

# Editorial

## King's Legacy Lives On

Seventy-nine years and eight days ago a baby who would grow up to be the second most admired person of the 20th century, according to a Gallup Poll, was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Apr. 4, 2008 will be the 40th anniversary of his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee at the hands of an escaped convict.

Between Jan. 15, 1929 and Apr. 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. did much to transform the social fabric of the United States. More remarkably, he effected this transformation without raising a hand in anger. He met violence with dignity and graciousness that helped him achieve goals of astonishing significance by means of a force that proved thousands of times more powerful than whips, chains, fire hoses and police dogs. Eventually a bullet ended his life on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee hotel room, but while the physical Martin Luther King was dead, his legacy lived on. It lived on after Apr. 4, 1968, and it is living still.

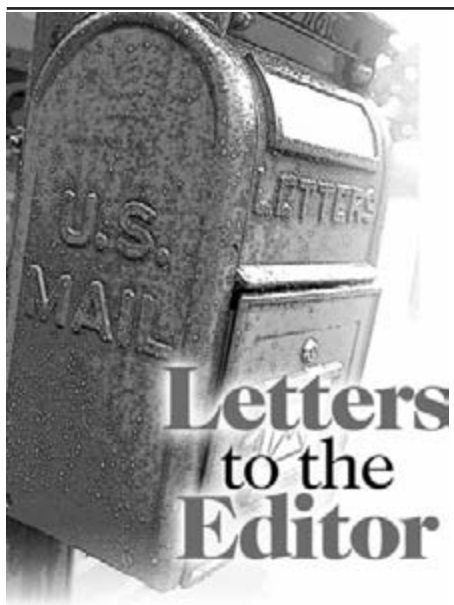
What many opponents of King's actions and philosophy failed to grasp was that King's actions did not benefit America's black population alone. At the time of his death in 1968, King's greatest days seemed behind him. From the pedestal he had occupied as the hero of the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and '60s, King had come to be reviled by many of his one-time supporters—not for abandoning the fight for racial equality, but for expanding it to include a quest for social and economic opportunity for all Americans.

King, a true visionary, realized that all Americans, whatever their ethnicity, deserved an equal chance to make a decent living for themselves and their families. Everyone deserved a chance to learn new skills that led to better paying jobs, King maintained. Everyone who did the same work deserved the same pay. It was this quest for economic equality that brought him to Memphis, where the city's

black sanitation workers had gone on strike seeking the same pay and conditions as their white colleagues.

King also took an unpopular stand against the then escalating conflict in Vietnam, again because he believed those on the bottom rungs of the socioeconomic ladder bore a unfair share of that burden. Again those who had once supported him now turned their backs on him. King was undeterred.

Whatever the opinion one may hold on King's expanding his quest for racial justice, the fact remains that his vision for socioeconomic equality benefits all Americans. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for truly embodying the spirit of peace and his quest for justice for all. His "I have a dream" speech spoke to more than racial equality. His vision of an America where every person can attain the highest position his or her qualifications merit is with us still.



### Letters to the Editor

#### No Con Ed Land Sale

*A copy of the following letter was received by the Gazette.*

Hon. Patricia Acampora, Chair  
New York State Public Service  
Commission  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223

Dear Ms. Acampora:

I write to express my strong opposition to Con Edison's planned sale of adjacent property to Federal Express to build a new facility. I hereby request that the Public Service Commission disapprove this sale.

This facility would have a detrimental effect on our quality of life. We already shoulder our fair share of burdens, including pollution from local power plants, airplane noise from La Guardia Airport, traffic from Rikers Island and the Steinway Industrial Business Zone. A new Federal Express facility would contribute additional traffic, pollution and noise to our already over burdened community.

Eighteen months ago, Western Queens suffered the longest power outage in New York City history. More than 170,000 hardworking

residents suffered great losses as a result. Since then, Con Edison demanded higher rates from their victims while still denying responsibility for blackouts, electrocutions and explosions. Now they want to sell property to Federal Express, which will result in additional suffering to these same residents. When will this end?

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to disapprove Con Edison's property sale.

Sincerely,

George Onorato

State Senator - 12th Senate District  
Astoria-Long Island City

#### Say No To Con Ed

*A copy of the following letter was received by the Gazette.*

Patricia Acampora  
Chairwoman  
New York State Public Service  
Commission  
Department of Public Service  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Chairwoman Acampora,

On behalf of myself and the people of Western Queens I represent, I write to express my strong opposition to Con Edison's planned sale of adjacent property to be used for a new Federal Express facility and request that the Public Service Commission disapproves the sale.

A new Federal Express facility will have an immediate and detrimental effect on my community, which already shoulders its fair share of burdens. Whether it is pollution emitted from local power plants, airplane noise from La Guardia Airport, or traffic from Rikers Island and the Steinway Industrial Business Zone, creating new space for a Federal Express facility and all the traffic, pollution, and noise that will accompany it, is simply too much to bear.

Eighteen months ago, over 170,000 hardworking residents of Western Queens were

affected by the longest power outage in New York City history. In the past year, Con Edison demanded higher rates from its victims while continuing to deny responsibility for its now-routine blackouts, electrocutions and explosions.

Now, Con Edison wants approval to sell property that will do nothing to alleviate the suffering of this community, but will bring adverse effects for years to come. It is clear the people of Western Queens already endured much financial and emotional hardship from this company.

Accordingly, I strongly urge you to disapprove Con Edison's property sale and join me in standing up for the Western Queens community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael N. Gianaris

Member of Assembly

#### Con Ed In Discussions

To The Editor:

Con Edison is in discussions with Steel Equities on a sale of a portion of its property located in the Industrial Park zone. Nothing has been finalized and as a part of these discussions, Steel Equities has been meeting with various interested parties in the community to inform them, explore community benefit and get community feedback about the vision Steel Equities has for the property.

Bob McGee

Con Edison

Media Relations

#### Pueblo Still Prisoner

To The Editor:

A dark incident in Americana.

[In] its Jan. 30, 2004 edition, the *New York Times* reported the death of former Commander Lloyd M. Bucher at age 76. Cmdr. Bucher was captain of the Navy "spy ship *Pueblo*" when it was on patrol in interna-

The Queens  
**Gazette**

PUBLISHED BY THE  
SERVICE  
ADVERTISING  
GROUP INC.



Publisher/Editor .....Tony Barsamian  
Community Liaison .....Julie Wager  
Production Manager .....Denise Gallo  
Art Director .....Ed Husser  
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Display Advertising Copy Deadline  
Friday 5 p.m.

Camera Ready Deadline Monday 4 p.m.  
Editorial Copy Deadline Friday 12 noon

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The Queens Gazette ISSN: 1547-3538 is published weekly on Wednesday for \$26 per year by Queens Gazette Newsprinting Service Advertising Group Inc. 42-16 34th Avenue. Long Island City, N.Y. 11101. Periodical postage paid at Long Island City. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Queens Gazette 42-16 34th Avenue Long Island City N.Y. 11101. *The Gazette is not responsible for the opinions expressed in the letters or op-eds contained on these pages.*