

# Rename Fifth Avenue High School MLK?

By BILL ROBINSON

January 15, 1969 marked the birthday of a great international figure, a charismatic leader—and above all an outstanding Afro-American.

I speak of none other than the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The short period he walked the highways and byways of the world were of fundamental importance to both black and white America.



For white Mr. Robinson America he was an agonizing reminder that Christianity must come to grips with teachings of Christ and the brotherhood of man. For black Americans he symbolized "Messiah."

Martin touched the total spectrum of black America. Much like his contemporary, Malcolm X, he will be far more influential in death than in life.

Afro-Americans owe it to the late Dr. King and themselves to elevate him to a place of deep respect and reverence.

Not least among Martin Luther's credits was his thirst for knowledge and the keen mind of an ancient philosopher.

No more fitting tribute could be paid this distinguished Afro-American than naming an educational institution in his memory.

Dr. King knew that the future of America was in the hearts and minds of the young, and thus he was devoted to quality educational opportunities for black Americans.

Under his guidance the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) gave birth to the Student Non-Violence Co-ordinating Committee (SNICK) in the early sixties.

This organization of young dedicated college students fought the early battles in the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. King should also be honored by having a national holiday proclaimed on his birthday (January 15).

In Pittsburgh a number of organizations have already started the ball rolling in that direction. Pittsburgh could do itself proud by being one of the first cities to honor Martin Luther King Jr. by proclaiming January 15 a legal holiday.

If January 15 does become a national holiday Afro-Americans should plan to commemorate that date as we do others.

Let's rename Fifth Avenue Senior High School. What about Martin Luther King Senior High School?