

Roe v. Wade

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generation," Manes said. "We don't know what it's like not to have it," she said, adding that people also need to take into consideration the crude abortions performed illegally before the Roe v. Wade decision.

Manes added there are many misconceptions about Roe v. Wade, including the idea that abortion is used as a primary source of contraception.

"It mystifies me that someone would think that," Manes said. "It's a painful choice, emotionally and physically."

She said her group does not focus solely on abortion, but also on healthy reproductive choices.

The group, in collaboration with others in the Pro-Choice Coalition, has organized another commemoration ceremony for 6 p.m. at the Wild Duck, located at 169 W. Sixth Street. Several speakers will speak in honor

of Roe v. Wade, including State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo and ASUO President Rachel Pilliod, who will talk about the future of the Roe decision. Director of the University's Center for the Study of Women in Society Sandra Morgen will talk about reproductive health issues in the international scene.

The free event will also feature music from local band Wish and food, as well. The Oregon Bus project will transport people from campus to the venue at 5:30 p.m. today.

Like Manes, Planned Parenthood's Public Affairs Director Kitty Piercy said it is imperative to recognize this anniversary.

"I am celebrating it because I believe that Roe, along with women's right to vote and access to contraception, is one of the most important things that has happened to fully enfranchise women and give them power over their lives," she said.


Piercy added it was a "threatening time" for the law, especially with the current administration in place. She said the Bush government has been appointing officials who push for legislation to restrict or overturn Roe. Pro-choice activists are especially worried that as two supreme court justices retire this year, the administration may appoint justices who are anti-abortion.

"We ought to remember the thousands of women who died (from illegal abortions) in the years before Roe," she said. "We no longer have those deaths, and that's something to celebrate and value."

She said it was crucial to work toward fewer unintended pregnancies, because then women would not be put in the position of having to make a decision on abortion.

"We should all be working together (with pro-life advocates)," she said. "That is the key — for this moral debate that's been raging for the 30 years to come to an end."

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MLK

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on King's birthday.

"It's important people take a moment every year to remember the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr.," Sorenson said. "Marching was part of what MLK did."

Police blocked traffic for the marchers as they made their way north on Chambers Street.

Nine-year-old Cobi Kulent, one of the younger marchers, shivered as he scampered down the street.

"I want to learn about Martin Luther King — to understand more about him," Kulent said.

Others marched to protest a possible war with Iraq, carrying signs that said King would never support military actions in that country.

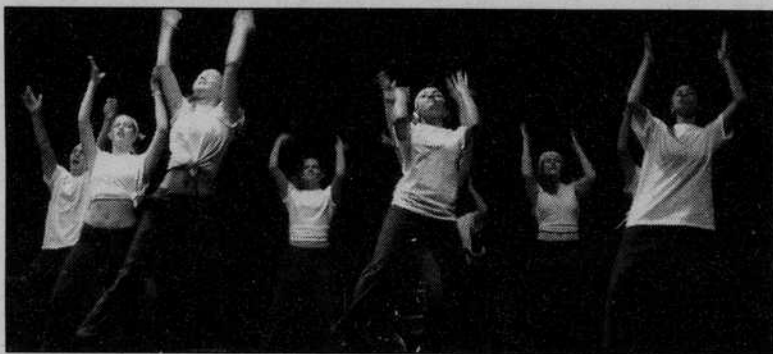
The marchers regathered at the training center, where Eugene-Springfield NAACP President Marilyn Mays said King was a "strong and great man of God."

"His legacy should be a banner ... for everyone," Mays said.

KLCC radio commentator Alan Siporin provided the keynote address, using the opportunity to denounce opponents of affirmative action, hate crimes, "compassionate conservatives" and the Bush administration.

"The civil rights movement continues to move affirmatively," Siporin said.

Later in the evening, hundreds more streamed to the Hult Center to celebrate King's message and honor members of the community who follow his ideals. Secretary of State Bill Bradbury gave the keynote address, saying King was a strong proponent for peace whose call for non-violent action still resonates today. King believed in an "army without guns" that could still unite people to pursue a



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Groovz perform an upbeat dance routine during the 2003 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Hult Center where people gathered to honor MLK's memory.

common goal, he said.

"These days, I'm starting to think the world needs a refresher course on Dr. King's lesson on non-violence," Bradbury said. He added that King was a staunch critic on the war in Vietnam, despite criticisms from the government, the media and other civil rights activists. He said if King were alive, he would have joined the peace marches that brought thousands to the streets of Washington D.C. and other cities, this past weekend.

"Martin Luther King saw peace abroad as inseparable from civil rights at home," Bradbury said.

The message of non-violence and peace was prevalent throughout the ceremony. Master of Ceremonies Marc Mullins asked people to have the courage to pursue peace even in their daily lives.

"Changing the world doesn't have to be a grand-scale project, but it is a challenge," Mullins said. He urged people to use their words and their voices as tools of change.

Several people who have been working to make a difference in Eugene on issues of diversity were also honored at the celebration including Lane Community College Professor

Mark Harris and activist Bahati Ansari, founder of the Racism Free Zone at the Jefferson middle school. Circuit Court Judge Cynthia D. Carlson also received an award from the Eugene Human Rights Commission for her work on creating inter-racial dialogues on race.

Eleven students also received prizes for participating in the 4J Schools' MLK essay competition. While the students, ranging from elementary school to high school levels, had different messages, their essays had a common theme: how people in this country can be peacefully patriotic.

King's messages still thrive in many people's minds today.

"Martin Luther King tried to touch people's hearts and minds," Eugene resident Tony Lister said. "That's where the change really is, not just in marches and demonstrations." He said MLK Day was probably the first step the country made to recognize the contributions made by black people.


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