

## One man's legacy

### Students commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. with two weeks of events

By MATTHEW PARKER  
The Battalion

The powerful message of hope Martin Luther King delivered with his speeches and his presence in public life made him a figure that students at A&M look to today as the torchbearer who lighted the way to peace and unity for all people, regardless of race.

For the next two weeks, the second "Campus With a Dream" program will celebrate King's peaceful teachings with his words illuminating the cultural diversity of the Aggie spirit.

Ravyn Miller, a senior biomedical science major, said she thinks the purpose of the events is to celebrate the hope King gave the American people.

"The problems and the issues African-Americans faced throughout the 1960s were horrendous compared to the social injustices we confront today," Miller said.

Miller won the "What's the Word" oratorical contest sponsored by the Black Awareness Committee (BAC). Her reward comes with \$1,000, and she is the speaker who begins all the "Campus with a dream" events.

Miller said King's words inspire her and give her "hope that maybe some things can change, in our day and age."

Samecia Bloomfield, executive director of cultural programming for the Memorial Student Center (MSC)

and a senior English major, said King's words of the past are still relevant today.

"No matter if you are black, white, Asian, whether you practice Islam or you are stone-cold Southern Baptist, we all have to live and interact in this world. Just because you go to church on Sunday, and I go to

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church on Saturday, we still are the human race and still share the same hopes and dreams," Bloomfield said.

Bloomfield marched with A&M's BAC in the Unity March. The march will begin today at Rudder Fountain, pass the front of Hart Hall, travel to the statue of Sullivan Ross, and then circle around the Academic Building back to the MSC.

Bloomfield said the march helps "support the ideals Dr. Martin Luther King worked for and others are still striving for: one race, one culture."

Bloomfield said one of the goals of the program is to spread awareness of A&M's multicultural student programs.

An event scheduled for Thursday from 7-10 p.m. is a performance of the play *A Slice of Rice, Frijoles, and Greens* produced by the Asian Cultures Education (ACE).

Bloomfield said she thinks the theme of this play is the same as that of the Campus with a Dream program.

A 1998 Campus Climate Executive Summary showed that the campus and its programs need more diversity.

The study found that 76 percent of the student body said that diversity and multicultural awareness programs are valuable to students, but only 28 percent of students reported participating in organized activities to promote awareness about diversity.

"With everybody coming together there may be a time in your line of work where you have to travel across seas, so you don't want to walk into Iran with a short skirt and go-go-boots," Bloomfield said.

The 1998 summary revealed, only 25 percent of faculty and 41 percent of undergraduates feel that A&M students have a good understanding of the traditions and values of other cultures.

"I think many people around here are ignorant and don't even know it," Bloomfield said. "You have to you just stop, look, and learn."

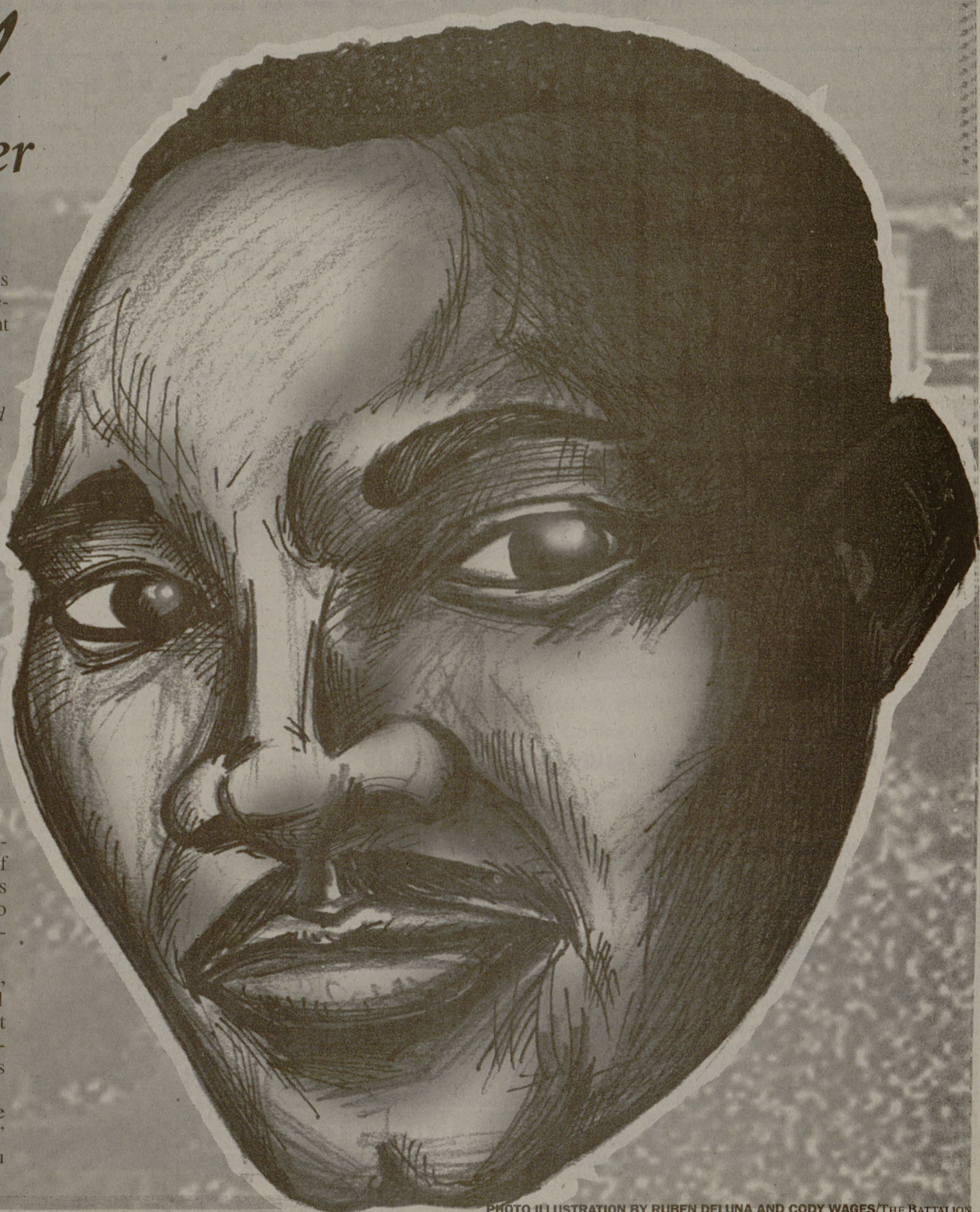


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