

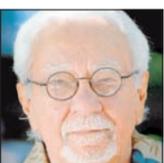
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AL MARTINEZ

Impact of MLK much more than a memorial

When I asked Tyree Wieder how she would describe the ultimate goal of Martin Luther King Jr., she thought about it for a moment and said "respect." Then she said "civility."

I had anticipated that she would say the right to vote or the right to ride in the front of a bus or to dine where the whites-only dined, but she saw the iconic leader of America's civil rights movement beyond that.

She was speaking in terms that embraced not just blacks but everyone. "That's what he stood for," she added, as though completing her thought. "He wanted dignity for us all."

We first met in a Woodland Hills restaurant on what was to have been the dedication of King's towering memorial two months ago in the Washington National Mall, an event washed out by Hurricane Irene. It was finally held Sunday with thousands, including President Obama, in attendance.

I asked Wieder to talk about King because she is one of the most dominant African-American women in Los Angeles, and perhaps the state. A former president of Valley College, she also served as interim chancellor for the L.A. Community College District and is currently interim president of East L.A. College. Her educational background includes a doctorate from UCLA. Her "firsts" are monumental. Her community activities are numberless.

She was born in what was essentially a black ghetto of L.A., but because of intelligence and drive quickly rose out of her south side neighborhood and into the mainstream of American life, typifying in a way what King had dreamed of in his hope for the future. Her home is now in Chatsworth.

Wieder was and is the most vibrant person of color that I know, but it occurred to me during the hour or so we spent together that what our race might be didn't really matter in the context of King's reach. He celebrated a unity of spirit, a oneness of the soul. In his words, "We cannot walk alone."

"He believed in justice for all people," Wieder said. "He wanted us to be judged not by our race but by the content of our character. He wanted us to care about each other."

She rightfully saw him as a man beyond racial description or religious label. She spoke of his 1968 "I Have a Dream" speech as a seminal moment in history, a ringing prophecy of what America could become. "It was," she said, "a wonderful dream."

Clearly, she saw that not all aspects of the dream have evolved, but what King offered remains lodged in the nonviolent teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He offered hope that the day would come when "we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

The massive, 30-foot-high monument that rises out of granite is impressive, Wieder acknowledges. But the reality of Martin Luther King Jr. was much grander than any statue could ever depict.

Al Martinez writes a column on Mondays and Fridays. He can be reached at almtz13@aol.com.



Gadhafi is killed in rebel hands

At least one of Libyan dictator's sons also slain

By Kareem Fahim and Rick Gladstone
The New York Times

MISRATA, Libya — Moammar Gadhafi, the former Libyan strongman who fled into hiding after an armed uprising toppled his regime two months ago, met a violent death Thursday in the hands of rebel fighters who stormed his final stronghold in his Mediterranean hometown Sirte. At least one of his sons was also killed.

Al-Jazeera television showed gruesome footage of what appeared to be Gadhafi, alive but wounded and bloody, being dragged around by armed men in Sirte. A separate television clip also showed his half-naked corpse, with lifeless open eyes and an apparent gunshot wound to the side of the head, as jubilant fighters fired automatic weapons in the air. A third video, posted on YouTube, showed excited fighters hovering around his lifeless-looking body, posing for photographs and yanking his limp head up and down by the hair.

Gadhafi's body was seized by a brigade of Misrata-based fighters who had been fighting in Sirte and brought to this port city in an ambulance and placed in a private house. But the authorities had to move it to another house after a few hours as hundreds of jubilant residents converged outside.

Reporters accompanying Ali Tarhouni, a deputy chairman of the National Transitional Council who went to view the body, saw Gadhafi splayed out on a mattress in a reception room, shirtless, with bullet wounds in the chest and temple and blood on his arms and hair. Three medical officials arrived, presumably to conduct an autopsy.

Conflicting accounts quickly emerged about whether Gadhafi was executed by his captors or died from gunshot wounds sustained in a fire-fight. But the images broadcast by Al-Jazeera punctuated an emphatic and violent ending to his four

GADHAFI A15

A video frame grab, above, purports to show former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi alive and surrounded by revolutionary fighters.

Libyan TV

Related stories

Many Libyans living in the region celebrate the news of Moammar Gadhafi's death. **A15**

The death of Libyan leader expands the growing string of security victories on President Barack Obama's watch. **A15**

DN ONLINE: Do you credit the efforts of the Obama administration for the death of Moammar Gadhafi? Vote at dailynews.com.

GUNS A9

DANISH STUDY

Cellphones, cancer? No connection

RESEARCH: More than 350,000 people monitored in biggest review ever.

By Maria Cheng
The Associated Press

LONDON — Danish researchers can offer some reassurance if you're concerned about your cellphone: Don't worry. Your device is probably safe.

The biggest study ever to examine the possible connection between cellphones and cancer found no evidence of any link, suggesting that billions of people who are rarely more than a few inches from their phones have no special health concerns.

The Danish study of more than 350,000 people concluded there was no difference in cancer rates between people who had used a cellphone for about a decade and those who did not.

Last year, a separate large study found no clear connection between cellphones and cancer. But it showed a hint of a possible association between very heavy phone use and glioma, a rare but often deadly form

STUDY A20

La Niña to keep things dry

Dry conditions could extend from Southern California east across drought-stricken Texas and Oklahoma. **A11**



A healthy alternative

A new report says a rating symbol on the front of every soup can, cereal box and yogurt container could help hurried shoppers go home with the healthiest foods. **A9**



Andy Holzman Staff Photographer

Bob Mackay takes cover under a shopping cart at the Target store in Northridge on Thursday during the 2011 Great California ShakeOut.

GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT Bracing for The Big One

By C.J. Lin Staff Writer

You might be at home when the Big One hits. Or at school, or at work.

Or you might be at your local supermarket or big-box store, surrounded by tall shelves stacked high with canned goods or housewares ready to topple down on top of you.

When the next major earthquake strikes — and it will, along the San Andreas Fault within the next 30 years, experts say — the advice is the same as in

most other situations: drop, cover and hold on.

Crouch next to a shopping cart, as it could help protect you from falling objects. Take small children out of the cart and shield them with your body.

Take cover inside a clothing rack if any are around. Crawl away from tall shelves with heavy items. Don't run outside.

Those were some reminders offered at

SHAKEOUT A18

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