

# 5,000 Listeners Share In Dr. King's 'American Dream'

The Madison Eagle, February 13, 1964

MADISON - The best-attended cultural event in this area's history took place on the Drew University campus last Wednesday evening, when 5,000 local and nearby residents overflowed three buildings and onto the campus for the privilege of hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights Messiah.

Perhaps 500 others who attempted to attend the convocation in Baldwin Gym were turned away in cars that were not able to find parking space. Some people arrived as much as two-and-a-half hours before the scheduled 8 p.m. event to assure entrance.

Also on hand were a few of the pickets which follow Dr. King wherever he goes. Members of the Alert Americans Assn. placed literature under windshield wipers on parked vehicles branding the speaker as a Communist. Judging from the orderly, polite, local acceptance of Dr. King, few took the pickets seriously. Most of the listeners could be characterized as alert Americans.

Only that portion of the audience which was crammed into the gym saw the speaker. Four other areas were wired to relay the speech, including two lower rooms in the gymnasium building, the Great Hall and the Student Center as well as an outdoor area.

Dr. King, a quiet but forceful speaker with a clear, convincing delivery, was equal to the tremendous local honor accorded him. He held his audience for the better part of an hour and then answer-

## Questioners Want To Know How To Help

MADISON - When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. completed his question and answer period following his speech last Wednesday night, there were still more than 100 cards posing eager questions. Few of the questions were facetious. Most of them were deeply proving and many of them had names and addresses attached.

One card was a testimonial from nine local boys and their sponsor. It read: "The Condors Senior Hi-Y of Madison thinks you're great, Dr. King!" It was signed by Rick Barfoot, Jay Cunningham, Jon Alexander, Dave Rough, Bob Santillo, Lloyd Cicota, John Wenzel, Mac Mc-

Cormick, Greg Johnson and their sponsor John T. Cunningham. The boys were able to shake the speaker's hand after the talk.

An analysis of the questions reveals that there were many doubts in the audience about the effectiveness of Dr. King's non-violent approach to civil rights, but few of them seemed to be directed with a "closed-mind" attitude.

Most persistent question concerned the recent New York school boycott. Most evident trend was a desire by individuals to discover what they can do to make the civil rights movement more effective.

## Eagle Covers Event In Depth

MADISON - Due to the unprecedented area interest in the "American Dream" speech February 5 by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Madison Eagle writers on various pages of today's issue have treated different aspects of the impact on local communities.

Coverage includes a special article by Mrs. Bonnie Barrow, together with a pertinent comment by the editor titled "Alligator Bait" on the editorial page. Mrs. Eleanor Weis also devotes a portion of her column on the Florham Park page to the picketing aspect of the event.

ed questions sent to the podium on cards. Before starting his speech, he faced the part of his audience standing outside and was given a wild ovation.

Security measures were coordinated by the Madison Police Department, which placed a large complement of men on the cam-

pus. There were no incidents to mar the spectacular event.

Listeners last Wednesday night have generally commended Drew University for its policy of making a significant contribution to the cultural needs of the growing area.



Dr. King is welcomed by Dr. George Kelsey, who is a former teacher of the Negro leader; Drew President Robert F. Oxnam, who introduced the speaker; and Mrs. Kelsey, active in local affairs. Dr. King told his audience: "We want to get rid of the notion that there are inferior and superior nations."



This is part of the crowd of 5,000 which started to assemble two-and-a-half hours before starting time. The audience heard Dr. King say: "I am proud to be maladjusted to segregation and discrimination. There is a great need for creative maladjustment."