



Friday, January 18, 2002

## OU celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

To honor the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Oakland University is holding various commemorative activities on its campus Monday, Jan. 21. OU has suspended classes for the day so students may participate in the celebration. The events begin OU's **African-American Celebration Month**.

MLK Day events begin with the Association of Black Students campus march, which runs from 11:30 a.m.-noon. Marchers will meet at the first floor foyer of Vandenberg Hall, then proceed around the residence halls, through the Oakland Center, between North Foundation and South Foundation Halls and conclude at Meadow Brook Theatre. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to participate.

"The march is a tradition on our campus that was started by the Association of Black Students many years ago," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the **Center for Student Activities**. "It recreates the marches that Dr. King led in the south and emphasizes the importance of civil rights."

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.

After the march, the Student Life Lecture Board will present Kevin Powell at **Meadow Brook Theatre** from noon-1:30 p.m.

A resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., Powell is a former cast member from the first season of the MTV series "**The Real World**." He has written articles for the "New York Times," "Rolling Stone" and "Essence" and was senior writer for "Vibe" magazine. He also has authored "Step Into a World: A Global Anthology of New Black Literature" and a collection of poetry titled "Recognize." He recently co-founded Get Up On It, a national nonprofit organization designed to foster involvement and volunteerism in the urban community.

The lecture is free and no tickets are necessary. A book signing and reception for Powell will be held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court, where a light lunch will be served.

A new addition to this year's MLK Day celebration is the canned food drive for the **Oakland County Food Bank**. OU students, faculty and staff can help provide food for the poor and disadvantaged by depositing non-perishable food items in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge from 2:30-5 p.m.

The day's events end with a Candlelight Vigil and Association of Black Students Open House from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Omar Brown, former president of the Association of Black Students, will be the keynote speaker. Free cake and ice cream will be served.

"The vigil is also a tradition at OU. It's held as a remembrance of Dr. King and oftentimes there is a recreation of his 'I Have a Dream' speech," Miller said. "Brown was instrumental in seeing that King's life be celebrated and that this day provide an opportunity to discuss civil rights."

OU students are encouraged to participate in the fifth annual All Campus Essay Contest in commemoration of Dr. King. Participants must submit an original essay or poem, not to exceed 1,000 words, that addresses the question: "What kind of hero do you envision yourself to be after you graduate from Oakland University?" The cash prizes are \$300 for first place and \$100 each for second and third place. Entry forms can be picked up at the candlelight vigil or the **Center for Student Activities**, 49 Oakland Center. Entries are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the Center for Student Activities.

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