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# King powerfully recalls past, projects future of civil rights

By Christine Thurston  
Staff Writer

Delivered in a manner bearing an uncanny resemblance to her father, Yolanda King, eldest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., presented a lecture last night on the past, present and future of civil rights combined with dramatic readings of poems and story-telling.

"We need to focus on our differences until the differences don't make any difference," said King. "I believe America can meet this challenge by rising above the wounds of the past."

King spoke to nearly 500 people at the Maine Center for the Arts in a speech titled, "The Dream

is Still Alive," as part of the celebration of Black History Month.

The evening began with the induction of officers into the African-American Student Association.

"It's your problem too if someone looks at me and calls me 'nigger', if you don't do something about it," said Ricardo Tubbs, president of the AASA. "If you're not a part of the solution, you're a part of the problem."

After congratulating the officers, King started off her presentation with a poem by Langston Hughes that questioned what happens to a dream deferred.

"I choose to continue to dream," King said. "To live without it would

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be a nightmare."

King said that many question the significance of Black History Month and she must concur up to a point.

"It is the coldest and shortest month of the year," she said. "Our history has been distorted and minimized, but our pursuit of this knowledge must be ongoing."

King focused on specific aspects of the Civil Rights Movement, from her father to Rosa Parks, besides pointing out the tragic side of the movement.

"It's not a surprise that a woman sparked the Civil Rights Movement," King said. "It (the Civil Rights Movement) may have seemed like a misty image of horror, but it was not a mirage, it was live and in living color."

King said that if nothing else was a miracle over the past decades, Ronald Reagan's signing of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday bill was.

"Mind you, he didn't want to do it," she said. "But it was a modern-day miracle."

King said that her father's main goal was to negotiate a better deal for the "have-nots" of the nation.

"People are more important than profits," said King. "We need to eradicate the attitudes and reject the way the system is in us."

King dislikes the idea that America is a melting pot, and said it is really a mosaic or patchwork quilt.

"People and differences do not melt into a stew," King said. "We can only feel free to learn from each other when we feel free to be ourselves."

In the immortal words of her father,

King said, "We will learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will die as fools."

King said that we must respect the variety of differences, the cultural democracy and celebrate our diversity.

Audience members agreed that the campus was lucky to have been visited by such an incredible speaker."

"Her speech was very inspiring," said Susan Thompson. "It was great to see her carrying on her father's legacy."

Beside being involved with a number of human rights organizations, King was a founding member of the Christian Theatre Artists and serves as co-founding director, with Malcolm X's eldest son, of NUCLEUS, a company of performing artists that promotes positive energy through the arts.

King is currently co-producing and starring in a theatrical production of her father's life, "Tracks". Her film acting credits include roles in "Hopscotch" and the NBC production of "King," in which she portrayed Rosa Parks.

King's lecture was sponsored by the Guest Lecture Series and the African-American Student Association.



Yolanda King speaks Thursday at the Maine Center for the Arts. (Page Photo.)

## • Mouth to beak

# Maine farmer resuscitates chicken

HARPSWELL (AP) — A farmer who revived a chicken with mouth-to-beak resuscitation said she was sure the hen was dead.

Janet Bonney said she thought Chicken No. 7 was dead when she found it frozen under her porch. "Legs up, just as though you had got her from the freezer at Shop 'n Save," she said.

Bonney tried to put the chicken's body in a shoebox for burial, but its frozen legs wouldn't bend.

So she used a hot water bottle to thaw the

She spoke to it, thanking it for all the eggs it had laid. She told it that she hoped it was happy where it was now.

Then, Bonney felt the first thump. She bent close and heard the first breath. Fifteen seconds later she heard another.

Soon she was giving it CPR — three or four thumps on its chest, and mouth-to-beak resuscitation. For three hours she warmed it and nursed it, until finally, the chicken stood and clucked.

"She actually laid an egg last week," said Bonney, who has renamed the hen Valerie for her valor.