

ASSASSINATION

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ended on it. "If we don't have a peaceful march in Memphis, no Washington," he said. "No Memphis, no Washington."

So, when King arrived in Memphis on April 3, a great deal was at stake. In five days—on Monday, April 8—there was to be another march. This time nothing could go wrong.

Some of the Memphis ministers greeted King at the airport and whisked him off to the Lorraine Motel, in the heart of a black neighborhood, where he checked into room 306, a \$13-a-day room with double beds and a view of the parking lot and swimming pool.

Almost immediately, he plunged into a long, exhausting series of meetings with the Memphis people and his SCLC associates.

They faced a problem. The city government had obtained an injunction

from a federal court prohibiting the march on Monday as a danger to public safety. King decided that the march would proceed, injunction or no injunction. If need be, he would defy a court order. "I am going to lead that march," he said.

Taking a break from the staff meetings, King stepped from his room onto the porch and surveyed the sky. The weather was getting worse. All day there had been tornado warnings; now streaks of lightning flashed, and it started to rain here.

The bad weather meant that there would not be much of a crowd for a rally that evening at Mason Temple. King had said he would speak there, but he had no desire to address a mostly empty auditorium. What was more, it had been a long day, he had a sore throat, and he was very, very tired. Back inside the room, he appealed to Abernathy, "Ralph, if this rain keeps up, will you go in my

place?"

After some hesitation, Abernathy agreed, and around eight o'clock he left the Lorraine for the rally. King changed into his pajamas and settled in for a restful evening by himself.

At 8:30, the phone rang. It was Abernathy. "Martin," he said, "you've got to come over. There's not many people—less than two thousand—but they're so warm, so enthusiastic for you...."

"Well, you don't have to talk that way to me. You know if you say come, I'll come."

King dressed in a hurry and was driven through the rain-swept streets to the temple. It was where he had spoken to a throng of 15,000 in March; this evening less than a seventh of that number awaited him. In soaked clothing, they sat up front. The relentless rain pounded on the

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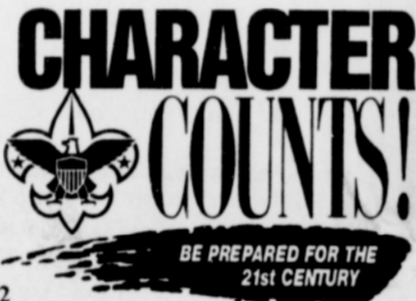


"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individual concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

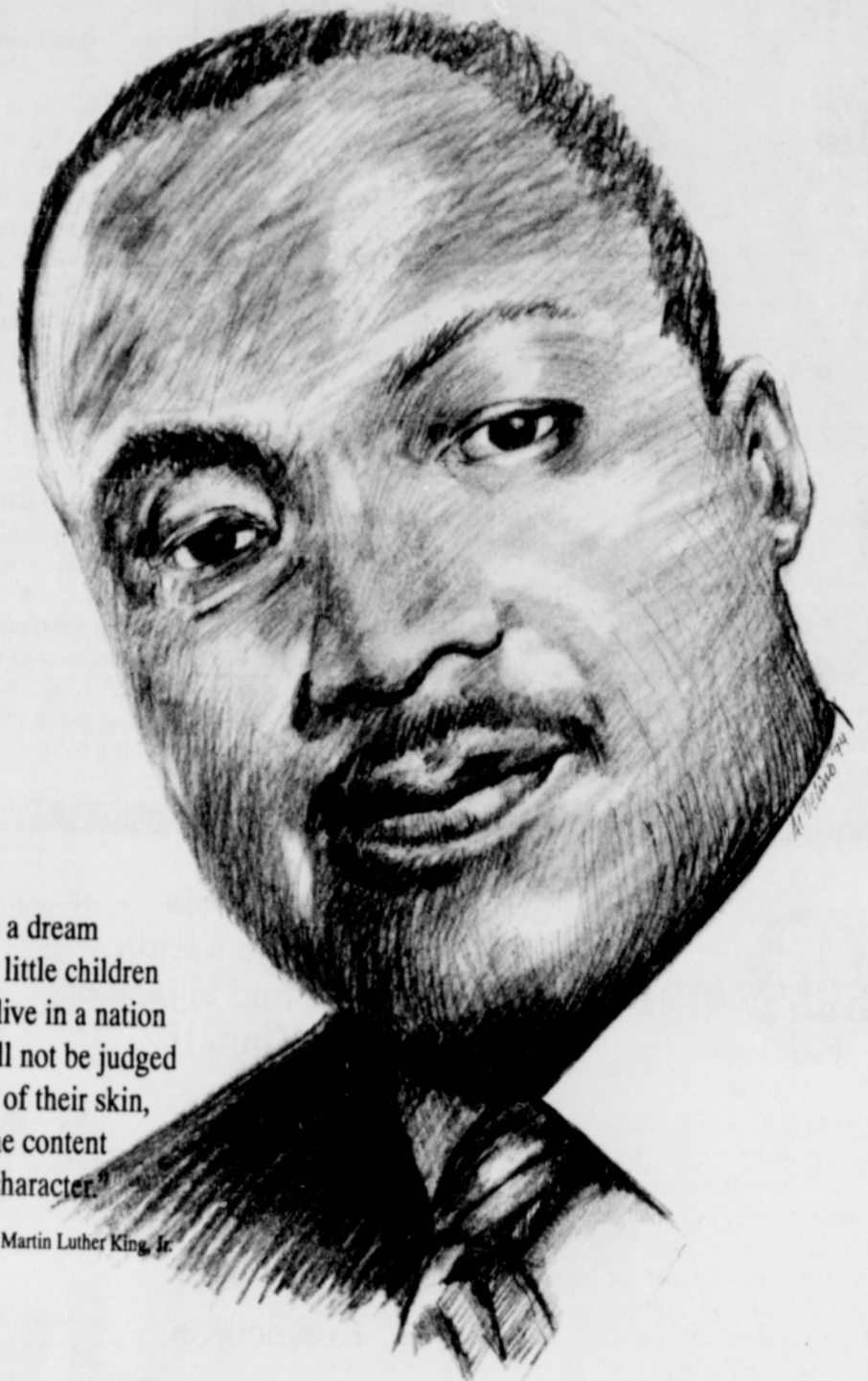
--M.L.K. Jr.

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from the Boy Scouts of America

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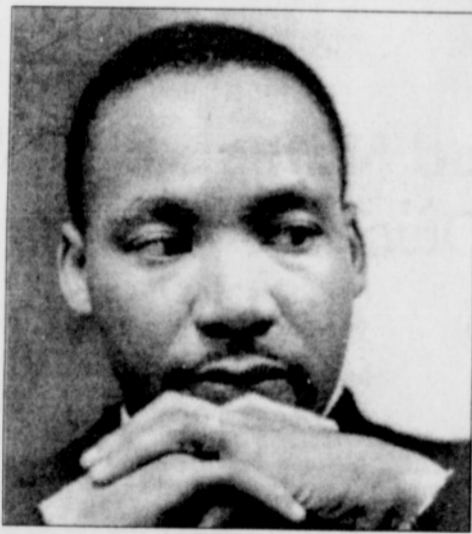
"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

We can all learn from his dream.

KOIN 6

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Honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
And His Dream**



"The dream is one of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where man will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men do not agree that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a place where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of all human personality, and men will dare to live together as brothers..."

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"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem,"

-Dr. Martin L. King Jr

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