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Saul Williams shares his poetry **Page 6**

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King inspires, shares dream with Eugene

Yolanda King, daughter of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., encouraged audience members to embrace the power of choice

By Ayisha Yahya
News Editor

Like a preacher knowledgeable of her congregation, Yolanda King set the crowd afire on Wednesday, making them laugh and shout out in affirmation with her sassiness and enthusiasm and simmering them down to reverent silence with her wisdom.

About 200 people gathered at the McDonald Theatre to hear the message from Martin Luther King Jr.'s eldest daughter. And the message was clear: Her father's dream of equality and social justice is still a vision that requires work and dedication.

"We as a nation, we as humanity, we have not yet reached the promised land," she said, adding that the world still has to deal with racism, sexism, homophobia and other ills.

Yolanda said she was a "card-carrying believer" in the dream that her father advocated and spoke about in his legendary 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech.

"It's a dream about freedom, freedom from oppression," she said.

She reminded her audience that the struggle for that freedom is not ancient history.

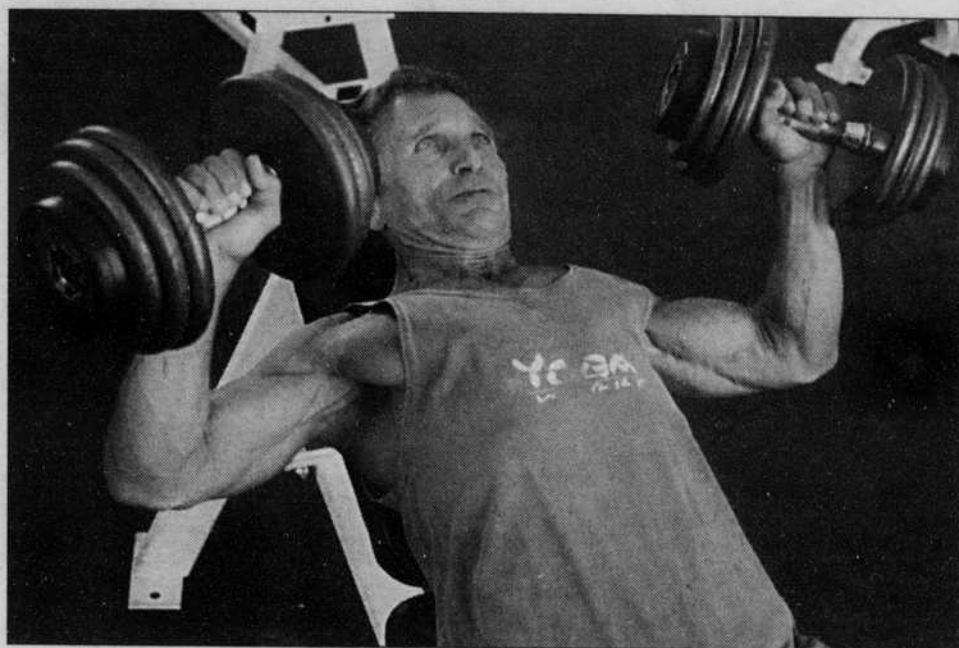
"It was only 40 years ago that the ugly signs of segregation surrounded us," Yolanda said, adding that people must make the choice to continue working for equality today.

She said life is about the unique choices each individual makes, and civil rights activists like her father and Rosa Parks actively opted to champion for change.

"Because Rosa Parks chose to stand up that day by remaining seated, she started a movement," she said, adding that this movement had far-reaching effects for Americans.

"What did I tell you about the power of choice?" she asked.

However, she said there were some people who had a "woulda, coulda, shoulda mentality"; they may seem dedicated, but when the moment comes to take action, they are the first

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Bodybuilder and sociology Professor Ken Liberman continues to build his strength in the Student Recreation Center after surgery on his aortic valve.
Lauren Wimer
Photographer

A matter of heart

Ken Liberman has focused on weight lifting since having heart surgery three years ago

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Robert O'Brien has known sociology Professor Ken Liberman for more than 35 years now.

O'Brien, the head of the sociology department at the University, met Liberman when he was a senior at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. Liberman, then a freshman, was in O'Brien's sponsor group.

"He's an interesting character," O'Brien said. "He's not of a standard mold."

Three years ago, O'Brien heard some discouraging news about Liberman, a former football player at Pomona. The professor was set to go to India on a research grant and had a required physical done.

That's where he ran into problems.

Heart surgery.

"I was organizing an international conference here at the University," Liberman said. "I was just exhausted, and I couldn't even walk up the stairs here (at Prince Lucien Campbell Hall) without getting faint. So I realized I had a problem."

"After the conference was over, I said I will make the tests. They did the echocardiogram and the radiologist looked at the screen and said, 'Oh my God, just wait a minute.' She ran out of the room to find a doctor, came back 10 minutes later and said, 'The doctor's gone for the day, you'll have to come back in the morning.'"

That's when Liberman found out the bad news. A problem with his aortic valve would need surgery — and fast.

He convinced doctors to wait six weeks — enough time for Liberman to finish classes for the term — then underwent surgery at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene with Dr. David Duke.

"I think I was within two weeks of death," Liberman said.

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Wushu Club practices skill in agility, choreography

The team hopes that the sport will be added to the lineup for the 2008 Olympic Games in China

By Ali Shaughnessy
Senior News Reporter

Grace, speed, flexibility and focus are just a few of the ingredients that make up the world of Wushu, a form of Kung-fu that has found a home at the University.

The University Wushu Club — founded in 1994 by then-coach Daniel Wu — impressed students walking past the Lillis Business Complex on Wednesday as club members executed flying leaps, daring flips and

precision sword play.

Junior Nick Gallagher snapped a whip chain around his body, using both his arms and neck to control the movements. Senior Lorelei Cortez moved across the pavement with a sword swiveling in her hands. And the club's coach, Phillip Dang, elicited cheers from the crowd as he executed a perfect flip.

"We do some crazy stuff," Dang said. "Everything is graceful, everything is perfect. It is the most difficult art to perform."

This is the junior's second year coaching approximately 20 students in Wushu. Dang first started Wushu when he was 10 years old, and has been passionate about it since.

"Everything is graceful, everything is perfect. It is the most difficult art to perform."

Phillip Dang
Coach, University Wushu Club

Historically, Wushu was the study of military skills. However, Dang teaches contemporary Wushu, which is a combination of traditional moves and acrobatics. Specifically, the club focuses on long fist, which is characterized by expansive and agile movements, fixed postures and choreographed performances.

Wushu is China's national sport and became an internationally competitive event in 1985. Approximately 10 people from the University club compete at three different competitions throughout the year.

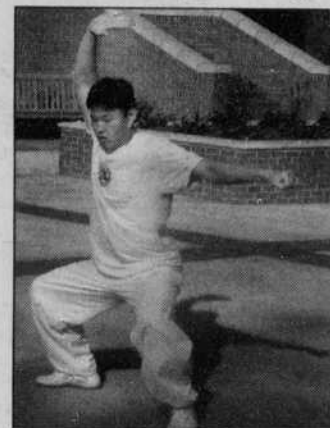
Gallagher is going into his third year with the Wushu club but has been doing Wushu for five years.

"It's a good form of exercise," he said. "It's really fun to do."

Dang and Gallagher said they hope Wushu will be added to the 2008 Olympics, especially with China as the host.

The University hosted the collegiate Wushu competition in 2002,

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Ali Shaughnessy Emerald

Junior TJ Kim practices Wushu outside the Lillis Business Complex on Wednesday.

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