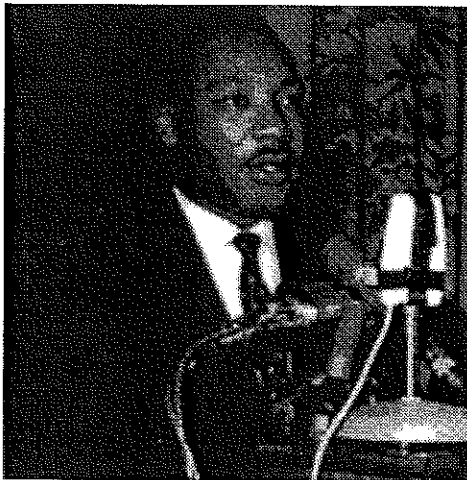


1963

Negro College Students

Whom should we follow—Martin Luther King
or Malcolm X?

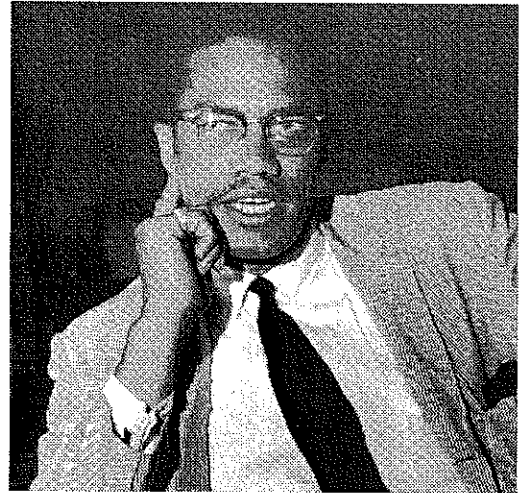
It is 1963. We are Negro college students in Alabama. The United States is changing in many ways, but we still do not have the same rights as white people. Negroes have lived in America for 350 years. Slavery has been illegal for 100 years. The United States government has done some things to help us get our civil rights, but only when we demand them. If we want to get all our rights, we have to be organized.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What is the best way to get our civil rights? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a minister from Atlanta, says that nonviolence is the only way. This means demanding our rights in a peaceful way. If the white people use violence against us, we do not fight back. But we keep demanding our rights. Sometimes, Negroes demanding civil rights are attacked

by angry white people. In Birmingham, Alabama, we tried to register to vote. The police used dogs and fire hoses against us. White people control the police departments and the army. Dr. King says that if we are violent, many Negroes will be hurt or killed. He says only love and tolerance can conquer racism. A lot of people agree.



Malcolm X

Malcolm X, a Muslim leader from the North, says that nonviolence will not stop discrimination against Negroes. He says we must educate ourselves. We should buy everything from black-owned businesses. We should not pollute our minds and bodies with drugs and alcohol. We should learn to defend ourselves and to fight back if white people attack us. A lot of people think that Malcolm X is right.





Negro College Students: Whom should we follow—Martin Luther King or Malcolm X? *(continued)*

Comprehension

1. Who are we in this decision?
2. When has the federal government helped us get our civil rights?
3. What does Malcolm X mean by “we must educate ourselves”?
4. What does Dr. King want us to do if whites attack us?
5. What does Malcolm X believe about using violence?
6. For each statement, write *T* for true and *F* for false:
 - (a) Negroes control the police departments and the army in the U.S.
 - (b) Dr. King believes that violence causes more violence.
 - (c) Both Dr. King and Malcolm X are religious leaders.
 - (d) Malcolm X says that Negroes should attack whites.

Decision

- *Whom should we follow—Malcolm X or Martin Luther King? Choose one of the following options:*
 - (a) Malcolm X
 - (b) Martin Luther King
 - (c) Other: _____
- *Why did you decide that way? Plan how you will explain your decision to your classmates. Write out your reasoning completely.*

Which leader do you think most white people like better—Dr. King or Malcolm X?

Why do you think so? _____

Why does this matter? _____

