



Celebrating unity



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Singing "We Shall Overcome," a group of students participate in the candlelight vigil portion of the Unity Celebration. "It's Not Just a Black Thing" showcased performances from a variety of student groups including the University Gospel Choir.

Bringing history forward

University students discussed Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision as part of a two-week-long MLK Celebration Monday, ending with a candlelight vigil

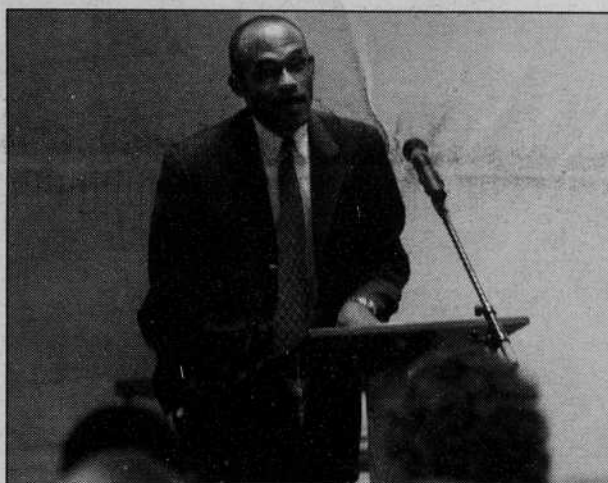
Roman Gokhman
Campus/City Culture Reporter

University student groups want to get out the message that the civil rights movement belongs to everyone, not just blacks.

Representatives from the Asian/Pacific American Student Union, Movimiento Estudianti Chicanos de Aztlan, the Black Student Union, the African Student Association and others came together Monday to discuss the importance of working together to accomplish Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision at the "Unity Celebration: It's Not Just a Black Thing," part of the two-week-long MLK Celebration at the University.

"People have to sit down and just talk," University student and speaker Khanh Le said. "Through our diversity, we have power. We must take that power."

More than ten people spoke in the EMU Fir Room about the importance of honoring King's ideology. About fifty students attended the two-and-a-half hour event, and a number of topics were discussed — from the necessity of avoid-



Mark McCambridge Emerald

University Professor Martin Summers addresses an audience of students, faculty, and community members.

ing war in Iraq to the need for unity within minority groups. "Coalition-building is necessary between all marginalized groups," University Professor and keynote speaker Martin Summers said. "It's important to mobilize in effective ways."

Summers said minorities of color, gender, religion and financial status all face the same problems, and he added that minorities are not represented in government because of the majority's financial stronghold.

"(King) believed in full social democracy — democracy for everybody," Multicultural Center Program advisor Steve Morozumi said. "That doesn't exist right now."

Students for Peace member and University student Alex

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PFC to field new budget for OSPIRG

OSPIRG will seek the PFC's approval for its proposed \$150,000 budget tonight, despite the group's recent fiscal challenges at PSU

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

OSPIRG members at the University will press for a 25 percent increase at tonight's ASUO Programs Finance Committee meeting, despite the difficulties the group has faced at Portland State University.

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, a statewide environmental and consumer protection organization, was zero-funded at PSU because it asked for a contentious budget increase. Also, the group has failed in its efforts so far to establish a foothold at Oregon State University. Even if its University of Oregon budget passes PFC's scrutiny, the Oregon Commentator could appeal any action.

PSU's Student Fee Committee, the equivalent of the University's PFC, raised concerns regarding the OSPIRG chapter's use of funding at an allocation hearing Jan. 8. Representatives for the group requested a \$30,000 increase in their budget for 2003-04 to help finance a new campus organizer to establish an OSPIRG chapter at Oregon State University.

SFC Chairwoman Tracy Earll said the committee did not think funding a group that works off-campus on public interest

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City councilors vote to tax gas for road funding

City councilors passed an ordinance Monday that may raise prices on gasoline for both businesses and consumers by three cents per gallon

Jan Montry
City/State Politics Reporter

The Eugene City Council voted unanimously Monday to move forward in instituting a business license tax of three cents per gallon on fuel dealers, a move that will likely affect both businesses and consumers.

The tax was the second aspect of a two-pronged, \$9-million strategy developed in 2001 to increase revenue for operation, maintenance and preservation of Eugene's roads.

The move will impose a three-cent tax per gallon on all gas distributors within city limits. For a gas station charging \$1.50 per gallon, the city would receive three cents for each gallon sold. The same station would likely have to raise

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Students help increase voter turnout

ASUO officials say students have been more involved with this election than with previous elections

Oregon votes 2003

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

Students have until 8 p.m. tonight to cast their vote on Ballot Measure 28, an initiative that will cause income taxes to increase if it passes or tuition to increase if it fails.

ASUO Legislative Affairs Director Stefan Myers said he's pleased with student involvement so far.

"Everyone's been really responsive to this," Myers said. "Students have gotten involved

and really understand the impact of this."

ASUO officials like Myers have been working since mid-November to increase student turnout. They've circulated a pledge that 950 students have signed, promising to cast their ballot by Jan. 28.

Campus vote efforts are especially important for University lobbyists, who depend on the 20,000-plus undergraduates to give the University clout when political issues come up in Salem. The ASUO registered more than 3,171 students for the general election in November and has continued to register more since that time.

Lane County Elections official Annette Newingham said as of Sunday, more than 52 percent of the county's 182,000 registered voters had returned their ballot. That number is already higher than the last special election, which was held in September

and drew only 44.3 percent of registered voters.

Voters can return their ballot to one of six drop box locations in Eugene, or take it to the elections office at 135 E. Sixth Ave. A full list of drop sites can be found at <http://www.co.lane.or.us/Elections/DropOff.htm> or by calling 682-4234. Newingham said the office has picked up 1,300 ballots from the ASUO drop box so far, and she added that students seem to be taking a greater interest in this election.

ASUO is planning an election day celebration in the EMU Amphitheater to cap off their efforts. Also, College Democrats are running a non-partisan shuttle from campus to the elections office

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WEATHER

Today: High 50, Low 40,
Mostly cloudy, morning fog

Wednesday: High 50, Low 43
Rain likely, slight wind

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday

University community reacts to the State of the Union address

Thursday

Pulse offers a collection of neat things to do after midnight

INSIDE

Students rally in support of measure 28.

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