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Newspaper Article, Students Honor Dr. King With Silent Vigil, Service, April 9, 1968

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Students Honor Dr. King With Silent Vigil, Service

by Sam Love
News Editor

Some students at Mississippi State openly expressed their feelings about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in a silent prayer vigil Friday and a worship service Sunday night. The worship service was marred by a group of students who gathered outside to observe the event.

The Friday vigil occurred without incident and at its peak involved an integrated group of about sixty students. For fifteen minutes the group stood silently on the parade field next to the statue of Confederate General Stephen D. Lee and meditated over the events surrounding the assassination Thursday night.

A memographed sheet distributed during the vigil explained the purpose of the activity and invited students passing to join them. The activity was organized by a group of State students who felt that "something should be done to express grief in Mississippi over the assassination."

One of the students who participated in the vigil, Margaret Weeks stated, "The idea was to make people stop and think how serious the problem of racism is and how it can lead to more violence. We need to combat racism because this violence could happen in our own community."

The Sunday night worship service started peacefully but about half-way through a crowd of whites gathered outside of the Chapel of Memories. They shouted at the inter-racial group attending the service, waved a Rebel flag, and threw rocks at the building. At least one stained glass window was shattered by the hurled missiles.

Campus Security and Student Affairs was on the scene to control the group. The crowd was conservatively estimated at seventy-five people. Some put the figure higher.

Insults were shouted at peo-

ple leaving the Chapel, but beyond this no incidents were reported directly connected with the service. The group of whites did attempt to sing "Dixie."

The service was planned to be a memorial service to the late Dr. King. It was conducted by local and campus pastors. Approximately three hundred people were in attendance.

Mock Election Set April 24

by Janna Pepper

Student committees for major presidential candidates in Choice '68--the national presidential primary for college students--have initiated full scale plans in preparation for the mock election on April 24.

Sponsored by TIME magazine, Choice '68 offers 13 candidates on the official ballot. These candidates range from the late Martin Luther King to George Wallace to Robert Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

Campus committees have been organized to support Robert Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan. Student members have already started actively campaigning for their candidates.

Mississippi State's Kennedy Supporters have organized "Young Mississippians for Kennedy." Heading the 28 member group are Kathy Duncan, chairman; Bob Miller, co-chairman; and Janie Miller, secretary.

Danny Cupit, law student at the University of Mississippi and head of the state-wide drive, was quoted as saying, "While we are under no illusion about the support the name Kennedy draws in Mississippi, we do feel that once the real issues con-