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Radio host to give MLK talk

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Joe Madison will give the keynote speech at Northern Kentucky University's 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration program. The event will occur at 7 p.m. Thursday in NKU's University Center Otto Budig Theater.

Madison, known as the Black Eagle, can be heard daily on Washington, D.C., radio station WOL-AM and on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio channel 169. In April 2008, Madison was awarded Talker magazine's Freedom of Speech Award for his work.

"Mr. Madison and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. share the same vision of social justice for all," said Michael Griffin of NKU's African American Student Affairs and Ethnic Services. "In the same vein as Dr. King, Mr. Madison is a true champion of social justice. Mr. Madison's voice is one of true change. He does not just use the rhetoric of social change, but actively participates in making sure social change does happen. Mr. Madison has worked tirelessly for equality both in the United States and around the world."

Madison has been jailed for civil disobedience several times and has participated in hunger strikes to protest South African apartheid and slavery in Sudan. He has traveled three times to the war zones in southern Sudan, where he participated in the freeing of more than 7,000 slaves and delivering survival kits to refugees. He organized a campaign to end slavery and raised money to free slaves.

Madison's program is themed "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off."

"Mr. Madison will be discussing what Dr. King's legacy truly means to today," Griffin said. "The MLK holiday is not just a day off to rest and relax. He will be describing that the MLK holiday should be a day of giving back to others and affirming what Dr. King called 'The Beloved Community.' Mr. Madison will also detail that while we have made substantial advancements in our society, we still have much work to do and Dr. King's dream has not been fully realized."
