

You Are Somebody: Words To Live By

Continued from front

usually alone, usually with a book. "Even before he could read he kept books around him, he just liked the idea of having them," Daddy recalled. In school, he was a teacher's dream smart, disciplined, and well-mannered and he breezed through with such good marks that he skipped grades in elementary school and high school.

By the time M.L. was in his early teens, people commented on how mature he seemed. They took special notice when he spoke.

Almost overnight, his voice had changed from a child's chirp into a beautiful, vibrant baritone. Girls his age loved the deep voice and liked the careful way he dressed. In those days, he favored a brown tweed suit, with trousers tight at the ankles and

baggy in the legs. Boys, not nearly as impressed, for years called him "Tweed."

At Booker T. Washington High School, M.L. saw his studies suffer a bit because of the time he devoted to romance and dancing. A.D. said of his brother, "I decided I couldn't keep up with him. Especially since he was crazy about dances, and just about the best jitterbug in town."

When M.L. put his mind to it, he could also be the best student in town. When he was 14 and in the 11th grade, he entered an oratorical contest sponsored by a fraternal group, the Negro Elks, and spoke on "The Negro and the Constitution." It was easily the best address, and M.L. won first prize.

The contest was held in Dublin, Georgia—quite away from Atlanta—and M.L.'s teacher, Mrs. Bradley,

accompanied him.

On the trip home, the two sat together, talking happily, smiling about the prize-winning day. Then, everything turned to ashes. Twenty years later, King remembered the details vividly:

Mrs. Bradley and I were on a bus returning to Atlant, and at a small town along the way, some white passengers boarded the bus, and the white driver ordered us to give the

whites our seats. We didn't move quickly enough to suit him, so he began cursing us, calling us "black sons of bitches." I intended to stay right in that seat, but Mrs. Bradley finally urged me up, saying we had to obey the law. And so we stood up in the aisle for the ninety miles to Atlanta. That night will never leave my memory. It was the angriest I have ever been in my life.

King Celebration Documents Diversity

Harmony, Mutual Respect Honored On University Of Oregon Campus

Documenting and honoring the diversity of people in the local community is the focus of the University of Oregon's month-long Martin Luther King Jr. celebration during January.

"The dream of Martin Luther King Jr. was that people of all backgrounds could live and work together in harmony and with respect for one another while appreciating the contributions," Faye Chadwell, head of collection development at the university's Knight Library said.

"Our individual differences make to the rich tapestry of our lives," says event coordinator Chadwell added.

"That's why we chose documenting diversity as the guiding principal for this year's many activities," Chadwell said.

The university-wide Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations, continue through Feb. 2.

Events are organized this year by the UO Library System in cooperation with various student and academic groups, including the School of Music.

"We solicited ideas for this month's activities from groups and individuals throughout campus and in the community," says

Chadwell.

"The coordinating committee is pleased with the good response to its request for proposals," she says.

The UO Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration opened Monday, Jan. 8.

A two-week video festival and a four-week exhibit of prints of and works by Martin Luther King Jr. Both are at the Knight Library, 1501 Kincaid St.

On Jan. 15, a multimedia exhibit capturing the diversity currently present in the Eugene-Springfield community documented through family snapshots donated by area citizens will open at the Knight Library.

The exhibit will be available all month during operating hours in the Current Periodicals area of the library.

Activist Angela Davis, author of "Women, Culture and Politics" and "Women, Race and Class," will address multiculturalism in the university.

The community at large will gather during a public talk set for 7 p.m. on Jan. 15 in the Silva Concert Hall of the Hult Center, One Eugene Centre.

Admission is \$3 for this event, co-sponsored by Lane Community College and the City of Eugene.

David Bradley, author of "The Chaneyville Incident" and "South Street," will speak about "Coming Down from the Mountain top."

Martin Luther King Jr. in the 21st Century" at 7 p.m. on Jan. 17 in the Ballroom of the Erb

Memorial Union, 1222 E. 13th Ave.

His free public talk will be followed by a reception and book signing in the Browsing Room of the Knight Library, 1501 Kincaid St.

Other celebration activities, organized by UO students, faculty and staff, range from a gospel music performance to a panel discussion of civil rights achieve-

ments and challenges and a conference for women of color.

Most events are free and open to the public.

For more information, including a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration program, call (541) 346-1819 or 346-3056.

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