## Poet Giovanni to speak Monday

"Princess of Black Poetry" featured as keynote speaker for King celebration week

By Karen Engels Emerald Reporter

Nikki Giovanni, who has been called the "black poet laureate for women and sensitive souls everywhere," said she believes in the potential of human beings.

Giovanni, keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week, is the author of more than 17 books of poetry and essays. Also long known as the "Princess of Black Poetry," she has been writing books for 22 years. She will speak at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the EMU Ballroom.

"I'm really proud of the 49 states that recognize Martin Luther King Day," Glovanni said, when asked about her involvement in this celebration week. Arizona is the only state that doesn't recognize the day as an

Giovanni's busy speaking schedule during her Eugene stay includes visits to elementary schools, senior centers, Lane Community College and a trip up to Oregon State Univer-

Giovanni said her message doesn't vary much, even with her audiences' varying ages She said she talks about the challenges of the future and how we get along with each other. "We can all do better," she said.

When asked what strategies she offers her listeners on how to change the world, Giovanni said, "I don't offer strategies. I'm not a politician. I try to offer hope.

Wednesday, many admirers stopped by her book signing at the University Bookstore. They came to buy her books, get them autographed and to thank her for her inspiration, both in her writing and speaking.

"It's important to try to make the world a little better," said a tired, yet animated Giovanni as she signed books.

Giovanni cites major problems with the United States, including health care, housing and unemployment, but added, "George Bush is a big prob-

If she could name a second "biggest problem," she would add "Congress," she said, smil-

Giovanni is an English professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University She was named Woman of the Year by Mademoiselle magazine and Ladies Home Journal in the early 1970s and was honored in 1988 when the National Festival of Black Storytelling



Nikki Giovanni

initiated an award for young African-American storytellers in her name, according to a press release.

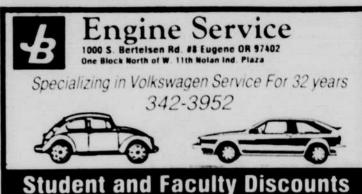
Giovanni will also give a poetry reading Saturday for all ages at Whiteaker Elementary School, 21 N. Grand St. from 4 to 6 p.m. and a poetry reading and conversation Sunday at the Willamalane Senior Center, 215 West C. Springfield, from 12:30

Her books include A Poetic Equation, The Women and the Men, and Sacred Cows and Other Edibles.

She has another book due out



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#### MLK Jr. Celebration

# Friday

Baha'i Campus Club "Vision of Race Unity" 3:30 p.m. Ben Linder Room Info: 344-8619

Movie/Discussion UO Residence Halls 7:30 p.m. Adams Hall Info: Douglas Knecht 346-8889

To Eat the Last Messiah 8 p.m. Robinson Theatre Fri./Sat./Sun. Fee: \$6.50/\$4.50 Free Info: 346-4000 Info: 346-4191

For additional events, see calendars posted in EMU.

18-19 Weekend

Poetry Reading by Nikki Giovanni Saturday 4 - 6 p.m. Whiteaker School Info: Debra Braden 689-0780

Baha'i - H.O.N.E.Y Unity Celebration Saturday 6 - 11 p.m. Whiteaker Community School Info: Debra Braden 687-0780

Fellowship

3 - 5 p.m. Sunday EMU Ballroom Gospel Chorale Rev. Beckham

Bertice Berry/Comedienne 7 p.m. Sunday Hult Center M.L.K. Holiday

Opening M.L.K. Jr. Conference Keynote Speaker: Nikki Giovanni

The Civil Rights Movement: A Dream or A Nightmare? Panel Discussion 11:15 - 12:30 EMU Ballroom

9 a.m. EMU Ballroom

M.L.K. Jr. Human Rights March 2 - 5 UO/SEHS to Eugene Hilton Info: Rico Perez 485-8006

The Dream Lives On Jubilee Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth Bethel Temple Gospel Choir 7:30 p.m. Hult Center Free Info: Frank Geltner 346-4000

## **BAD BOWLING TOURNAMENT EMU REC CENTER** The objective is to hit as few pins as you can without hitting any gutter balls. **WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22** 7 - 11 PM TEAMS OF TWO \$5.00 PRIZES DONATED BY:

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By GARY LARSON



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Register: January 13-17. All dormitory residents please sign up with your RA, everyone else at the EMU Recreation Center, or call 346-3711.

Games Start: 7 p.m., Wednesday. January 22 and January 29.

Pinals: February 5.

Cost: \$3 per person or \$12 for a

College Bowl T Shirts provided by Pepsi