



Friday, February 7, 2003

Essay contest addresses color-line

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

African-American Celebration Month events continue at Oakland University, and all students can contribute their thoughts on the ongoing pursuit for equality by participating in the sixth annual All Campus Contest in Commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.

Students are asked to consider the following quote by W.E.B. DuBois, one of the most influential black leaders of the first half of the 20th century: "Herein lie buried many things, which if read with patience may show the strange meaning of being black here in the dawning of the Twentieth Century. This meaning is not without interest to you, Gentle Reader; for the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line."

To enter the contest, submit an original essay or poem, not to exceed 1,000 words, that addresses the question: "As a student at Oakland University, how can you make an impact to resolve the problem of the color-line in the 21st Century?"

"The DuBois quote was suggested to us by Ashli Bobo, president of the Association of Black Students," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities and member of the African-American Celebration Committee. "It fits in with the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr., and we wanted to extend it by asking students to relate it to this century. The contest is a great way for students to express their opinions and make a difference. Thinking about the color-line itself is a learning experience."

The cash prizes are \$300 for first place and \$100 each for second and third place. Entry forms can be picked up at the **Center for Student Activities**, 49 Oakland Center, and must be returned by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14. Winners will be announced at the African-American Celebration Month closing ceremonies, "The Souls of Black Folk ... The Celebration Continues," on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at noon in the Fireside Lounge.

King, an eloquent, black Baptist minister, was the prime leader of the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950's until his death in 1968. His efforts helped end segregation in the south and many other areas of the country, and his teachings continue to inspire and motivate.

SUMMARY

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