



Letters To The Editor

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STANDARD PRESS
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Section 2 Page 7

- SPECIAL NOTE -

Last week this newspaper received a very critical letter concerning a local professional man. It accused him of many unsavory activities.

We cannot possibly take these kinds of statements seriously since the letter was not signed.

A writer's signature or initials has to appear in the newspaper. Any writer can be spared that, but we must know who writes the letters. You can be sure we will afford you full protection.

But we will not print letters about other people when we do not know the letter writer's identity. So, take heed. Let us know who you are -- or don't waste the time it takes to write us a letter.

To the Editors:

April 13, 1968

I read in amazement (in the Hot Line) the comparison of a great Christian minister, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and a courageous leader of his people, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, with a race car driver!

What has happened to the thinking of America? Where is the conscience of the white race when we can "make caustic remarks" about a man who saw the uprising and growing rebellion of the Negro and worked valiantly to channel it into non-violence? He spoke of love but reaped a harvest of hate.

No intelligent person can seriously believe that Dr. King was in any way responsible for rioting or looting. The thinking person will know that the riots are a cry for help by the young black who has no respect for the white man, no pride in race, no upbringing, no morals, no possessions -- in short, NOTHING to lose.

Are we going to continue to turn a deaf ear to the cry? Will we use strong-arm tactics -- perhaps concentration camps -- to put down growing waves of rebellion? Or will we see ignorance and ghetto slums as the breeding climate for riots, and will we take significant steps to cure the cause before it is too late?

It is not only America who mourns this great leader. He is mourned throughout the free world. Today I received a letter from Petter Skagen, Burlington's AFS student (1959-60) from Norway. (He is now in Switzerland.) He had this to say:

"Let me tell you how sorry and upset I feel about the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest Americans who ever lived. It is a terrible tragedy that he was shot, and especially now when America will need one like him so badly. I fear that the one most likely to take Dr. King's place will be Mr. Stokely Carmichael. I feel sorry for America, but perhaps a second civil war is what is needed to change the attitude of the white people, and to us Europeans it looks like this is what is coming. I hope we are wrong . . ."

Perhaps we should stand back and look at ourselves as others see us!

Mrs. H. W. Granzeau
Burlington, Wisconsin

April 9, 1968

Dear Mr. Branen:

Thank you for acknowledging my April 3 letter. But please, don't just assume I am guilty. And too, you presume wrongly when you say that my story has been told in court. It hasn't!

Are you aware that I fired my court-appointed attorney in writing before my trial? I accused this man of misrepresenting me. I accused this man of being part of the frame against me in writing to the judge!

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But the court refused my request for another attorney and I was forced to stand trial represented by a man who had every reason in the world for not giving a darn -- and the result speaks for itself.

I have proof that I was framed, Mr. Branen, but unless I can talk to somebody who is truly interested in justice, I will rot in a steel cage.

Sir, a number of years ago I was immured in a penitentiary with an individual who was sentenced to die in the electric chair for murder. For 10 years he lived in the shadow of death, screaming all the time that he was innocent and that he had been framed. This man, too, had been found guilty by a jury.

Today this man is free, all because somebody became interested enough to listen to him. This man didn't gain his freedom on legal technicalities -- he was innocent and he had been framed!

I am innocent, Mr. Branen, and I too have been framed.

All I'm asking for is a chance to tell my story to anybody who can judge the facts for himself.

Would you please help me to that extent? I'm not asking anybody to believe just on my word alone. I have FACTS but by myself I can do nothing.

Grant me the same opportunity you would want yourself were our positions reversed.

Thank you very much, Please acknowledge.

Respectfully yours,
Charles Layton Cox
(129 W. Main St.
Port Washington, Wis. 53074)

EDITOR'S NOTE - WE ARE ARRANGING FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THIS MAN. HE WAS THE ONE SENTENCED FOR THE SILVER LAKE BANK HOLD-UP.

WE WROTE HIM WHEN HE SOLICITED OUR HELP. WE TOLD HIM A JURY HAD FOUND HIM GUILTY. THE ABOVE IS HIS ANSWER. SO, WE HOPE TO AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT.

Mr. Branen:

My husband's sister, Mrs. Frank Anglin, sent me a birthday card and these words were imprinted:

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun;
Give us in all the struggle and sputter
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter;
Give us health, our help to make,
An' a bit to spare for others' sake;
Give us, too, a bit of song,
A tale, and book to help us along.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise and free.
Our goodly best for ourselves and others,
'Til all men learn to live as Brothers!
(An old English prayer)

Sweet-Pea Henderson

P.S. - Please return the clipping! Enclosed is a stamped envelope. You will see that I get everything that is in the self-addressed envelope! I'm so happy that so many people find me -- just another person!