

Coleman

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ing complexes consisted of tiny square rooms with one bathroom and thin walls.

"They were like cracker boxes with holes in them," Coleman said. "They were supposed to be temporary housing until the war ended."

But even after World War II, the buildings remained full of families.

From about 1940 to 1948, Coleman lived in Oakland, Calif., where he learned how to navigate the streets without showing fear. In the 1960s, Coleman found his place in the civil rights movement in San Francisco and Berkeley, where members of the Congress of Racial Equality perfected civil disobedience tactics.

"You learned how to protect yourself and the back of your head," Coleman said, describing the tucked non-violent position sit-in activists would use to guard themselves from arrest and police assault.

He also learned how different the racial climate was on the West Coast compared to the East and the South. Coleman said Berkeley and San Francisco were both liberal towns, but Berkeley had an advan-

tage for black people.

"If you were out late at night and didn't want to be hassled, you made sure you stayed in Berkeley," Coleman said.

Despite Berkeley's progressive environment, Coleman and many other black people were denied acceptance to University of California, Berkeley. But Coleman still managed to beat the odds. He completed his college education at San Francisco City College, went into the Air Force and later earned his doctorate in theater arts at the University of Oregon.

For three years, Coleman played the bass violin and traveled with folk groups such as Peter, Paul and Mary.

"Music has been a way of connecting with good mental health in a real unstabilized world," Coleman said.

According to Coleman, America is still unstable in terms of equality.

"America is supposed to be what our Constitution talks about," Coleman said. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — that's all black people want."

Coleman said the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. is an important reminder of what this country has been through to achieve civil rights. Coleman said King has be-

come a symbol of the struggle of black people.

King "was not a saint," Coleman said. "His message and his preachings were representative of the lives of African-Americans and touched

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Edwin Coleman
professor, English

the lives of white people.”

Coleman has applied King's teachings to his own life.

"I have been fortunate enough to have made some roads out of the trenches," Coleman said. "But I am not free until everyone is free. That's what King is saying."

Coleman's insights are respected by students and faculty alike. In Coleman's name, the Multicultural Center created the Dr. Coleman Speaker Series to ensure Coleman's legacy would not fade on campus. Guest speakers, educational institutes and facilitated workshops will be featured at this year's con-

dress the rising number of poor people.

"I'm a political junkie, and I believe we all have to lift our voices against injustices," Malveaux said.

Audience response to Malveaux's speech, and the evening's festivities, was positive overall.

"It made me realize that diversity is just the starting point towards greater justice," audience member Scott Franzen said.

Malveaux said it's not just the holiday celebrating King that is important, it's what people take from it for the rest of the year.

ty."

Audience member Roy Samuels said Malveaux's speech was a real

“I never realized how white corporate America uses discrimination in reverse.”

Roy Samuels
audience member

"eye opener" for him.

"I never realized how white, corporate America uses discrimination in reverse," Samuels said. "They act as if they are trying to eliminate discrimination when they are just using a different form of it."

Malveaux argued that discrimination still largely exists in the workplace, with 96 percent of upper managers being white males.

She also touched on issues such as the upcoming Bush administration's effect on economic justice, the conditions of prisoners in America and the need of Americans to ad-

Melby said the first manufacturer went out of business, and he is currently looking for another company

“You often see startup activity increase if people begin to lose their jobs, because they want to start over.”

Don Gerhart
director, Office of Technology Transfer

to develop and market his invention. He said he is not working on any additional designs right now, but it is good to know the office is there.

"I think it's true of everyone here. We rely on the office to take care of a lot of our up-front costs," he said.

MLK

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part of Dr. King's message," Malveaux said. "But King was a critic of capitalism as we know it."

Malveaux said King's economic messages back in the 1960s are something people need to apply to today's economy.

"We can have the illusion that everyone is OK and economically stable, but they're not," Malveaux said. "Diversity is important, but it won't change the way wealth is distributed."

Malveaux said that in order to further the message that King stood for, people need to stand together against corporations and government factions that continue to discriminate and turn the civil rights movement backwards.

"Our expanded economy has allowed us to adjust ourselves to inequality," Malveaux said. "Corporations are able to use demographic change against minorities. They just want your money, so they will focus on minorities because of this, instead of trying to increase diversi-

Inventions

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when it happens, not just in economic good times," he said.

Gerhart said entrepreneurial activity can sometimes pick up during slow economic periods or recessions, because people are more open to new ventures when existing business opportunities aren't stable.

"You often see startup activity increase if people begin to lose their jobs, because they want to start over," he said.

Gordon Melby, maintenance supervisor for University Housing, invented a mobile loft bed designed to work primarily in University residence hall rooms. He said he worked with the Office of Technology Transfer to establish a patent, and because they found a manufacturer for the product, the bed was on the market for a few years.



ference, set for April 18-22.

Coleman "has a tremendous wealth of information and lived experience that, as we get further and further away from the civil rights movement of the 1960s, we tend to lose sight of," said John Shuford, Martin Luther King Jr. planning coordinator.

Shuford and Mark Tracy, assistant dean of students, said the campus community can learn from Coleman's wisdom.

"He brings to campus a historical perspective of events that this generation only knows about in books," Tracy said. Coleman "gives a personal account of the steps that

we [took] to get where we are today."

From the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 to MTV special reports on hate crimes in 2001, Tracy said black people have waited patiently for change.

"White, male society needs to step up and start taking responsibility for situations," Tracy said.

Coleman also said change in society must be prompted by white people.

"Minorities don't have that power. It's the privilege that makes the power," Coleman said. "The power structure in this country is still in the hands of white men."

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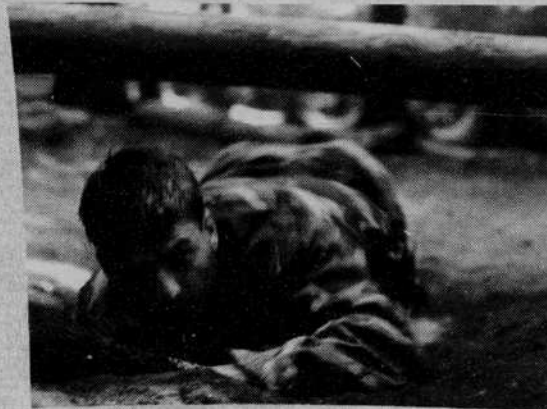
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