



# In the Neighborhood

In light of the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., do you think that we are moving forward in terms of equality and civil rights?

COMPILED BY CHARITY PRATER AND RAYMOND RENDLEMAN



There's been progress, but our society is historically based on racist and classist policies and there continues to still be undertones of segregation in the workplace and many other social avenues.

— Kai Griffin-Valade

I think of it more as two steps forward, one step back. There's a burgeoning black middle class. There are African Americans in positions of authority at major companies. And Barack Obama is a serious contender for president. But blacks still lag far behind whites in income earned. African-American students score much lower on educational tests than white students. Our neighborhoods and schools in Portland still remain largely segregated by race and economics.

— Dave Austin



I think that we can say so since we have an African American running for the presidency that actually has a chance of winning. However our culture still needs to continue to work on addressing the issue of social inequality.

— Tony Thach



*Rosa Parks speaks to the crowd before King's address on the triumphs and pitfalls of the modern civil-rights movement.*

▀ *Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.* ▀

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



*The new Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee chairman Stokely Carmichael proclaims a "black power" slogan at the rally in Greenwood on June 16, six weeks after his independent-voting effort in Londes County was either scorned or ignored.*

# In the Neighborhood

In light of the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., do you think that we are moving forward in terms of equality and civil rights?

*continued* ▲ *from B9*

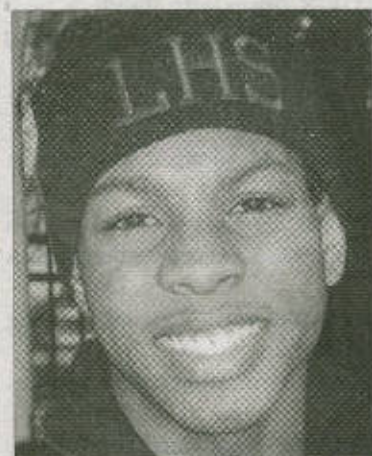


I don't think we really are. There is still just as much racism as there always was, but it's just under the radar a little more.

— **Maxwell Kjellberg**

Based on what civil rights were like in the '50s, when you and I couldn't even talk to each other because we'd end up in prison, it's amazing how we've come together as a people. It is more significant than anything else in the last century.

— **Ellsworth Gibson**

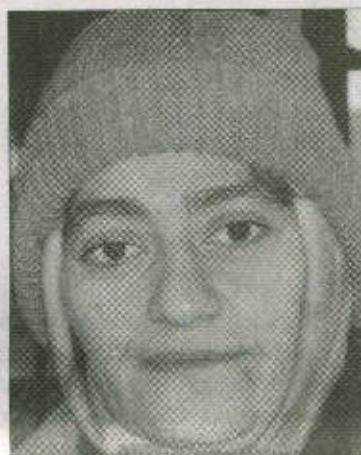


We are moving forward as a community but there is still stuff that needs to be worked on. I know in schools there is not really a bond between African Americans and Caucasians.

— **Justin Elliott**

Martin Luther King helped a bunch of people, including the homeless. There is still a whole bunch of homeless people, and as minorities, we can't get health care if we are sick.

— **Maria Yribe**





The institutional racism has diminished, but in fact there is racism every day.

— Ian MacCeod

I haven't heard anything out in the community about equality. But Martin Luther King has brought us a long way.

— Brika DeTar-Ussery



continued ▼ on page B13

*Life's most urgent question is:  
What are you doing for others?*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Lowndes County school-board candidate John Hinson (left, back to camera) escorts voters to the polls. All seven "black panther" candidates narrowly lose, but Freedom Party founders say they did well for the first try and vow to do better with experience plus future voters such as the young boy (right) in line with the Mallard family.



# In the Neighborhood

continued ▲ from B11

**In light of the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., do you think that we are moving forward in terms of equality and civil rights?**



Yes we are, but slowly. You can't expect human beings to evolve overnight.

— **Heather Birdsong**

MLK made such a difference in history, but at the same time there are so many other issues. Things take time to change. We are moving forward in positive ways though.

— **Ricardo Ballas**



People in my high school are all friends together and I think it would be that way no matter what.

— **Jenny Lee**



We are moving forward because of what he fought for in terms of equal rights and his influence is still present today.

— **Angel Graham**

*If a man hasn't discovered something that he would die for, he isn't fit to live.*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



*On "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965, Alabama State Troopers and a sheriff's posse in clouds of tear gas trample the first attempted voting rights march out of Selma.*



*Marchers entering Montgomery on the fifth day wave to observers.*