



Martin Luther King, Jr.
(1929 - 1968)

I Have a Dream

• Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963.

“Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which

every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our

thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'When will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

PLEASE SEE SPEECH ON PAGE 4.

What His Words Mean Today...

By
Chris Martin
Marium Mohiuddin

RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE

Umima Baig, a post-bacheloreate in education, said King's speech has had a dramatic effect upon American society.

"There have been many changes from that speech," Baig said. "It has been an eye opener for everyone, especially minorities. It was something they felt all their lives but [were] not able to articulate well. I believe it opened the eyes of Caucasians, and I believe everyone is still moved and gets choked up from it."

Baig said the speech has opened the door for change.

"You are not going to see it radically change the world," Baig said, "but now A&M has finally changed and accepted it as a holiday, so the speech is still affecting people."

Baig said King initiated the laws which have brought equality to all people.

"It speaks on behalf of religious minorities as well," she said. "What he said is similar to the teachings of Islam: There should be equality and there is no difference between whites and nonwhites."

PLEASE SEE KING ON PAGE 5.

Inequality, disharmony, ignorance and fear. In 1963, these diseases festered deep in the wounds of a nation weary from the struggle for racial equality and civil rights. Fortunately, there was a doctor in the crowd, and from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. prescribed a cure.

STUDENT SENATOR PERSPECTIVE

Abby Mudroch, a senior history major and an off-campus senator, said she wishes King's speech would have a bigger effect upon today's society.

"The word of mouth for this school is bad, especially with minorities coming to A&M," Mudroch said. "With *Hopwood* we lost scholarships for minorities, which was our major recruiting tool. Minorities do not want to come here. I remember talking to some friends, and they would be upset that they were here, and the only reason they came was because of a scholarship."

Mudroch said having a university more culturally diverse would add to the understanding of the students.

"There are not many minorities in my classes and there are not many minorities at A&M," she said. "I have been to an all-white high school and to a 50/50 integrated high school. I noticed the school that is more integrated was much more open-minded and you can learn so much from others. I have seen the difference and it makes a big impact. We are losing out."

Mudroch said the message King tried to get across is being lost to some people as generations pass.

"Some people take this day seriously, but others consider it to be just another holiday," Mudroch said. "It is important that we keep the memory alive. The speech has had a supreme effect upon my life, especially the part where he talks about the little kids holding hands. Little kids playing on a playground do not differentiate between color. I wish people were more open-minded, and I wish they would get rid of the color barriers."



Welcome Back Aggies!



Setting the New Standard in Student Living.
- Two, Three & Four Bedroom Apartments -

Now Taking
Reservations for Fall 1998!
Call Toll Free
1-888-839-2725

Brand New!!
Look For A Sneak Preview
Coming in February!!

Featuring:

- Individual Leases
- Custom Designed Roommate Plans
- Full Size Washer & Dryer Included
- State of the Art Fitness Center
- Multi Media Center
- Microwave
- Phone & Cable Outlets in each Bedroom
- Pool Plaza, Hot Tub, Jogging Trail
- Furnished Apartments Available

An S.U.H.™ Community
Developed by Dinerstein Companies

117 Holleman Drive West

