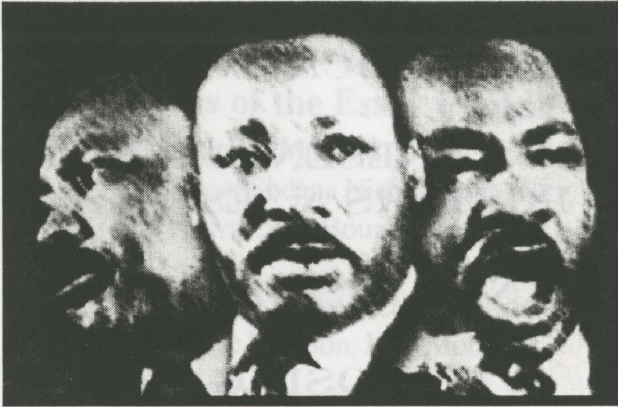


WHAT WOULD MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SAY TODAY?



JANUARY 21, 2002

PRESENTED BY
HELENA HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE

co-sponsored by
the Montana Human Rights Network

*“Everybody can be great . . .because anybody can
serve . . .you only need a heart full of grace and a
soul generated by love.”* Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHAT WOULD MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SAY TODAY?

INTRODUCTION

INVOCATION

AWARDS PRESENTATION FOR POSTERS & ESSAYS

PANEL DISCUSSION

CLOSING

Introduction	Albert Niccolucci
Emcee.....	John Board
Award Presentations.....	Mayor Jim Smith Sandi Oitzinger
Music.....	Levi Burkley - cello Jame Hinkley - guitar

WHO IS THE TASK FORCE?

The Helena Human Rights Task Force is a 501(C)3 corporation and an affiliate group of the Montana Human Rights Network. As an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Human Rights in all forms, the Task Force sponsors many activities and events in Helena. These events include an annual conference in March, a Martin Luther King, Jr. poster and essay contest, and a youth scholarship program. They have, in the past, held candidate forums, rallies, and vigils on timely issues. The Task Force sponsors a local-affairs radio program on Carroll Radio, Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm. We invite you to join the Task Force by calling Virginia or Betty at 442-5506.

ESSAY AND POSTER WINNERS

Winners of the Poster Contest

- 1st. Place: Luke Dutton
- 2nd Place: Rainey Whitney
- 3rd Place: Candace Kerr

- Honorable Mention: Jill Melcher
- Honorable Mention: Alyssa Komac

Winners of the Essay Contest

- 1st Place: Jill Melcher
- 2nd Place: Sheena Nicolay
- 3rd. Place: Cami Boughn

- Honorable Mention: Candace Kerr
- Honorable Mention: Joey Mortelli

Panelists

- **Mike Clark** of Bozeman was a first hand witness to the nations struggle with racism and the need for social justice. As a Southerner and a college student in the 1960's, Clark participated in several civil rights marches. He also worked in communities with local groups trying to deal with racist attitudes and behavior. Currently, Mr. Clark is the executive director of Yellowstone Heritage.

- **Frank Kromkowski** of Helena met Dr. King in 1966, when Dr. King spoke at Notre Dame. Kromkowski has studied Dr. King's work extensively. He is a member of the Helena Peace Seekers and serves on its steering committee. Mr. Kromkowski has worked for peace and justice for over 40 years in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Montana.

- **George Waring** of Butte is a professor of History at Montana Tech and has a passion for civil and economic rights. He serves as the current Board President of the Montana Human Rights Network and is a founding member of the Butte Human Rights Coalition.

- **Louise Ogemanhgeshig Fischer** of Helena is a memeber of the Ojibway tribe and the education Director for Wakina Sky Learning Circle and Library. She is an artist and has won many awards for her freelance work. Her most notable work was the buffalo design for Led Zeppelin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Helena Human Rights Task Force

An **Annual Conference** on Human Rights Issues. This Year's Conference is set for March 23, 2002 (Saturday) at CARROLL COLLEGE. The topic is *The Marginalization of Peoples*.

Speakers:

- **Dr. William McBroom, Professor of Sociology, at the University of Montana,** will speak on the techniques used by the Nazis to marginalize the Jews and how these same techniques are being used today against certain members of our society.
- **Dr. Gary Mihelish, Chairman of the Montana Mental Health Association.**
- **Karl Olsen, Director of Pride!**

Montana Human Rights Network

- A slide presentation on Afghanistan, Islam, and the Muslim world. Sunday, February 17, 2002. Location to be announced
- Our annual **Youth Day** will be on Islam. This event is **free** and open to youth. Lunch will be provided. Join us on **February 18, 2002** and get information on Afghanistan and the US policy in the Middle East. Meet Montana Muslims and discover that non-violence does not mean non-action.
- Eric Ward of the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity will speak on White Nationalism, in April of 2002. Location to be announced.

For more information on these events call Betty @ 442-5506.

Other's Events

The Helena Peace Seekers meet every Tuesday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at St. Paul's Methodist Church, corner of Lawrence and Logan Streets in Helena. Contact HPS (HelenaPeaceSeekers@Yahoo.com) for more information about the contact persons for committees, current projects, or to propose a new project. **Child Care** can be provided **during the Tuesday meetings if you RSVP by 5pm the day before.** Call 443-0843 with your RSVP or send an e-mail to the address listed above.

2002 Heart and Humans Art Silent Auction, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Friday, February 8th. The auction will be held at the **Social Center of the Helena Cathedral**. Music will be provided by M.J. Williams and Friends. A **Dance** begins at 9:00 at the Algeria Shrine Temple. Music will be provided by Cahoots & Mob Rules, Art Show/Dance Combo \$10.00. This event benefits the Lewis and Clark Aids Project and the Human Rights Network.

Note: Screen is down

- 6:45 **Jazz Duo:** Levi Berkley (Cello) and James Hinkley (guitar and vocals)
- 7:00 Albert Niccolucci - **GENERAL INTRODUCTION** & introduction of Emcee John Board
- 7:03 **INVOCATION** - @ podium?
Janet Tatz
- 7:05 Emcee John Board
Introduce Mayor Jim Smith
- 7:05 Mayor Jim Smith
- **SPEAK ABOUT YOUTH, tie in with the contest**
- introduce City Commissioner Sandy Oitzinger
- Sandy's daughter Hillary Oitzinger won an award in 1986 for her essay.

7:10 Sandy Oitzinger - **AWARDS CEREMONY INTRODUCTION:**

The theme and outline for each annual MLK Poster and Essay contest is prepared by the Helena Human Rights Task Force at the beginning of the school year in August. Teachers from every middle school are invited to participate. Participation is voluntary. The Poster & Essay contest winners are awarded monetary prizes: 1st pl \$100, 2nd pl \$75, 3rd pl \$50. Honorable mentions receive a \$15 gift certificate to a book store.

This year's theme for both the poster and essay contest is ***"What Would Martin Luther King Say Today?"***

I. POSTER CONTEST. This year's contest produced some exceptional posters, so we decided to show you some of the posters that were outstanding but that didn't win. The first on the screen is:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Jill Nelson | 6. Sarah Taylor |
| 2. Megan Odegard | 7. Katrina Howarth |
| 3. Tiffany Marceau | 8. Jessica Porciva (or Forciva?) |
| 4. Ashely Mills | 9. Faith Van Delden (she has moved) |
| 5. Kim Kralic | 10. Laura Temple |

The last 5 slides are the winners & honorable mention recipients of this year's poster contest. All are from the **C.A.T.S. Team**, 6th graders in Mrs. Curlee-Fifield's class at Helena Middle School. When your name is called, will you please **come on stage to accept your award**. You are invited to come to the microphone (*either* at the podium or the one the musicians use) to say a few words if you like. (SANDY TO ANNOUNCE NAMES, BOTH JIM & SANDY WILL SHAKE HANDS WITH WINNERS WHEN THEY COME ONSTAGE TO ACCEPT AWARD)

Winners:

3rd Place:	CANDICE KERR
2nd Place:	RAINEY WHITNEY
1st Place:	LUKE DUTTON

Honorable mentions: JILL MELCHER
ALYSSA KOMAC (unfortunately her slide did not come out well, so her poster is displayed in the lobby)

FIRST PLACE POSTER LEFT UP ON SCREEN WHILE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS BEING ANNOUNCED.

II. ESSAY CONTEST

All essay winners are from the **C.A.T.S. Team**, 6th graders in Claudia Crase's class @ Helena Middle School. The 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will come up and read their essays at the microphone.

3rd Place CAMI BOUGHN "What Martin Luther King Would Say Today About Racial Hatred"

2nd Place SHEENA NICOLAY "What Martin Luther King, Jr. Would Say"

1st Place JILL MELCHER "Justice" (**Jill also rec'd an honorable mention for her poster**)

Sandy*NOTE:** Honorable mentions *will not* read their essays, but they will come on stage to receive their gift certificate.

Honorable mentions: CANDICE KERR "What Would Martin Luther King Jr. Say Today"
JOEY MORATELLI - no title

7:40 Emcee John Board - **Comments about the Helena Human Rights Task Force:**

1) A local all-Volunteer Organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Human Rights in all forms.

2) In addition to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay & Poster Contest, the Task Force is sponsors many Human Rights Activities and Events here in Helena for the Benefit of the Helena Community among which are:

a) A Youth Scholarship Program

b) A local affairs Radio Program - The Human Rights Hour, on Carroll College Radio every Tuesday from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

c) Political and Public Forums on timely issues

d) An Annual Conference on Human Rights Issues. This year's conference is set for MARCH 23, 2002 (Saturday) at CARROLL COLLEGE, Rice Room, lower level of the Cube. The topic is *The Marginalization of Peoples.* Refer to details listed in the program.

Emcee John Board:

THE HELENA HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE relies on donations and fundraising activities for support. Please help us defray some of the costs of this evening by giving a monetary donation. We're going to hand out baskets to each section in the auditorium. Your support is appreciated, THANK YOU.

(JOHN, ET ALL: DURING THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS SCREEN WILL BE RAISED.

7:43 Emcee John Board - **MUSIC BREAK** -Introduce jazz duo

(After this time, panelists will come out and take their place at the panelist table. Houselights go on)

PANCIOT

7:48 MC John Board - INTRODUCTION OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION (incl theme),
PANELISTS (small bios on each, the perspective they bring)
tells audience there will be a question/answer & discussion after panelists speak and to think of questions

7:50 (Each of the four panelists takes 7 minutes for their individual presentation)

8:20 Emcee John Board - ANNOUNCES DISCUSSION/QUESTION TIME BEGINS QUESTION TIME
BY ASKING THE PANELISTS QUESTIONS ALREADY DEVELOPED BY HHRTF.
Audience to yell out questions, but HHRTF member is in the aisles with a cordless mic to assist.

8:45 Emcee John Board - BEGINS CLOSING DISCUSSION

- 8:50 Emcee John Board -
 - ☺ over & done. **REMIND AUDIENCE** to give back baskets w/money
 - ☺ ANNOUNCES CLOSING . Music by jazz duo?

9:00 Should be done!

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Martin King's Legacy

Martin Luther King, Jr. may have been the most hated and the most beloved leader of his generation. That was certainly true in the South where I grew up and where he first came to national notice. At his untimely and tragic death, he had become the best-known American around the world, other than perhaps Mohammed Ali.

That two African-Americans, the descendents of slaves and representatives of two great world religions, Christian and Moslem, could gain such notoriety and affection speaks ironically to the promise of America and to the political uncertainty and the tumultuous times in which we lived.

As a young college student, I was deeply moved by Martin King's writing, his speeches, and his actions.

I admired him first, because he was a man who lived out his beliefs and his dreams.

Secondly, because he was a poet, he could weave images and themes that spoke to my own sense of justice and fairness.

Thirdly, I admired his courage and his willingness to struggle with what it meant to be an American in a time of civil unrest and war.

He struggled to find a way to expose white Americans to the inconsistencies and laws and policies that kept Black people from enjoying the rights and privileges of white Americans.

He struggled with reasons why we were engaged in the Vietnam War and he ultimately opposed the war because of its impact on Americans and upon the people of Vietnam.

He struggled with why people are poor in a land of plenty. He believed deeply in the American dream.

And so he was killed by people who did not believe in America. We still do not know who killed Dr. King or President Kennedy, or his brother Robert. In less than a decade, we lost a president, the leading presidential candidate, and our most important religious and moral leader. Their most likely assassins – a right-wing political movement that sought to destroy independent thought in our society. These people are still here.

I think we do know why Martin King was killed. His beliefs and his actions threatened to undermine an old and corrupt way of living and thinking.

He stood on the side of the poor and powerless, whether they were black or white or red. His speeches challenged a government led by a president from Texas who represented the rich and powerful, who let large campaign contributors rip off the public, and who was intent on waging war without a clear idea of why our government was conducting that war.

His life stood as an indictment of cultural and religious and corporate and government leaders who did not want to change. And so they took his life. In doing so, they made him an even more powerful symbol of democracy than he had ever been when he was alive.

If he had lived, I like to think that he would have come to Montana at some point to teach us about his ideas.

He would have looked at Libby, for example, and asked why a succession of governors had ignored the problem of innocent people being killed and poisoned by a corporation that cared only about profit.

He would have looked at the Zortman-Landusky mine and wondered why state and federal officials would allow such a travesty to occur, where the water and air has been polluted and where the beauty and clarity of our environment has been trampled.

He would have looked at our minimum wage laws and health systems and wondered why we do not have governments that protect working people and encourage unions so that all people can be assured of a healthy life and a decent income.

He would have looked at our economy and seen that Montana now occupies a niche, in terms of per capita income, that is similar to the lowly and notorious status of Alabama and Mississippi in the Sixties. He would have asked how Montana could not gain more when America has been experiencing the most powerful economic expansion in our nation's history.

He would have told us that the main cause of whether a person will be poor as an adult is determined by schools, and he would have questioned why our legislators and our governors, year after year, undercut our public educational system by not giving it enough money.

He was an urban Black man, and so he did not know much about the wilds of Montana and the interior West. I like to think that he would have enjoyed learning about these lands and all their inhabitants. In doing so, I think he would have come to understand that the establishment of universal human rights must also be connected to a belief in defending the natural systems of the earth. I like to think that he would have become an advocate for creatures that do not have hands and cannot speak for themselves in our political structures – the grizzly, the wolf, the bison, the wild trout.

Martin King believed that when people see a wrong, they have a responsibility to make it right. He acted on those beliefs, and he helped to change America in fundamental ways. We are more tolerant, more diverse, more understanding of differences than we were when he started his life's work.

But we are now also more dominated by corporations, and by a mentality prevalent in government and in society that puts money above all else, that says that success in the marketplace is the primary way to value people, or institutions, or democracy.

America now rules the world by naked power, rather than by the strength of its belief in democracy. It stands alone, above all over governments, in its ability to wage military and political and economic war. As it does so, we as Americans have an ever-larger responsibility to our children, to our neighbors in other countries, to life on this planet. We must work now unceasingly to see that our leaders are held accountable for their actions, that our corporations obey the laws of the land, and that our people share more equally in the benefits of modern life.

This is the challenge posed by the life and beliefs of Martin King. We stand gratefully in his shadow. We suffer still from the aftermath of his death. We must find ways to work together to ensure that his dream of equality and of a peaceable kingdom can someday come to pass upon this earth.

For talk sponsored by Montana Human Rights Network,
January 21, 2002 Mike Clark

March on Montgomery, 1965

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Montgomery March, 1965

Martin King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy
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