



UNIVERSITY MOURNS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S DEATH
Black students carry wreath to services of slain King

Photo by Clark Adams

Blacks Lead Services For Slain Leader King

LINDA MEERJURGEN
of the Emerald

the Southern Christian Leadership congregation hoped America would realize all men are created equal and that Americans would attain a faith and sympathy in the brotherhood of man. King urged Americans

"My brothers, my eyes seen the glory... it can must be done." Five thousand people stood and sang "We Shall Come." The church

This image of students marching after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination ran on the front page of the Emerald on April 8, 1968. Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

BSU

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the importance of a unified black student movement to achieve educational, economic and political progress for the Afro-American in the local, national and world community."

Today, former BSU Director and University graduate Dominique Beaumonté said BSU still serves to unite black students, but it also takes on many more endeavors.

"Initially I'm sure that the intent of the organization was to bring black students together, but now its intent is to educate all students on campus about black culture," he said, adding that BSU also focuses on the retention of students of color.

"I think our focus now is more about cultural development," he said.

Beaumonté said he thinks BSU has come a long way in terms of obtaining funding for programs, such as its fall reception for new students and its Black History Month events.

But he added that as far as developing cultural awareness and aiding with retention, the burden can be tough on members of the group.

"I think it's really difficult for groups of students who work here to really carry on that tradition," he said.

During the years of the civil rights movement, students at the University also felt the impact and were part of nationwide events.

Shortly after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, University students held a march on campus in honor of his legacy. The march was followed by a memorial reception in McArthur Court, where 5,000 students gathered in mourning. The events were sponsored by the University and BSU, according to an Emerald article.

In an article published April 8, 1968, former University President Arthur S. Flemming urged Americans to search their souls and question why King was assassinated.

"America is reaping the harvest of hate," Flemming said in the article.

Some students became personally

involved in the movement.

In 1965, a University graduate was arrested in Magnolia, Miss., along with about 50 other civil rights demonstrators for protesting against voter registration discrimination, according to an Emerald article.

That same year, a University education professor gave a speech on the 1965 Watts Riots, saying that such things happen when populations are not given equal opportunities.

"Our society denies the disadvantaged person an education and then insists that only with an education can he get through the front door," he said in an Emerald article published August 19, 1965.

Briston said that it is always important to document historical events so that people can know facts in the future.

"That's why we owe such a debt to the people who decided to write it down," she said.

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