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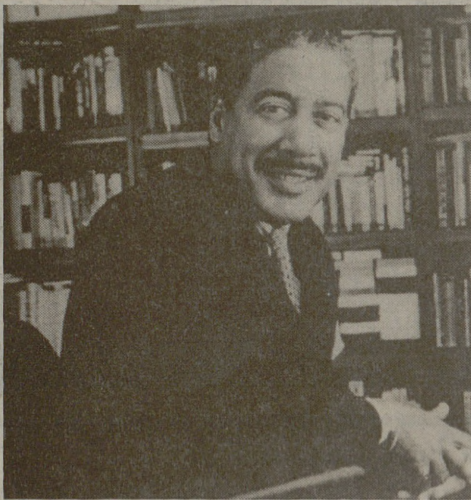
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-Dr. Dennis Kimbro
Author
Lecturer

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DR. DENNIS KIMBRO

January 22, 1999 7:00 P.M.

Rudder Auditorium (booksigning in lobby)

Presented by:



Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference
MSC Black Awareness Committee



For more information please call the MSC BAC at 845-1515 or visit our web-site at [http://bac.tamu.edu].



Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

AGGIELIFE

University celebrates MLK Day

Life of civil rights leader provides hope for new generation

BY SUSAN OVERCASH
The Battalion

April 4, 1968. Dusk settles over Memphis, Tenn., in a pale passage of still sky.

The air, thick and suffocating, is inescapable even in the farthest reaches of the city. Tragedy is about to strike.

At 6:01 p.m., shots break through the silence at the Lorraine Motel.

Within minutes, the American people will lose one of the greatest leaders in United States history, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Yesterday, millions of people across the United States, of all races and ethnicities, celebrated the life and death of King.

Through his landmark achievements in the civil rights movement and his vision of a better life for all people, King left an indelible mark on American society.

Born in 1929 to a schoolteacher and minister, King spent his childhood in the Sweet Auburn district of Atlanta, Ga.

He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta and graduated from seminary in 1951.

In 1955, King moved into the spotlight of the civil rights movement by organizing a 13-

month bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. to end segregation.

King was continually harassed and threatened by segregationists.

He even survived a bombing of his home in 1956.

However, King never lost sight of his dream, publishing *Stride Toward Freedom*, his recollection of the Montgomery bus boycott.

He continued using non-violent protests and demonstrations to gain equality and spent some time imprisoned for his efforts.

In 1963, King led the *March on Washington*, delivering his "I Have a Dream" speech from the Lincoln Memorial.

This effort to achieve equality earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

In 1968, on the second-story balcony of the Lorraine in Memphis, Tenn., King was assassinated.

However, his work did not end with his death.

Through the years, King's use of nonviolent protest and his vision of a better future has given hope to a torn and riotous nation.

The evolution of King's birthday into a national holiday has been a long-fought battle.

For many years, only George Washington and Christopher Columbus had the honor of their birthdays being national holidays.

King's birthday, January 15th, is now honored as well. Martin Luther King Day is celebrated on the third Monday of January each year.

Established as a national holiday in 1986, MLK Day is perhaps the most battled holiday to ever come about in the United States.

The first legislation was submitted in 1968, shortly after King's death.

However, it took 18 years for this legislation to pass through Congress and become law.

MLK Day was not celebrated as a University holiday at Texas A&M until 1997.

Lew Weaver, a junior chemical engineering major, said it is an important holiday for a variety of reasons.

"MLK Day is a significant day to me because it is the celebration of a dream and accomplishment of a man who saw what could be and how things could be better," Weaver said.

"I reflect on this every day; walking across campus, you see people of all cultures coexisting on a friendly basis. It's a really positive thing," he said.

MLK Day is not simply another holiday. Instead, public figures have urged Americans to



honor the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. through community service or volunteerism.

To demonstrate the importance of public service and activism, President Bill Clinton visited with students in a retirement home in Washington, D.C. yesterday.

Locally, the 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration was held Saturday at the Lincoln Recreation Center in College Station.

The keynote speaker, Myrtle Carter, formed a first-person dramatization of the accomplishments of Dr. King. Several choirs also performed.

About 350 people in the community attended, showing their support for the life and accomplishments of King.

Lance Jackson, center supervisor at the Lincoln Center, said MLK Day is a great opportunity for people of all ethnicities to see eye-to-eye.

"All of this coming together brings the meaning and purpose is why we pay homage to Dr. King," Jackson said.

"As always, we try to use the celebration as a calling to action for others in the community to take heed and take part in positive community activism. If all of us make a commitment, it reiterates what MLK was trying to get across to us," he said.

"All of this coming together brought about the meaning and purpose is why we pay homage to Dr. King."

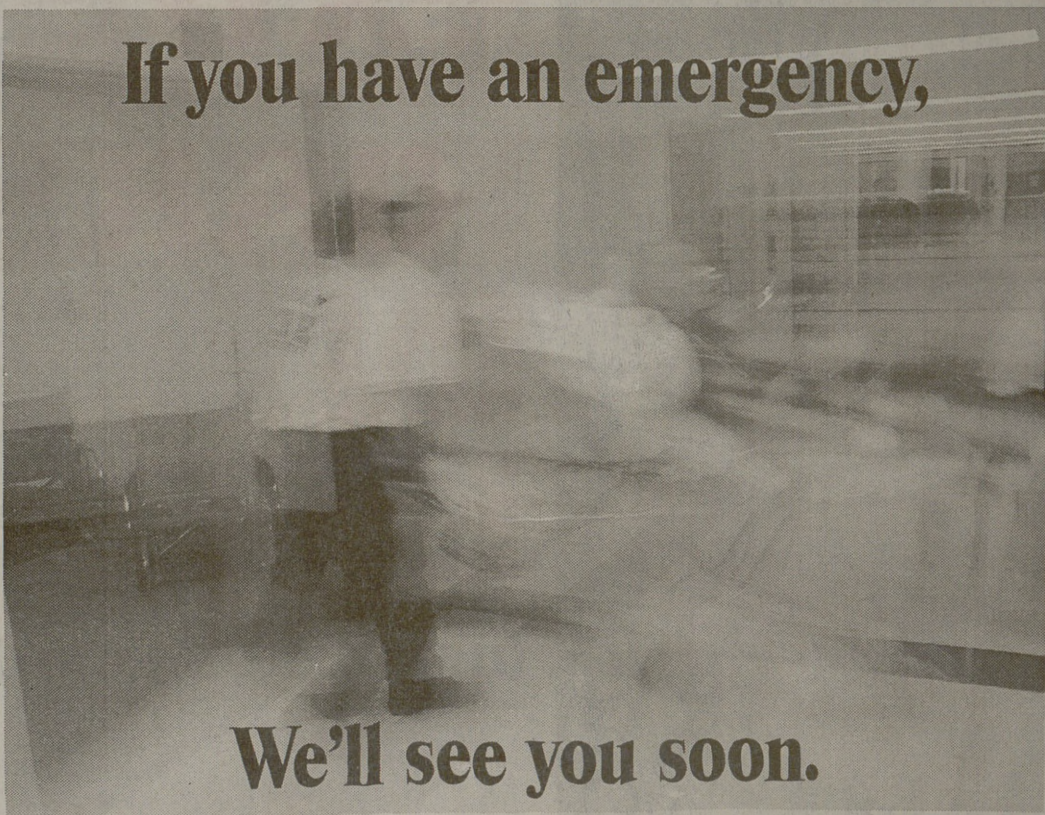
— Lance Jackson
The Lincoln Recreation Center

month bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. to end segregation.

King was continually harassed and threatened by segregationists.

He even survived a bombing of his home in 1956.

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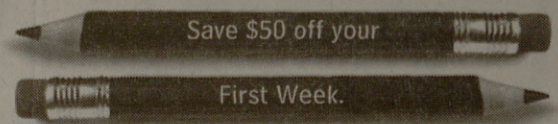


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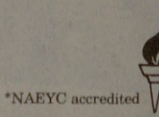
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