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TODAY

Today is the last day to drop a class without a "W" or change grading or credit options without paying a \$10 fee.



INSIDE

Playing without junior forward Arianne Boyer, Oregon lost to Washington 82-66

UO parking permits face increases for the first time since 1987

11A

10A



WEATHER

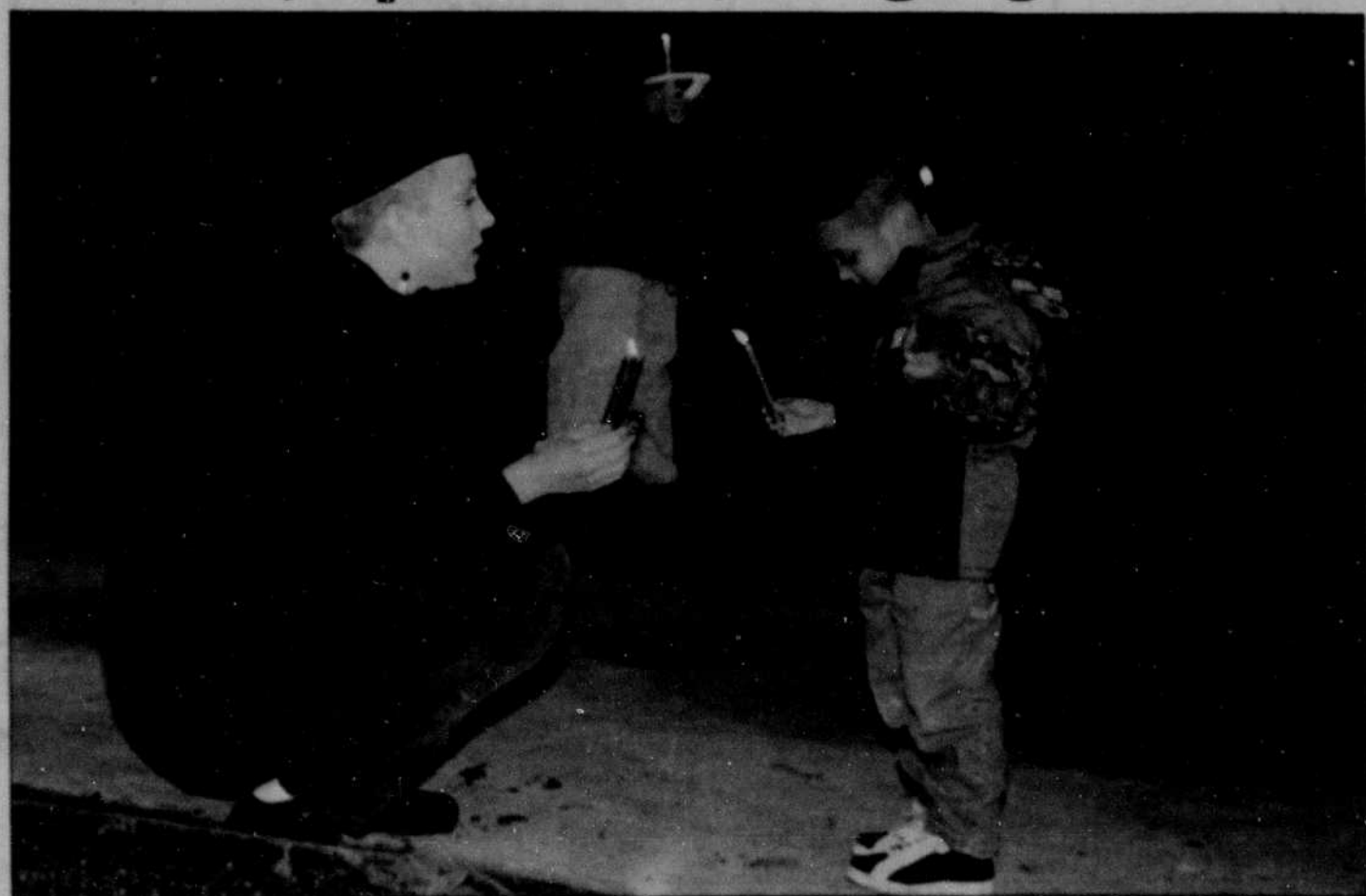
Scattered showers with highs near 50

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Poems, speeches, singing commemorate King



Vanessa McDonald (left) helps Joseph Carswell light a candle at a vigil that took place Friday evening in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. A group of 70 people marched from Johnson Hall to Gerlinger Hall, where speeches were given to remember the leader.

■ **VIGIL:** Students gather to remember the meaning behind Martin Luther King Day

By Doug Irving

Student Activities Reporter

The Black Student Union reminded the University on Friday that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is more than just a day off.

On Friday, the Black Student Union sponsored a candlelight vigil and reception to remember the civil rights leader.

The celebration began on the steps of Johnson Hall with a candlelight vigil.

Kenya Luvert, director of the Black Student Union, welcomed the crowd of about 70 people.

"This candlelight vigil is for people to come together and realize what [King] stood for," she said.

Shanisse Howard, a Human Rights Commission member, read a poem she had written for the event.

"The Reverend Dr. Martin King, a caged bird that used to sing, was stolen away with a bullet of hate, taking along the key to the promised land's gate, leaving the oppressed, the weary behind," Howard read from her poem.

Howard ended her speech with a quote from King's *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Led by Luvert and Howard, the crowd marched from Johnson Hall to Gerlinger Hall's Alumni Lounge. Along the way, the crowd sang "We Shall Overcome" and "Amazing Grace."

Once in Gerlinger Hall, Howard opened the program by saying King has a continued influence and importance to society.

"Martin Luther King means many things to each of us," she said.

Stephanie Carnahan, University Student

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■ A week's worth of King-related events: 6A

■ TA panel discussing King's dream: 9A

'It's our duty to pursue change'

■ **SPEAKER:** Angela Davis asks listeners to stop living vicariously through political lives of the past

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

A near-capacity crowd packed the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall Monday night to remember Martin Luther King Jr. at a tribute titled "Standing Together to Face the Challenge."

Greg Evans, Master of Ceremonies, opened events by remembering the spir-

it of Dr. King.

"We come together this evening in the celebration of the life and continuing work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," he said. "It is our charge, it is our duty to pursue social change on both the individual and collective basis."

The tribute included speeches, songs, award ceremonies and poetry readings organized to further King's dream of equality. However, it was keynote speaker Angela Davis that had some members of the crowd yelling "We love you!"

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Davis told the near-capacity Hult Center crowd to listen to America's youth.

Statistics report grade inflation trend still very widespread

■ **TEACHING:** The inflation follows a trend that goes back to the 1970s

By Simon Ross
Freelance Reporter

Today's University students receive top grades more often than their predecessors did, according to statistics compiled by the University's Office of the Registrar.

There are two possible explanations for this change:

The first hypothesis is that students study harder, are more

dedicated or even smarter compared to students of years past. "Possibly, we are seeing an improved student body overall," said Lorraine Davis, vice provost for academic affairs.

The second explanations for this change academic standards have slid downward, and college educators are more generous with high grades than they used to be. "The threshold of acceptable grades as far as students and faculty members are concerned may be lower now," said David Hubin, executive assistant to University President

Dave Frohnmayer.

Regardless of how one chooses to explain grade inflation, the increased percentage of high grades awarded has risen at all higher education institutions during the last decade, a trend that has been occurring since the early 1970s.

The College of Arts and Sciences, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the University's population, has awarded an average of 17 percent more B grades or higher since 1985.

The School of Education showed the largest increase in

high grades given, an average of 20 percent during the last 10 years.

The School of Journalism and Communication had the smallest increase in top grades since 1985, with an average 5 percent increase.

Louise Westling, head of the English department, believes grade inflation may be the result of rising expectations. "During the last 20 years, the notion that a C is a satisfactory grade has eroded away. Now students think of the C as they used to think of the D. When students

get a C, they feel that they have been seriously hit."

Confusion over what a "good" or "above average" grade is exists within the student body.

"If a student comes into my office asking for a letter of recommendation, and says, 'I'm a solid B student which is pretty good; above average,' I'm forced to tell him he is not above average," Professor James Boren said. "You're a solid B student and that's average."

ASUO Vice President

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