

young and old" by the "middleaged"; "heterosexism--oppression of those of sexual orientations other than heterosexual," which includes "not acknowledging their existence"; "lookism"--oppressing the ugly with a "standard of beauty/attractiveness"; and "ableism--oppression of the differently abled [handicapped] by the temporarily able."

In January 1990, I predicted major race riots before this decade ends. I may have to move up my timetable!

The X-Rated Martin Luther King

I was among the first to bring you news, about a year ago, that the Rev. Martin Luther King plagiarized his doctoral dissertation. The January 1991 issue of Chronicles magazine tells the whole sordid story, but to scoop them, the Wall Street Journal ran a "sensitive" story. And now the New Republic reports that it, the WSJ, the Washington Post, and the New York Times knew about the plagiarism long ago but chose to suppress it. So much for our free press.

We know that King was a Marxist and a world-class adulterer. But there is yet another charge, and this one appears in black columnist Carl Rowan's new book Breaking Barriers (Boston: Little, Brown, 1991).

While Rowan was head of the U.S. Information Agency under LBJ, he found out about the FBI bugging of King's multifarious sexual activities. Documented on tape: a sexual relationship between King and his fellow Christian minister, Ralph David Abernathy. See the Rowan book for the exact words, which I cannot bring myself to quote. Am I glad I voted in Congress against an expensive federal holiday for this man.

The New Inflationist Fed Board Member

Conservatives were delighted last year when a Harvard economist, Lawrence Lindsey, published a book calling for cuts in the capital gains tax. A Harvard economist! Truthfully, the book was no big deal. It said what common sense tells anyone--that taxing capital gains discourages investment--but I guess it's news when a Harvard economist makes sense these days.

Lindsey has now been nominated for the Federal Reserve Board, but I'm not excited. Fed governors don't determine tax policy. They run monetary policy, and Lindsey is a supply-sider and an inflationist.

There are three reasons for this appointment. First, to insure that the Fed tries to create enough new money and credit to keep interest rates low and elect Bush in 1992. Second, to placate Washington conservatives and make them less willing to criticize the Federal Reserve during this recession. Three, to make Lindsey an administration's point man on upcoming bank reform legislation, by which they will attempt to stave off the developing banking storm. Lots of luck.