



Dr. Melody T. McCloud, as seen in a [1992 USA TODAY](#).

Better Ways to be heard

To those who took to the streets in Atlanta, Los Angeles and elsewhere in angry, violent reaction to the acquittal of the four white policemen who savagely beat Rodney King:

If you want to make a statement and have your voice heard, there are better ways.

Try doing something positive and constructive instead of something negative and destructive. Try putting down that rap music and picking up a book, possibly a history book so you can read about the lives and works of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, two who made a difference in our people and the entire society.

Yes, we need equal rights. Yes, we need equal access to high-paying jobs. Yes, we need to be able to walk down the streets without becoming suspects just because of skin color. And no, we don't deserve to be beaten savagely, as Rodney King was in Los Angeles.

But to effect change, we need productive members of the community.

We don't need our Black men occupying more places in prison than in colleges. We don't need our young Black girls having babies. We don't need our young children unsupervised and running the streets all hours of night.

Yes, we need to get militant, but we need militant, non-violent action. Blacks, young people, get out and vote. Better yet, become leaders; there's much work to be done.

Blacks who are successful, educated, drug-free and sensible, speak up; show yourself. White people need to realize they cannot continue to be insensitive to, and show disregard for, others in society and the world. Black people must realize we have work to do in our community, within ourselves. Parents, churches, corporations, everyone needs to get busy. We've got laws to change and attitudes to adjust.

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