

“Free At Last” Book Review



A sign of progress as a Jim Crow sign is removed from a Greensboro, North Carolina, bus in 1956.

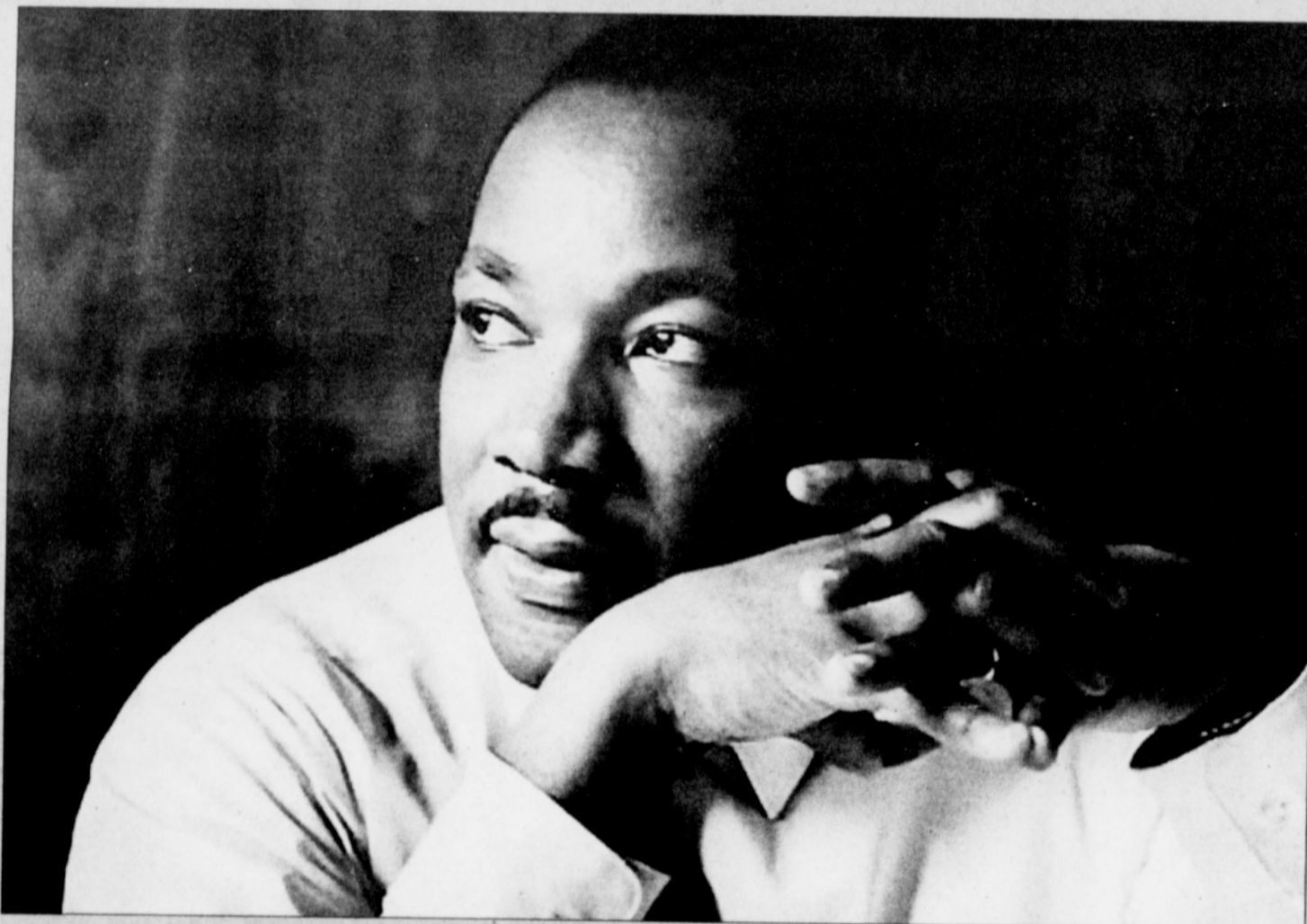


Martin Luther King Jr. (left) confers with his supporters.

This book recounts how African-American slaves and their descendants struggled to win — both in law and in practice — the civil rights enjoyed by other Americans. It is a story of dignified persistence and struggle, a story that produced great heroes and heroines, and one that ultimately succeeded by forcing Americans to confront squarely the

Saluting Martin Luther King Jr.

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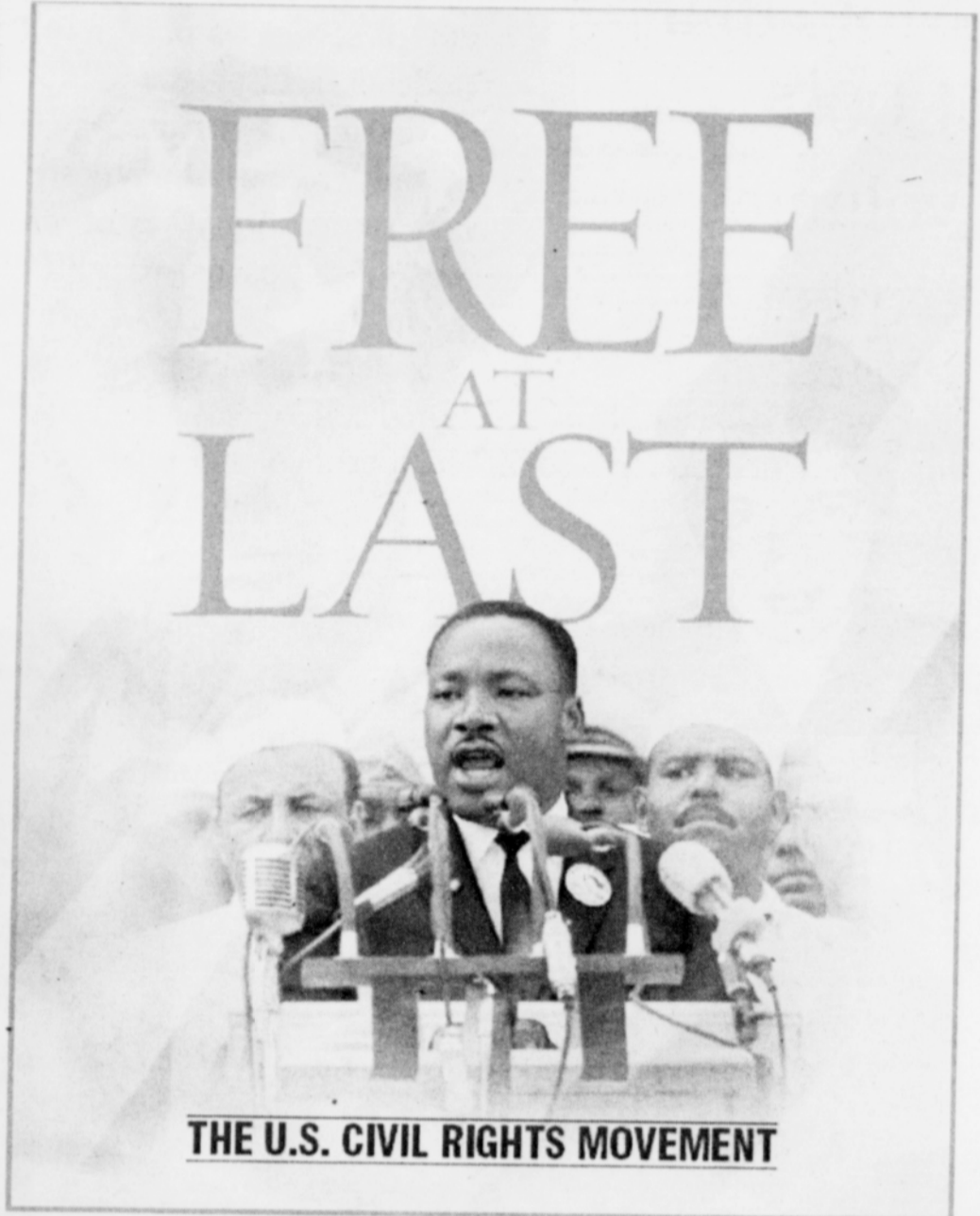
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President Dwight D. Eisenhower would use federal troops to ensure the enrollment of the first black students in the previously segregated Little Rock [Arkansas] Central High School.

shameful gap between their universal principles of equality and justice and the inequality, injustice, and oppression faced by millions of their fellow citizens

Book Review: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.

In Martin Luther King's famous "I-have-a-dream," speech (1963), he poignantly expressed the hope that someday his four children would be able to "live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

However, if the famous civil rights leader had been judged more by the content of his character than by his civil rights activities, he would have carved a far different niche in history. At least that is the conclusion one might draw after reading Michael Eric Dyson's new book, I

May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr. (Free Press, 2000).

The black minister and professor (DePaul University; Columbia University – African American Studies) contends that Martin Luther King, Jr. was "arguably, the greatest American ever produced on our native soil."

The thrust of Professor Dyson's book is this: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s image has been so glamorized over the years by the popular press that the current black generation is inclined to distance itself from its prominent leader.