

# Lost MLK tape fulfills prof's dream



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DREW UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Left, former Drew President Robert Fisher Cozart, left, with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., center, and Dr. George G. Kelscy. Right, King speaks before an audience at Drew University in Madison.

# Audio of 1964 speech at Drew University longer version of 'I Have a Dream' ideas

BY FRED MENDEZ

SPECIAL TO PLUS

MADISON — Some weeks

ago, a phone call was made to Raymond Frey, a history professor at Centenary College, to tell him what he had been longing to

hear: "It" has been found. Frey had initiated a search for the audiotape of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's speech to faculty and students at Drew University on Feb. 5, 1964, and it had finally been found.

"I received a call from Rebecca Rego-Barry, assistant at Drew University Archives, telling me she had a tape for me," Frey said. "I said, 'I can be there in 45 minutes.' I got in my car and drove straight to Drew. ... I was ecstatic. Historians live for moments like this, when a piece of history is lost and forgotten and then recovered," Frey said.

Rego-Barry had spoken to George Eberhardt, the recording engineer who had witnessed and taped King's speech 40 years ago. Nearly 100 years old now, Eberhardt recalled making a cassette copy of the original reel-to-reel tape and giving it to George Harold Jennings, professor of psychology and affirmative action officer who has been on the Drew campus since the late 1960s. Jennings searched his home and found his copy, from which Rego-Barry made additional copies.

# Excerpts from the King speech given at Drew

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at Drew University on Feb. 5, 1964. Recently, a tape of the speech, thought lost, has been found. The following are excerpts of that speech:

■ "If we are to realize the American Dream we must cultivate (a) world perspective. ... Through our scientific genius we have made of this world a neighborhood. Now through our moral and spiritual development, we must make of it a brotherhood. ... We are ... tied in a single garment of destiny ... As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich ... as long as diseases are rampant, no man can be totally healthy. ..."

■ "I believe, more than ever before, in the power of nonviolent resistance. ... It disarms your opponent and exposes his moral defenses. ... It somehow arouses his conscience at the same time, and it weakens his morale. He doesn't know how to deal with it. ... If he beats you, you develop the courage to accept blows without retaliating. ... If he puts you in jail, you go in that jail and transform it from a dungeon of shame to a haven of freedom and human dignity."

■ "The end is pre-existent in the means ... so that immoral means cannot bring about moral ends. I never intend to adjust myself to the madness of militarism and the self-defeating effects of physical violence. I call upon all men of good will to be maladjusted ... (so that) we will be able to emerge from the bleak and desolate midnight of man's inhumanity to man ... to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"

Most Americans know of King's "I Have a Dream" speech delivered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in August 1963.

"This speech at Drew might be considered a longer version of that speech, a longer version of what King believed in, including his whole philosophy of nonviolence," Frey said.

Titled "The American Dream," King's understanding of that concept has nothing to do with the summary of materialistic goals that seem to define the American Dream in today's parlance. Instead, "It is a dream of a land where men of all races, of all nationalities and of all creeds can live together as brothers," King said.

King was named Time magazine's Man of the Year in the same year he spoke in Madison.

It is generally known that King rallied African Americans to struggle for equality using nonviolent means. In this effort, King called people of his own race to a high level of personal responsibility. "We must make full and constructive use of the freedom we already possess. We must not use our oppression as an excuse for mediocrity and laziness," King said in his speech.

## ideas worth dying for

King, who had a bachelor of divinity degree from Crozier Theological Seminary and a

doctor of philosophy degree from Boston University, also spoke of dying defenseless and without retaliation at the hands of oppressors. "If an individual hasn't discovered some things so precious, so eternally true, they are worth dying for ... he isn't fit to live."

At the time of King's speech in Madison, President John Kennedy recently had been

assassinated and the civil rights bill was before the U.S. Senate, where the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, D-S.C., was setting the stage for a filibuster. "I am convinced," King said, "that one of the greatest tributes the nation can pay to the late President Kennedy is to see that this bill, that he recommended, will pass. ..."

## Higher form of love

In his speech at Drew, he talked about a higher form of love that, according to King, is a crucial aspect of effective nonviolent action. "Agape love (unlike friendship or emotional or erotic love) is an overflowing love that seeks nothing in return ... loving the person while hating the evil deeds the person does. I find it very difficult to like Senator Thurmond, but love is greater than like ... and stands at the center of the nonviolent movement," King said.

Finally, King ended his speech at Drew with the same words that concluded his "I Have a Dream" speech, but not before summarizing his philosophy: The ends do not justify the means.

"When I played this tape to my students, the class was silent — just awestruck silence in the classroom," Frey said.

In addition to public speaking engagements scheduled for the spring, Frey, who currently is finishing his sixth year as president of the Lafayette Board of Education, recently completed a state-approved textbook designed to help middle school

students study the history of New Jersey.

Frey also will be appearing early this summer in a televised episode of PBS's "History Detectives," in which he helps the sleuths uncover the mystery of concrete homes that were patented by Thomas Edison and are still intact in New Jersey.

Raymond Frey, professor of history at Centenary College, Hackettstown, tracked down a forgotten audiotape of a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Drew University.

