

Civil Rights Service

Editor:

Following Dr. Martin Luther King's address at K-State Jan. 20, I overheard a student asking Dr. King's associate, the Rev. Lee, "What can I do for civil rights?" This was more than a casual question; he persevered, "Is there anything that I could do in Selma?" In the 20 to 30 seconds Rev. Lee had for considering these questions, he produced no suggestions which would have satisfied me, had I been the student asking the questions, the most definite comment being, "Maybe you could help us next summer."

May I suggest to that student and to any interested others that one need not wait until summer, and one need not go as far as Selma. Manhattan is not yet a paradise of amicable and equitable relations between the races. For example, we need more open housing. If a student wanted to do something besides carry placards or sign petitions, he could find out whether his landlord discriminates by race. If a student discovers he is living in an apartment complex that does discriminate by race, he could move out in protest, making his reason clear. We have a number of greatly underprivileged Negro families in our community. Opportunities for service to Negro individuals exist through Friendship Tutoring, Headstart and the Douglass Center.

And every now and then, truly interested students invent their own worthwhile programs, as for example, the Negro coed group at K-State working to encourage young Negro girls to continue their education. Opportunities for civil rights service are to be found in every community of our state and nation.

Kathleen Sinnott,

Associate Professor of Psychology

KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

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