

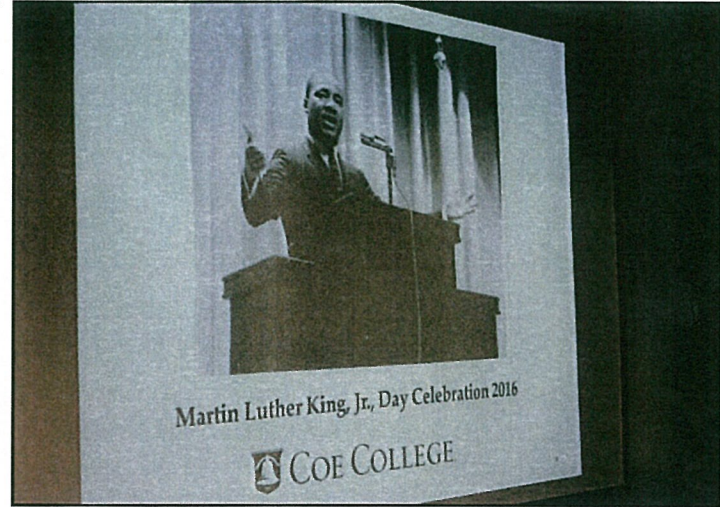
Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

Graphics courtesy of www.glasshauskitchen.com.

Jaimee Rindy
Staff Writer

At the end of a long first week back, students and staff alike were thankful for the three-day weekend. Monday's break, however, was not simply a day off from school, but rather a symbolic moment of silence for one of America's most influential leaders. It's easy to forget what the true meaning of that Monday is, but I have to wonder why. Though not a religious holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemorates a time in American history that would shape the future of the nation. The Civil Rights Movement changed the way people of color would live in America forever.

MLK, a righteous leader of the African-American population and an infamous proponent of peace, fought for the rights of



A presentation on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was given on Monday in Kessler Auditorium. Photo by Rachel Deyoe.

thousands. A day devoted to his legacy is the least we can do, as a new generation, to repay him for the incredible change he instated.

Coe does a good job of relaying this message to its students. Many charitable events were held on Monday afternoon, encouraging students to give back and help those in need,

carrying on the loving spirit that MLK himself asked us all to practice.

On MLK Day, the Coe community was able to make an impact by volunteering for programs like Gems of Hope and St. Luke's Hospital.

So next year, rather than taking MLK Day as a free day to stay in bed and watch Netflix all day, re-

member that the day is in memory of a revolutionary mind. If everyone followed in MLK's footsteps, got out bed, and enacted some positive change, the world would be a better place. That's not to say that you have to lead a grand march into Washington D.C. and give a historic speech (though no one is saying you can't do that), but any amount of positive change you can enact may make a world of difference to someone else.

It's important that we do not take MLK's legacy for granted. This day is more than a free pass. MLK Day is our reminder of the great things we can do for the world around us. Do not be selfish with this day. Use it to do some good for others, as MLK used every day. And in the words of MLK himself, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

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- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -



One Nation, Under ... Diversity

Lisa McDonald
News Editor

With the start of 2016, we officially begin the year of the next U.S. presidential election. So what better way to prepare than to watch some old inaugural addresses? While doing so, I noticed a disturbing trend. Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama all ended their speeches with a seemingly innocuous statement: "God bless you." If the president is suppose to be the figurehead for all of the diverse ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, and religions of the American populace, why do these presidents think it appropriate

to have God representing all these people?

While the Constitution never explicitly mandates separation of church and state, the 1947 Supreme Court case *Everson v. Board of Education* unequivocally ruled that "the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation between Church and State.'" As such, bringing a religious proclamation into a speech that doesn't hinge on its inclusion counteracts this principle.

"But it's tradition," some may say. Actually, before 1973, the phrase was never once used publicly by a president.

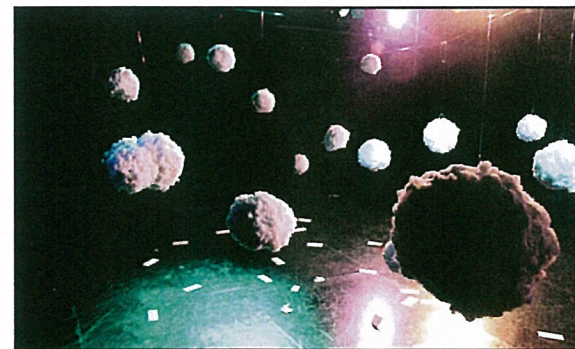
It wasn't until Richard Nixon invoked it during damage control of the Watergate scandal, and then Ronald Reagan claimed it as his standard sign-off, did the phrase explode in popularity.

"But it's the thought that counts." As innocent as this may seem, anyone working in public relations will realize the naivety of this statement. Not only does "God bless" insinuate a monotheistic religion which would exclude all those who follow polytheistic beliefs, but being blessed by another religion can also be very upsetting to some. The president, holding likely the most important

public position in America, should know to avoid using such inflammatory rhetoric. The inaugural address could just as easily end with the statement: "bless us as a nation for our values of parity and diversity," a statement containing sentiments common to many belief systems and eliminating the potential rub of imposing a single religion on our diverse nation.

Following any religion you choose is fine, but when you're representing millions of people with thousands of different beliefs, you shouldn't address them with a statement so exclusionary to some.

Coe-community Camera



After completing *Sculpting One*, students displayed their final projects in the Dows, December 2015. These are a few of their projects.

Counterclockwise from top left art pieces by: Josh Sikrisamouth ('17), Rob Volpe ('17) and Andy Baird ('17).

Photos by Rachel Deyoe.

