

## Vigil: Students vow to uphold King's dream

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Life's coordinator of educational and support services, was also a speaker at the event.

Carnahan said there are laws that can curb human rights and justice, such as propositions that do not grant rights to immigrants.

She read a quote from King to demonstrate King's legal philosophy.

"It all boils down to this: that all life is interconnected," she said.

Carnahan said if King were still alive, he would have fought any law that was unjust or unfair.

She said King never tailored his speeches to any one group. Instead, he fought for the freedom of everyone.

"We can keep Dr. King's dream alive by staying strong and staying together," she said.

Vajra Solar, a representative from South Eugene

High School, said King's dream has yet to be realized, saying there have been three recent hate crimes in the Eugene area.

Three middle school and high school essay contest winners were also present in Gerlinger Hall.

One of them, Lilith Lincoln-Dinan, an eighth grader at Jefferson Middle School, said there is a need for continued change as we prepare for the coming of a new millennium.

"We should not lose sight of our obligations and problems," she said. "We must look at ourselves for change."

Nadirah Ansari, a senior at South Eugene High School, called for action against racism.

"Too many of us choose to be content and moderate," she said. "Too many of us do not see need for change because they have not become the victims."

## Speaker: 'We're looking backward at history'

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Davis, known internationally for her activism against oppression in the United States and abroad, is the first African-American to hold a tenured professorship in the History of Consciousness program at the University of California Santa Cruz. She said King's leadership has influenced her life.

"It is a very special honor for me to take part in this celebration of the life and work and legacies of a man whose leadership has challenged racism and systems of inequality, and how I formed my own life and they way I learned to think about the world," she said.

Davis encouraged people to devise new ways to think about and struggle against racism. "I suggest we all think very deeply about what it means, as we approach the next millennium, to engage in the struggle against racism," she said.

She told the audience to demystify the nostalgia of the past in order to move forward.

"We must stop living vicariously through political lives of the past," she said. "We are having a crisis of our historical memory...we're looking backward at history instead of forward."

Davis also said people must see the various ways in which racism can happen. "Racism is in connection with sexism and classism and homophobia," she said.

People on welfare, people of color and homosexuals are all subject to discrimination, Davis said. She said sexism was a component of racism in the civil rights era, although no one realized it.

"We didn't have the conceptual apparatus with which to understand that there was a masculine approach to the struggle against racism," she said. "Many of us women were out there saying 'Free the black man,'

and of course we wanted to free the black man, but we had no way of saying 'Free the black woman.'"

In order to overcome all kinds of racism, Davis called on people to listen to the youth of the country.

"People in their teens and 20s used to be able to give leadership to the country. Now it's assumed that a person in her early 20s has nothing to say," Davis said. "I think we have a problem."

Davis said racism is also being continued through capitalism. Davis, known for her membership to the Communist Party U.S.A., talked about the economic changes following the aftermath of twentieth-century capitalism and the toppling of socialism in Eastern Europe. "Capitalism hasn't won; it was only by default," she said.

Davis has lectured in all 50 states, as well as Europe and the former Soviet Union.

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**WHERE**

Tuesday-EMU Cedar D  
 Wednesday-EMU Cedar A

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Participate in focus groups to add clarity to EMU mail survey results in order to\* improve current services and plans for upcoming major renovation.

**WHY?**

Not only will you be contributing to building a better EMU, but...for participating in the focus group, you will receive a

- \$10 gift certificate for the University of Oregon Bookstore

**WHEN**

Tuesday, January 16  
 5:00-5:45 P.M. - Students  
 6:00-6:45 P.M. - Students  
 7:00-7:45 P.M. - Students  
 Wednesday, January 17  
 12:00-1:00 P.M. - Faculty/Staff

**DO NOT WAIT!**

**SIGN UP TODAY at EMU ADMINISTRATION, 346-3705**

\*Focus groups will be moderated by Thomas Ricca Associates, a national firm that has successfully completed over 25 University Student Union planning projects over the last eight years.

They will also be conducting the formal customer survey later this term.