

We Remember King

by Professor Robert Ivanov
Doctor of Science (History)

The Soviet people deeply respect the memory of Martin Luther King, as outstanding humanist of our time, irreconcilable fighter against racism in all its manifestations and champion of peace and friendship among nations. We remember Martin Luther King as a brilliant speaker and gifted author, a leader who, as he himself used to say, could not reconcile himself with the idea that mankind would spiral through the arms race into thermo-nuclear hell.

It is symbolic that King emerged when black Americans were returning from the battlefields of World War II to see that their position in society had not become any better.

I know that the events of 1955-1956 in Montgomery, Alabama, played a very special role in Dr. King's life. It was then that tens of thousands of black Americans had been boycotting segregated public transport for over a year. King was at the head of that movement, displaying outstanding organizational abilities and great courage. After that, King became known not only in the United States, but also abroad.

It was in Montgomery that King displayed his creative approach to the problems of the black movement in the United States. And it was there that it was discovered that economic boycott was an effective way to influence the racists.

King's legacy is being fiercely contested today, with his opponents saying that he was "an apostle of nonviolent actions." But the black American leader never had any illusions about nonviolence being a universal form of struggle. He said that the movement's bitter experience had shown that the government would do nothing to solve the racial problem until direct and resolute pressure was put to bear on it.

I am deeply convinced that King drew his energy from the masses which he served. He learned from them and always wanted to be in the swirl of events. For this he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had gone to help the city's sanitation workers, who had gone on strike.

King was an extremely honest man and, like millions of other honest Americans, arrived at the conclusion that racism in the United States and the Vietnam War, aimed at realizing the ideas of neocolonialism, were similar notions. When he came to see this, King became an opponent of the war and did everything he could to stop it. J. Edgar Hoover, then FBI Director, considered King to "be almost a Red." At the same time, reactionary forces in the United States did not conceal their satisfaction over King's assassination and did their utmost not to disclose the true political reasons for his murder.

The more time passes, the clearer we see the great contributions which he made to the struggle for the rights of black Americans and for peace and friendship among nations.

KBOO's Martin Luther King Day Specials

KBOO (90.7 FM) is proud to present "Keeping Living the Dream: A Tribute to Rev. Martin Luther King" a special day of radio on January 19th from 11:30 am to 1 am. Along with a special day of programming from KBOO air hosts, we will also feature a live broadcast from Whitaker Middle School at 1 p.m. featuring presentations by prominent citizens and local choirs. Featured will be Mayor Bud Clark, Ron Herndon of the Black United Front, State Representative Margaret Carter, State Affirmative Action Director Kay Toran, and Oregonian Editor Bill Hilliard. Music will be featured by Inspirational Sounds, Whitaker School Mass Choir, New Hope Choir, Jubilee Singers, Inspirations, and the Esquires Stageband.

YWCA To Celebrate King's Birthday

In January, our nation will pay homage to a true American hero: the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King had a dream that "one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed... that all people are created equal." His life was dedicated to this vision.

The YWCA believes the greatest honor the community can give to Martin Luther King is the effort needed to make his dream a reality. The organization's imperative is the elimination of racism wherever it exists, and by any means necessary.

To celebrate King's birthday, the YWCA has planned a tribute on Thursday, January 15, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at 1111 S.W. 10th Avenue.

The YWCA encourages the community to join in this tribute to a man who did not see the world in black and white, and dared to challenge those who did.



Much of what King devoted his life and efforts to remains undone to this day. That is why in paying our respects to the memory of Dr. King for everything he did for his people and for a progressive America, we regard him as our contemporary, a fighter for the resolution of mankind's most important problems.

PCC Hosts King Commemoration Day

In celebration of slain Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College will host a Martin Luther King Commemoration Day on January 16, 1987, at 12:00 noon at the Cascade Campus in the cafeteria located in the Student Center. Special guest speaker will be Dr. Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools. Other guests will be The Albina Ministerial Alliance Head Start Center from Portland Community College Cascade Campus, who will be performing the play, "I Have a Dream" and The Kings Temple Brothers who will provide musical entertainment. The public is encouraged to attend.

2nd Annual "King Day Celebration"

This year's celebration is scheduled for Sunday, January 18 at the Red Lion Inn (Jantzen Beach). The evening will feature music by Street Corner Singers, Strawberry Gamblers, Inner Balance, and Unity. Speakers for the evening will be Ron Herndon, Margaret Carter, Lanita Duke and others to be announced, a portrayal of Dr. King and a special appearance by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Mass Choir of Portland, Oregon, in conjunction with the voices of the Martin Luther King Jr. School of Vancouver, Washington.

The event will begin at 8:00 p.m. 'til 1:00 a.m. with a 7:00 p.m. No Host Bar with Hors d'oeuvres and a mini-fashion show by Cobi Technique beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale for a \$10.00 donation at the following locations: House of Sound and Mrs. C's Wigs and for additional ticket information, call Joe (Bean) Keller at 288-1662.

And the Nominee Is????

Nominations for the 1987 Martin Luther King Awards are currently being sought by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund of Oregon.

The awards annually recognize an individual, organization or business committed to the cause of human equality and/or scholarly endeavors. Ten awards will be given in the following categories: (1) most effective local minority newspaper, (2) most effective minority teacher in Portland Public Schools; one selected for grade school and one for high school, (3) most effective minority government elected official, (4) community service, (5) minority business and economic development, (6) high school student scholarship service, (7) distinguished senior citizen, (8) social service, (9) best local band. Send nominations to PSU address.

Nominations close Thursday, January 21, 1987. The candidates chosen to receive the awards will be honored at The Scholarship Award and Scholarship Dance scheduled for January 23, 1987. The event will be from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. in the Mayfair Room, Westin Benson Hotel.

Tickets can be obtained by writing to the Fund at 1633 S.W. Park Ave., Room 223, Portland, Oregon 97207 or by calling Michael Hill, President, at (503) 299-4475. *\$6.00-advance; \$8.00-at door.

What the Future Holds

by Trisa Watson

The Black race has come a long way and has a long way to go. It's up to the youth in our community to keep striving to be the best that they can, and to live and perform the dream of our ancestors.


The great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of many Blacks who stood for our civil rights. The least that we can do is to better ourselves by getting a good education and trying to be the best of our abilities to succeed. We can start to repay those who fought, were beaten, arrested and murdered for the sake of our beloved race. Millions of Black people have suffered so you and I could go to non-segregated schools, restaurants, movie theaters, public parks and libraries, and have an equal opportunity to get any type of job that we may desire.

It is time for us to think about the future. What we going to do with our lives? Are we working on becoming a statistic of teen mothers, alcoholics, drug addicts or victims of suicide? Are we striving to be the great Black America our forefathers expected us to be?

We can reduce the number of young Blacks who add to the above statistics by upholding the dream of our forefathers.

Author's Note: This article is written in remembrance and honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and what he stood for. Please remember your heritage—not only on our great leaders' birthdays or Black History Month, but year-round.

Trisa Watson is 15 years old and a member of the Black United Front Teenage Care Project.



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