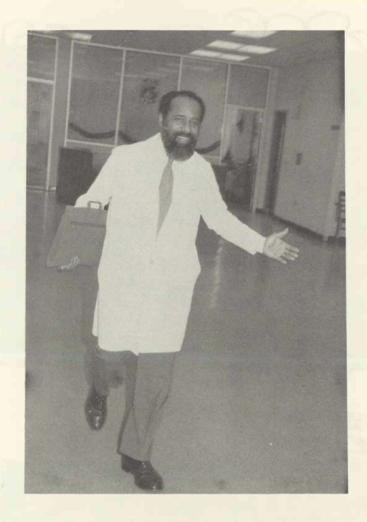
Reflections

"If a man has not found something worth giving his life for, he is not fit to live."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach. Not failure, but low aim, is sin."

- Dr. Benjamin E. Mays



Dr. Haynes—on His Way to Biology Lab



JAMES D. COOPER, JR.
RETOUCHED BY SANFORD BIGGERS



President Keith and Bill Cosby



President Keith and Calvin Johnson

Should I Tell My Parents?

With the alarming rise in teenage pregnancy and the frightening spread of AIDS, the use of contraceptives is fast becoming a necessity rather than a question. Yet, because of their age and dependency on their parents, teenagers have a special problem in obtaining contraceptives and in getting an abortion. Certainly, parents should be notified concerning any action taken that will affect the health of their children. But too many rules concerning parental consent will lead to an increase in the already sprialing birth rate in the United States. Studies indicated that by the time they are seventeen years of age, over fifty percent of all teenagers are sexually active. Of this number, only one-third use any kind of birth control. Even fewer teenagers would attempt to secure birth control devices if their parents' permission were required for them to do so. It is frightening to think how many more "babies will be having babies."

- Treye Andrew Thomas

Waits and Measures

Someone once said, "Patience is a virtue." Certainly, at Morehouse, patience does not lose its importance. In fact, at Morehouse one could not survive if patience were not a part of his character and outlook. While there is no class such as Patience 101 in the course offerings, patience is required from the first day the student steps on the campus. For the daily life of the lowly Morehouse freshman is filled with tests of his patience -- the long lines, the noisy, distracting surroundings unconducive to study, the unpleasant people who love to tell students "no." Through all of this, the freshman emerges, confident, strong, proud---a far better person than he was when he came.

- Derrick Butler

In Defense of the Martial Arts

The media have done the martial arts a grave injustice. Whether it be on screen, on paper or in the ring, the media have portrayed only that part of the martial arts that they deem interesting. The plain and obvious fact is that the part of the martial arts that the media present is only superficial and shallow. Martial arts---true martial arts--are more spiritual than physical. In fact, if one examines the practices and the most important principles of the martial arts, one will find more than an outline for fighting, more than an outline for contemplation, but an outline for life. Although one can read about the spiritualism, the essence of the martial arts, true knowledge of them is experiential. How do we describe the taste of sugar? Verbal descriptions do not give us the sensation of it. To know the taste, we must experience it. Likewise, the true essence of the martial arts is not meant to be intellectualized; it is meant to be experienced. Thus, inevitably, words will convey only part of its meaning.

- Jonathan Gayles

The Road Not Taken

The decision-making process may be traced back as far as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Like Adam and Eve, people today continue to engage in decision-making processes which lead to devastating results. Not many people take "the road not traveled by," of which Robert Frost speaks, however. For, fear and intimidation cloud the thinking processes and hamper sound judgment and logical choices.

- Jimmie Lee Davis, Jr.

Like Robert Frost, whose decision "made all the difference". I had to make a decision that was to make the difference between failure and success. After I made the decision, however, I recanted it, suffered because of my disavowal of it, and recovered in time to continue down "the road less traveled by." After falling deeply in love with a very special young lady, I had to make the difficult decision concerning whether to continue my emotional involvement with her or to devote my attention to my studies as I pursued my college degree. As with most decision, this one was not easy. Finally, I made the painful decision that love would have to wait, especially since it conflicted with and hampered my academic progress. Later, I was faced with the same kind of decision, but this time I followed my emotions instead of reason. Unfortunately, my grades suffered, and I was distracted from my original goals and resolve to achieve academic success. Fortunately, I realized that I was moving down the wrong "road", and I quickly retraced my steps and returned to my former course. Unlike Frost, I traveled both roads, but like Frost, "the road less traveled by" has "made all the difference."

- Ned Williams

An 80's View of Booker T. Washington's Theory

Dr. Booker T. Washington was the much needed leader for Negroes during the period following the Civil War. In spite of the prevailing opinion during his time and even today to the contrary, Washington's economic and social theories were a key factor in the economic and political growth of blacks during the late 1800's and the early 1900's. By "playing a game" of politics, Washington effected the formation of a lucrative economic community for Negroes. The National Negro Business League and other associations formed in its fashion proved to be quite successful, for example, in fortifying the black community and in fostering self reliance among black people. Unfortunately, positive gains for which Washington was responsible are often overlooked in vituperative rhetoric and blatant misinterpretation.

- Benjamin Joseph Johnson, III



In an artist's perception, dark tones are necessary, indeed vital, to contrast with and therefore compliment the light tones of his work. Perhaps the Creator had the same design for our human existence, creating us with the potential for both peaceful and conflicting actions. And, perhaps the birth of Christ was meant to be a sign that, in spite of our two opposing natures, we must embrace peace and good, rather than war and evil.

- Zerrick B. Gillam

Ethnocentrism and Peace

Ethnocentrism, like all other forms of discrimination, finds its basis in stereotypification. A man of a certain race does not see a man of antoher race; rather, he sees the entire race. Not only is there a tendency to cluster people into groups, but there is also a tendency to give them generalized characteristics, most of which are negative. Stereotypification and ethnocentrism combined to bring about the Nazis, Ku Klux Klan, Black Revolutionaries, and other similar groups. As long as such groups and what they represent exist, peace on our earth will be an impossibility.

The institution that exemplifies the impossibility of "Peace on earth, good will toward men," perhaps more than anything else, is national government. for, government is the most egotistical organization in which mankind exists. Its acts self-centeredly but attempts to portray an image of generosity and compassion. Even "save the world for democracy" has self-centered intentions. With this statement, Woodrow Wilson presented the assumption that the pro-democratic peoples must be belligerent towards non-democratic believers and promoters.

The goal of "Peace on earth, good will toward men" invokes a completely pure participation of humankind. The day man makes his transformation to a peaceful and benevolent state of thinking and existing, he fulfills the biblical legacy. He will no longer be human, but angelical; not selfish, but generous; not easily agitated, but pacifistical; not morose, but blissful. But until then, until Judgement Day when selfishness is cleansed from our existence, "Peace on earth, good will toward men" will be a mere arrangement of symbols as inconceivable as the power of God.

- Damon J. Phillips

Reinterpreting the Angels' Message

"Peace on earth, good will toward men." These are the words the angels sang at the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ and interpreted as the promise of some future where there will exist harmony among men. But could it be that our limited human perception misinterpreted the angels' message?

Viewing His infinite wisdom, we can assume that the Creator did not err in His design of the world. Instead, let us consider that we, as humans on this mortal plane, must embrace the triumphs of peace only after enduring the struggles of war. For, throughout every aspect of the existence of man, from the simple culture of the Neanderthals to the comparatively complex technological world of modern society, peace has always existed as an adjunct to conflict.

Whether between individuals, within nations, or even among countries with boundary disputes, peace and conflict have been counterparts of each other, co-existing in the same sense as day and night or light and dark. For, what is the value of peace if we cannot weigh it against the trammels of conflict? In order to fully realize the one, we must first acknowledge and experience the other. And, since the one always occurs in the aftermath of the other, each brings about a change that is conducive to the emergence of the other.

- Zerrick B. Gillam

Lighting a Candle in the Dark

A posopography of Karl Marx, Mahatma Ghandi, and Jesus Christ shows that each experienced an event that altered his course of thought and elevated him to a higher state of mind. Marx witnessed the plight of the poor in his father's factories and was moved to advance the idea of social equality. Ghandi experienced the cutting edge of racism and fought back with the "double-edged sword" of nonviolent direct action. Moved by the moral depravity of the human condition, Jesus preached peace and brotherhood and eventually gave His life for the salvation of all humanity. Each dared to break the mold of conformity and reveal to the masses the injustice, cruelty, and wickedness of the world. They were all leaders because of their bravery to do battle with what was wrong, and they each lit a candle in the dark rather than curse the darkness.

- Emmanuel Austin Waddell, Jr.

Substance and Shadow: Dr. King's Dream and Forsyth County

On Saturday, January 24, 2987, twenty thousand marchers descended on Forsyth county, Georgia, to protest racism in that area. No blacks live in this county and have not done so since the early part of this century when they were literally run out after a black man was accused of raping a white woman. Blacks were forced to leave their homes, their land, and most of their personal belongings when the terrible edict was proclaimed, "Leave Forsyth County by sundown." Thus, we marched for justice, morally and constitutionally. We marched for the unification of peoples everywhere, but especially for those who left Forsyth county and those who remained. Little did the wihtes of Forsyth county know, however, that we also marched in love. If oppressed people can express magnanimous love for their oppressors, then surely the oppressors can have a change of heart and love them just as well. In this attempt to demonstrate a redemptive love, the marchers proclaimed to the entire world that Dr. King's dream lives on.

- Benjamin J. Johnson, III

One Nation Under God: Reflections on the Dream

Sometimes, in order to understand a dream fully, one has to walk in the shoes of the dreamer. On January 24, 1987, I walked through Cummings, Georgia, an all-white town in the county of Forsyth, with thousands of other demonstrators in a march for freedom. As I marched, I realized that the inimitable dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is fully embodied in the meaning to the stars and stripes of the great United States flag. The antithesis of his dream finds its representation in the repugnant rebel flag. Forsyth county was reminded that it is inside of the state of Georgia, which is inside of the country of the United States of America. The desire for a white America is anti-American and incompatible with the aspirations of a growing number of Americans who want this nation to be what it was meant to be.

- Brian S. Register

The Flip Side of the Same Coin: Nightmare in Forsyth County

In order for me to make any judgement concerning the effectiveness of Dr. King's work in civil rights and the far reaching implications of his dream, I had to see the "flip side" of the race relations coin, the side with which I had no experience, the side of hatred. As the Forsyth County March got underway, the residents drove by us with Confederate flags flying high and with their middle fingers extended in unmistakable insult. We marched, trying to ignore them, but I remained captivated by them. I really could not believe what I was seeing. These people did not know me and had never seen me before, but they hated me, not for any sensible reason, but merely because I was different. I now felt what millions of blacks had felt in America for hundreds of years. I had finally come in touch with what it truly means to be black in America, and I did not like it. This was the flip side of the proverbial coin, the side Dr. King had tried to eradicate with his dream, the side with nightmare proportions. It was the side that I had never really experienced and that I will never forget.

- Derrick Butler

Finding the Right Word to Describe Forsyth County

Racism is one of those words the meaning of which you have to experience in order to comprehend it fully. Prior to the Forsyth County March, many of us had been led to believe that racism is ignorance. As waves of unaccustomed fear gripped me when I saw my first klansman, I knew that racism is more than ignorance. For, while racism may be initiated by ignorance, the two words are not synonomous. Ignorance is the refusal to accept an indisputable fact. On the other hand, racism involves focused and directed hatred; inexcusable, accepted and rationalized injustices. The abject epitome of these factors is the white clad Ku Klux Klan with all of its vituperative hatred for minorities and oppressed groups. Unlike racism, ignorance may even evoke compassion, but in Forsyth County on that cold winter day, I saw nothing that even remotely resembled compassion.

- Anthony Reeves

Reflections on Dr. King's Dream: Twenty Years Later

Although Dr. King's dream is not dead, it is caught up in an incongruent web of a new black attitude, a misplaced focus on the menaing of the dream, and a predominantly unchanged white attitude toward blacks in American society. The black Man's militant attitude toward effecting a means to achieve justice and equality in this country provides stumbling blocks, rather than stepping stones, to the fulfillment of the dream. The tendency to celebrate Dr. King, the man, rather than the manner of the man in all of its implications, expends energy needlessly in a vacuous display of pomp and circumstance. And, although the white man cannot lynch the black man without repercussions from the dictum of the law of the land, racist attitudes continue to delay any chances of unity between the races. Yet, with continued collective efforts on the part of optimistic blacks and whites alike, the pursuit of Dr. King's dream will overcome, in time, the debilitating attitudes of those who seek to destroy it.

- Caesar C. Mitchell

The apartheid regime in South Africa is a blight on humanity and a constant reminder of the civil rights struggle led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960's. Many Americans who remember those days of strife and injustice vehemently protest the actions and existence of such a regime, as they did in the days of the great "Drum Major." Yet, in the self-same country which opposes civil injustice so admirably, there exists a county in Georgia so filled with hatred that it verges on acute xenophobia. Is there any wonder that South Africa remains a haven of racism and a hotbed of civil strife when the Dream of Dr. King has not yet come to its fruition?

- Roland G. Dawkins

Choosing the Better Virtues

One of man's greatest shortcomings is his contempt of his fellowman. For centuries this contempt has been displayed in violent and destructive ways and has been responsible for the destruction of nations, the crippling of cultures, and the extinction of civilizations. In order to overcome this negative emotion, man must become aware of its destructive potential and embrace his fellowman, not as an enemy, but as a friend. This can be accomplished only if man sees cooperation with his fellowman as his greatest resource for progress. For, while there is no harm in wanting the best for oneself (because such helps to produce inner joy and satisfaction), it is a calamity for a man to suffer as the result of the selfish acts of another. Thus, in his struggle to distinguish right from wrong, love from hate, and good from evil, man must be clear of vision and humble of spirit in order to choose the better of these virtues.

- Caesar C. Mitchell

Color-Consciousness

Colors have an importance today that matches their multiplicity. Every tangible thing has at least one color. If it is not its own color, then the material has color reflected from other things, as is the case with glass. Although people and institutions minimize the significance of color, every people and therefore every person has a color. In actuality people pay a surprising amount of attention to it--more than they would have known. For instance, I was looking around in a very fine department store one evening. Evidently, other people were also looking at me. I am told that a white security guard with a walkie-talkie warned another grey-suited white security guard to "watch the black in the green jacket." The world is surely color-conscious.

- Curtis V. Goings

The Rat That Lived in the Dorm

There was a rat that lived in Hubert Hall at one time during the school year. He was responsible for quite a commotion. The occupants of the hall were up in arms trying to kill him. Mice are common visitors to almost all the rooms, but the rat caused controversy since it was several times bigger than most rats and certainly was more of a physical and psychological threat. One would fear the size of a bite from a rat far more than one would fear the bite of a mouse. One day the rat jumped from behind a trashcan in the hall. It had very unkempt fur, and one could see that this was not a rat being plumped for laboratory experiments, but one that was a savage fighter. A boy from Atlanta brought a shovel from home just for the occasion and smashed the rat as hard as he could. The rat was still moving and trying to escape, so it was doused with a can of lighter fluid and promptly set aflame. I was on hand to witness this spectacle, and it inspired me to write a poem celebrating the passing of the rodent:

To live among rats is not a shame,
But it's just not what I had in mind.
When one's apprehended, you set it aflame;
But eight more will bite back in kind.
Attacking, then scurrying to a heater-hold.
How can one have pest control?

- Trent Anthony Berry

Once, Twice, Three Times A Lady

She has sent four children to college and has one child entering his first year of secondary school. She earned a Doctorate in Jurisprudence while one child was enrolled at Northwestern University, another in secondary school, another in elementary school, and still another an infant. She has since been elected to her first term as President-elect of the Illinois Cook County Bar Association. She has served the multipurpose role of Doctor, Lawyer, Security Guard, Cook, and guardian for five children. One wonders how can one woman perform all of these feats without any outside help? But that's just my MOM!

- Andre M. Thapedi

1986 In Retrospect

The year 1986 was not all bad. Although my life did not take a positive turn until the second half of the year, as the year progressed things got better. From the time I left home in August to attend Morehouse College, I felt that for the first time in months I was able to sort things out. Getting away from home made me realize that most of the problems I had perceived during the first part of the year were really quite trivial and never deserved any priority in my life in the first place. Then, too, I had a great deal to be thankful for in that there had been no deaths in the family, I had finished high school, and I had been accepted by my first choice of colleges, Morehouse. Who could ask for much more?

- Sam Gilmore

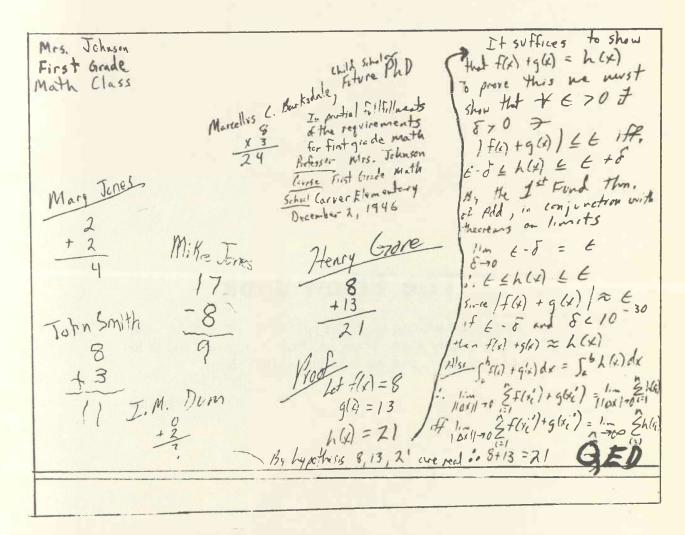
After One Semester at the 'House

I have made my last room check, and now it is time to leave for home. As I walk down the two flights of stairs of my dormitory, I am already beginning to miss Hubert Hall and all of my recently acquired friends. Outside, the sky is filled with billowy white cluds that seem to pacify rather than depress me like most cloudy days do. The weather is cool and simply peaceful as I get in my car and head for home.

I have been home three times since I enrolled at Morehouse College. Each time, I was acutely aware of how much I was changing from the wide-eyed teenager that I was last August to a serious-minded and genuinely committed college man. I had learned to understand and to respect members of the opposite sex. Long lines and inordinate delays had taught me patience. And, surprisingly enough, I had come to understand my father and our relationship far better than ever before.

"Milledgeville City Limits," indicates the three-feet high green and white sign. Two hours could not have possibly passed by this fast, nor could the nearly five months since I had been home, for that matter. The clouds have broken, and I am beginning to see some blue in the sky. This is going to be a great homecoming, for I have matured considerably since the first time I left for school. Being at the 'House has changed me, and I am a better man for it.

- Anthony Reeves



DR. HENRY GORE'S FIRST DAY AT THE BOARD IN HIS FIRST GRADE MATH CLASS

- By Kenneth Grimes