

MT



KING

A GREAT MOREHOUSE MAN REMEMBERED 50 YEARS AFTER

MAY 20, 2018, COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE (EDITION NO. 2)

SALUTING THE SENIOR CLASS OF 2018
HOW DID DR. KING'S LEGACY INFLUENCE THEM?

"What comes to mind is one of his most acclaimed quotes, 'The time is always right to do what is right.' It allows me to approach classes, research, whatever, with an understanding that there's a larger goal to accomplish than that specific challenge. It also encourages me to pursue any endeavor with excellence."

**-NATHAN HARRIS-
COMPUTER SCIENCE,
3.56 GPA**



"Dr. King taught me how to be a radical and bold leader who isn't afraid of standing up for what I believe in."

**-TIANT HOLLOWAY-
RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY
DOUBLE MAJOR, 3.3 GPA**

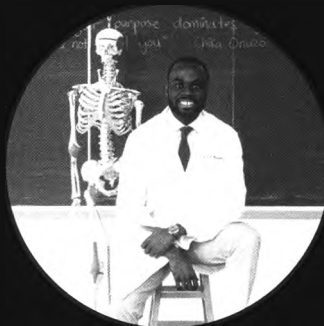
"The idea of the fierce urgency of now, that justice and equality cannot wait. It's up to us to take part in that."

**-DERRICK PARKER-
VALEDICTORIAN
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR,
4.0 GPA.**



"When I think of Dr. King, I think of a man who was bold, who was humble, who was extremely courageous and put the life of others at the forefront. When I walk by the King statue, it reminds me of the incredible life of Dr. King and challenges me to emulate his character and his commitment to service."

**-BEST UCHEHARA-
BIOLOGY MAJOR, 3.9 GPA**



"Walking in his giant footsteps has been an honor for me, but it's definitely a big shadow to grow in. Knowing about his presence inspired me to be a physician who knows his future patients holistically through mind, body and spirit."

**-MATTHEW YOUNG-
SALUTORIAN
BIOLOGY MAJOR, 3.97 GPA**



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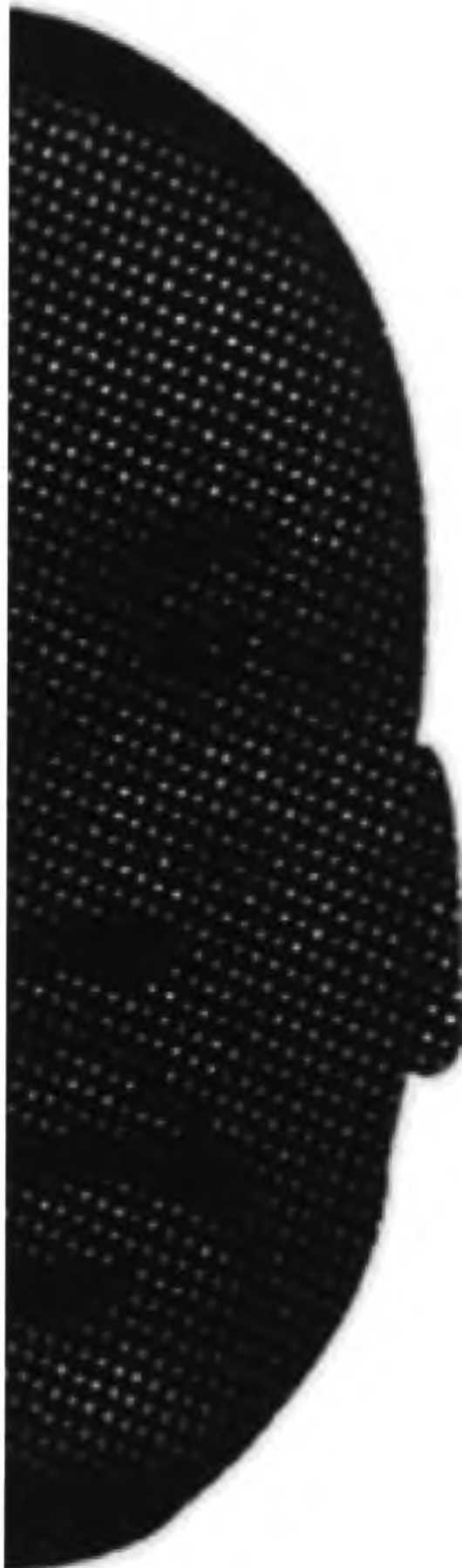
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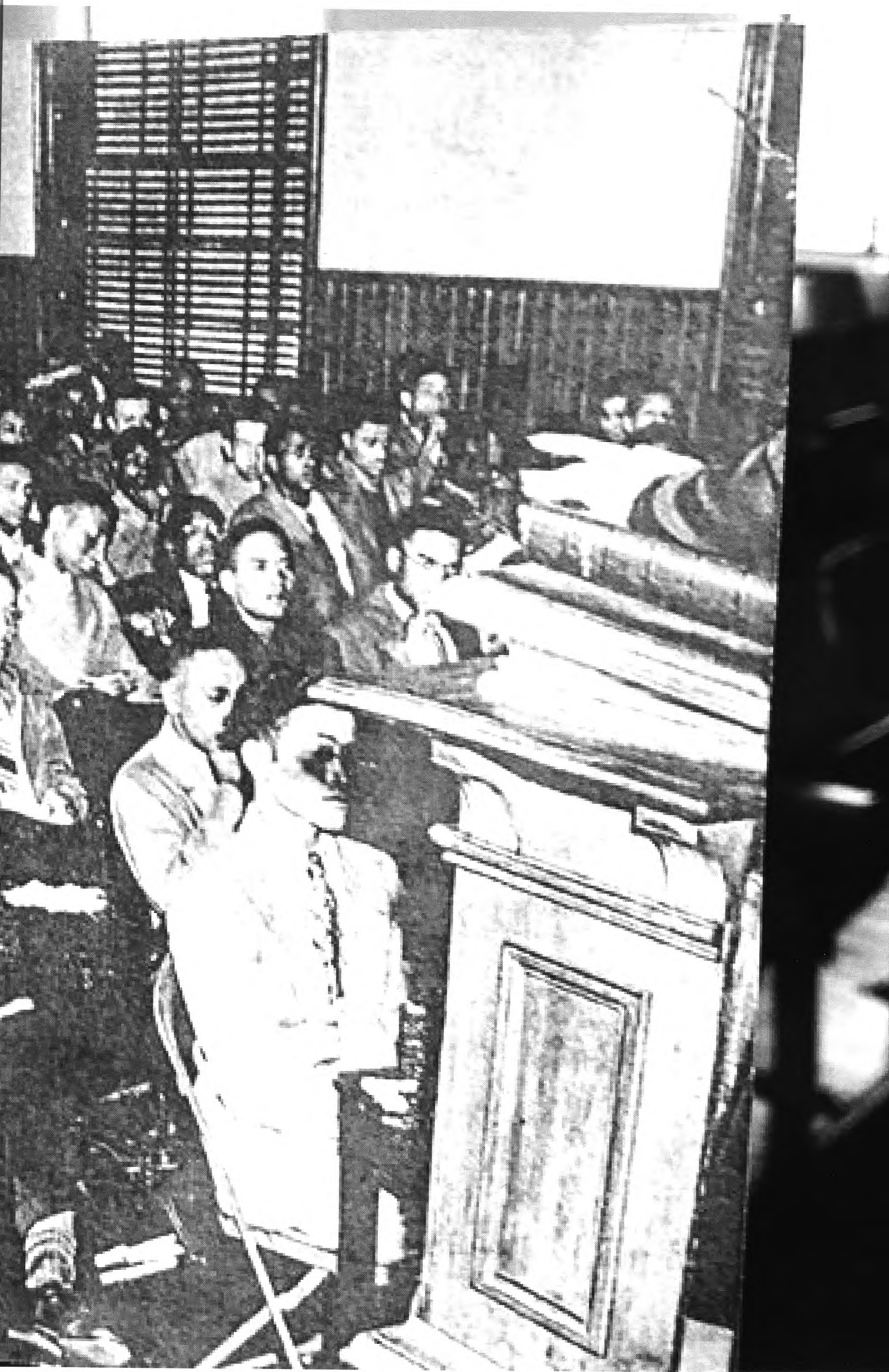
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KING AS A STUDENT





LETTER FROM

THE EDITOR

Time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively. ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. My earliest memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came in the form of a placemat.

When I was 18 months old, my father bought me a placemat that highlighted the achievements of pioneers in the African-American community. From Sojourner Truth to W.E.B. DuBois, you name it, the placemat had it.

Six years later, I had my first black teacher in Mrs. Mason. It was in her class that I first learned about racism. Despite being the only Black kid in my class, the concept of hating a person solely because of the color of their skin didn't register with me until I learned about Dr. King's assassination. I was distraught. My bubble of ignorance had burst. Why would someone murder a man who fought for the equality of his people?

This was the question that I asked myself countless times. I laid awake countless nights trying to answer this, but to no avail. It wasn't until recently, however, that I realized was asking myself the wrong question.

Dr. King wasn't afraid of death: he had survived countless beatings, arrests and even the bombing of his Alabama home. In his last speech, the civil rights leader even predicted his untimely death.

Then, it hit me. Questioning the shooter was leading me down a rabbit hole. Instead, I should have been asking why was Dr. King willing to sacrifice his life for the betterment of an entire race?

The answer was simple: love. While I'm certainly biased, I personally believe that his love for people blossomed during his time in the Atlanta University Center.

Although we often take this place for granted, the AUC is unique. Think about it for a second. The AUC houses the largest consortium of Black students in the world. Not in Georgia. Not in the United States. Not even in North America. THE WORLD.

Seeing this many talented, Black individuals must have done a number on a 15-year-old freshman named Martin. Couple that with his Christian beliefs and you have the martyr that this very magazine is celebrating.

I say all of this for two reasons. First, take advantage of your time here. You'll never be in a place that houses this many talented Black individuals. Allow yourself to be pushed outside of your comfort zone. Make friends with Spelmanites, Clarkites and Men of Morehouse alike. Your worldview will expand, and you'll be a better person because of it.

Last, but certainly not least, use your time here to cultivate your passion. For King, it was people. For former Spelman President Audrey F. Manley, a Spelman graduate, it was medicine. For Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, King's best friend who earned his master's degree at Atlanta University, it, too, was people. Once you find your passion, everything else will fall in line.

If you learn anything from this issue, I want it to be that King was human. Dr. King wasn't perfect. He had his shortcomings, as we all do. He laughed. He cried. He loved. He hated.

At some point, our time on this planet will come to an end. What made King so iconic, however, was that his actions transcended the grave. If you have similar aspirations, I charge you to utilize the more than 230 acres in the AUC to find what drives you.

Into Ties More Brotherly,
C. Isaiah Smalls II



The Purpose of Education

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.

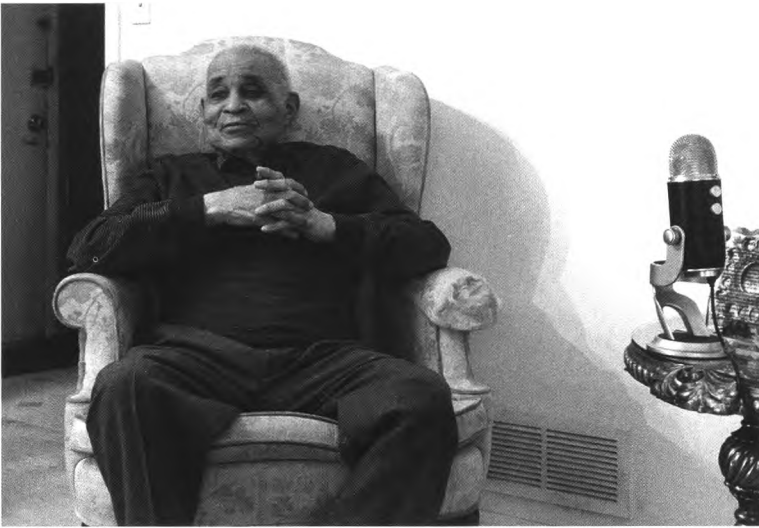
Education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half truths, prejudices, and propaganda. At this point, I often wonder whether or not education 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!



//PHOTO BY
C. ISIAAH
SMALLS II

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

BY C. ISIAAH SMALLS II, 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

“He [possessed] just a contemporary knowledge of the world...”

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 referred 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.

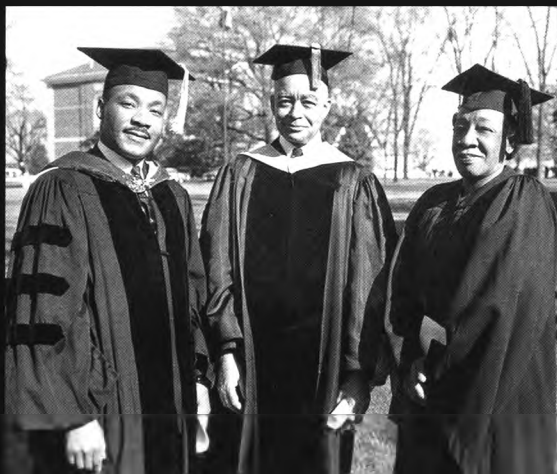
Usually, that would be true. This level of generosity, however, extended far past the realm of religion. King was simply looking out for one of his brothers.

REFLECT FROM FACULTY

2



ITION MOREHOUS AND STAFF



Summer, 1968

THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE BULLETIN



THE SURVIVING KING FAMILY POSE AT CEMETERY AFTER MEMORIAL SERVICES
Back row, left to right: Dr. M. L. King Sr., Mrs. M. L. King, Jr., Isaac Ferris, Mrs. Christine King Ferris, Mrs. M. L. King, the Reverend A. D. Williams. Front row, left to right: Bernice King, Dexter King, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The youngest child of Dr. King is in the middle of the crowd, reaching out to the lowest responses of a crowd, preaching the gospel.



President Thomas in Morehouse cafeteria engaging fellow students as they enjoy a meal.
// Photos by Phil McCollum

KING'S DEATH MADE PRESIDENT THOMAS 'WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD'

By Jair Hilburn,
Features Editor

The dreamer may have died, but his dream lives on.

It has been 50 years since the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. To this day, people all over the world continue to keep his memory and beliefs alive because of the impact that he made on their lives.

"[King] was definitely a kind of role model hero," Morehouse President David Thomas said. "I got the idea that I wanted to go to Morehouse College when I read that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had gone to Morehouse College."

April 4, 1968, is a date in world history that will not be forgotten. It was the day King was assassinated while in Memphis, Tenn., but it was also a day when the world stopped.

"I was 11 years old in the sixth grade, and I was at home in my house in Kansas City," Thomas said. "I remember a news flash came on that said the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot. Then a little later a news flash came saying the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King had died, and then everything on the TV just stopped.

"All they started talking about on the news was the assassination."

During this unfortunate day in history, people were in a state of shock that King had been taken from them and were not able to pay attention to anything else. However, that wasn't the case for Thomas.

"My response to it as an 11-year-old that night was to sit down at our dining room table, and I wrote a paper about Dr. Martin Luther King that I took to school the next day," Thomas said. "I'm not sure why that was my response, but that was my response. I'm sure the sentiment was that he was a great leader; he was fighting to make things better for Black people."

Growing up in Kansas City, Mo., Thomas could recall riots breaking out in the city and high school students leaving school to march being the direct aftermath to the loss of King. Due to those riots, the National Guard filled the streets to the point where "it was



like you were in a war zone.” Even with all this going on around Thomas, there was only one thing he felt.

“I was excited,” Thomas said. “I just remember feeling like something’s happening in the world. I’m 11 years old; I don’t know what it is, but I know I’m standing right next to it.

“I imagined that one day I might have to sacrifice my freedom or my life to bring about the liberation of Black people, and it made me want to change the world.”

With the hunger to change the world, Thomas learned that there are more ways than one to accomplish that.

“You change the world by changing people,” Thomas said. “It’s important that we’re all doing something because if we’re all doing something then we’re going to move the world forward. No one person is going to change it.”

By being an educator, Thomas has used his time to follow through with that change. He would incorporate some materials from King’s speeches and writings to teach leadership in his class. For some of his students, they carried those lessons with them as they matriculated through life.

“Every now and then I meet a former student of mine, and some of my students today are changing the world,” Thomas said. “Every now and then I bump into one of them and they remember something that they got in my class. The world is changing, and I was a part of it and I didn’t even know it.”

One of Thomas’ favorite speeches by King is his “The Drum Major Instinct” sermon because King talks about how people want to be the drum major who is out front.

“If you think about it, in some ways it’s what the school’s about – raising up every year a new group of men who will go to some part of the world and be out there being a drum major,” Thomas said.

That sermon continues to resonate with him to this day – especially since he became president of Morehouse in Jan-

uary. He wants to ensure that he is leading the school in the best direction because of what the resulting product could be from his leadership.

“Being president of Morehouse, I’m the drum major,” Thomas said. “I’m out front, but I think I’m a drum major for things that matter in the world. I’m leading a band whose music makes the world a better place.

“Hopefully like [King] says in the drum major speech, when people say I was a drum major they’ll say I was a drum major who made a difference in people’s lives.”

With partnerships such as the one that Morehouse had with the National Football League to talk about advocacy, Thomas hopes to use some of King’s beliefs to help students understand social justice.

“I would love to see us deepen the opportunities for our students to really grapple with the meaning of social justice and the many ways in which you can live your life to create social justice even if you’re not doing a profession where that’s obviously a part of it,” Thomas said.

Using these traditions around social justice and nonviolence can help the institution and those involved with it to better educate constituencies. Even though King was the biggest social justice warrior to come from Morehouse College, Thomas believes he isn’t the last.

“I talk to people about how the great thing about my job is that I wake up every day to 2,000 men on this campus, and one of them can be my King, so we’ve got to support all of them,” Thomas said.

The president said that when he asks people to give money to Morehouse, he tells them that one of the college’s students “could be my King, and we don’t know who it is. King wasn’t a straight A student, so we can’t top-skim.

“We don’t know who he is, but we know he’s here.”

THE DIGNITY OF KING'S FUNERAL BROUGHT FRANKLIN TO MOREHOUSE

By Ayrton
Lewallen,
Managing Editor

Smoke filled the air and sirens wailed in the distance. Fires engulfed several buildings in the distance and helicopters flew overhead. What he saw before his eyes from his balcony reminded him of a war zone.

This what former Morehouse President Walter E. Massey '58 remembers about the day that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died. Like most other American citizens, April 4, 1968, was a normal day until news spread that the great civil rights leader had been assassinated. For Massey, his story is no different.

At the time, he was living in Chicago and working at the Argonne National Laboratory. Massey and his friends were out shopping on the North Side of town. Accompanied by a mixed group of friends — one black, one white — the group went to a men's store where a salesperson approached them and suggested that they should not be in the streets. She also delivered the shocking news that King had been shot and riots had already ensued on the west side of town.

"Oh, I was shaken," Massey exclaimed, remembering how he felt when he found out the news. "It was hard to believe." Since the '60s was not an age of internet and instant news, Massey remembers going home to watch the news coverage on television.

"It was kind of surreal. And then, I went out on the balcony and I could see fires and smoke. I lived in Hyde Park... but the West Side is miles away from Hyde Park, which is South Side. But you could see flames shooting up in the air, and the sirens everywhere and helicopters flying. It was almost like a war zone. It took me a while to come to grips with the reality of it."

To cope with King's death, Massey remembers shedding many tears. He remembered being left by himself after his friends left his apartment, then he watched the constant news coverage.

The next day, he received a knock on his door. He saw three young white children — two girls and a boy — who were collecting money, furniture and food and delivering the items to the West Side, where the riots had occurred. These students from a Quaker organization had noticed

that all the stores on the West Side had been burned down and there was a lack of food and clothing.

Massey asked how he could help and the students asked him if he had a car, which he did. With a convertible stacked full and the top down, Massey helped the children shuttle food, clothing and furniture down the highway to those in need.

"That was very good because I felt that I was at least doing something helpful and not just sitting around feeling sad," Massey said. Although Massey never met King, he felt a very close connection to what he stood for and Morehouse's integral role in civil rights history.

Although Massey is dismayed and disappointed to see that the country may be taking steps backward from the goals that King and those who followed him accomplished, he realizes that there are people who, like King, are examples of what can and needs to be done in the future to push King's agenda forward.

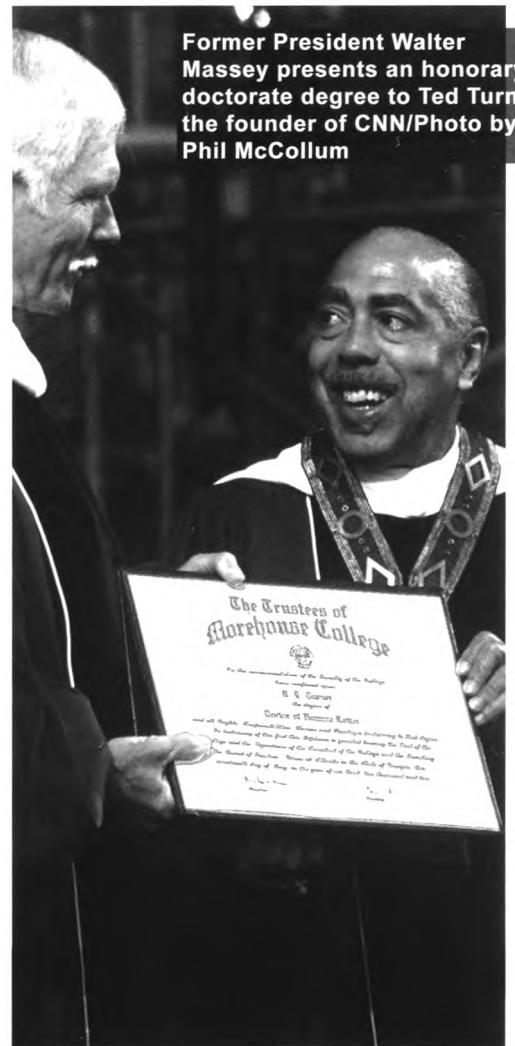
"I don't think there's anyone who has his national presence," Massey said. "but I'm not sure that's what's necessary and needed now. I think what's needed is more people at the local level of government to be involved and engaged in these issues and trying to see themselves having a moral responsibility to try to carry out the activities he began."

Massey recognized that King had an influence on the kind of president that he wanted to be. He also knows that Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, who was Morehouse's president when Massey was a student, has the greatest influence on him simply because he was close to him.

"He mentored Dr. King, so in many ways it's hard to separate the views of the two individuals on me as president," Massey said. "I think one of the things that was most important to me and was most helpful to me in my presidency is that whenever I spoke to students, faculty, or potential donors, I could refer to the writing and speeches of Dr. King to help people understand what we were trying to accomplish at Morehouse and what I was trying to do under my presidency."

MASSEY: DURING RIOTS, CHICAGO WAS 'ALMOST LIKE A WAR ZONE'

By Ayrton Lewallen,
Managing Editor



Former President Walter Massey presents an honorary doctorate degree to Ted Turner, the founder of CNN/Photo by Phil McCollum



Dean John Williams and President Franklin (center) present Rev. C.T. Vivian with an honorary doctorate degree in 2010. Vivian was a key adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King./Photo by Phil McCollum

It was the end of the school day. A young man in Chicago turned his head when he heard someone shout at a group of passersby that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had been assassinated.

Overhearing this devastating news startled Morgan Park High School student Robert Franklin, who walked back to school where he knew he would have access to information about what had occurred. He lingered in the building for a while and began to see that people were responding to the news violently and saw smoke coming from buildings that had been set on fire in the distance. He remembered making his way back to his home as quickly as possible, where he watched the news from television that night.

Franklin '75, who served as Morehouse's president from 2007-2012, remembers being overcome with shock, grief and pain due to the passing of Malcolm X that had occurred three years earlier. Since he recognized the radical human rights activist as another great influence and inspiration, seeing "another dynamic leader of courage and integrity" die caused him to be concerned for the nation's future, a nation that seemed to him to be an enemy of good leadership.

Five days after King's death, unbeknownst to Franklin he would watch King's televised funeral and receive his first glimpse of the institution where he would earn his bachelor's degree. He remembered Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays eulogizing the fallen civil rights activist and his father expressing his desire for his son to one day join the ranks of great men who came before King. It was at this moment that Franklin decided that he would one day attend Morehouse.

Franklin's father was stationed in Georgia at Fort McPherson during the Korean War. During that time, his father fell under the spell of Dr. Mays. Although his father did not attend Morehouse, he was impressed with the campus and the dignity of the young men.

During King's funeral, Franklin remembers seeing Morehouse students serving as ushers dressed in their "starched white" shirts and suits and ties.

"I just thought that this is a place that takes leadership and service seriously," Franklin said. "It was that sense of being kind of caught in the aura of Morehouse, seeing that mystique – my father felt it even though he couldn't attend – and I knew that by attending, to some extent I was fulfilling his own dream for himself."

Franklin watched King's funeral at home in the living room with his father on a black and white television set. He was impressed by all the celebrities that were on the Morehouse campus, including well-known actors and singers, U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey and presidential candidate Richard Nixon.

"It said something powerful that here's this Morehouse man who is an educator, a preacher, a public servant who commanded kind of global attention that the powerful and glamorous people of the world paused in his presence," Franklin said. "That had a really mesmerizing effect on me. I thought if Morehouse can do that for him, it can do that for me and others. It's a very special institution."

In a world where Franklin believes that violence is the first reaction to conflict, he trusts that King's commitment to nonviolence is an important and powerful countercultural statement. Considering that King did not refer to those who were against him as his enemies but as his "opponents," he promoted respect for all people. In this current combative political climate, Franklin believes that change should be encouraged through reason and love.

In reference to King's legacy, four points that Mays delivered during his eulogy at King's funeral have stuck with Franklin to this day:

- **King's virtue** – his commitment to nonviolence, his faith, his hope for America, his love for this nation, and the possibility that it could repair itself.
- **America's responsibility for King's death** – while one person may have pulled the trigger, all are responsible for allowing the gun culture, hatred and racism to kill this "young visionary."
- **His timeliness** – the idea that people thought that King was moving too fast.
- **His unfinished work** – the belief that his unfinished work is our work.

Contrary to today's political climate, Franklin believes the president of the United States should govern for the whole nation instead of governing for what is best for his own interests. Franklin said that King's legacy is related to his message of never dehumanizing your opponent and always being inclusive, committed to service, dialogue and respecting one's opponent.

"These are values that this current political culture doesn't understand – doesn't know how to practice," Franklin said, "and that's why whenever Morehouse

Men and others seek to embrace others and live out King's message, we are keeping King's unfinished agenda."

Franklin remembers King mostly talking about three issues: eliminating racism, eradicating poverty, and eliminating violence. Those continue, but new ones have arisen as well, such as the #MeToo movement.

"The #MeToo movement reminds us of women's opportunity and empowerment," Franklin said. "He didn't talk much about that, and he can be critiqued on that basis. But we certainly have an obligation and an opportunity to talk about women's leadership, women's empowerment and opportunities."

Franklin said King had a direct influence on the kind of president he aspired to be. Thus, he created "The Five Wells," which are a direct inspiration from King and men who inspired him such as Mays, Dr. Howard Washington Thurman '23 and Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson '31.

When he became president of Morehouse, Franklin asked himself what all the most influential Morehouse Men had in common. He realized that everyone from Johnson, Thurman, King and Mays, plus Maynard Jackson '56 and Julian Bond '71, had five commonalities that inspired Franklin in a direct way.

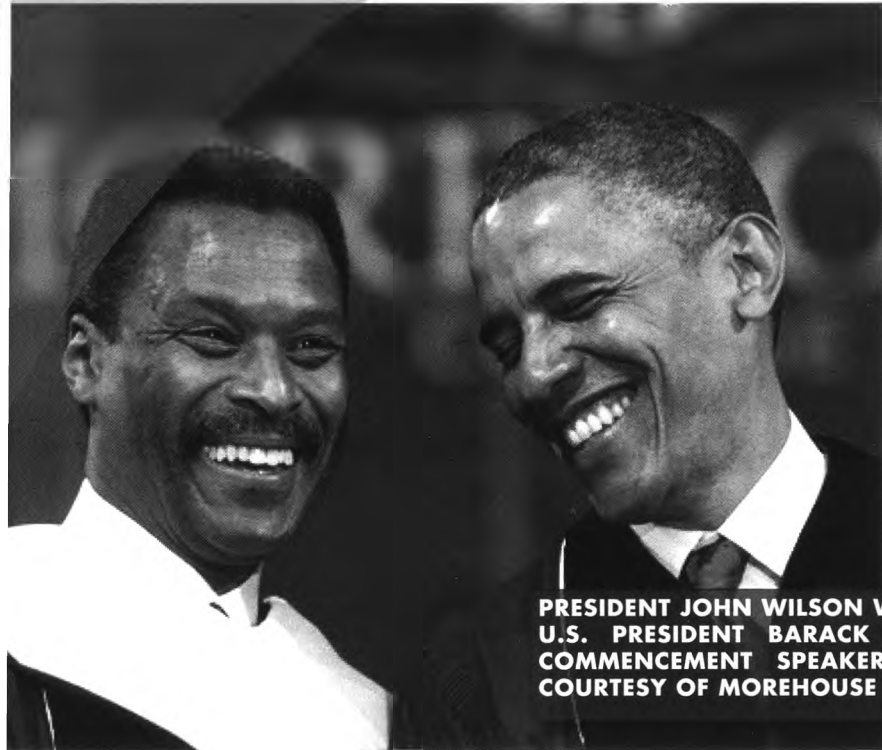
Those commonalities became his "Five Wells." Franklin says that these men were well-read with a breadth of knowledge and well-spoken. "Whenever a Morehouse Man talked – any of these five or six men – you stopped to listen because you were going to hear something extraordinary," Franklin said. The last three wells include well-traveled, well-dressed and well-balanced.

Franklin felt obligated to give these commonalities back to Morehouse through concise, creative messaging that talked about the College's vision. Today, he feels proud that he made the whole Morehouse mystique tweetable.

"The Five Wells can fit in one tweet," he said with a chuckle.

Franklin believes the world needs Morehouse Men as change agents more than ever before, especially as the nation faces a deficiency of moral leadership.

"We ought to challenge Congress, challenge the Fortune 500 companies and CEOs, challenge the 4,000 colleges and universities in America," Franklin said. "It's time to understand what authentic leadership is about, and I think that's Morehouse's mission – to be one of the world's best resources for leadership preparation."



PRESIDENT JOHN WILSON WAS THRILLED WHEN U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA WAS THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER IN 2013./PHOTO COURTESY OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

KING'S LEGACY INSPIRED PRESIDENT WILSON TO FOCUS ON 'STUDENT EMBRACE'

By Ayrton Lewallen,
Managing Editor

In his family's home near Philadelphia, a young boy walked down the stairs to spend time in the den with his father, who was watching the nightly news. As the boy entered the den, he heard iconic CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite announce that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee.

Hearing his father shout, "Oh God, no! No, no, no!" and watching tears roll down his cheek, the young boy could tell that his father was deeply hurt by the news.

Dr. John Silvanus Wilson Jr., who was 10 years old at the time, remembered his parents talking about King a lot, so he knew that the fallen civil rights leader was important.

"When news of his death caused my father to weep like that, I felt helpless, sad and scared," Wilson said. "I knew what a hero was, and I knew a lot of people saw him as heroic. I did not fully understand why at the time."

Wilson, who served as Morehouse's 11th president from 2013-2017, doesn't recall watching the funeral live as it was televised nationwide. However, he does remember seeing images of it later. He was struck by the "big crowds of hurt and bewildered faces" and compared the feeling of grief that engulfed the country to the nation's reaction to the death of President John F. Kennedy.

"They were sad faces, both Black and white," Wilson said. "It felt like even some of the people from the other side of the political

spectrum (were dismayed) – it was a moment full of hurt for the country – a pensive moment for the country. The faces of the crowd reflect that."

Wilson '79 said King had a strong influence on how he served Morehouse as president because King "had a deep understanding of who he was and why he was on this earth." Quoting famous theologian Dr. Howard Thurman '23, Wilson said King heeded "the sound of the genuine." Wilson explained that King "lived a call-answered life. And there was something about the educational experience at Morehouse that helped awaken him to that."

When he was president, Wilson often referred to that process as "our student embrace," a multidimensional definition of progress that included his team's ability to awaken in more students "a clear and optimized pursuit of their calling in life."

At one point, "I expressed it as our 'Kings of' quest," Wilson said. "That is, beyond the religious and social justice frame King had, we saw ourselves as shaping the 'Kings of' chemistry, biology, computer science, business, education and so many other fields. We saw Morehouse as becoming strong enough to prepare 'King-caliber' men in all of the major fields and endeavors of life."

Wilson said King's legacy is best expressed by the quote King sometimes used that originated with 19th century theologian

Theodore Parker: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." By inspiring people around the world, merely remembering King still affects how people live their lives.

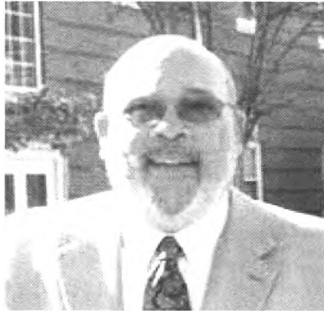
"Remembering him has the power to make people pause and realize that the decisions we make every day, individually or collectively, will either bend that arc toward justice or injustice, love or hate, freedom or bondage," Wilson said. "And it should surprise no one who reads the Maroon Tiger that, in the spirit of Dr. King, I also believe this: what we think, say or do will either bend the arc of the moral universe toward the world of our dreams, or bend it toward oblivion."

Wilson describes King as a "distinctive moral leader" who would be impressed that America has had its first Black president, but "appalled by the current reckless leadership in this nation right now."

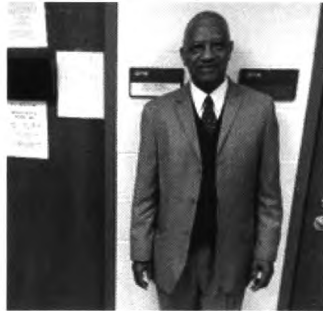
He predicted that King would expect America to have made more progress as a humane global leader.

"Most of all, I think he would be outraged by the inability of many Christians to condemn un-Christian behavior," Wilson said.

The Maroon Tiger regrets that it could not interview past President Dr. Leroy Keith '61 (1987-94) before the printer's deadline.



DR. DAVID COOKE
BIOLOGY PROFESSOR



DR. CURTIS CLARK
MATH PROFESSOR



DR. CARLYLE MOORE
PHYSICS PROFESSOR

//PHOTOS BY
KINGSLEY
IYAWE

**'It was literally
— devastating...'**

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 seg-

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.



A picture of King sits in Dr. Cooke's office. /Photos By: Kingsley Iyawe

BY KINGSLEY IYAWE,
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

**LOOKING BACK AT KING'S
LEGACY 50 YEARS LATER**



TO STEPHENS, KING WAS HER PASTOR FIRST, AN ICON SECOND BY RON THOMAS MAROON TIGER ADVISER

Professor Delores Stephens, who joined the Morehouse English Department in 1964, knew Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in ways that few people did. While he was a civil rights icon to the rest of the world, Stephens knew him as her own pastor, as the father of a little girl who used to visit Stephens' house, and as someone who exercised at the Butler Street YMCA.

Stephens' husband Charles, a Morehouse Man, had a personal connection to King because they had shared a jail cell after a civil rights protest. The family's connection to King broadened in about 1961 when they joined Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King was the pastor. Stephens believes she is the last current Morehouse employee who had that relationship with him.

She recalled that the last time she saw him personally, not long before his death, he walked over to her and said, "Hello, Mrs. Stephens, my member."

She began to know him through the church even before she and her husband joined Ebenezer "because he was the one who did our orientation," Stephens said. "Before you become a member we had orientation sessions, and King was the one who was doing it. I knew him as a pastor, as a person you would go to for spiritual help. He was a pastor, not just a theologian, not just a civil rights leader."

Stephens, a Spelman graduate, felt at ease with him because he projected warmth. "Yes, and he had a good sense of humor, and from seeing him at the Y, I would say he loved life. He wasn't a morbid kind of person, and being

around him, you felt comfortable. I was never in awe of him.

"He was Dr. King. And we didn't call him that. He was always ML, and those who knew him really differently would call him by his nickname (Mickey), but I was not in that category. But folks at the Y who knew him that way were."

Stephens also knew King as a family man because his youngest daughter, Bernice, nicknamed "Bunny" as a child, used to come to birthday parties for Stephens' daughter because they were about the same age.

So when King was killed, it was a personal tragedy for Stephens in addition to being a tragedy for the world.

Stephens heard about King's death at the Butler YMCA, which was the center of black political life in Atlanta. On April 9, 1968, the day funeral services were held for him at Ebenezer and at Morehouse, Stephens watched the latter from the steps of Graves Hall with friends who also had a Spelhouse marriage. Thousands crowded the Century Campus lawn where Morehouse's graduation now is held, and the pulpit was in front of Harkness Hall, which then held administrative offices for Clark, Spelman and Morehouse.

Stephens said the mood during the service was dominated by "sorrow and still disbelief that this had happened. People were horrified. I don't think you would call (the service) a celebration of the life. No, it was deeply spiritual and eye-opening that that could happen."

People who attended the service were so quiet that on a portable TV she could hear the words of Dan Rather, not yet a famous CBS anchor, as he reported from a tree near Tech Tower so he would have a panoramic view of the proceedings.

She distinctly remembers the great gospel singer, Mahalia Jackson, singing one of King's favorite hymns, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." However, "I can't remember much of what was said there because in a sense there was so much to take in — just the crowd and the body (in the casket) and these people there in recognition of him was overwhelming. I think that's what everybody felt."



THE LIFE CHANGER
BY RODERICK
DIAMOND II

Everyone has that traumatic or life-changing event that has been embedded in the back of their mind until the day they die. My generation has 9/11; we all remember where we were, what we were doing, and how the event transformed our lives.

Other generations in the past had Rodney King, John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. nailed to their consciousness. Each event had its own unique characteristics that have shaped society forever and the lives of those affected by it. Even more, each person has their own unique story attributed to the event.

So, for the 50th anniversary of King's assassination, the Maroon Tiger wanted to highlight one of our prominent faculty members in Dr. Belinda Johnson White. She has been teaching in the business department for over 25 years. White is also a 1976 graduate of Spelman and a member of the Eta Kappa chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

White is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and during her childhood, Birmingham was a hotbed of racism and segregation. While White was in the midst of it, she developed an appreciation of King.

She said that when King visited Birmingham in 1963, she was impressed that he came to help. That's when she realized King was the answer. From the protesting and famous Birmingham jail letter, it cultivated White's mind to be a part of history in her own right.

Those events drove her to partake in the desegregation of a middle school in the late '60s. Unfortunately, it was the same time tragedy struck the movement.

"It was the same year me and a couple of young children integrated a middle school in Hueytown, Alabama," White said. "It was 6 in the evening when I found out about King."

It was 6:05 when King was pronounced dead, and the message spread quickly of his tragic passing. It shocked people, a movement and a nation to its knees. Levels of hope and morale quickly lowered for many individuals hoping for change, even Dr. White.

After learning about what happened, White said to herself, "I will never go back to the school. I was just crushed. I do not want to see them laughing and celebrating. I thought I was helping being a child soldier. I felt I was working in vain."

But her mother persuaded her otherwise. "I remember my mother telling me if I do not go back, they win."

At the time, White was 14 years old. At that age, that event could be more than traumatic for an adolescent. But her mother was the sole motivation for continued fight and efforts.

Now, after decades later of experience, higher learning and sacrifice, White still plans to be a change agent.

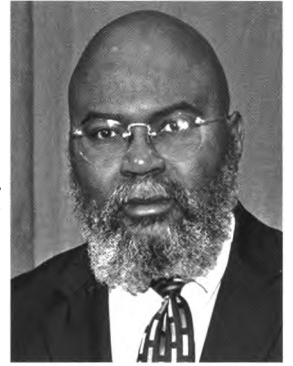
"I have to keep fighting and do all I can," she said. "It reminds me if somebody is willing to give, they should."



COLLEGE STUDENTS:
THE KEYS TO
CHANGE
BY AARON
JOHNSON



THE GOSPEL
OF PUBLICITY
BY AARON
JOHNSON



LOOKING BACK AT KING'S
LEGACY 50 YEARS LATER

At the time of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination, Dr. Barry Lee '90, didn't necessarily comprehend the significance or impact of the event. Of course he was aware of Dr. King's death, but as an 11-year-old boy he didn't grasp the concept of the whole movement, as his parents sheltered him from the racial dangers of the outside world.

However, his experience at Morehouse College, King's alma mater, helped him understand and appreciate the movement, and because of his experiences in college, he has become a large advocate for student activism.

"I was in a place called Indianola, Mississippi, about 130 miles from Memphis," said Lee, now an assistant professor of History at Morehouse. "We were watching the news, and that is one of the very few recollections I have of Dr. King and what he was doing. All this turmoil was going on around me, but I was sheltered from it."

Over time though, as he matriculated through Morehouse, he began to learn and appreciate the nuances of the movement that took place.

"When I first came to Morehouse, it was around the time of the black power period, and I met a man by the name of Willy Ricks who went by Muka-sa Dada," Lee said. "He was a colleague of Stokely Carmichael. When [Dada] first met Morehouse students, the first thing he would say to them is 'African...are you ready for the revolution?'"

"I had no idea what he was talking about, though. My mind was just not on that as an 18-year-old."

Though he still wasn't aware as some adults or college peers as a freshman, he can now appreciate the fact that certain things were brought to his attention from simply being at Morehouse. As a result, Lee began to understand and appreciate the deeper significance and impact of Dr. King and his message.

"King to me was the most significant prophet that came to us in the 20th century. He was trying to get people to understand that the world is in such bad shape because of three social evils he identified as racism, poverty, and militarism or warfare."

"I came to understand what he meant as I matured and matriculated. Then I came to appreciate what King meant," Lee said.

Lee also believes that college students are the most impactful factor in creating change, because they can take more risks since they don't have families they need to provide for.

"I like to focus on student activism," he said. "We would not have made nearly the impact we made back then, if it weren't for the students. Much of the change that happened in the '60s and beyond is because students had the guts, courage and character to demand that this country change."

"If it hadn't been for the media – the print media and television – the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings, a choir without a song." – Congressman John Lewis

Dr. Larry Spruill's perspective on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was both unique and analytical. Spruill received his Ph.D. at Stony Brook University, and his dissertation was on the intricacies of what made the civil rights movement successful.

"I did my dissertation on the issue of the civil rights movement, Dr. King, the media, photo journalism and a theory I call the Gospel of Publicity," he said. "The idea that media was central to the success of the movement; without the media, the movement just wouldn't have happened."

At the time of the assassination, though, Spruill was in an apartment listening to the radio with friends in upstate New York.

"I remember feeling a sense of despair," he said. "Rioting accelerated, and the violent black response to the assassination stole the headlines."

While Spruill was disappointed to see the narrative of the movement become violent after King's death, it made him ponder what exactly made King and the movement so successful.

"Photographers covering the movement were brilliant," said Spruill, now a senior assistant professor of History. "Most of the things we know about the movement beyond the 'I Have a Dream' speech are because the photographers were able to capture the moments. The boy being bitten by the dog, the fire hoses on the girl, and the picture of him bleeding out."

"King deliberately used pictures to mobilize people to support legislation, mainly civil rights legislation."

Spruill also highlighted King's ability to make photos go viral.

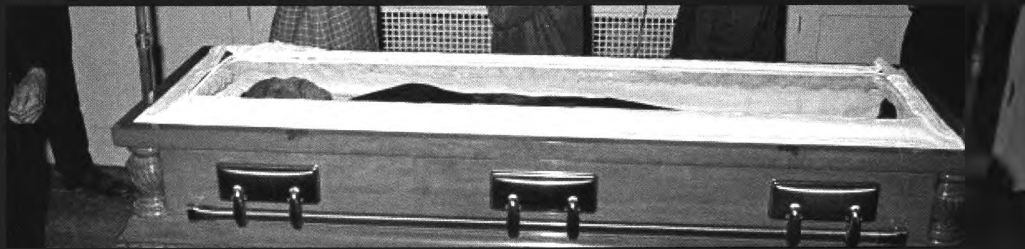
"He was a media genius before his time. He understood the power of making images that captured the movement go viral. We're missing that media savvy right now."

"King was able to make things go viral, before viral was a thing. He was skilled, and that's what we're missing right now."

Spruill is disappointed and shocked that nobody since King has had the media savvy to make an impact or social change given that nowadays, pictures can go viral overnight. He ended the conversation with a simple phrase depicting King's thought process.

"If I can show the world what's really going on here, they'll support the movement."

KING'S



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 address 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 gotten his Ph.D., 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 [to the lobby]. 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 university's 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.

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

BY RON THOMAS,
MAROON TIGER
ADVISER

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 over 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 Black community's approach to the civil rights movement in the Southeast 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.

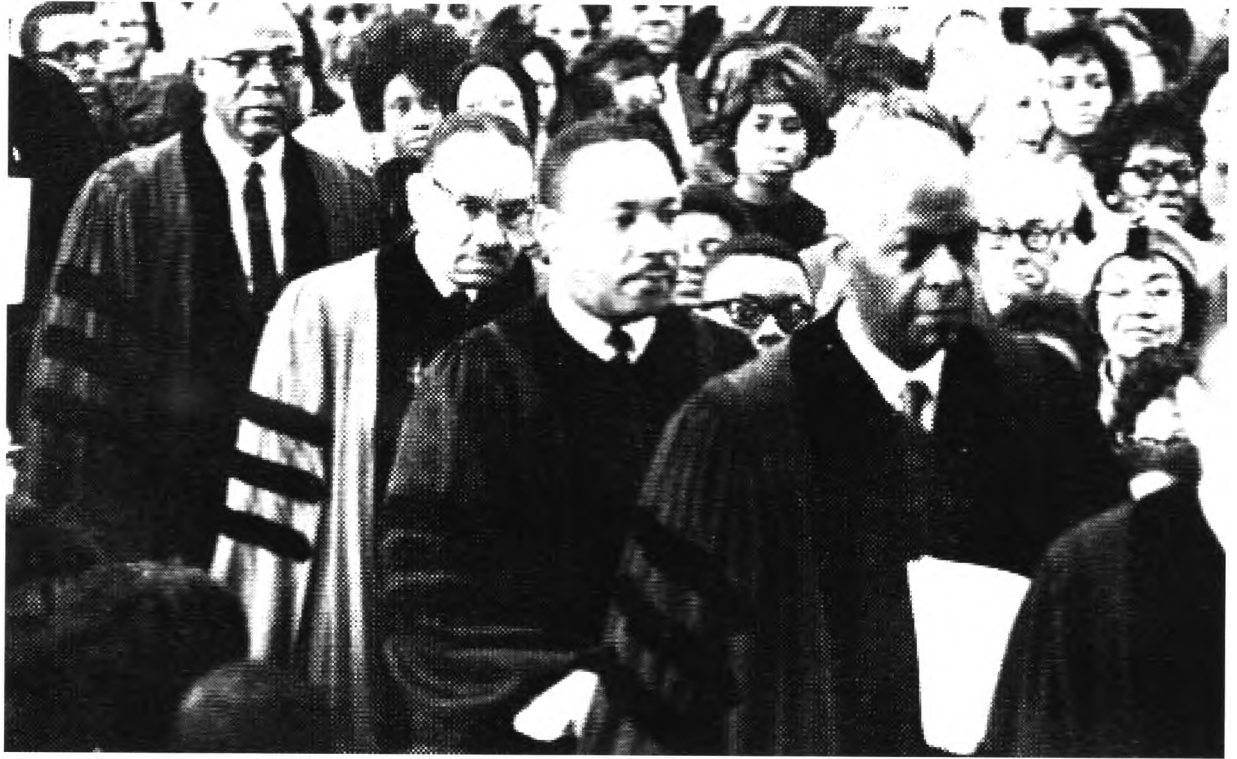
"My students and I, we would go down to Underground Atlanta because it was just rebuilt and obviously it was an integrated group, so we got spat upon and yelled at," Zatlin said. "But we had King. ... And all of a sudden, we didn't have King anymore. It was an amputation."

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

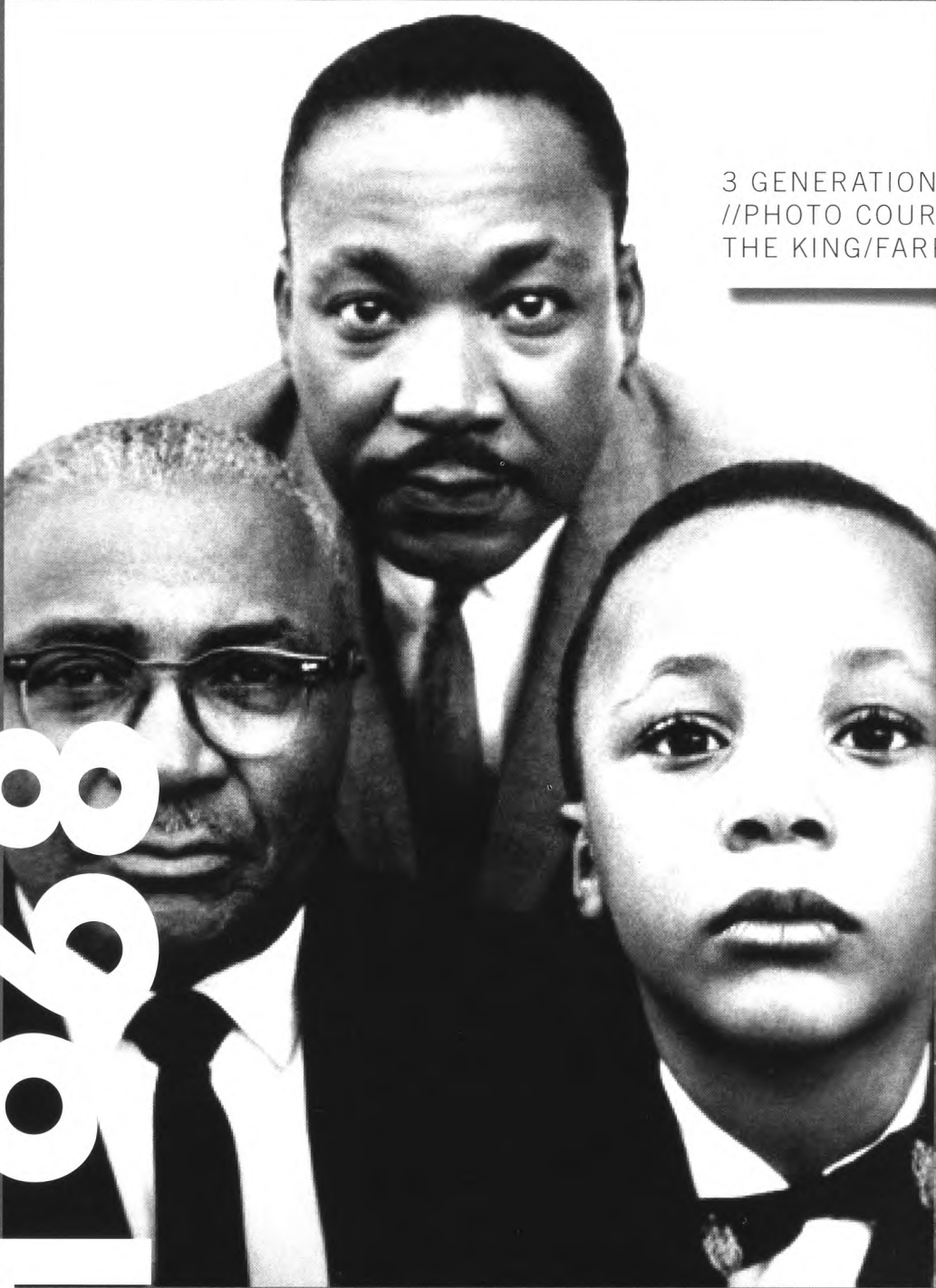
DEATH







Morehouse 1968



3 GENERATIONS OF KING
//PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE KING/FARRIS FAMILY

1968

MOREHOUSE CAMPUS: THE CALM WITHIN THE STORM

BY TYLER MITCHELL,
MAROON TIGER
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."

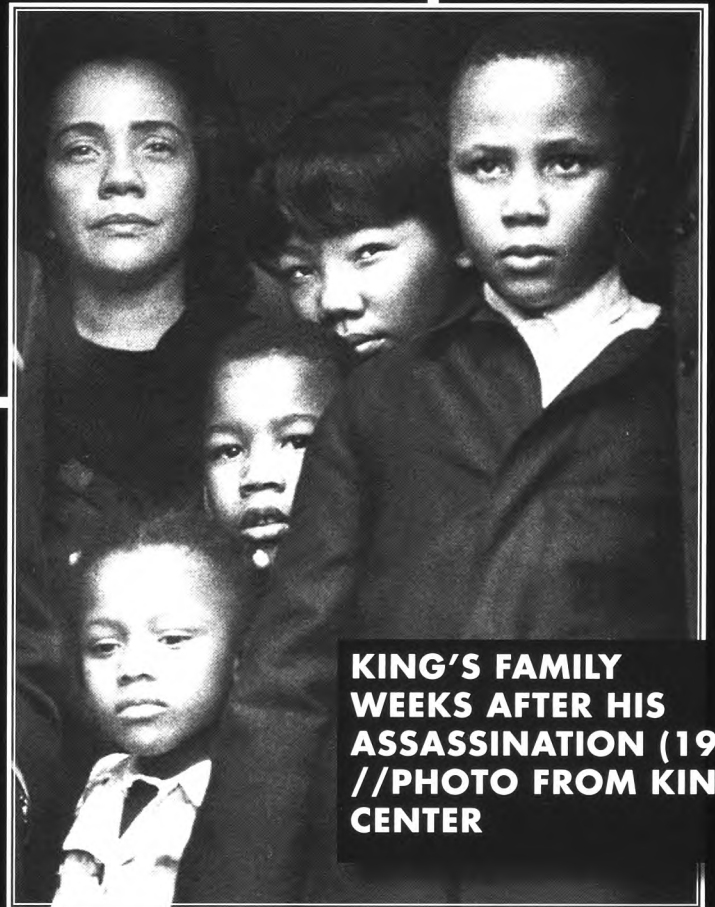
Two days later, the body was brought back to Atlanta for the funerals on April 9. The first funeral was at King's Ebenezer Baptist Church and the second was on the campus of Morehouse. Dr. Grigsby sang at King's funeral as part of the Morehouse Glee Club.

"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."

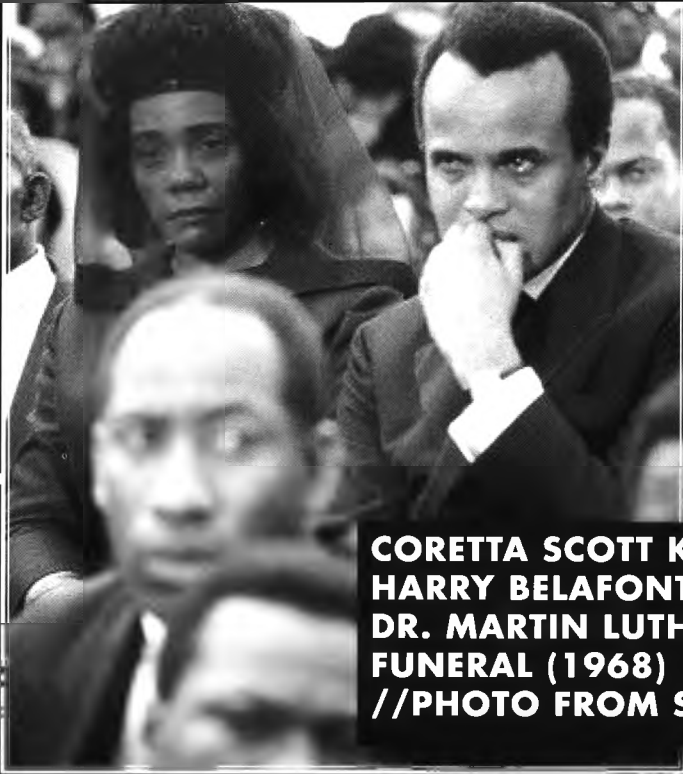
Grigsby went on to have a successful career in the field of education. After Morehouse, he received his master's degree in Education from the University of Chicago and later became the president of Benedict College in South Carolina. This summer, Grigsby will be celebrating his 50-year anniversary of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



**KING FAMILY PORTRAIT
//PHOTO FROM KING CENTER**

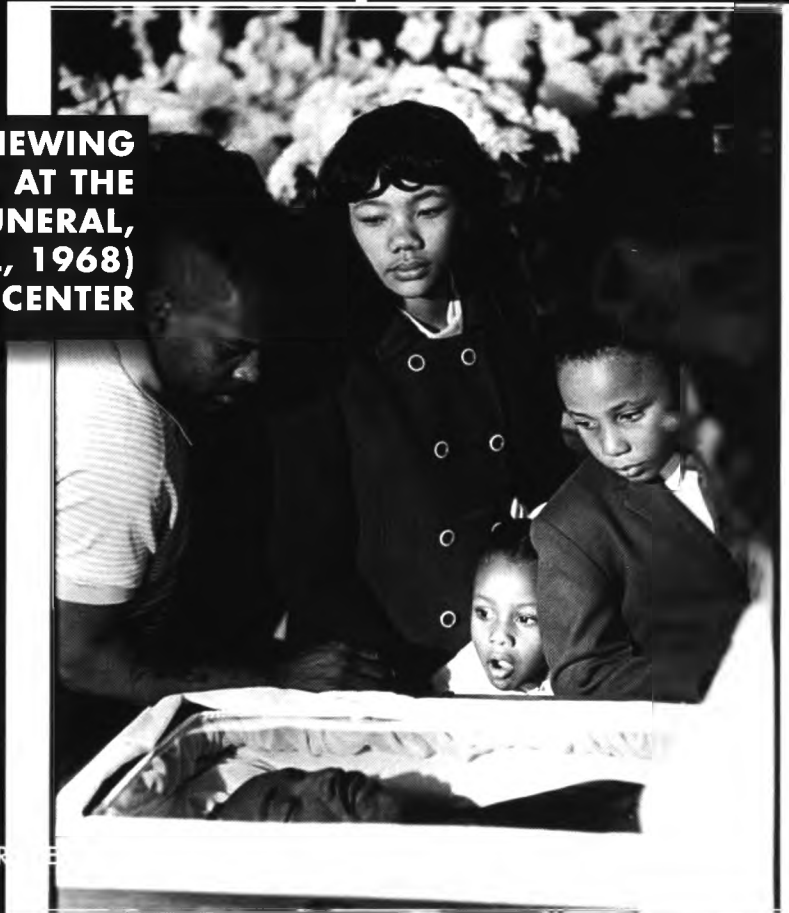


**KING'S FAMILY
WEEKS AFTER HIS
ASSASSINATION (1968)
//PHOTO FROM KING
CENTER**



**CORETTA SCOTT KING (LEFT) &
HARRY BELAFONTE (RIGHT) AT
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S
FUNERAL (1968)
//PHOTO FROM STANFORD LIBRARY**

**DR. KING'S CHILDREN VIEWING
HIS BODY FOR FIRST TIME AT THE
FUNERAL,
(APRIL, 1968)
//PHOTO FROM KING CENTER**



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."

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 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?"

ODETTA PERFORMING "OH FREEDOM" AT THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON (SOURCE UNKNOWN)

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.

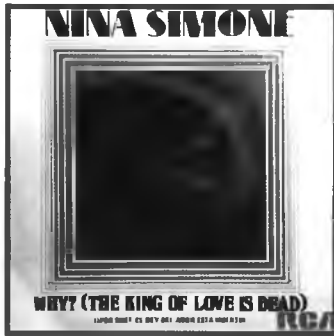
COVER ART FOR SAM COOKE'S "A CHANGE IS GONNA COME" (SOURCE: RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA)



"WE SHALL OVERCOME" BECAME A RALLYING CRY DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (SOURCE UNKNOWN)

OF

THE



COVER ART FOR NINA SIMONE'S "WHY? (THE KING OF LOVE IS DEAD)" (SOURCE: RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA)

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. Ant labo. Name vera num harum net laut volut etur? Min cullacc aepedias mo to es maio. Ga. Ovitibus magnate mporion et eat hicatem qui cum veliqui ut haribus cimentore, sincta nobis sam aditiosapis simolle ctotate parchilit pos etur ratiusdae consedigenis debis utempor emporro voluptiist dolest, ommoluptae estibeatur, occae conseditia des nonsequatur, exeriae sae moluptatem qui offic tem nam, cum dolum quamus et es pratur aut ped mincit, cor sequamus id utem fugiasint volori inis eossitium, sinum qui volupiendus ut pore nonsequibus, sequam et que dolut ent posaperiatur aut eatas quame corem fuga. Eliquas volum imendento totas vendita temque et everio id



PROMO IMAGE FOR JIMI HENDRIX'S "MACHINE GUN" (SOURCE: CAPITAL RECORDS)



MIRIAM MAKEBA WITH HUSBAND, STOKELY CARMICHAEL (SOURCE: JOHNSON PUBLISHING COMPANY)

King's Impact on Current Students



WHAT KING & I HAVE IN COMMON RODERICK DIAMOND II

THE KING WAS ONLY A MERE MAN.

YOU KNOW HOW YOU LOOK AT YOUR FAVORITE ATHLETE, CELEBRITY, MUSICIAN, OR PUBLIC FIGURE IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN ANYBODY ELSE ON THE PLANET. THEY ARE PUT ON A HIGHER PEDESTAL IN SOCIETY AND SEEN AS UNABLE TO DO NO WRONG REGARDLESS OF THEIR ACTIONS.

YOU SAW IT WITH O.J. SIMPSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, HECK, EVEN DONALD TRUMP, ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING HE DOES IS HORRIBLE. THESE ARE JUST EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WE SOMETIMES GET CONFUSED WITH AS GODS ON EARTH, BUT THE FLESH AND BLOOD IN THEIR BODIES ARE JUST THE SAME AS YOURS AND MINE.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THESE INDIVIDUALS CANNOT BE VIEWED AS SUPER HUMAN, JUST THAT THEY HAD SUPERHUMAN MOMENTS. WHILE INTERNING AT THE CENTER FOR HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, I WAS ABLE TO LOOK AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. IN A LIGHT THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT ABLE TO.

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KING, OFTENTIMES WE ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE MAN BUT NOT THE MAN HIMSELF. SO, AT TIMES WHILE RESEARCHING DIFFERENT ITEMS DEALING WITH KING, I GAINED A SENSE OF COMMONALITY WITH HIM.

IT WAS HARD ENOUGH HAVING ONE SIMILARITY WITH MARTIN IN ATTENDING MOREHOUSE, WHICH IS AN ACHIEVEMENT WITHIN ITSELF. FOR EXAMPLE, LOOKING AT KING'S NOTES FOR HIS MANY COURSES AT MOREHOUSE, I BEGAN TO SEE MYSELF IN HIM.

BESIDES THE BEAUTIFUL CURSIVE WRITING, I COULD SEE HIS STRUGGLE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE COURSE CONTENT. THE SCRATCHING OUT OF WORDS, THE ENDLESS LINES OF NOTES, REMINDED ME OF BEING IN CLASS.

BEFORE HE CAME THE TRAIL BLAZER WE KNOW TODAY, HE WAS TAUGHT EVERYTHING HE KNEW.

KING WAS AN INVOLVED STUDENT ON CAMPUS JUST LIKE MOST OF US. HE WAS A PART OF THIS VERY PUBLICATION AND WHILE HE WAS HERE, HE WROTE THE COLUMN "THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION." HE ALSO WON THE ANNUAL ORATORICAL CONTEST TWICE WHILE HE ATTENDED MOREHOUSE.

ANOTHER THING I REALIZED DURING MY INTERNSHIP WAS WE DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE KING'S WEAKNESSES AS MUCH AS HIS STRENGTHS. KING WAS A BORDERLINE C AVERAGE STUDENT AT MOREHOUSE. BEFORE COMING TO MOREHOUSE I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT, AND WITH MY GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL, I DID NOT FORESEE MYSELF GETTING INTO THIS INSTITUTION.

HE HAD TO LEARN AND BE EXPOSED TO THE SIMILAR ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT THAT MEN OF MOREHOUSE TODAY EXPERIENCE. ALTHOUGH HE ATTENDED SCHOOL HERE DURING A VERY DIFFERENT TIME PERIOD, THE LATE 1940S, IT HAD THE SAME MISSION. "THE MISSION OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE IS TO DEVELOP MEN WITH DISCIPLINED MINDS WHO WILL LEAD LIVES OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE."

I SPOKE OF ONLY A SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT KING'S LIFE WAS LIKE AT MOREHOUSE, BUT I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO WATCH KING THROUGH THESE PERSONAL ITEMS. I WATCHED A PRINCE TURN INTO A KING. I WATCHED HIM GROW INTO HIS CROWN JUST AS LEGENDARY ALUMNUS HOWARD THURMAN SAID.

THANKFULLY, BEING A PART OF THIS INTERNSHIP AND THIS EXPERIENCE GAVE ME REASSURANCE. REASSURANCE THAT I BELONG AT THIS INSTITUTION AND ADMITTING ME WAS NOT A MISTAKE. REASSURANCE THAT I HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE SOMEBODY AFTER WITNESSING HOW KING MATRICULATED THROUGH MOREHOUSE.

I GAINED A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR THE INSTITUTION NAMED MOREHOUSE AND THE MAN NAMED KING, WHO WAS ONLY A MERE MAN.

The Alphas and King

BY RODERICK DIAMOND II, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Martin Luther King Jr. was a man of many talents during his life, attributes only a few people have the honor and privilege to share. At Morehouse College and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first two entities that King held close to his heart.

Roughly 2,000 students are able to walk the same paths as the late Dr. 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.

"I would thank him for his leadership and his love for all people, regardless of race, color, and age," Smith said. "A lot of people don't realize that the people that he was talking about are at Morehouse. Our people our people. We definitely never grew up in an area 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.

“

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

”



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

IN THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE KING JR. COLLECTION, STUDENT JAIR HILBURN HAS THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF HIS REVEREND FATHER'S MUGSHOT FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL" PRINTED IN THE 1960s CENTURY WITH HIS VERY OWN HAND 55 YEARS AGO.

KING'S LIGHT IS EVERLASTING

BY JAIR HILBURN,
FEATURES EDITOR

KING COLLECTION



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CAN READ AN "LETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN ANNOTATIONS

STUDENTS SHOULD EXPLORE KING COLLECTION

BY JE'LOM ALEXANDER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is something that all Morehouse College students should look at when they first get to campus, 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.

The Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection is housed in the Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library Archives Research Center. In the Collection's brochure, King Collection Director Dr. Vicki Crawford explained why it's so important that students explore it.

"Study in the Collection not only yields critical insight into King's intellectual and theological development, but provides a crucial lens for examining social, political and cultural life in 20th-century America," she wrote.

In the Collection, one of Dr. King's early drafts of "Pilgrimage to Non-violence" shows him 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."

What caught my eye the most was reading a correspondence from Malcolm X to Dr. King dated on July 31, 1963, which I had 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 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 King Collection reveals 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.

THANK YOU!

Thank You to All,

It's very difficult to stand in the present and try to recreate the past atmosphere on any campus, especially when the topic is someone as iconic, storied and universally revered as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Without doubt, he is the most famous of 18,000 alumni Morehouse has produced in its 151 years.

So, I am extremely proud of The Maroon Tiger staff that examined the life and death of Morehouse's favorite son to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his assassination on April 4, 1968.

First came a Special King Edition of The Maroon Tiger newspaper that was published on April 5th, followed by this 2018 Commencement magazine you have been reading today. Both are titled "King: A Great Morehouse Man Revealed 50 Years Later," and among all of the publications that respectfully honored King this year, none comparably captured the impact his presence, death, and influence have had on his college home.

The King publications rank among the best of the signature editions the MT has produced during my 11 years as an adviser to it. Asking 20-year-olds to turn back the clock 70 years can be an intimidating task, so I have many people to thank for helping our staff successfully navigate their journey into King's past.

You'll find the names of all of the writers, photographers and designers who contributed to both editions on the following page, but I want to single out Chief Layout Editor TJ Jeter and Creative Director Austyn Wyche for special praise.

Our student reporters did a great job of interviewing people about their personal relationships with King and the ways in which his life and death affected them. But the result would have been a mere disparate collection of articles if they had not been packaged in an inviting, attractive, logical and sometimes bold way.

Austyn Wyche, a junior psychology major from Chicago, contributed in a major way with his stylized framing of an actual photo of King as a student on pages 4-5 and his picture on page 31 of three current students posed in front of Morehouse's King statue. That was the cover photo in our newspaper's King edition.

TJ Jeter, a Philosophy major from Ft. Worth, Texas, brought it all to life with his very creative layouts of the newspaper and this magazine. In the days of brilliant black artists Henry Ossawa Tanner and Hale Woodruff, their tools were a paint brush and color palette. In this computer age, TJ's tools were a mouse, software, keyboard, color monitor and his rich imagination.

I also want to thank the many interview subjects who cooperated with Maroon Tiger reporters: Morehouse's new president, Dr. David A. Thomas, and his predecessors; professors who have taught at Morehouse for more than 50 years (Delores Stephens, Linda Zatlin and recently retired Tobe Johnson) and their colleagues; Morehouse students of the distant past and the present; and Dr. Lawrence Carter, the Dean of King Chapel.

Combining their efforts with those of our student journalists, The Maroon Tiger staff and I hope we have presented you with a historical document that you will cherish as much as we do.

Into Ties More Brotherly,
Ron Thomas
Director, Journalism and Sports Program

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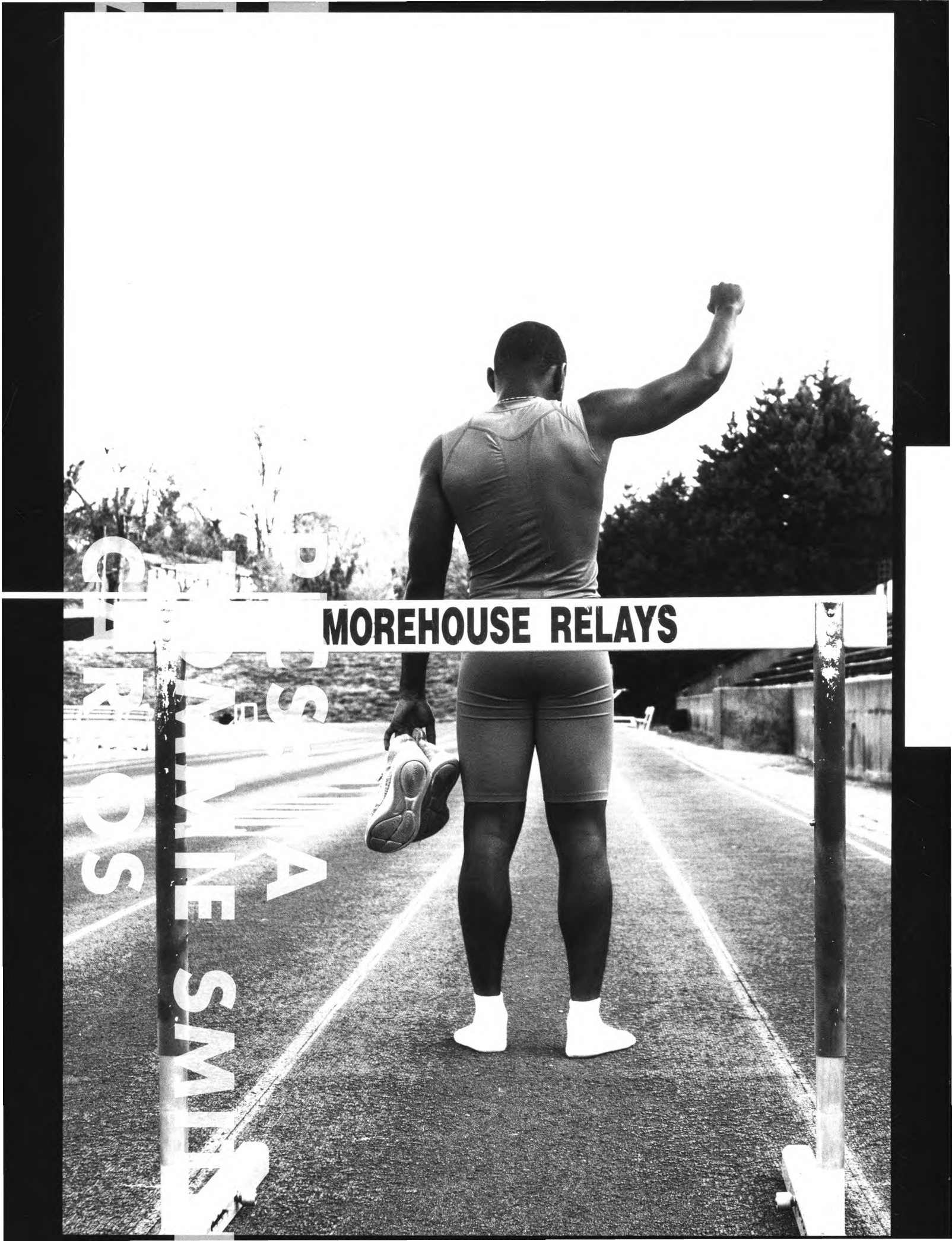
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