dr. King and his beliefs to the Lincoln community."

About 200 people gathered at the Nebraska Union and marched down 16th Street to O Street, then to 12th Street, and to the Lied Center for Performing Arts, where a University of Nebraska-Lincoln convocation began.

Bates said the rally and convo-

cation are the only community projects put on solely by Lincoln youth that completely focus on King.

More than 40 students from four Lincoln high schools helped organize the rally, she said.

Moira Ferguson, chairwoman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration said youth have always voiced their opinions on equality and civil rights.

"This is exactly the thing Dr. King would have wanted," Ferguson said. "Youth carrying on the torch of freedom for the future."

Bates said the annual march gives the youth of Lincoln the chance to speak and act from their hearts.

"The students believe in what they are doing," Bates said. "They whole-heartedly believe in equal rights and equality for everyone."

Kent Lorenzen, a Lincoln East High School senior, welcomed participants to the Youth Rally and encouraged everyone to open their hearts in celebration.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a nonviolent man, and he believed in

the equality of love," Lorenzen said. Lamekia Winzer, a Lincoln High senior, said she was proud to be in the rally.

"All I want to do is celebrate diversity and help live out King's dream," Winzer said. "Being here at the march is my first step."

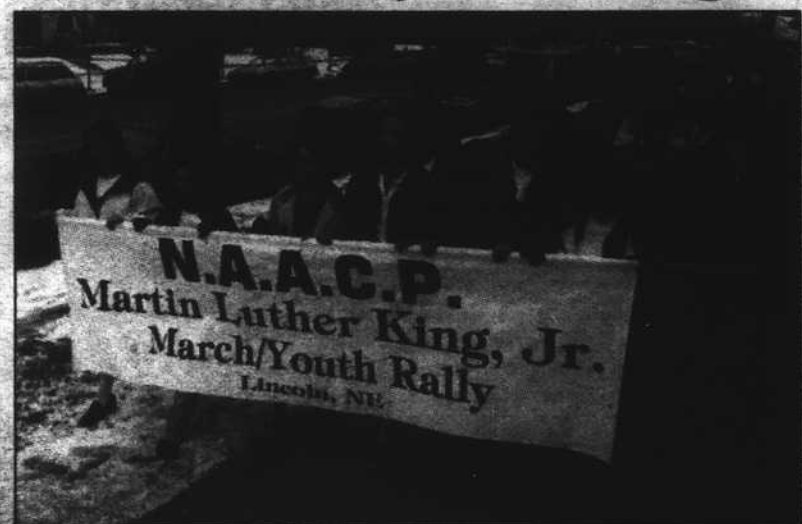
Colby Schmeckpeper, a sophomore geology major, said he attended the Youth Rally out of respect for the slain civil rights leader.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man, and he must be remembered," Schmeckpeper said.

Lincoln Public Schools did not hold classes today, and Schmeckpeper said he supported UNL in its decision to hold classes.

"King always recognized and respected the rights of minorities," Schmeckpeper said. "Class or no class, students need to remember what he has done for them and the world."

Schmeckpeper was happy to see so many students and community members volunteer their time, even though he knew some students attended out of obligation to their



SCOTT McCLURG/DN
SEVERAL STUDENTS and members of the community march in the third annual Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Rally Monday morning. About 200 people gathered for the march, which began at the Nebraska Union and traveled through downtown streets, ending at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

classes.

"I hope that everyone understands today is not just to get out of school," Fayola Christie, a Lincoln

High senior said.

"This celebration is a day to celebrate our freedom of diversity and for everyone to be unified in spirit."

Speaker: Use work of King today, too

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

Ken Tucker was a 10-year-old boy living in the Bahamas when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

But even in the Bahamas, Tucker said King's nonviolent protests and hope for equality had inspired him.

Tucker, a recruitment retention specialist for multicultural students at Southeast Community College, encouraged an audience at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery auditorium to take King's ideas from the civil rights movement and translate them for use in today's world.

"On April 4, 1968, a man was killed, and a new idea was born," Tucker said.

And that new idea was one of equality, Tucker said.

But the "white-only" society of King's time no longer exists, Tucker said. People need a "shifting of methods" as the 21st century approaches.

"Ideas from an old age must be ideas that evaluate present day progress," he said. "We need to ask ourselves, 'How far we have come? What was our original goal?'"

Tucker said instead of protest marches and sit-ins, civil activists can push for solidarity in the workplace through academic agendas and the election of responsive officials.

Chancellor James Moeser, who spoke after Tucker, said he hoped the activities UNL had to offer on Martin Luther King Jr. Day would help in achieving King's dream of that beloved community.

"A lot of people have come together to represent various constituencies to make this a meaningful event," Moeser said.

"There are opportunities for you and I to experience a new reality," Tucker said. "I believe Martin Luther King's ideas spoke about change."