



Collegian Photo / Anne-Marie Rooks

Tom Poole, Angelita Reyes, James Stewart, Ann Ard and Cecil Graves discuss Martin Luther King's life yesterday.

# King's life fondly remembered

By KIRSTEN LEE SWARTZ  
Collegian Staff Writer

Martin Luther King Jr. was not a Superman. He was not a Superperson. He was a man, a person who lived well, Rev. Cecil Gray said.

Gray was one of five who spoke yesterday afternoon at the panel discussion in honor of King's celebrated birthday.

Charlayne Hunter-Gault, national correspondent for *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour* scheduled to speak in Eisenhower auditorium yesterday, was unable to reach Pennsylvania because of the snow.

The panel discussion, entitled "The Contributions and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.," was pre-planned by the President's Advisory Committee in the event of inclement weather.

James Stewart, director of the Black Studies Program, selected the speakers, and moderated the panel discussion.

Gray said people should challenge the "problem of deification — the taking of King and lifting him up so high and painting him so noble and in such a courageous way that all we could ever hope to do is admire him instead of imitating him."

He added that people should recognize King as a man who "demonstrated that a group of people can rise up and take liberation."

"We must demand of ourselves that we live as boldly," he said.

Tom Poole, a professor of religious studies currently teaching a course entitled "The Life and Philosophy of Martin Luther King," spoke on "So little have we done. So much we have left to do."

Poole noted the desegregation of buses and bathrooms and said on many levels people have come or "perhaps I should say have been brought, kicking and screaming" a long way but "are still a long way from the promised land."

He added: "If Dr. King were here today he would remind us that progressive and just civilization cannot be measured by the opportunities for advancement for a few blacks at the top but must be measured by the ongoing conditions of discrimination and exploitation forced on masses blacks at the bottom."

Angelita Reyes, assistant professor of comparative literature, addressed "the Blessed Peace Maker's," visions of peace.

"Peace is not limited to its military implications," she said. "The banning of nuclear weapons will not remove the roots of war."

Humanity has the choice of reaching peace and achieving it by an act of will, she added.

Ann Ard, director of campus ministries, pointed to the women that King worked closely with, including Rosa Parks who ran the Montgomery branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,

"He would have seen that racism and sexism are related issues," Ard said.