

# THE ONE

his involvement in the activities of SCLC grew, he had less time to spend in Montgomery. He was needed everywhere. After considerable thought, he finally began, in February of 1960, to devote all of his energies to the civil rights movement and to SCLC.

For the next eight years he became one of the most visible people on the face of the Earth. It was almost as though he had taken and paraphrased the primary order which had been given to naval commanders during World

They filled the jails to capacity and were then placed in open wire-fenced stockades in the sweltering sun. Nothing could stop them.

Their adversaries beat them, unleashed dogs on them, popped them with cattle prods, turned high-powered pressurized water hoses on them, threw bombs and dynamite at them, destroyed their churches, fired them from their jobs, set fire to their homes, kicked pregnant women, burned crosses, connected explosive devices to the ignitions of vehicles,

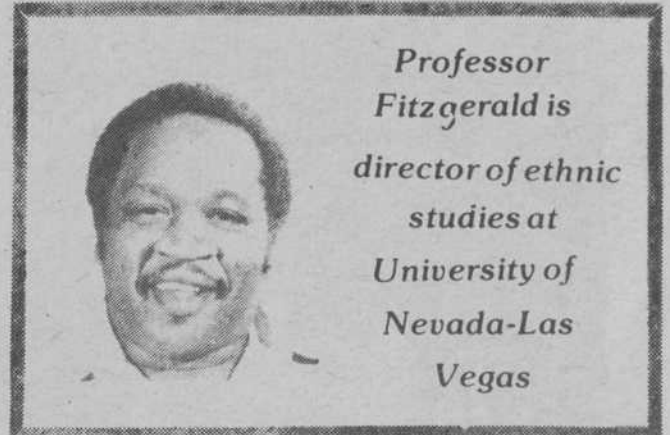
are not protected and so long as any American is not safe, the Republic isn't safe.

"We shall overcome." Everywhere, those lyrics could be heard. What had started as a mere trickle was growing into a tidal wave of aspirations for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Martin Luther King became the tube through which the seeds, which had been planted in 1776, travelled to the eggs of the principles of democracy. In a manner more spiritual than that utilized in "Network,"

not occur but that the status quo would be changed. His efforts carried him around the country, including Las Vegas. His travels made him aware of the plight of other groups of people in America and he sought to bring the attention of the nation on those conditions under which a large percentage of Americans lived. He did not win each time, but each time he kept coming back.

From the beginning, he had realized that there were risks involved but he also realized that it mattered not how long a person lived but how that person lived. He went to the mountain top and he saw the other side. On April 4, 1968, America's best friend stepped into eternity.

He did not do it to make a name for himself



Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

He was not in it for the glory

HE was not a very abrasive man Just one who thought democracy was holy

On numerous occasions he placed his life on the line

On numerous times he was attacked

Each time his efforts were seemingly thwarted

Somehow he would manage to come back

To thousands of people he extended his hand in efforts to make them stand tall

When the powers that be rained down their force He stood with his people, one and all What does friendship mean to you?

Is it merely for relationships filled with fun?

To Blacks & whites and all lovers of democracy

Martin Luther King was indeed "The One"



War II — "Seek out, engage, and destroy" racism wherever it is to be found. His life's work was laid before him and he was determined to make the United States of America live up to its ideals of democracy and to make Christians live up to their principles.

To effect such changes required full commitment. Not only did he have to attack the manner in which white Americans, in general, viewed Black people but he also had to attack the manner in which Black Americans, in general, viewed themselves.

Beginning in Greensboro, N.C., his sojourn was initiated. He taught "non-violence" to a people who had been brutalized by violence all their lives. Wherever mistreatment of Black people was to be found, Martin Luther King and his followers went. They marched, they picketed, they demonstrated and they also went to jail.

assaulted them with intent to kill, shot some, wounded some, blew some faces away, simply murdered others and for others they not only murdered but also castrated and generally mutilated them. The aforementioned were some of the lesser acts of brutality. The greater act was that none, in positions of authority, did anything to stop it. Verbal reprimands ran rampant but they rolled right off the rabble rousers who were ready, roaring and raring to send recalcitrant "righters" reeling and rolling in the red river clay of an apparently racist republic. Most merely tsk tskily looked the other way.

An atmosphere of lawlessness, which had always existed under the surface, was beginning to become more and more apparent. Americans had not yet learned that so long as any American's rights

he said to millions of Americans to join him if they were as "mad as hell, and not going to take it any more."

Friends and enemies. They were everywhere. How do you tell what the enemy looks like. You just have to risk it out. Some of his enemies, who regretted the conditions which Margaret Mitchell described when she wrote: "There was a land of cavaliers and cotton fields called the Old South. Here in this pretty world, gallantry took its last bow. Here was the last ever to be seen of knights and their ladies fair, of masters and of slaves. Look for it only in books, for it is no more than a dream remembered. A civilization gone with the wind," were determined to return things to the way they were in the "good 'ol days" of a hundred years before.

Martin Luther King was equally determined that not only would such

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