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UNIVERSITY

KRS-1 urges survival of humanity

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Reporter

American society is not plagued by racism, but by a system that makes people forget who they really are.

People need to start thinking about what it means to be human, not black or white, if societal conditions are going to improve, said Kris Parker, professionally known as rap artist KRS-1.

"The real revolution unites the masses, the false one separates the masses," Parker said Wednesday night to a standing-room-only audience in the EMU Ballroom. "Our own stereotypes and myths of race must be eliminated if we want to survive as a humanity."

Parker said that most "racist" acts throughout history are actually acts against humanity. "The crimes against Africa were not racial crimes, they were economic crimes, or, more specifically, crimes against humanity. That's what it is when one group thinks they're better than another."

He said more crimes against humanity arise in the issue of civilization vs. technology. "We are not living in a civilized society.... When we act in an advanced way, we are civilized. When we do not act in an advanced way we are barbaric."

Civilized societies don't need weapons because people get along; barbaric societies need weapons to hold back the dissenting masses, he said.

Parker said we don't live in a civilized society because we are being put to sleep. One of our society's many "sleep techniques" is the educational system. "When you go to school you're taught to be American, not human."

"The biggest sleep technique is college," Parker said. "You're thinking that you're thinking but you're actually memorizing."

Parker said the Bible serves as another powerful sleep technique. "Most people give the Bible more respect than they give themselves, which is



Photo by Peter Nies

Kris Parker, a.k.a. rap artist KRS-1, discussed crimes against humanity Wednesday night in a packed EMU Ballroom.

one of the biggest problems with humanity."

He criticized the negative depiction of women in the King James version of the Bible.

He said that people need to think about the information they receive, and check out facts themselves. "Don't let memory rule your life, don't use religion to find God, don't use technology to be civilized."

Brand, students discuss issues

Forum exhibits Brand's money woes, students' social and cultural concerns

By Bob Waite
Emerald Reporter

Although University President Myles Brand was preoccupied with Ballot Measure 5, the students who attended his open forum Wednesday were more concerned about the Grateful Dead and Coca-Cola.

To lead off the discussion, Brand said the University experienced "a \$2 million lessening of funds" in the past two years, which has led to overcrowded classrooms and increased burdens on faculty.

If passed, Ballot Measure 5 will result in a projected \$120 million state higher education budget shortfall, Brand said. The University would lose \$30 million, which could cause tuition to double or triple as well as trigger layoffs and closed programs, Brand said.

Students approached the two microphones to discuss other issues such as the University administration's decision not to give a Grateful Dead concert at Autzen Stadium next summer.

"It seems we need this money more than ever," student Bo Adan said, referring to the lost revenues from the Grateful Dead concerts. He questioned why the University does not ban football games that condone tailgate parties.

Football has a different role in University tradition, Brand said, but added that he is concerned about problems of alcohol abuse at the games and on campus. "Prohibition did not work," he said of banning alcohol at the games.

Local businesses will also lose money as a result of the

University's decision, student Alexandra Zapp said.

Calling the University's decision an attack on the arts, Richard Weiner compared it to the recent controversy over music groups like 2 Live Crew.

Brand, after criticizing the media for saying the band was banned rather than that their contract was not renewed, said the University could not promote the rock group because it has a positive association with the use of illegal drugs.

"I believe the University has gotten a lot of negative publicity," Brand said of the concerts, adding he has heard comments regarding the band's reputation from the Oregon Legislature. "It's not a good use of our energy to promote these rock concerts," he said.

Students also challenged the administration's failure to remove Coca-Cola products from campus.

Black Student Union assistant director Eric Ward asked why the University continues to sell Coke when its parent company has given \$125 million to South Africa, a country with legalized apartheid.

Brand said state law requires the University to grant and honor contracts to the most competitive bid from vendors, and they cannot legally keep the cola brand off campus while the contract is effective. But he said people can exercise their right to boycott, adding that he no longer drinks the beverage.

One student, who declined to give his name, asked what the University is doing about military recruiters and organiza-



Myles Brand

tions on campus that have open policies discriminating against gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Brand said he had sent letters to the U.S. Department of Defense and received a negative reaction.

Brand said the administration's current strategy is to appeal to Congress to change the policy of sexual orientation discrimination. Other universities and administrative organizations are participating in the effort, he said.

Responding to student Pam Wirch's question of why the University condoned Burger King's recent filming of a commercial at the Knight Library, Brand said it gave the University good national exposure, while allowing students an opportunity to view a film crew at work and to participate as extras in the project.

While the filming closed access to part of the library, Brand said he felt the project was justified and did not inconvenience too many library users.

Thursday, October 25, 1990