

From Disaster to a Better Future

'Rebuilding Hope' event part of MLK week

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once asked, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Community service has become the focus of the annual holiday honoring Dr. King, and it will be the focus of Clark College's day-long observance on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

The observance, called "Rebuilding Hope," will begin with the presentation of the documentary "A Village Called Versailles" in the Penguin Student Lounge from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Located in the flood-devastated area of eastern New Orleans, Versailles is described as home to the densest ethnic Vietnamese population outside of Vietnam. After Hurricane Katrina, the community faced what producers have called "immense garbage piles and the

shocking discovery of a toxic landfill planned in their neighborhood."

The documentary describes how the community "fought back, turning a devastating disaster into a catalyst for change and a chance to build a better future."

During the afternoon, the focus will turn to service. Commu-



S. Renee Mitchell

nity members are invited to join Clark College volunteers at 1 p.m. at the Clark County Habitat ReStore, 5000 E. Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver.

An evening program will be



Father Luke Nguyen and others from an ethnic Vietnamese population in New Orleans celebrate victory over a toxic dump site, an inspiring story of how residents fought back and reversed a disaster into an opportunity to build a better future. The documentary will be showcased during a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Clark College in Vancouver.

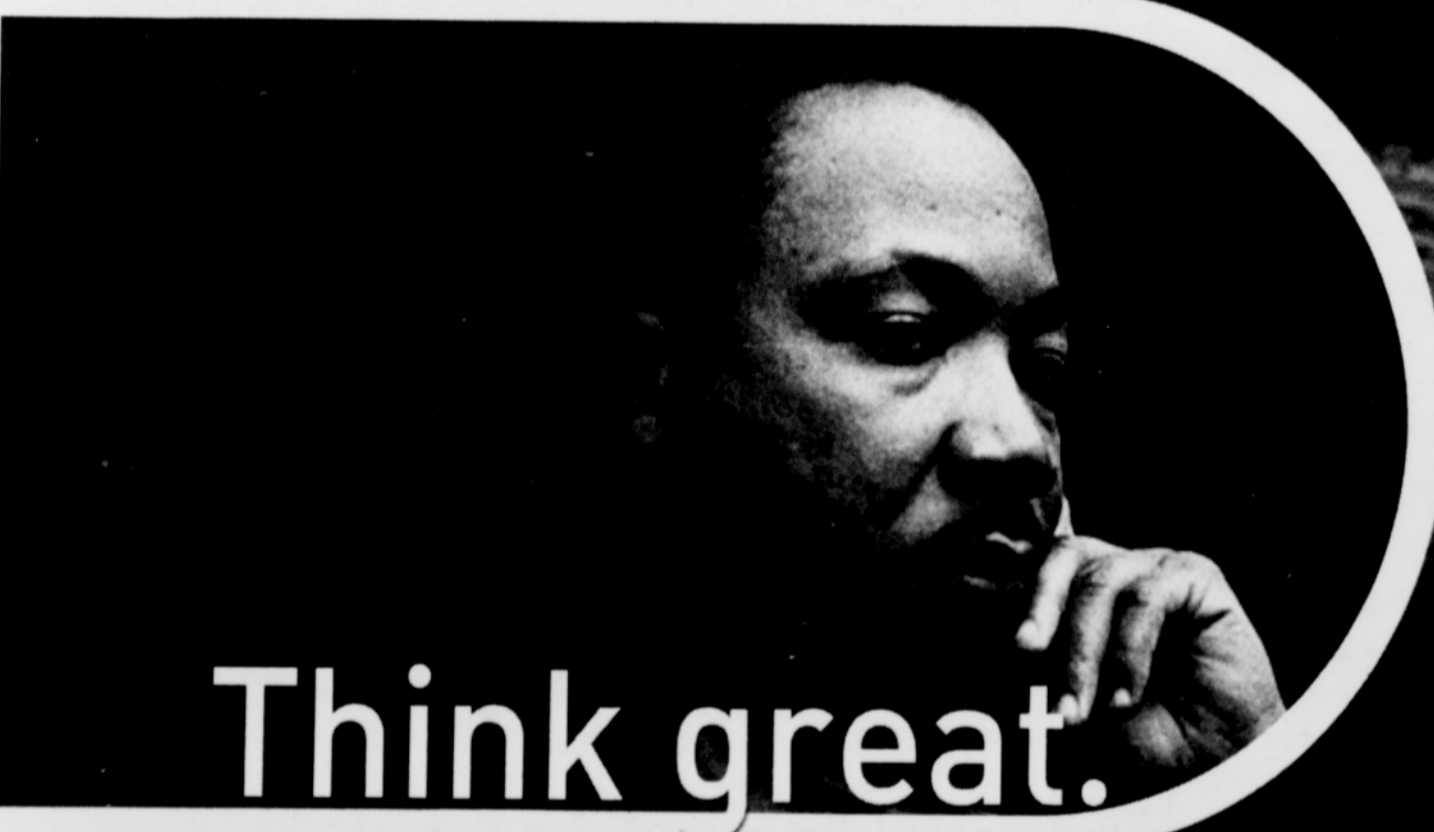
held in Clark's Gaiser Student Center. Following refreshments at 5:30 p.m., award-winning writer S. Renee Mitchell will provide the keynote address at 6 p.m. She is a co-founder of the Portland-based

Healing Roots Center, providing culturally specific services to black women who are experiencing domestic violence.

Mitchell's presentation will be followed by a brief concert by


Vancouver's Community A.M.E. Zion Church.

All events are free and open to the public. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver.



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