Commitment to Dr. King

Northwestern is closed today to honor a mar-
yr for human rights, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. He was a patient and brave man, the
kind of person people pass their courage to.
The spirit of non-vio-

lence was tested in Birmingham, in Selma, in
Cicero and in Memphis. It prevailed.

But now that Dr. King has been slain, the

non-violent movement has lost its leader.
The weekend riots show the attractiveness of
the alternative. It's time to think of Americans. White America and white North-
western grieves partly because Dr. King sym-

bolized the least disruptive process of gaining
civil rights.

We have urged Northwestern administra-
tors, faculty and students to strive to give black
Americans a stake in society. We have urged
passage of a strong and meaningful open hous-
ing ordinance in Evanston. This must be done.

A Northwestern administrator appeared be-
fore Evanston's City Council last night to assure
support for those seeking housing. The or-
dination drive and orderly marches of last spring
must be duplicated to achieve the enactment of
a stronger open housing measure.

Northwestern declares that it does not dis-

criminate on a racial basis in housing or admis-
sion. But this is not enough. The fraternity sys-

tem has maintained a bastion of white exclu-
siveness, with some important exceptions. Last

spring we asked black students to give the exist-
ing Greek system a chance. It failed. We can no
longer oppose their natural desire for a full
social life. Northwestern officials should react
favorably to the request of black students for
the reactivation of predominantly black fraterni-
ties and sororities.

The death of Dr. King has brought to the
fore the racial problems that white America
often ignores. We, as members of the North-
western community, must act to lessen and al-
leviate the difficulties for blacks at NU and in
Evanston.

Without this commitment the spirit of non-
violence and racial cooperation will have died
with Dr. King.

The Liberal Veneer

The veneer of some Northwestern liberals

were off yesterday and revealed a startling
hypocrisy.

A crowd, almost exclusively composed of
white students and faculty, was led to Crown
Center yesterday to urge a stronger North-
western participation in the struggle for civil
rights. This certainly belongs in the liberal
political scheme.

But what followed did not. A select group of
the steering committee went inside Crown
to speak to NU administrators, including Presi-
dent Dr. J. Roscoe Miller. Dr. Miller knew
about the planned demonstration. He had prepared
a statement and was ready, even eager, to face
the crowd.

The steering committee delayed them.
They cornered Dr. Miller for 45 minutes and
prevented him from going outside the crowd, not
knowing of this ploy, the president thought the
president was unwilling to talk to them and their
gang. When he did emerge from Crown Center, Dr.
Miller was unjustly made the villain and sub-
called to cataclysms and insurrection.

The steering committee, composed of the
likes of Richard Klimmer and Lance Sobel, grad
students; Christopher Lasch and George Fred-
rickson, history department faculty members;
and undergraduate Allan Foster, trampled the

notion of freedom of the press, too. This is a
particularly blatant hypocrisy for those who are
active in the American Civil Liberties Union.

Although NU administrators were willing
to allow a Daily Northwestern reporter into a
meeting between the group and committee mem-
ber objected. What did they want to hide? While practicing their right of assembly and free speech, they denied the right of freedom of the press (access to information)
to us and through us they blocked your right to
know as a Daily reader.

The tactics of the steering committee were
deplorable. The liberal veneer was very thin.
And the hypocrisy showed through.

Letters to the Editor

Keep the Faith

Just a moment of reflection: a moment when reflecting seems a useless waste of time. . . when, sitting at a crowded bar, you feel even more than usual frustration and anger.

This moment, upon the death of a national leader, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, a man who advo-
cated an armed outlet concerned with black nationalism. It is a moment of profound significance — whose ultimate inter-
ests are the restoration of a white man's sense of decency and equal opportunity and centered on such things as entitlement and a real feeling for the lot of mankind.

It would be a horrible realization

indeed, to discover that be-

cause of his death, the principles

represented by the doctrine of

Martin Luther King would be

written off as illusory fantasies of

impractical idealism, that his assis-

tiation would only serve to

reform the beliefs of a twentieth

century where young men and

women are the fashion and ego-centric

and cynicism reign, disguised as

intellectualism; it would be tragic if

Martin Luther King's death was

only a substantiation of this

factor's doubts in the ultimate
good of the human race or even the
capacity of the ability of this good to be
superior to the complacency and
eventually established.

I would hope, rather, that such

an event would serve to in-

struct and unify the generations

and societies of the future. Dr. King

believes in the "impossible dream"

enough to work for these ideals

and die in the attempt. Thus, we
would find them commonplace.

This letter is not meant to out-

line courses of action for a society

struggling to remain united, nor

is it meant to constructively criti-

cize or publicly persuade. ... for

it was written when logical per-
spective was losing ground to the

emotions of one who had suffered

a very real loss, and looks, pov-

erlessly, into the cold eyes of a

conscier that feels no respect.

It is merely an expression of a

hope for those who feel no sense

of personal obligation, or for those

who are too sincere to persevere

any longer. certainly, their fate isn't

lost.

Penne Pigott

CAS 79

To the Grave

Dr. Martin Luther King is dead, and his country and people are slowly wakening away (more rap-

cidly as a consequence). The sum-

mer approaches — and its heat

shall be intensified in many Amer-

ican cities by burning hatred and

raging fires. This cannot serve to

fuse the people of this nation, or

ever melt away hatred and violence.

And so we shall observe the gut-
ted buildings crumbling along with

our

Respect and understanding have

wanished in this land: and the

common interests which our

shores create, have dissipated in

the greed for profit and envy of

men's minds. Agitators and fear

may be a driving point for equal

all men can garner only weak and skeptical

follow-

ers.

A good man has died. We shall

be called upon, as a people, to

realize the potential of his ideal peace

and land of indisposable freedom

— but to the grave! And it may

be sooner than any one of us

thinks, for it is happening here and
now! But Dr. Martin Luther King

has surely earned his peace-

ful rest.

Eric Pepper

Tech 71

Small Students

How revealing was the brief ac-

count of the Student Senate meet-

ing of April fourth (Daily North-

western, April 5), which unhappily

coincided with the death of a great

man. It is part of the Gelfand (Caulfield's) statement that Dr.

Martin Luther King was living, but
died stunned the audience for a

few seconds — then the autonomy
disapeared and the resolution of a

savage interruption it have must

seemed to your petty minds and

small ambitions. How utterly in-

significant must the death of a

man and the death of an ideal

be compared to the words "owe

the Madison Measures".

Penne Pigott

CAS 79

Dr. King's Failure

This morning near the Grid I

met a large group of multiracial

dentists slowly walking by. Thin-

king how irrelevant it was to

memory of the Rev. Martin

Luther King, I asked where they

intended to go and joi


to me.

The first few who passed by lit-

ten to see me, but the rest ignored

me. Then one young man said an

obscenity. The last emphatically

stated, "You can't come.

Such behavior only emphasizes
the depth of Dr. King's failure.

Lawrence Miller

CAS 69

Lost Humanity

Who was your hero? Martin

Luther King? Malcolm X? John

F. Kennedy? George Lincoln Rock-

well? It doesn't matter. He's dead.

There has always been hatred and the decision to pull a trigger is frequent and usually un-

beholden. Respect for human life has fallen to near nothing. It is a disgrace to us all as Americans. Abraham Lincoln experienced the fact that one can't please all the people all the time, but is one

obliged to die because of it?

One is compelled to ask, "Why?"

Maybe we are growing less human. The likeness of everything around makes one insensitive in compar-

ison. Ask yourself how much you

matter to A&P, Macy's, or IBM. I
despair because I feel powerless
to stop the growth and domination of big business and even larger government. As I feel myself ap-

proaching the state of a statist, I

feel less and less a man. Clearly, it is easier to kill a statistic than a man. Humanity, where have you

found it?

Harry Hempy

Grad

Deserve Rules

We think that if students are too immature to follow university rules, they simply don't de-

serve to have them.

Bobbie Frysinger

CAS 79

Cathy Lynch

Jour 76

Wendy Borovich

CAS 79

Gail Perlow

Sp 71

Barbara Szwarn

Sp 69

Joe Voss

CAS 68