

## *Sample interview questions*

# **How MLK's "I have a dream" speech touches *Soda Springs***

Author Terry Marshall says that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington was a major driver in his writing of the novel, *Soda Springs: Love, Sex, and Civil Rights*. The book is the previously untold story of the Hispanic civil rights movement of the Sixties.

1. What's *Soda Springs* about? Give us a quick synopsis.
2. Were you at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963? If not, how did it have such a profound effect on you?
3. How do Mexican-American issues relate to Martin Luther King? How are MLK's "children's crusade" or his "I have a dream" speech relevant to issues today?
4. How does the Mexican-American civil rights struggle of the '60s relate to Hispanic issues today -- illegal immigrants, for instance, or migrant farmworkers?
5. How are the *Soda Springs* small-town "hardball politics" relevant to today's political landscape?
6. What role do whites have in the struggle for civil rights?
7. How do we effectively combat racism, discrimination, and poverty? How do we make real change in American communities?
8. *Soda Springs* is about people trying to change a backward community. Mostly, they fail. What's the point – that you can't change things?
9. It has been nearly a half-century since King declared "I have a dream" on the Washington Mall; how close do you think we have come to achieving his dream for people of color?
10. In some ways, *Soda Springs* presses the boundaries of political correctness. Plenty in here will irritate, anger, or turn some readers off. How do you justify the:
  - **Racism:** use of blackface, Aunt Jemima, the n-word. Is it a racist book?
  - **Graphic sex:** some of the sex is quite explicit. Is this really necessary, or are you merely pandering to today's low standards?
11. Your bio sounds as if you lived in *Soda Springs*. Is it really a novel ... or a memoir?

To schedule an interview, contact:

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