

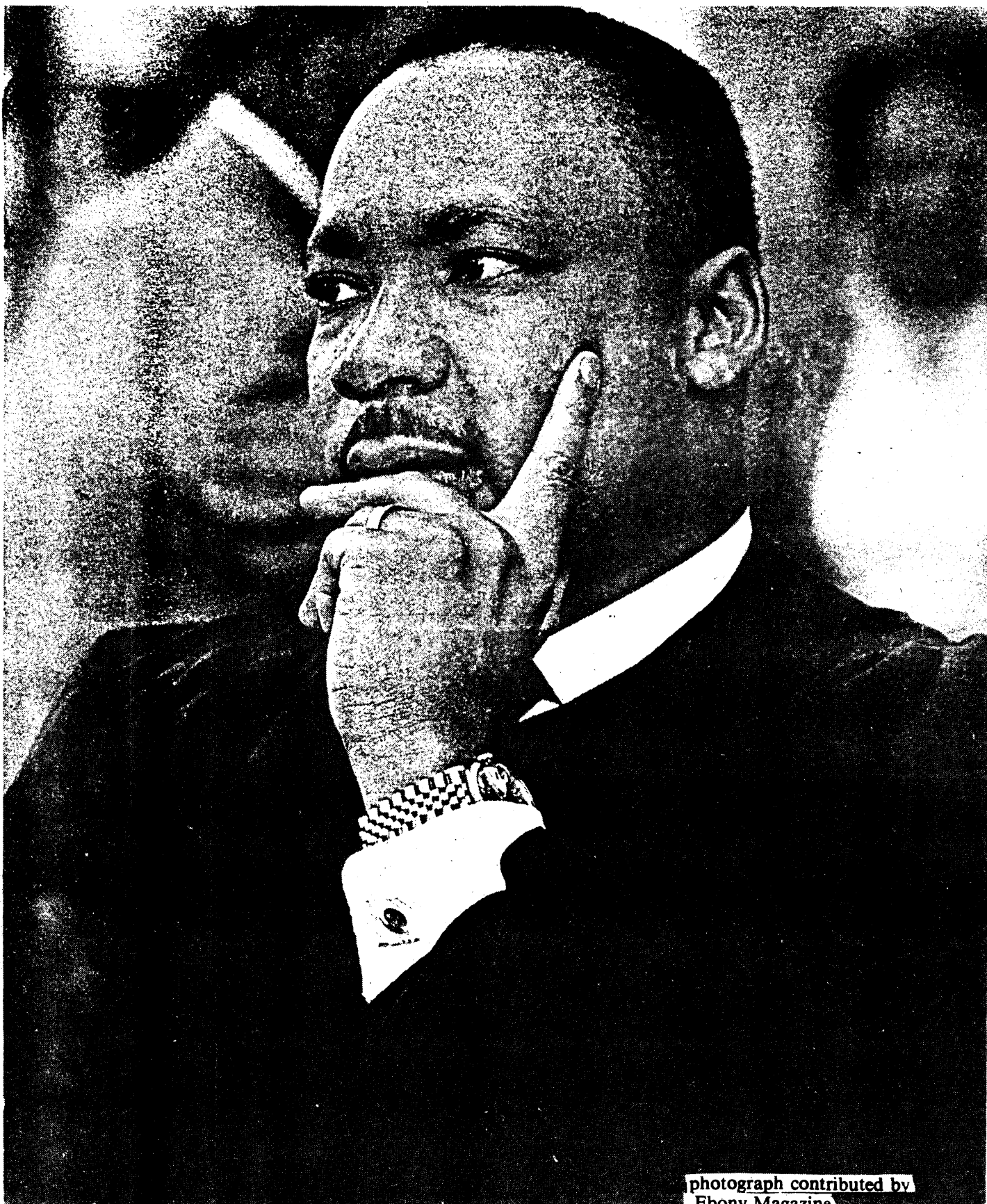
THE EBONY HERALD

The Minority Publication of East Carolina University

Page 1

January 1984

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



photograph contributed by
Ebony Magazine

The Ebony Herald would like to dedicate this paper to the memory of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement that he began. Dr. King was the type of man that people know only once in a life time. We, the staff of the Ebony Herald are proud that our lives were touched by his brief presence. Some people tell us that we're too young to understand the full measure of "the dream", but we know in our hearts that the memory remains.

To us Martin Luther King was not just a man who took a stand for civil rights. He was a humanitarian who in time of racial unrest calmed the people and directed them to a united goal of "equality." This equality was not just for black people, but as he said, "for all God's children."

He put his life and personal well being second to the need for equality. In many of his marches through the south he was attacked by vicious crowds; he had trash, bricks, rocks, and sticks thrown at him; and he even had fire hoses turned on him and his followers. He was imprisoned on many occasions for protesting against segregation, thus he was called a militant, communist, and a criminal. If Dr. King was a criminal, then I'd like to be just such a criminal.

We ask you today to keep the "dream" alive. Just because some reforms have been made doesn't mean equality has been reached. The struggle for civil rights has not ended as long as you and I are wanting more from life than just promises. But to gain anything we must work together. We know that you can because you have in the past, so let's talk to each other and help one another, for achievement is an illusion without people working to reach a common goal.

A TIME TO LAUGH AND A TIME TO CRY

By Shirley Williams
Arts Editor

photograph contributed by Jet Magazine

Delivering a speech commemorating the birth of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Richard Pryor clearly illustrated that there is a time to laugh and a time to cry. Comedian Pryor excluded himself from his usual comic performances to take a serious look at the work of Dr. King and at the topic of racism.

Pryor's audience, 1,500 Agriculture Department employees in Washington, D.C., was highly impressed by his touching speech. These employees were introduced to a "new" Richard Pryor, a man who greatly respects and admires the work of Dr. King. His emotional speech was intended to urge blacks to continue the fight for human rights.

Pryor admitted that he never knew King personally, but he admires King's courage and struggles for his people. He further explained that people should work together to turn King's dreams into reality. Wiping tears from his eyes, Pryor stated, "if you do better your condition, don't



Pryor wipes tears during King birthday speech.

forget to look over your shoulder and pull someone else along with you."

In his speech, Richard Pryor highlighted some of the achievements of Dr. King and of those who worked closely with him. Pryor explained that this was his first and his last serious speech. He, then, added, "I'm just doing this for Dr. King today. Today only."



Ron Harris

■ The Dream Lives: Continuing on the campaign trail, Jesse Jackson, who is making his bid for the Democratic nomination for president, reflects briefly before a statue of his mentor, the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., outside of City Hall in San Bernardino, Calif.

photograph contributed by Jet Magazine

DUNHAMS POSITIVE ATTITUDE LEADS TO SUCCESS

photograph contributed by Jet Magazine

By SHIRLEY WILLIAMS
Arts Editor

Katherine Dunham, who began dancing professionally in 1931, started the first Black dance company in America. Mrs. Dunham is well known as one of the most original choreographers of Afro-American dance and as the first Black inducted into the Kennedy Center Hall of Honors. At an early age, she became interested in dance so she joined several dance classes. Later, dancing became an inseparable part of her life. She began to envisage black dance as an art rather than solely a source of entertainment.

Mrs. Dunham, holding a Ph.D. in anthropology, applied her anthropological knowledge to her studies of the origin of black dance. Searching for roots of Afro-American dance, she traveled to the West Indies where she extensively

researched, participated in, and examined the dance of Blacks. This research deepened her appreciation and love for Afro-American dance.

Her dance career began while she was still a college student. She formed the Ballet Negre in 1931 and made her debut as a professional dancer in 1933. Later, she was appointed dance director of the Negro Unit of the Chicago branch of the Federal Theater Project. Her other accomplishments include her appointment as dance director of New York Labor Stage in 1939, and the presentation of her own dance company and her first Broadway musical in 1940. She, also, appeared in and choreographed several Hollywood film including her most popular "Carnival of Rhythm."

Mrs. Dunham's work is not limited to her dance.

She has devoted her life to assisting underprivileged black children. Presently she serves as director of the Center for the Development of Black Studies and Culture and the Performing Arts Training Center at Southern Illinois University in St. Louis. By working with black youth, she has taught many children the importance of pride, self-respect, and determination. However, she feels the major key to success is maintaining a positive attitude. Mrs. Dunham commented, "I never knew what it was like to believe a thing could not be done."



Katherine Dunham

January 15, 1929—Michael Luther King, civil rights leader, was born in Atlanta, Ga. He later changed his name to Martin and went on to become one of the leading forces in the civil rights struggle of this century. Dr. King entered Morehouse College with the intent of becoming a doctor, but he was so greatly influenced by the college president, Dr. Benjamin Mays, that he decided to study for the ministry. He was ordained by his father in 1947; graduated from Morehouse in 1948; and entered Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., where he graduated in 1951. Dr. King chose to continue his study with two years of philosophy courses at Harvard and earned the doctor of philosophy degree from Boston University in 1955. With a desire to revolutionize the status of the Southern Black, Dr. King led a group of Atlanta ministers to form an organization which later became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). A prophet of peace in a time of trouble, Dr. King became the impassioned voice of a people oppressed, upholding the philosophy of nonviolence until death by a sniper's bullet, April 4, 1968.



Martin Luther King

photograph contributed

by Jet Magazine

REFLECTIONS: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

By DERECK CARMICHAEL
Contributing Writer

The Civil Rights Movement has been a movement of direct action which over the years has made great strides in achieving equal rights for Black Americans.

One of the earliest achievements of the movement was in the case of *Brown vs. Board of Education* which was passed in 1954. This ruling was an attempt to give Blacks equal educational opportunities and declared segregation of schools unconstitutional

and by 1955 the Supreme Court ordered school desegregation be carried out with all deliberate speed. It is said that the civil rights movement became activated following an incident involving a seamstress from Montgomery, Alabama named Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks was on her way home after work and she caught the bus to get there. During this time, Blacks were only allowed to sit in the back of buses but with no available seats in the back, she sat in a vacant seat near the front. At one

of the stops a white man got on the bus and demanded Rosa's seat. She refused to move from her seat and was subsequently arrested. The Parks incident led to a bus boycott in Montgomery which eventually resulted in the end of segregation in busing. This was only the beginning in a long struggle for equal rights. Even today those who were indirectly involved in the movement recall their way of life during this time. Doris, is a woman who was a teenager during the early sixties remembered these

days quite well. "I remember having to eat outside restaurants and sitting at the back of buses. Whenever I think how unfair it was, I still get angry." Doris's feelings are the general reaction of those who lived through those turbulent times.

The most prominent person involved in the Civil Rights Movement was Dr. Martin Luther King who led the bus boycott in Montgomery in 1955. Through the boycott Blacks saw that civil rights could be won by direct action. Other promi-

nent leaders were Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP and Whitney Young, Jr., head of the Urban League. Other laws were eventually passed in order to end segregation and discrimination.

Several laws and bills were passed to help Blacks obtain equality. These laws and bills helped in our fight for equality and as we went into the 70's, improvements were shown. Today, the struggle still continues but as we reflect back, we see how our past struggles have paid off in progress.

OPINIONS CHANGE: JACKSON AID IN RELEASE OF GOODMAN

By RUBIN INGRAM
Features Editor

Public opinions are often changed in an instance, either through events or by the actions of a particular person. For example, when political activist Reverend Jesse Jackson shocked American citizens with his nomination for the 1984 Democratic presidential election, public opinion was that Jackson is a political activist and not a good candidate for president.

Many opinions held that Jackson's nomination for the presidency was absurd and would end in failure. A side opinion again is that a black could never make it in the presidency, but Jackson has made the first step in proving that the public opinion can be wrong.

Jackson is on a roll and undoubtedly public opinions have changed about his capacity to serve as president, his ability to act in the highly symbolic administrative position of vice president. American citizens had not yet recovered from Jackson's presidential nomination when he was off to Damascus, Syria on what was termed a "humanitarian mission" to seek the release of captured United States Lieutenant Robert Goodman, Navy bombardier-navigator, who was shot down on December 4 while on a reconnaissance flight over Syrian-held territory in Lebanon.

Jackson and other religious leaders met with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam after the apparent postponement of a session with Syrian President Hafez Assad for the release of Goodman.

There are two possible advantages that can be derived from the Jackson-Goodman-Syrian controversy: it shows Jackson's ability to act on serious diplomatic issues, thereby changing previous public

opinions about Jackson, while showing Syrian willingness for better relations with Washington.

Undoubtedly, Jackson's 1979 visit to Syria proved instrumental in the release of Goodman. Jackson had no authority and did not make any deals for Goodman's release, but Syrian trust in Jackson proved sufficient enough. Syrian release of Goodman to Jackson may have been fashioned to embarrass the Reagan Administration as the Syrians probably did not want to turn him over to American representatives that ordered the reconnaissance missions which are the heart of the confrontation. The Syrians' fears may be in the fact that the freeing of Goodman might be an encouragement for the U.S. to continue reconnaissance flights over Syrian-held territory.

Jackson's intervention was, in fact, an upstage of the Reagan administration necessary to break the political military deadlock of the U.S. and Syria. It is the opinion of many that the Reagan administration was aware that a neutral party was necessary to break U.S. and Syrian tension; Jackson was the go-between that proved most useful for this purpose.

Jackson's humanitarian move showed his pervasive power, and placed him in the mainstream of the Democratic presidential race as well as making him, in public opinion, a good candidate for vice presidency also. Jackson represents direct and vigorous action in support of what is right. The Syrian incident further proves that Jackson can go where Reagan fail to go or could in view of foreign policies. Jackson's trip to Syria was a statement of true leadership that proved him an able politician. In view of past mass demonstrations for civil rights against discrimination, Jackson if



TAKEN FROM DAILY REFLECTOR

placed in the white house will not go unheard.

In the area of foreign relations Jackson has shown only part of his ability to act in defense of the U.S., as well as for what is right. The Syrian mission shows that Jackson has power to make available areas that have been out of reach by the Reagan administration for obvious reasons.

The second advantage that the Goodman-Syrian controversy has made apparent is the possible peace

offering. Syria's decision to release Goodman may be a signal that Damascus wants better relations with Washington. The Goodman-Syrian situation has helped to escalate Jackson's credibility and justifies emphasis on the confrontation between the U.S. and Syria.

Jackson's appeal to Assad will have a great impact on the American public, and will make negotiations with Syria more evitable in the future.

REMEMBERING KING

By **RUBEN INGRAM**
Features Editor

In the history of the world there have been men who have strived for what is right through nonviolent means. Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi both had a prophetic dream that spanned the globe, and influenced men of all walks of life. Rev. Dr., Martin Luther King, Jr., had a prophetic dream: "a dream deeply rooted in the American dream; a dream of a nation that lives the true meaning of its creed; a dream in which the sons of former slaves and the son of slave owners would sit down together at a table of brotherhood; a dream where the

heat of injustice and oppression are transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice; a dream in which children live and are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character; a dream in which mountains shall be made low and the rough places will be made plain; a dream in which the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

It was the Gandhian philosophy of King that helped to make the black-American dream of freedom and equality a reality. Black-Americans throughout the country now have a holiday to commemorate the birth of a noble man. King gave

his life for what he felt was right: the pursuit of equality for all black-Americans.

Jan. 16 should be a day on which black-Americans should rekindle the spirit of hope represented in King's "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered during the campaign at Washington on Aug. 28, 1963 to a mass of people who were willing to do what was necessary for a truly American life.

King was a man of great power. In 1964 King was the founding president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In 1963 the Philosophy and idea of obedience to the law made King

the recipient of the Noble Peace Prize. Dr. King was the 3rd black person, the 12th American and the youngest recipient ever to receive this prize.

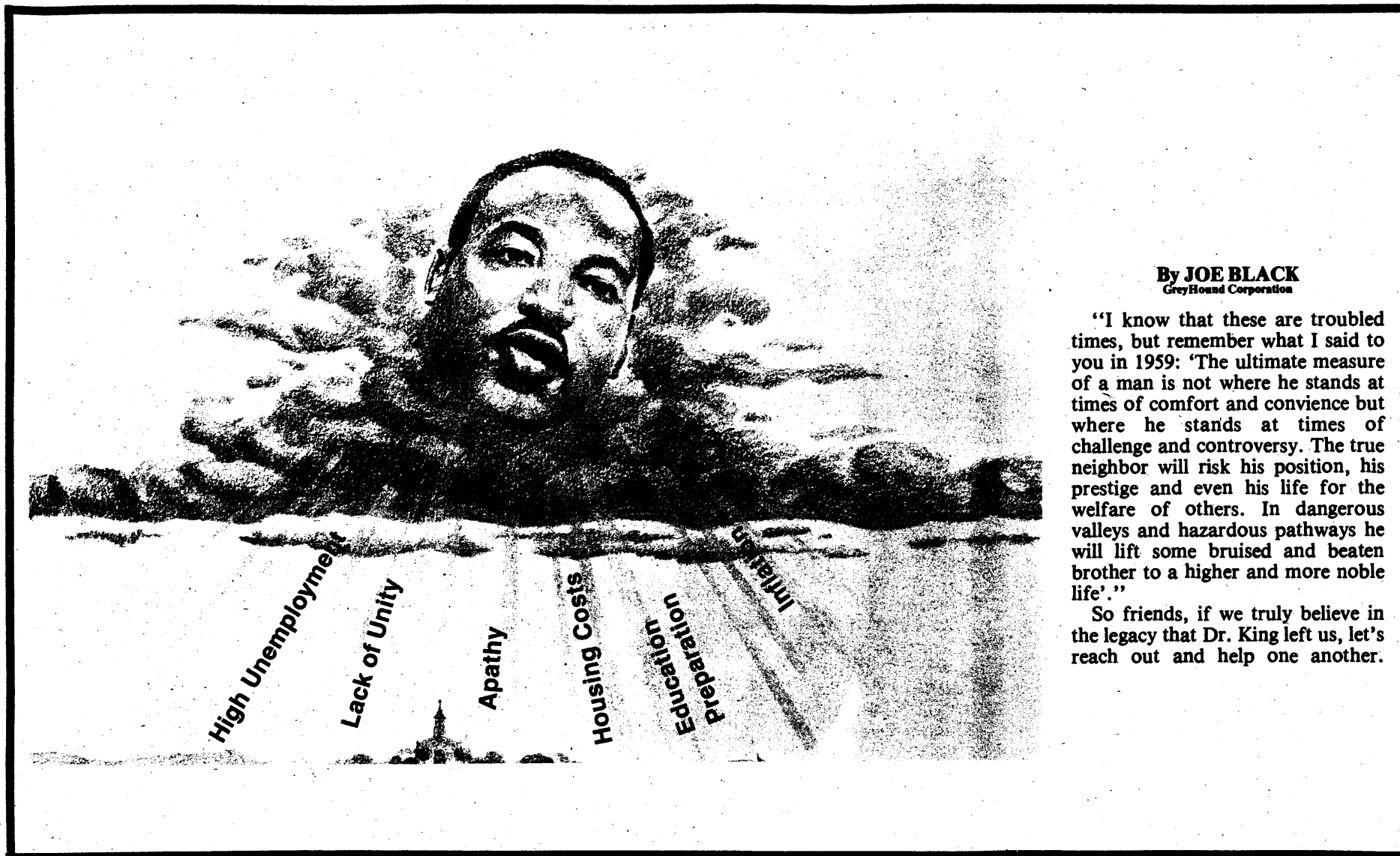
The birthday of King will be a major event throughout the nation. Although efforts to legalize the birthday were difficult, a bill to observe this holiday passed the U.S. Senate on Oct. 19, 1983.

The initiation of King's Birthday is a milestone in black history. King's birthday should inspire all blacks to become involved in human equality.

By **JOE BLACK**
Greyhound Corporation

"I know that these are troubled times, but remember what I said to you in 1959: 'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands at times of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others. In dangerous valleys and hazardous pathways he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life'."

So friends, if we truly believe in the legacy that Dr. King left us, let's reach out and help one another.



MINORITIES GAINING MORE UNITY

By **DAVID THEROITH**
Sports Editor

When I came to this campus four years ago I had little idea of what it was like to really be a part of the civil rights struggle that began in the 1960's with Dr. Martin Luther King and is continuing today. We are still fighting to obtain the goals that our first recognized black American hero preached and died for.

It's nice to read about all of the struggling that took place. Knowledge and history are important. But first hand experience at fighting for respect and trust cannot be substituted for by a book.

Since I have worked for the Ebony Herald, I have come to see the trials and tribulations that we must go through to gain the respect of the people we are trying to serve.

The Ebony Herald has been put through a lot for whatever reasons and through it all I have seen the minorities and some people of ECU in general be solidly behind the Herald. On the eve of Dr. King's birthday I'm glad that minorities are pulling together.

Remember that we also have a soul show called Inner Rhythms on WZMB that needs your support as

much as the Herald. The broadcasting field is opening up steadily for minorities but it's only because you have expressed an interest.

Dr. King's dream stretches to all aspects of American life so continue to support the Herald, Inner Rhythms, the N.A.A.C.P. and S.O.U.L.S. and we can make our influence felt at East Carolina from now on.