

SPECIAL KING EDITION

KING: A GREAT MOREHOUSE MAN REMEMBERED  
50 YEARS LATER

Photography by Austyn Wyche

**MT**

APRIL 4-9, 2018



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# The Purpose of Education

By Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*The Maroon Tiger, January-February, 1947*

As I engage in the so-called “bull sessions” around and about the school, I too often find that most college men have a misconception of the purpose of education. Most of the “brethren” think that education should equip them with the proper instruments of exploitation so that they can forever trample over the masses. Still others think that education should furnish them with noble ends rather than means to an end.

It seems to me that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture. Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.

Education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think incisively and to think for one’s self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half truths, prejudices, and propaganda. At this point, I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose. A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.

The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.

The late (Governor) Eugene Talmadge, in my opinion, possessed one of the better minds of Georgia, or even America. Moreover, he wore the Phi Beta Kappa key. By all measuring rods, Mr. Talmadge could think critically and intensively; yet he contends that I am an inferior being. Are those the types of men we call educated?

We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living.

If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, “brethren!” Be careful, teachers!

# THE CLASS OF 1948 REFLECTS ON DR. KING AS A STUDENT

BY C.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Reclining in his arm chair, Moses Few thought long and hard. It had been over 70 years since he left Booker T. Washington High School as an 11th grader. A struggling Morehouse College had opened up its doors to high schoolers and, after passing its early admittance exam, Few decided to enroll.

Few, however, wasn't the only student at Washington to benefit from this policy. He wasn't even the only 11th grader. A 15-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. would also skip his senior year to enroll at Morehouse in the fall of 1944.

Now, at age 90, Few wasn't afraid to share his real thoughts about the American icon:

"You know, I didn't see Dr. King moving into that position," Few said candidly. "He was always a very nice, friendly fella but when I read this letter in the paper that he had written at [17], then I realized he must of, at that time, had that in mind."

The letter Few referred to was penned by King in 1946 after a wave of lynchings struck the state of Georgia. King, a rising a junior at the time, decided to write a letter to the editor of the Atlanta Constitution in which he debunked the myths of interracial relationships:

"It is fair to remember that almost the total of race mixture in America has come, not at Negro initiative, but by the acts of those very white men who talk loudest of race purity," King wrote. "We aren't eager to marry white girls, and we would like to have our own girls left alone by both white toughs and white aristocrats."

For classmate Samuel P. Long, King's path came as no surprise: they had met through the debate team. At 95 years old, Long remembered a young man of fervency.

"He was very outspoken in his beliefs," Long said. "He defended them vociferously."

Still, King remained humble. He was kind. It was this compassion which immediately caught Few's attention. Not able to cover the full cost of tuition, Few had to work during his time at Morehouse. King, however, was eager to help out:

"Dr. King sometimes used to drive to school and he'd pick me up," Few said. "I was at the bus stop, once or twice, and he'd pick me up and carry me downtown."

This ultimately stood out because Few never once re-

ferred to him and King as friends. They never even took a class together. When asked whether King had any distinctive qualities, Long revealed a rather unusual attribute of a college student:

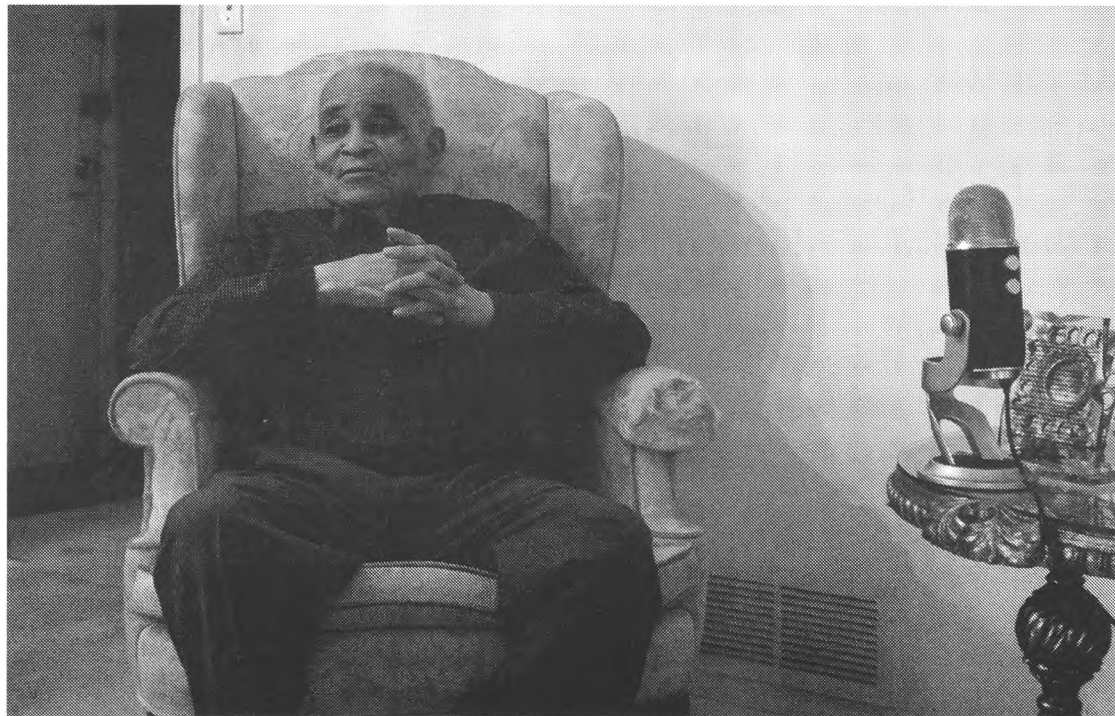
"He [possessed] just a contemporary knowledge of the world," Long said, "[where] Morehouse fit in, where he fit in, where we fit in."

But how could this be possible? King came

to Morehouse just five months removed from getting his driver's license. He graduated at 20. How did this teenager possess such an advanced knowledge of the world?

The obvious answer would be religion. King's relationship with Christianity has been well-documented. His father was a minister. He ultimately became a minister. Usually, that would be true. This level of generosity, however, extended far past the realm of religion. King was simply looking out for one of his brothers.

At his core, King was a Morehouse man. From his compassion to his fraternal instincts, King's college years should be a blueprint for all students. If the Morehouse community has learned anything in the 50 years since his assassination, it should be that brotherhood and compassion will stand the test of time.



**Pictured: Moses Few (C. Isalah Smalls II)**



# LOOKING BACK AT KING'S LEGACY 50 YEARS LATER

BY KINGSLEY IYAWÉ, CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

It's hard to believe that one of the world's greatest men, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. '48, was assassinated 50 years ago on April 4, 1968. Morehouse College was King's alma mater and the college shaped the well-known civil rights leader for the rest of his life. Millions of people were shocked and saddened by the legendary civil rights leader's assassination, including Morehouse Biology professor, Dr. David Cooke.

"It was literally devastating," Cooke said, "And of course the question in query was... why? To allow one's hatred to facilitate an action such as that is beyond reason."

When asked what characteristic stood out the most about King, Cooke talked about his relatability.

"His ability to put himself on the same place as the common man," Cooke said. "He was not only able to understand a segment of people, but for all people."

Dr. Curtis Clark '70, a longtime Math professor at Morehouse, was a sophomore when Dr. King was assassinated. He talked how shocking King's passing was to Morehouse.

"When we (Morehouse students) first heard it, we were like 'what!?!' Clark said. "It was very upsetting to the college at that time."

Clark said King was treated in a higher regard after his assassination than before, and that his radical nature wasn't very popular in America.

"People were more accepting of him after his death than when he was alive," Clark said. "He wasn't a status quo person and was looked at more favorably after his death."

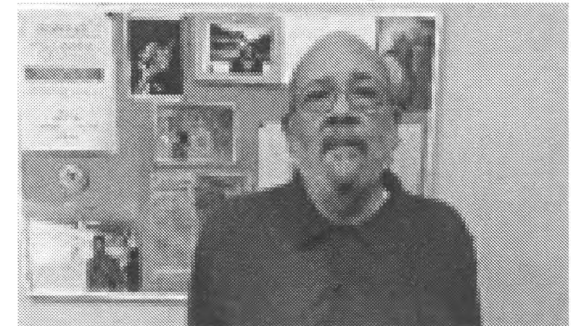
Dr. Carlyle Moore, a Physics professor at Morehouse, remembered exactly where he was when he heard the news of Dr. King's assassination.

"I was walking in downtown Accra, Ghana," Moore said. "I was teaching at the University of Kumasi. I heard it on the radio and my reaction was shock."

Moore said that it's hard to believe that it's been 50 years since the death of King and that the legend was the most polarizing figure in America. The longtime professor also talked about how much impact Dr. King had when it came to social justice and equality for Americans.

"The most shining of the civil rights movement was distinguished," Moore said. "If you are interested in ideas of justice and equality, his passing was an interruption of the march towards justice and equality."

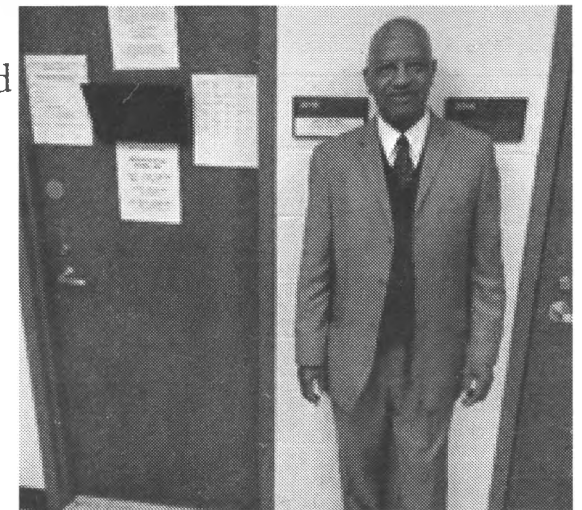
Moore also noted that King's death did galvanize the movement, but said that there is still a long way to go for racial justice and equality in America.



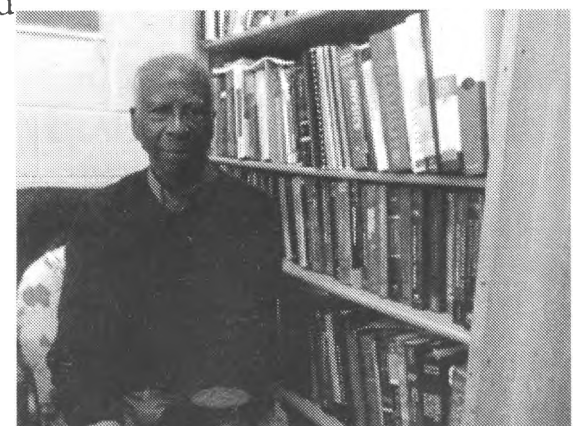
Morehouse Professor Dr. Cooke



A picture of King sits in Dr. Cooke's office.



Morehouse Professor Dr. Curtis Clark



Morehouse Professor Dr. Carlyle Moore

# KING'S DEATH GAVE DEAN CARTER HIS LIFE'S MISSION

BY RON THOMAS, MAROON TIGER ADVISER

Dr. Lawrence Carter was living in Boston when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Carter's reason for being in that city: his deep admiration for the greatest civil rights figure of the 20th century.

Carter, the only dean the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel has had since it opened in 1979, was a 10th grader in Columbus, Ohio, when he first heard King preach in 1957. He thought it was a good sermon, "but I was not blown away," he said. They chatted afterward, and King asked Carter to consider going to Morehouse College.

A family friend talked him out of that and instead he attended Virginia University of Lynchburg, where he heard King preach again in 1961. This time, his sermon was unforgettable.

"I have never heard in my life a speech before then or after to this day to equal it, not even the 'I Have a Dream' speech in Washington," Carter said. "The speech had four crescendos and four times he lifted us out of our seats so that 4,000 people rose and screamed 'Yes!!!!' I have never heard oratory with the power and the strength to match it.

"I was so moved by the speech that I ran all the way back to my dormitory, called my mother and I said I'm transferring to Morehouse College. I knew I would never be the same."

His mother said no because she was already working at least three jobs to afford Lynchburg's tuition, and Morehouse would be more expensive. Carter was stunned that he could not do something "that I thought was so clearly the will of God for me," but he secretly vowed to do the second-best thing: "I will get all of the rest of my education at Boston University, where I can be taught by some of the same professors who taught him."

Boston University, where King had graduated from seminary school and had gotten his doctorate degree, accepted Carter in 1963. Hence, he and his future wife, Marva, were in Boston when King was

killed.

It was tragic irony that on April 4, 1968, they were chatting during intermission at a play on campus about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln when Carter saw an arm tap one of his professors, Dr. Robert Luccock, on the shoulder. The arm belonged to Dr. Walter G. Muelder, the dean of the School of Theology, then the two men walked outside the auditorium, but Carter could still see them and a worried expression on Muelder's face.

He interrupted them, asked if something was wrong, and Muelder told him that King had been shot in Memphis.

"I can feel the emotion, even now," Carter recalled two weeks ago. "It just came up in me. I froze. It literally kind of shook me, and when I composed myself I looked at him and said, 'Is he all right?' And he said, 'Thirty minutes ago, he died.' "Oh God. I couldn't speak. I turned and I went back in and I got Marva by the hand and I just asked Marva to come. She had no idea what happened and we kept walking out of the (student) union to the great staircase going down. And on the way down as I held her hand, I said, 'They killed him.'"

At that point, in his King Chapel office, tears slowly rolled down Carter's cheeks. He paused, then continued, recalling that he and Marva next walked to the campus' Marsh Chapel.

"We took seats on the back pew," Carter said, "and the only thing we could see was the great stained glass window of Jesus in ascension above the four doctors of the church – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – behind the altar. And sitting there in the silence, holding hands, I, with tears coming down my face, I prayed out loud: 'Lord, help me do something significant for Martin Luther King Jr. before I close my eyes.'"

Fifty years later, Dean Lawrence Carter is still striving to complete that mission.

# THE END OF A DREAM

BY AARON JOHNSON, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Linda Zatlin's recollection of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination emphasized the depth of his impact on the communities in the southeast region and captured the range of emotions the Black community felt after his death.

"I was at home on the corner of Northside Drive and Peachtree Battle when I received a phone call from some students saying that they didn't want me to come to campus until they called me back, because it could be dangerous for me," said Zatlin, who is white.

"The Black Panthers had come down, and they were reigning campus. They were making sure things were getting done exactly the way they wanted them to."

While Zatlin did not experience any physical harm, she believes that the southeast Black community's approach to the civil rights movement changed from peace and positivity before King's assassination to violence and aggressiveness afterward. To her, this change seemed to come from a loss of leadership and sense of direction, almost as though people were so shocked and sad that they didn't know what else to do.

"It was hard to believe," Zatlin said. "It was the end of a dream. The end of a kind of life we thought we would have. We couldn't believe it."

Zatlin expressed that King was much more than a public figure. King stood as a rock to those in the Black community, giving them a sense of hope and change. But he made people feel secure about the change that was coming, so losing him felt like losing hope.

"Me and my students, we would go down to Underground Atlanta because it was just built and obviously it was an integrated group, so we got spat upon and yelled at," Zatlin said. "But we had King. ... And all of a sudden, we didn't have King anymore. It was an amputation.

"It was hard to understand. It was hard to move."

# MOREHOUSE CAMPUS: THE CALM WITHIN THE STORM

BY TYLER MITCHELL, SPORTS EDITOR

On Thursday, April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was shot dead while standing outside his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. When significant events like this occur, many people tend to remember every detail of their reaction to it. For many who were alive when King was killed, they remember the violence that occurred in reaction to his death. For others, it was crying and protesting that they recall.

With the nation in an uproar the campus of Morehouse College stayed relatively calm. Dr. Marshall Grigsby was a senior at the time and he remembers the day as if it was yesterday.

“It was about 5 or 6:30 p.m. and I was at Spelman College at the time visiting a girlfriend and I saw the news on her television,” he said. “I immediately left and went across the street and students were gathering in the quad, in front of Graves Hall. It was a very chaotic scene. ... There was a little grocery store on the corner of Fair and Ashby that was firebombed, along with other small businesses on Ashby. This was my senior year so some of us spent the night basically trying to calm students and keep them from going off

campus and causing more damage.”

Two days later, the body was brought back to Atlanta for the funerals on April 9. The first funeral was at King’s Ebenezer Baptist Church and the second was on the campus of Morehouse. Dr. Grigsby sang at King’s funeral as part of the Morehouse Glee Club.

“I remember the funeral being held on the steps of Harkness Hall and 15 feet from me was Senator Robert Kennedy, who days later (actually June 5) was also assassinated,” Grigsby said. “I remember Mahalia Jackson starting it off singing ‘Oh Precious Lord’ and anybody you could think of was there. The family, Harry Belafonte, just people everywhere. ... You knew you were in the middle of a worldwide event.”

Grigsby went on to have a successful career in the field of education. After Morehouse, he received his master’s degree in Education from the University of Chicago and later became the president of Benedict College in South Carolina. This summer, Grigsby (pictured in the beard below) will be celebrating his 50-year anniversary of graduating from Morehouse.

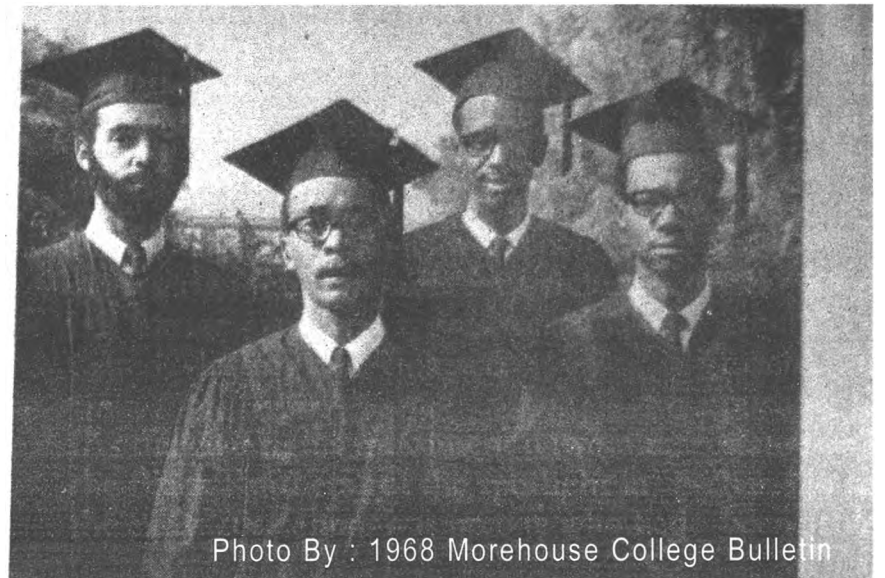
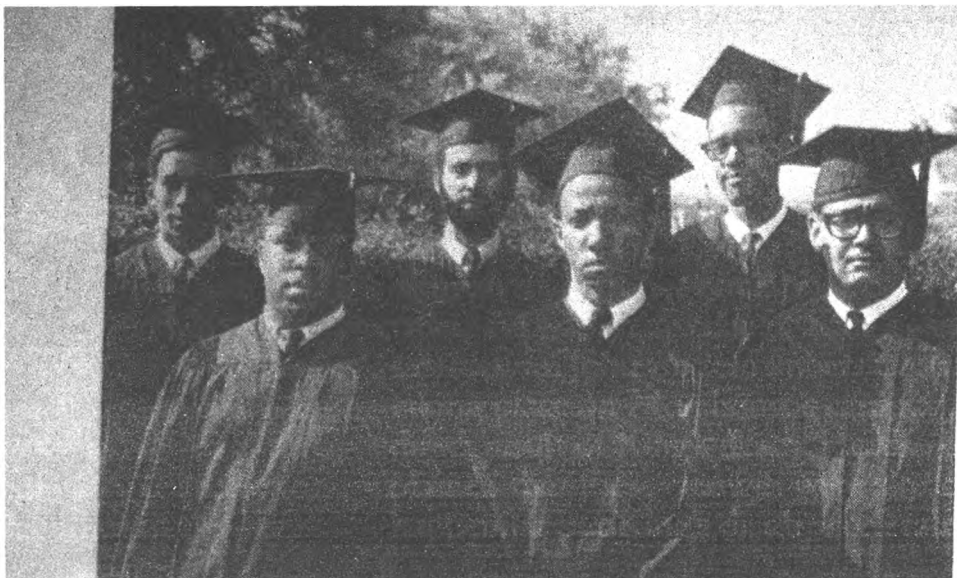


Photo By : 1968 Morehouse College Bulletin



# MLK: THE CONTEXT BEHIND A LEGEND

BY AARON JOHNSON, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Tobe Johnson, a retired Political Science professor who graduated from Morehouse College only six years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., provided important insight into people's emotions toward the civil rights movement during the 1960s, King's legacy, and the impact of King's death.

Throughout the conversation, Johnson raised and supported salient arguments that demystified King's legacy and showed the practical results of his death. What made Johnson's interview unique is that he knew King as a friend in addition to the revolutionary figure he became.

"The spring of 1968 was an unusually tumultuous time anyway," he said. "Even before King's death, a lot of things were going on: the civil disorders, the Vietnam War, and student revolt at Morehouse.

"I would say Martin reached his zenith of success in American acceptance maybe around '65 or '66. It was slowly downhill since then."

Johnson said King's popularity dropped because of violence in the cities, his failure to successfully achieve justice in the

North, "and his strong statements against Vietnam brought him a lot of grief. People believed he shouldn't go there because it was compromising civil rights.

"Many people had begun to doubt Martin's orientation and what he was trying to do. In fact, many people who had praised him earlier were beginning to say negative things about him by 1968."

## Impact at Morehouse

Though he does not remember exactly where he was on the day of King's assassination, Johnson remembers things taking place on Morehouse's campus as a direct result of King's death. He also explained that these changes were already happening but King's death accelerated

them.

"Things like African American Studies became a really important part of curriculum," Johnson said. "We [Morehouse] had seminars, the equivalent of Crown Forums at the time, in response to his death.

"At the time we didn't really have a space on campus that could adequately support the demands of a large event, so in effect we had to use Spelman." Consequently, King's body lay in state at Spelman.

After that, "People (at Morehouse) were determined to create a facility that could accommodate nice occasions, so (President Hugh Gloster) went out and raised money to build Gloster Hall and King Chapel."

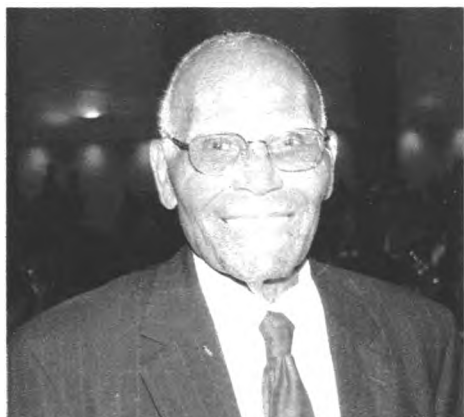


Photo By : Mo Barnes

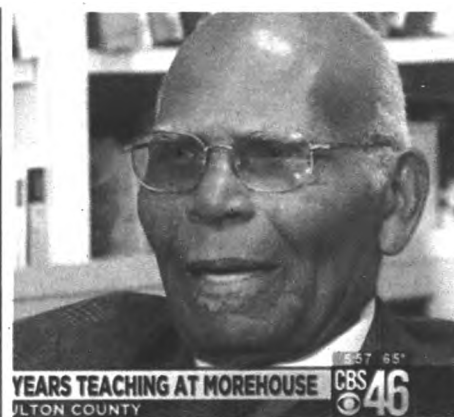


Photo By : CBS46 Atlanta

## Impact on the Movement

Johnson also noted a shift in the direction of the civil rights movement after King's death. He believes that the method by which equality was sought differed because there was a lot more student involvement, aggression instead of peace, and the Black Panthers started taking the spotlight in King's absence.

"The student movement led by Stokely (Carmichael) and others was much more aggressive," Johnson said. "Not violence, but the language was aggressive. It repudiated Martin's non-violence.

"As the civil rights movement unwound, the Black Panthers got the spotlight in the early '70s. There was no one who had

the personal charisma or authority to pull the movement together again."

## Context on King's legacy

After reflecting on the time period throughout the conversation, Johnson began to praise King for his uncanny ability to bring people together. However, when providing context around the assassination, Johnson implied that King's work here on Earth had been done, for he had contributed all that he could to the movement.

Johnson also emphasized the strengths King brought to the table by reflecting on what was lost in the movement as a result of his death. Lastly, he reflected on how King's legacy managed to live on 50+ years after his death.

"At the time of his death he was really run down, tired, apprehensive, and when he went to Memphis the first time, following trying to promote and help the sanitation workers there, that excursion ended in violence. He was virtually run out of Memphis and that weighed heavily on him. It took its toll.

"Shortly after that he was trying to pull together another Washington march, and he made up his mind to return to Memphis to demonstrate that he could lead a non-violent movement that wouldn't get out of hand."

## The Aftermath

"His death brought to the forefront his contributions and his narrative of non-violence," Johnson said. It also left a vacuum in charisma and leadership of the movement.

"The height of his popularity peaked around 1966," he said. "So to a very large extent, Coretta King was responsible for pushing the King holidays and getting a statue on Morehouse's campus. Without her, I'm not sure if his legacy would've been achieved."

# MUSIC OF THE STRUGGLE

BY JAMES JONES, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

For as long as people have lived here on Earth, music has been a powerful vehicle for expression. Outside of the obvious entertainment factor, music has served as a tool used to soothe, motivate and commiserate.

The music of the 1950s and '60s, specifically, the music of the civil rights movement, was no different.

The name most synonymous with the Civil Rights Movement, of course, is Dr. Martin Luther King, and his leadership had a great influence on the music of the movement. Much like him, these songs gave people a renewed sense of purpose and courage, and provided a base for solidarity.

Perhaps the most iconic song representing the civil rights movement is "We Shall Overcome." The song became associated with the movement in 1959 and became synonymous with non-violent struggle. Its lyrics serve as a reminder to keep believing and keep pushing for change.

In 1963, Odetta performed the song "Oh Freedom," at the March on Washington, the event where Dr. King delivered his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech.

The song is performed without instruments, and instead relies on the singer and crowd to keep pace with coordinated claps and stomps. It has particularly powerful lyrics that modernize the thoughts of Africans who were brought to America as slaves on the Middle Passage: "Before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave/And go home to my Lord and be free."

Songs like this reflected an increasing national black pride. They warned the opposition that the movement would not be stopped and resonated with black people, reminding them to keep pushing for their rights.

December 1964 saw the release of Sam Cooke's classic "A Change Is Gonna Come." The song is a reflection on Cooke's life, and was largely inspired by an incident where he and his traveling group were denied access to a whites-only motel in Louisiana. Its lyrics speak on the oppression of the system and is a plea for help.

Blacks had become truly fed up with their treatment in America.

The assassination of King on April 4, 1968, shook the fabric of the world. Riots and uprisings ensued around the world as people conveyed the pain that losing such a peaceful and powerful leader brought them.

For many, the King assassination brought on a very haunting perspective – if someone was willing to harm him, what did that say about the state of our world?

Three days later, Nina Simone and her band performed the song "Why (The King of Love is Dead)" at the Westbury Music Festival on Long Island, N.Y., as a reaction to the violence. The performance lasted nearly 15 minutes.

The song was a microcosm of the feelings of black America.

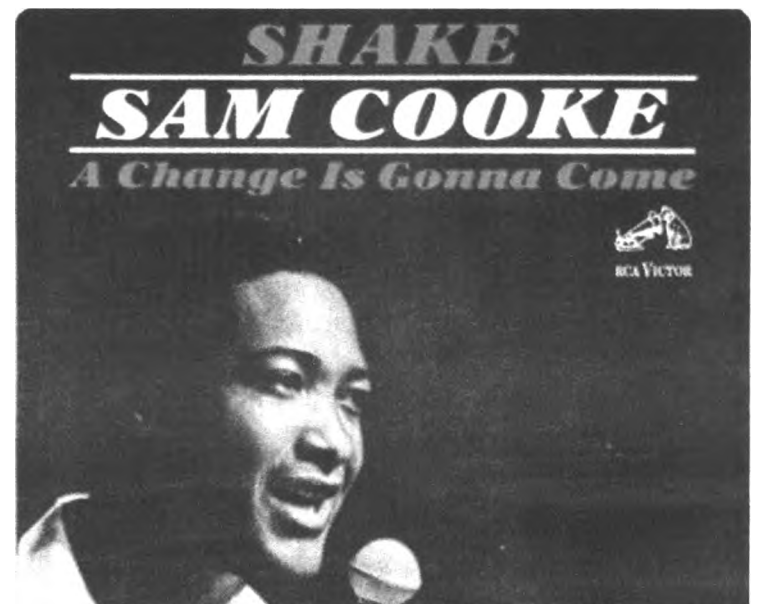
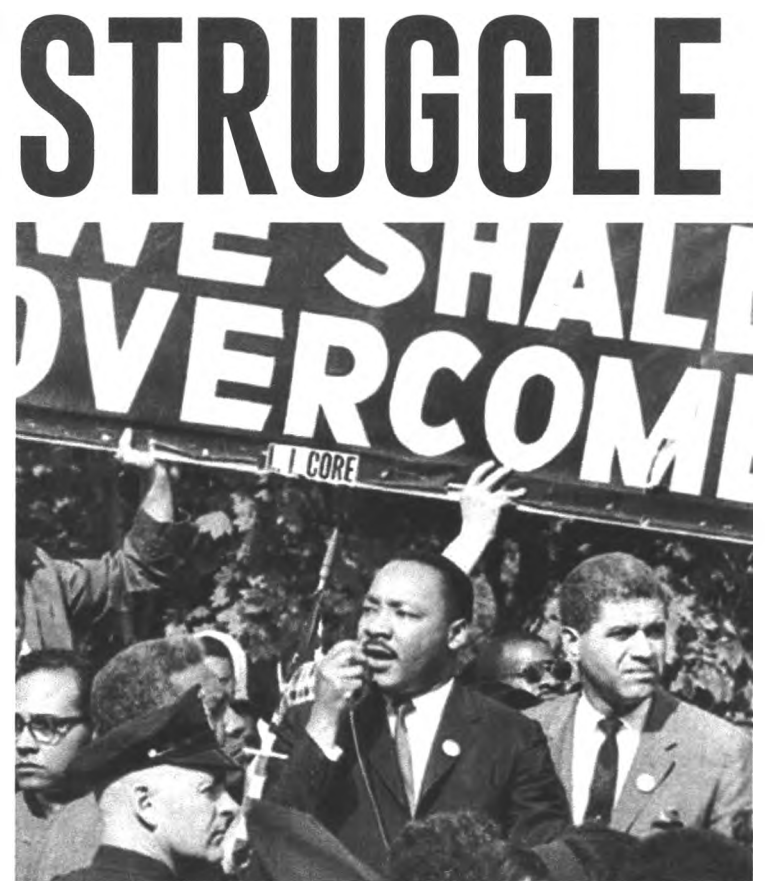
Dr. Samuel Livingston, director of Morehouse College's African American Studies Program, was able to provide some commentary based on his research.

"This song was a powerful reflection on what black people were thinking," Livingston said. "What are we gonna do? Now that they have murdered, assassinated Dr. King, how do we move forward?"

In the aftermath of King's death, another song that became powerful with the black power movement was James Brown's "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud," released four months after King's assassination.

The song was a concerted effort by over 30 people. Its call-and-response chorus is performed by children of the surrounding Los Angeles community, specifically Watts and Compton. It speaks of black empowerment, of having the power of self-determination and being able to choose one's own destiny; of being unafraid of the power that whites held.

Brown's song inspired an entire generation of black people who began to view their dark skin and the strength of their ancestors as a source of pride. Many musicians, artists and leaders of later generations





would go on to cite this song as a source of inspiration.

Another cause that King championed toward the end of his life was the ending of America's involvement in the Vietnam War. He saw a common thread in the struggle of African-Americans in the Civil Rights Movement and the people of Vietnam.

King saw America's involvement in Vietnam as modern imperialism and proposed that America cease all bombings in Vietnam and bring home the troops stationed there in an effort to begin peace talks.

Musical legend Jimi Hendrix shared this view. In 1969, his rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" expressed his opposition to the war. In 1970, he recorded the song "Machine Gun," whose lyrics come from the perspective of a combat soldier in Vietnam.

"It was a song that was critical of the war in Vietnam," Livingston said. "It's one of the songs that musically and lyrically was critical. It's about a soldier and his machine gun and how it preserves him, but it also kills a lot of people in Vietnam. That killing took the lives of over 40,000 Americans."

The song runs over 12 minutes long, and the drumming and guitar riffs are played in a way meant to simulate the chaos and uncertainty of life on the battlefield.

It is important to understand that black people in America were not the only ones who made music that reflected the struggle. People of African descent around the world made their voices heard through their music.

"Black folks everywhere are now singing songs of oppression everywhere," Livingston said. "In Jamaica, this led to the birth of reggae. You got a lot of conscious artists like Bob Marley. In South Africa, you can look at the parallel of struggle there to here in America. It expresses a liberation struggle in their music."

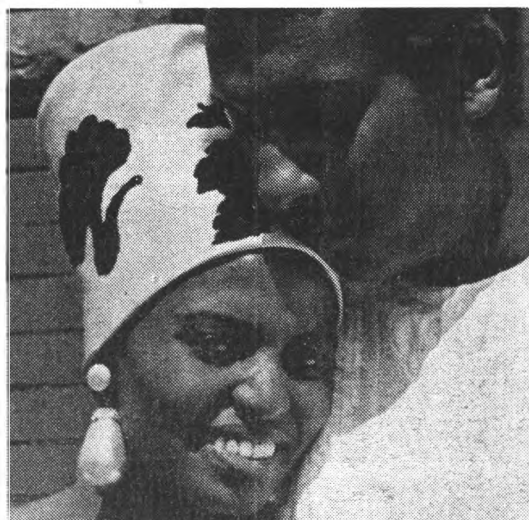
Marley popularized reggae across the world. His music soothed the hearts of many while preaching messages of love, tolerance and peace. He sought to unify people of the African diaspora across the world, as exemplified by his Pan-African and Rastafari beliefs.

South African artists like Hugh Masekela, known as "the father of South African jazz," and Miriam Makeba, the wife of Stokely Carmichael known as "Mama Africa," used their music to express the pain and horrors of apartheid in their country. Their music criticized the South African government and shared the burden of their people.

Livingston sums up the power of music in representing the struggle of black people everywhere in one quote.

"Music parallels, and it's not one of those things that just drives the struggle," Livingston said. "It expresses the feeling and what people are going through."

Music has, and always will be, an expression of the human heart.



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# STUDENTS SHOULD EXPLORE KING COLLECTION

BY JE' LON ALEXANDER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is something that all Morehouse College students should look at when they first get here, because not only they are looking at the work of one of their own, but they also get a chance to see the evolution of Dr. King.

For example, at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library Archives Research Center, one of his early drafts of "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence" shows King in 1960 reflecting on his state of mind and consciousness 10 years earlier as a seminary student at Boston University.

"At this stage of my development I was a thoroughgoing liberal," Dr. King wrote. "Liberalism provided me with an intellectual satisfaction that I could never find in fundamentalism. I became so enamored of the insights of liberalism that I almost fell into the trap of accepting uncritically everything that came under its name. I was absolutely convinced of the natural goodness of man and the natural power of human reason."

This stood out to me because it shows Dr. King at a time when he reflected on what type of ideologies or philosophical influences would shape his thinking in the future.

Besides that, what caught my eye the most was reading a correspondence from Malcolm X to Dr. King dated on July 31, 1963, which I have never even seen before. Of course, we all know Dr. King and Malcolm X met only once but there were communications between them, including providing mutual support.

The letter extended an invitation to Dr. King to speak in Harlem; however, Malcolm X takes effort to emphasize that there is a racial crisis in America that is destructive and will soon explode. His eye-opening line that caught my eye was, "A racial explosion is more destructive than a nuclear explosion" because a racial explosion would have deadly consequences that affect all society.

This line stood out to me because the threat of a racial explosion is true to this day. Racial tensions are growing because each year something incendiary happens to minorities, such as the recent controversial killing of Stephon Clark by police in Sacramento, California.

The Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection is not just your ordinary archival collection. It is a showing of a black leader whose intellect and belief changed over time. This collection is transformative. I highly encourage all Morehouse students to take the time to look at his work during the four years they are here. The legacy of our Morehouse brother will continue to live on and we as Men of Morehouse must continue his unfinished business that will eventually lead to the promised land.

# KING'S LIGHT IS EVERLASTING

## BY JAIR HILBURN, FEATURES EDITOR

When the topic of Black history is brought up, there are many icons that come to mind. However, there is one whose name and legacy rings in the minds of people like the Liberty Bell: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King is the man whose voice made an impact on the culture during his time, and still to this day.

As we approach the 50th anniversary since King's death, it's imperative that we look at the impact he has made on people both in life and death.

Growing up in a small town in Texas, Black History Month was a holiday that was recognized but never celebrated the way that it deserved. At certain times in February during school, we would learn about influential Black historical figures who overcame obstacles that did not seem possible to overcome and crossed lines into spaces that did not accept them because of the color of their skin. We would talk about historical figures such as Rosa Parks, Jesse Jackson, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver Jr., Martin Luther King Jr., and a few more.

Although all of these icons and legends are great, none of them received as much recognition as King. During the month, the headliner for every program, assembly, lesson plan, etc. would be King. He would be revered as one of the most influential social justice warriors during the civil rights movement, a kind spirit, a Man of God, an activist, a Morehouse Man, and many more titles. I personally always found myself gravitating to the stories that were told of this quintessential man.

At first, I assumed that this appreciation stemmed from a lack of knowledge about other historical Black figures. However, as the years went on, I learned more about Black history and was even a witness to Black history being made. Jordan Peele and Sterling K. Brown became the first African-American males to win awards in their respective categories of the Academy and Golden Globe Awards. "Black Panther" became the highest-grossing superhero film, and "Girls Trip" became the first film that was produced, directed, starred in and written by Black people. Somehow, the focus still stayed on King.

Looking back on King's legacy, I see how it has

an effect on my life to this day. Growing up, learning about a man as influential as him ignited a burning desire to be greater which would flourish in many aspects. King's legacy sent me down the path to be a great student. Reading his prolific and historic "I Have a Dream" speech let a young boy know that a man who was able to speak so eloquently didn't gain that ability by not challenging himself to study things that were above his grade level. In addition, he wouldn't have been able to inspire so much change if he wasn't a man of the people.

Being at Morehouse, Martin Luther King Jr.'s name is used prominently and proudly. He has even been referred to as "the ideal Morehouse Man" in some cases.

While deciding which college to attend, I came across Morehouse College. After visiting the institution, I knew that I wanted to be a part of the brotherhood.

Constantly we are told that college will be the most formative years of one's life. Although King wasn't a reason for attending the institution, knowing he graduated from this institution made me realize what I could be if I chose to attend the school.

Being at this institution, students are told that Mother Morehouse holds the crown over her children's heads with the hope that they will grow into by the time they leave. With an alum as infamous as King, it feels as though the crown is held at a high standard. With a standard set so high, it pushes me to do my best and be my best.

All the qualities that Martin Luther King Jr. embodied in his life influenced me to become the person I am today, but it also inspired me to strive to be greater. I am one of many that have been impacted by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and there are many more to come.

Here we are 50 years after his assassination still celebrating him, everything he did, and everything he stood for. To this day, his work and his light continues to live on in the lives of those he touched both directly and indirectly.

# THE ALPHAS AND KING

BY RODERICK DIAMOND II, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**M**artin Luther King Jr. was a man of many talents during his life, attributes only a few people have the honor and privilege to share with him. Morehouse College and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., are just two entities that King held close to his heart.

Roughly 2,000 students are able to walk the same paths as the late King at Morehouse every year and only several hundred are able to call it their alma mater after graduation. Now reduce that couple hundred to between 20 and 30.

Yes, those 20-30 brothers on this campus are able to call King a brother in a different light than Morehouse. Those are the brothers of the Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

The Alpha Rho chapter holds King in high regard. In 1952, King was initiated into the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha while obtaining his doctorate of Philosophy at Boston University. Though King was not initiated at Morehouse, the chapter has an unbiased love for him that is shown in a multitude of ways.

Chapter president and graduating senior Devon Smith talked about a variety of topics related to the relationship between the fraternity and King. From probating at King Chapel, King in the fraternity and what would you ask King, the responses were intriguing and detailed.

“That experience is surreal,” Smith said, recalling his experience of probating in front of King Chapel. “You are never going to really be able to replicate that feeling of being out there in front of thousands of people and showing them that you worked hard to become an Alpha.”

That has been a tradition in the chapter for numerous years. He also said that King is still viewed as an Alpha from Morehouse, so what better way to honor King's legacy than having their unveilings close to him.

Smith said the chapter hasn't planned any special events yet to pay tribute to the historic week, but he went on to

mention their non-stop appreciation for King in other ways.

“We usually do most of our events during MLK Day,” he said. “We do various marches, we honor him on campus. During founders day for Alpha, which is December 4th, we also do a pretty big event on campus where we honor him. This past year, we had about 200 brothers come out and all circled around Dr. King and we sang the Alpha hymn.”

But the emphasis on King does not stop there. Smith added how during each membership development process the ideals of King are learned before becoming a member. It is nationally mandated that all prospective members learn about him and it is nothing unique to Alpha Rho.

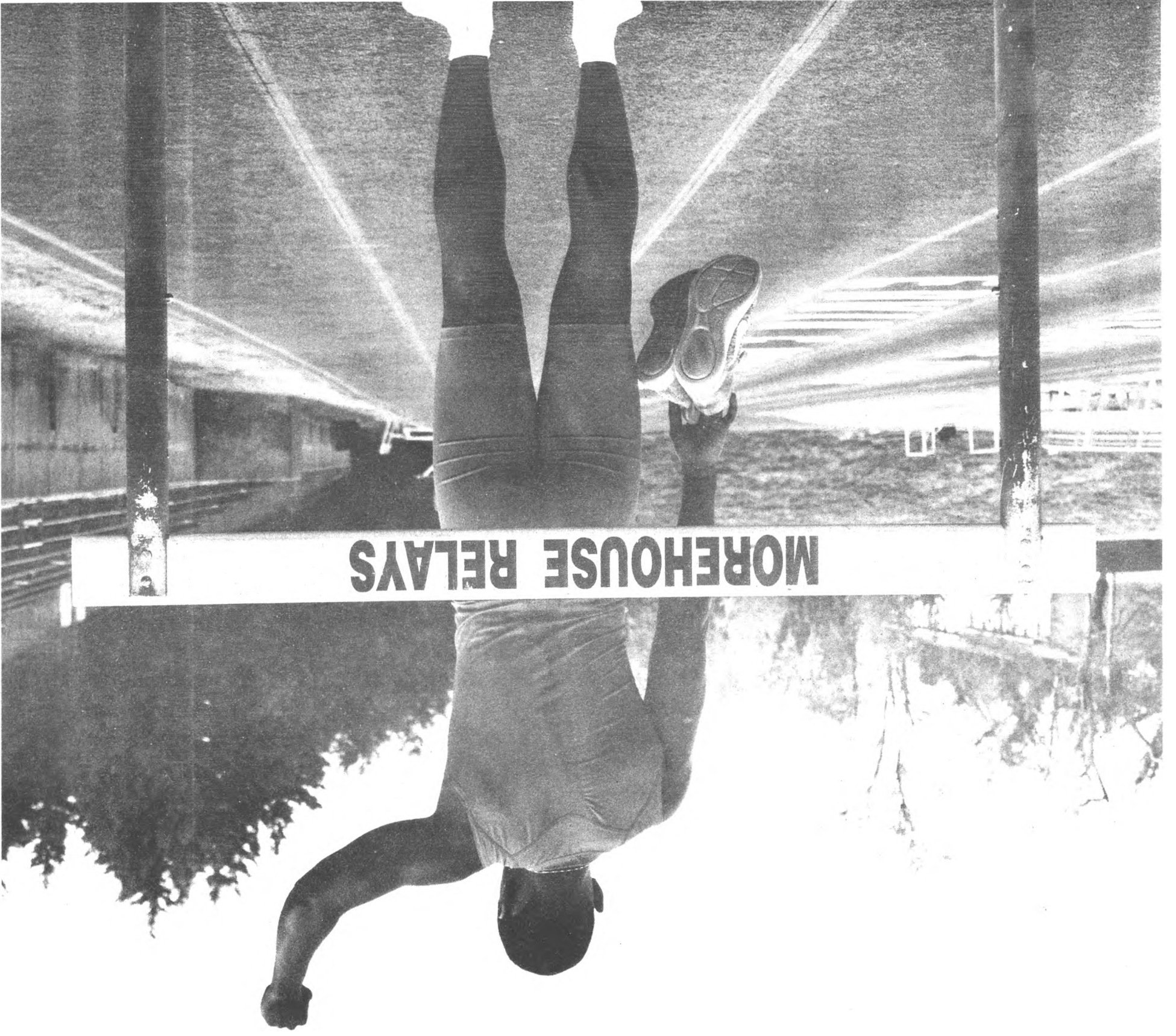
When asked what would they say if they had the opportunity to speak to King, Smith and Derrick Parker, another member of Alpha Rho, both answered with an appreciative thank you.

“In this day and age,” Smith said, “a lot of people do not appreciate the things that he has done. Although we are at Morehouse College, a lot of people our age specifically never grew up in an era where there was extreme segregation, colored bathrooms and white bathrooms.”

Smith added that he would want to understand King's reasoning behind the non-violence, understanding why he chose that when throughout history people have fought back with force and anger.

Parker's response was, “It is an honor to be able to go Morehouse, to walk these same grounds and also on top of that add being an Alpha. So all of these things together just really amaze me every time I think about it.”

Martin Luther King has left his imprint on the world in multiple ways, so there are different ways we can honor his legacy and his life. The Alphas at Morehouse just have a deeper and more meaningful way of portraying that honor.



**MOREHOUSE RELAYS**