

Panel explores the message, effects of King's work today

■ RACISM: The discussion looked at different interpretations of the civil-rights leader's dream

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

Community members participating in a Black Student Union panel on current and future applications of Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of equality said education and activism are necessary if equality is to be achieved.

The five-member panel shared their interpretations of King's dream with about 50 people in the Knight Library's Browsing Room Monday.

Police Chief and panelist Leonard Cooke said that on one level, positive change has been achieved as a result of King's message. "I realize that a lot of overt signs of racism have disappeared, but those invisible signs are still here."

Calvin Henry, the director of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs, said King's message has been distorted, and this distortion has hurt the civil rights movement.

"One of the things that people have tried to trivialize — even public officials — is the message of King and say it was only for black people," Henry said. "Racism is a tool that has been used in our society to control and divide us."

Other panel members agreed with Henry. Shanisse Howard, a

member of the Black Student Union and the Eugene Human Rights Commission, said institutionalized racism is affecting the ability to create positive change in society.

George Russell, the director of human resources for the 4J school district, said education is necessary if racism in institutions is to be ended. "Education is the tool we must use to bring about social, economic and political change in this country."

He said we need to look at the kinds of education available to whites and minorities. "There are very few blacks coming out of this school," he said.

Marion Malcolm, a member of Clergy and Laity Concerned and the Eugene Human Rights Commission, said looking at racial issues on an institutional level can push people to take an active role in creating change.

"If we realize that we are brought up in a society that is institutionally racist, we can forget about denial," Malcolm said.

Henry said education about racism needs to occur inside and outside the classroom. "One of the tools we have to use is education, but it should not be in a limited way," he said. "It should be an education that permeates our society."

Kenya Luvert, the director of the Black Student Union, said the panel was organized in order to stimulate discussion about issues that surround King.

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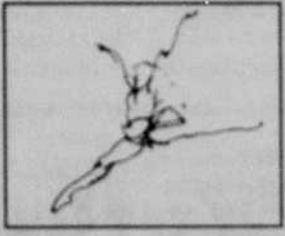
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ET ALS

MEETINGS
United Women of Asian Heritage will meet today from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room C. For more information, call 686-4916.
LGBA and the ASUO Women's Center are sponsoring SAFEWALK, which will meet tonight at 7:30 in the EMU courtyard. For more information, call 346-3360.
Pagan Student Union will meet tonight from 7:30 to 11 in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 334-6842.
RELIGIOUS
Graduate Student Bible

Study will look at the Gospel of Mark today at 4 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry, 1236 Kincaid. For more information, call 346-4694.
MISCELLANEOUS
UO Career Center is offering a workshop on resume and cover letter writing today from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 12 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-6001.
Multicultural Center is sponsoring a cross-cultural workshop with Rob Proudfoot today from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4207.

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