

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

Choose equality

Use King day to fight injustice

During his short lifetime, Martin Luther King Jr. spent countless hours writing, marching or otherwise working to make the world a better place.

If you're a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, you have Monday off. What are your plans?

Martin Luther King Jr. was a prolific speaker and a brave activist who became the most significant participant in the black civil rights movement and, sadly, a martyr to the cause.

We at the Daily Nebraskan think his birthday should be honored for all of these reasons.

However, we think the holiday should extend beyond one man's life.

In recent years, Martin Luther King Jr. has been criticized for being less than perfect. However, it is important to remember that one person does not a movement make, nor can any one person completely represent a movement.

King's faults still pale in comparison to his accomplishments.

And these accomplishments deserve recognition. At the same time, Martin Luther King Jr. Day should represent much more than that.

The day should not only commemorate the victories that have been won, but should also be a reminder of how far we have to go.

It should be seen as a day to honor all people who have struggled to obtain civil rights and to examine why some people and some people's movements are still being ignored.

Racism, sexism and homophobia are alive and well, though they may be much more covert than they were in King's time. Their impact is still strong.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, these problems should be discussed. The day should be a tribute to the strength of members of minority groups, a day when they can take pride in their identities.

Others need to honor these struggles and examine the privileges they receive, whether they have asked for them or not, for being white or male or heterosexual.

It should be a day when people realize that everyone is implicated in a society where there is oppression and challenge their beliefs.

Not everyone has to make the same kind of commitment King made to fighting injustice.

But we are all responsible for our actions, and not commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a conscious decision and a passive commitment to continuing oppression.

We can sleep in or we can wake up.

Hitch's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Kill 'em all ...

The Wednesday edition of the Daily Nebraskan ran the cover article on the delay of Randy Reeves execution.

When will people understand that holding a convicted murderer in jail for the rest of his or her life will not solve the problem of stopping crimes committed on the streets? Rather, by going through lengthy trials and appeals and very technical legalities, some criminals will either end up getting shorter sentences, or in the worst scenario, being set free.

I believe that the justice system is not justice at all; rather, it is a word used by the media to make the public think our country is still governed by a just and righteous government.

Where has justice gone?

Most criminals commit crimes and get away with them; murderers of police officers don't get caught half of the time. White-collar crimes are only uncovered in 1 out of the 250,000,000 times they are committed. Does this make it legal to swindle money away from a company if you don't get caught? Of course not, but many people do it because the odds are greatly in their favor.

If criminals aren't punished for their crimes quickly and swiftly, it costs tax payers millions of excess dollars, which could be used to fund programs that would provide potential criminals many other opportunities.

I propose that the Bill of Rights should be amended to include a clause for quick justice. If a violent crime or murder is committed, and can be ascertained by a law enforcement officer, then the officer should be allowed to execute the criminal right there on the spot, eliminating tie-ups in court for 20 years.

I also believe the families of victims shouldn't be able to decide whether or not the convicted criminal should die or spend the rest of his or her life in prison. Criminals would have their chances in front of God to reconcile their wrongs, instead of living out their days wishing they had done things differently, or had not even decided to commit the crime.

This system would not only cut the crime rate, but would also put

money wasted in courts to good use. In the cases of theft or rape, cut off the limb or body part used to commit the crime. It may sound Mongolian in nature, or even inhumane, but I can guarantee that person will never steal or rape again.

Courts and jurors are afraid of hurting the criminal's feelings by giving the criminal too stiff a punishment. Damn the feelings of the criminals! All rights, including the right to life in some cases, are lost after the act has been committed.

Treat everyone in this form of justice, sparing no one, and the world would be a safer place to live; criminals would know what would happen to them.

Josh Connelly
sophomore
biology

stab two women to death. Crystal clear.

I'm sure everyone who read Mr. Funk's feature story is now convinced that Randy Reeves is the real victim here, having been ripped away from his culture and a mother who happened to be in prison at the time. Never mind that his adoptive family was a loving and kind one. Of course, the only natural response to such a traumatic experience as this would be double murder.

Come on. When is this namby-pamby, bleeding-hearted philosophy that everyone's a victim, so any behavior is justifiable, going to end? Nowhere in the article were the words "personal responsibility" or "justice" mentioned. Mr. Reeves murdered two innocent people. He must now face the consequences of his actions. No excuses.

Josh Moenning
junior
political science and
advertising

... And let God sort 'em out

Many thanks to Mr. Josh Funk and to the DN for finally offering the public an explanation as to why Randy Reeves sexually assaulted and then brutally murdered two defenseless women. Now it all makes sense.

Mr. Reeves was so emotionally distraught and distressed from years of struggling with the fact that he had been taken from his culture as a 3-year-old and adopted into a Quaker family that one night in 1980, he decided to get drunk and



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