

# Opinion

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However, these laws have not eliminated racism, for it is unrealistic to believe that people with power will willingly give up that which they feel they alone are entitled to. Therefore, we must continuously search within ourselves for other ways to succeed despite racism. We must find some way to nurture our spirit as a people, to give ourselves some economical stability and growth, and we must internalize the need to get and take advantage of the educational system. This education must include knowledge of our black history and the sacrifices that were made that allow us to enjoy these equal opportunities today. If we do not do this, we must honestly question whether or not we are to some degree responsible for our own problems.

Even with these accomplishments, the struggle is still being fought to ward off more subtle racism, exploitation, and oppression. Without a doubt these new laws have helped to make Martin Luther King's dream a reality. King's dream that his four children would one day live in a nation where they would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the conduct of their character, has been attained by legislation, through the equal rights amendment, but still not internalized in the hearts of everyone. As we look across the nation on the nation's playgrounds, we can see black children and white children playing together oblivious to the equality struggle that cripples the progress of this nation as a whole. This subtle civil war we still wage with the rich against the poor and whites against blacks, causes a great rift in this nation's soul

and stifles this nation's social growth.

In the continuous fight for the equality we have made great progress in our climb to the mountaintop, but we still hang precariously on its sides. We are far from stamping out blatant racism, as we see an increase in racial incidents, as we constantly battle the double

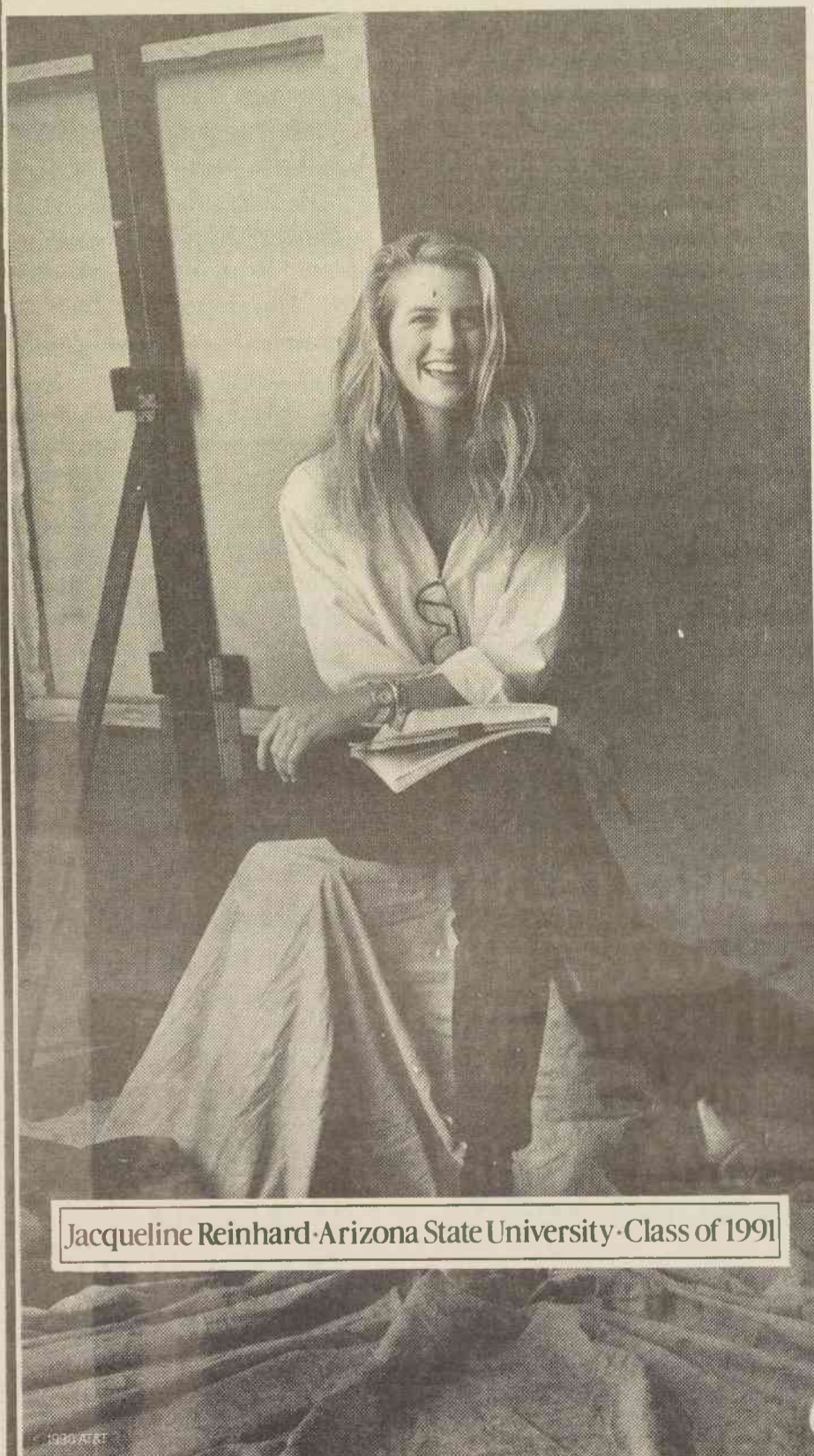
standard in our justice system. We have won the battle against housing discrimination in legislation, only to see our cities still divided into white neighborhoods and black neighborhoods.

Before King's untimely death, he shared his dream with us, and we in turn shared his dream with the world. His dream cannot be shattered, and

though his voice was silenced, his words will resound throughout history. For the dreamer could be killed, but his dream will last forever.

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Jacqueline Reinhard · Arizona State University · Class of 1991

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