

Calendar

Tuesday, Jan. 18
Programs Finance Committee
 Hearings: EMU Boardroom. 5 p.m. 346-0623.
Creative Writing Reading Series:
 Award-winning author Ehud Havazelet and visiting fiction

writer Grace Talusan, both Creative Writing, read and autograph copies of their work. 8 p.m. Browsing Room, Knight Library, 1501 Kincaid St. This is a free event. For information call 346-0544.

Scholarship Symposium

TONIGHT

EMU Fir Room

January 18, 6-7 pm

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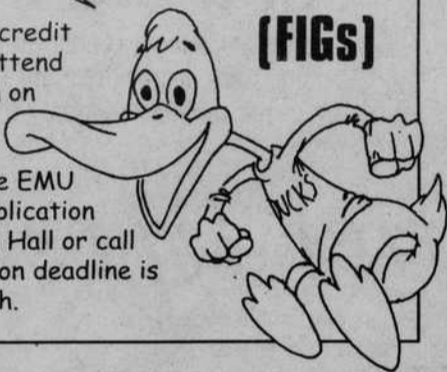
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Freshman Interest Group Leaders Needed

Earn upper-division credit and a cash award. Attend the interest session on January 25 in the Metolius and Coquille rooms in the EMU from 4-5. For an application stop by 372 Oregon Hall or call 346-1079. Application deadline is Friday, February 4th.



(FIGs)

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Race issues focus of debate

By Sandra Sobieraj
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Bill Bradley challenged Vice President Al Gore Monday night to demand the administration issue an immediate order banning racial profiling, but Gore shot back in campaign debate, "I don't think President Bill Clinton needs a lecture from Sen. Bill Bradley" on standing up for blacks and Hispanics.

In their sixth and final debate before next Monday's kickoff Iowa caucuses, the two Democratic presidential hopefuls agreed the Confederate flag should come down from atop the South Carolina statehouse.

Gore went one step further, saying "it's only the Republican candidates for president" who disagree because they are "so scared of the extreme right wing."

Both men said the father of Elian Gonzalez, a 6-year-old Cuban boy at the center of an international dispute, should come to the United States to press his claim for custody.

A number of racially sensitive issues came up in the hour-long televised debate on the federal holiday honoring the late Martin Luther King, Jr., a "Black-Brown Forum" that both men hoped to use to appeal to voters in other states with a larger minority population than Iowa. MSNBC carried the event live.

The issues ranged from racially insensitive comments made by Atlanta Braves baseball player John Rocker, to the controversial New York minister, Al Sharpton.

Gore is the national front-runner by far in the public opinion polls, and also is hoping for a clear triumph over Bradley in Iowa next week. Bradley leads in most polls in New Hampshire, which holds the first primary eight days after Iowa's caucuses.

Perched on stools on a debate stage in Iowa's capital city, both men said firmly they oppose racial

profiling, the practice by which some police officers target racial minorities for traffic stops.

"We all know what driving while black is," said Bradley, who has made race relations a cornerstone of his career in public life. "It is breathing while black."

When Gore said he would issue an executive order banning the practice, Bradley served him a challenge.

"We have a president now," he said. "You serve with him. I want you to walk into his office and say, 'Sign this executive order today.'"

His remarks were greeted with applause, but Gore had a ready reply.

"I don't think President Bill Clinton needs a lecture from Bill Bradley about how to fight for African Americans" and Latinos, he said.

"It's one thing to talk the talk. It's another thing to walk the walk," Gore said, to scattered boos from the audience. Gore also added that the mayor of Newark, Sharpe James, "asked for help on the policy of racial profiling when you were in the Senate" representing New Jersey.

"He's here today, and he's supporting me because President Clinton and I have helped him with racial profiling," Gore added.

Gore sidestepped a question of whether he would appoint a Hispanic to the Supreme Court, and to list some possible contenders for the seat. He jokingly asked his questioner whether he possessed a law degree, then said he would make appointments that reflect "the diversity of the country."

Bradley said, "I could never appoint someone who would turn the clock back on civil rights."

The proceedings were disrupted briefly by a young woman who stood at her seat in the audience to pose a question about global warming. As security guards moved to silence her, the moderator, Tavis Smiley of Black Entertainment Television, quipped,

"I get my 15 minutes (of fame) and this is what happens to me."

The Confederate flag has surfaced as an issue among Republican presidential contenders, who are competing in a South Carolina primary on Feb. 19. The leading GOP hopefuls, Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Arizona Sen. John McCain, have refused to take a stand on the issue, saying it is up to the residents of South Carolina to decide whether the flag should fly atop their statehouse.

While both Gore and Bradley said they believe the flag should come down, the vice president also noted that some people view the flag favorably. "We have to try to bring them into a shared understanding of why, as a symbol, it is so hurtful," he said. Gore also told his questioner he would not agree to participate in an NAACP boycott of South Carolina, because "I don't think a president of the United States should ever boycott an individual state."

Bradley said the flag "offends our common humanity and it is not the future of our country."

"It's only the Republican candidates for president who are so scared of the extreme right wing, that they will be tolerant of intolerance, less they offend the offensive. It ought to come down," Gore added.

Blacks account for a small minority of the vote in Iowa, but given the date and fact that a black state lawmaker organized the event, a "Black-Brown" forum, the two Democrats pledged support for continued efforts to support civil rights and combat racism.

Both men condemned the racist remarks made recently by Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker.

Bradley used a question on the issue to recount that as a professional basketball player three decades ago, part of his job on the New York Knicks was to take aside any white player "who didn't understand" the need to treat blacks respectfully.

President calls for a volunteer day

By Rebecca Sinderbrand
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton marked the birthday observance of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., today by helping volunteers refurbish a computer lab at a local Boys and Girls Club.

The president has encouraged Americans to use the federal holiday to help their neighbors who need it most, rather than as just another day of rest, saying it should be "a day on, not a day off."

"Every time you give a little, you always get more back," Clinton said.

"Let's remember that as Dr. King's enduring legacy."

Under the auspices of Greater DC Cares, volunteers were pitching in at 25 sites around the city today. Clinton joined a half-dozen students at the youth center who were painting walls and staining bookshelves to spruce up their computer lab.

King, recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his work for racial equality, was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

"We are in this together. We are members of the community of this city, the community of this

country and the community of humanity," Clinton said. "In the 30 odd years since Martin Luther King left this earth, we have forgotten that too much."

In Atlanta today, Vice President Al Gore announced that the administration will seek \$1.5 million in the fiscal 2001 budget to help protect the place where King was born and buried.

"We must honor and uphold the dreamer," Gore said in a speech at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached. "For we have come many miles toward justice, but have not yet fulfilled the dream."



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