



1985 The legacy lives on in Portland, Oregon

**Margaret
Carter**

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Margaret Carter, Oregon's first Afro-American female to serve in the Legislature, called Dr. Martin Luther King a "trailblazer."

She added, "It is not enough to say that you should be there. You just have to be there. And Dr. King paved the way for many to be there because the Civil Rights movement blazed the trail for many elected officials."

As an educator Carter said she felt King gave America an education in fairness and non-violence.

"We live in a society where people act out violence. But the marching and non-violent confrontation led by Dr. King showed America what can be accomplished without force."

On April 4, 1968, the day King was assassinated, Carter was attending classes at Portland State University. "I felt the world had turned gloomy. Everyone who was against Dr. King helped pull the trigger," she added.

According to Carter, the daily observations and reporting of the Civil Rights movement by the mass media placed America face to face with her internal racism. "Until people saw the inequality around them, they were not willing to face the oppression of Black and low-income people," she said.

Carter voiced a concern about the future. "We have become lackadaisical about Affirmative Action and Civil Rights. This is due to Ronald Reagan and the change in the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. It is now the Civil Wrongs Commission," she noted.



MARGARET CARTER

**Reymundo
Martin**

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Reymundo Marin, director of the city's Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, has the responsibility of monitoring the equality of change that Dr. Martin Luther King paved.

"Dr. King appealed to the dignity of all people. He used the Christian ethic with a greater purpose in mind — bringing the oppressor up to the level of humanity." Martin remembered the spark started by Rosa Parks when she said she could not take it anymore. Parks sat down in the white section of the city bus and the Montgomery Bus Boycott was underway.

Marin said King's non-violent tactic touched the minds of Americans. "He did not match hate with hate or force with force."

Marin sees the correlation between the struggle of Hispanic Americans to those of Afro-Americans. "We were considered 'colored' and schools were segregated. We had a poll tax and were disfranchised from our land. Dr. King was speaking for all of us. We were recipients of the legacy Dr. King started in the South. He helped us assert ourselves."

Marin is concerned about the current trends in Civil Rights, or lack of Civil Rights. "The interest of industry and business may bypass the Civil and Human Rights of the individual," but he is proud to assist in the dream of Dr. King by keeping alive the legacy of Brotherhood.

I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shall overcome.

—Martin Luther King, Jr., Oslo, 1964

I still have a dream today that one day the industries of Appalachia will be revitalized, and the empty stomachs of Mississippi will be filled, and brotherhood will be more than a few words at the end of a prayer, but rather the first order of business on every legislative agenda.

Martin Luther King, Jr. — 1968



In observance of

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

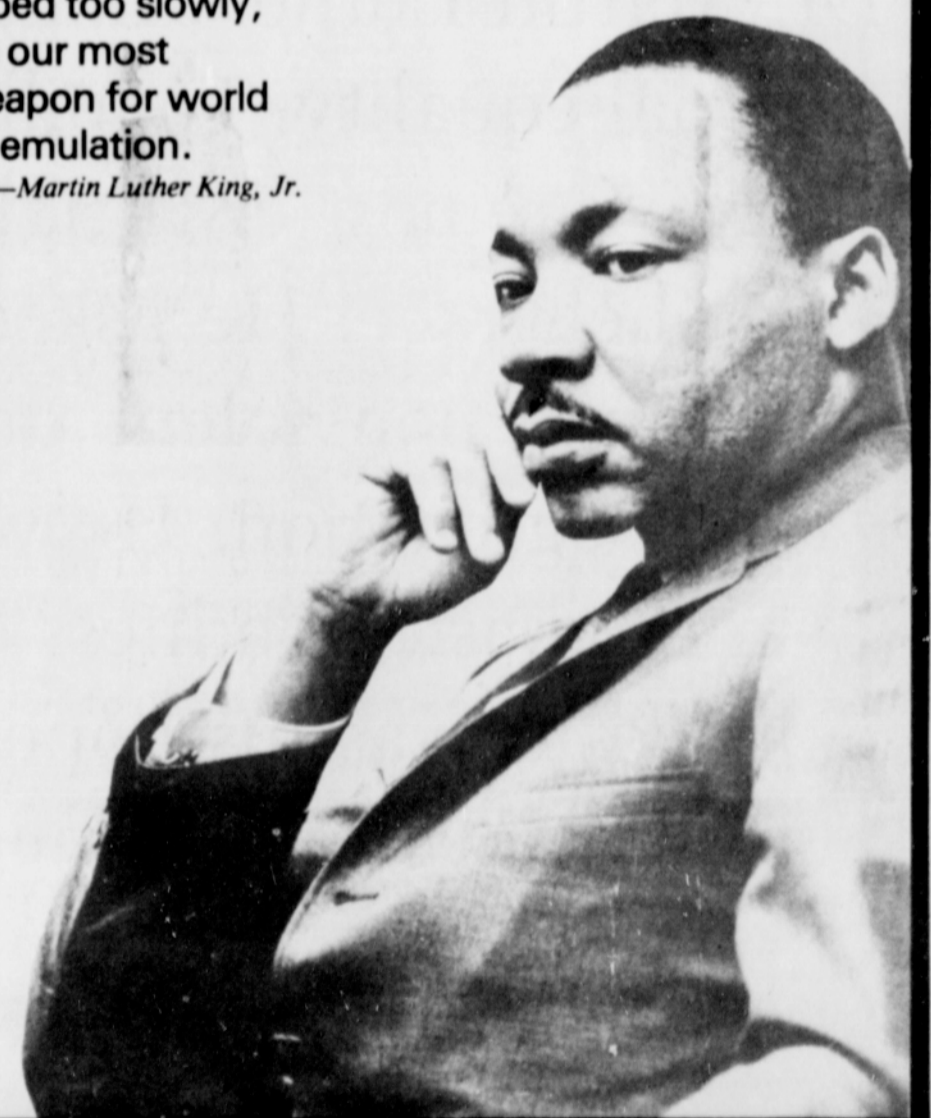
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History has thrust upon our generation an indescribably important destiny — to complete a process of democratization which our nation has too long developed too slowly, but which is our most powerful weapon for world respect and emulation.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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