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Keynote speech to link faith, social policy

Friederich von Carp

Bishop E. Lynn Brown,

keynote speaker of tonight's Hult Center commemorative program, will address the intersection of religious faith and social policy.

Brown first worked alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King while at a Georgia seminary in 1960 and again during the 1968 sanitation workers' strike in Memphis. King's non-violent philosophy and his emphasis on economic justice, Brown explained. hold special value for today's

"We must be cognizant of both the spiritual and social ... ultimately your soul will return to God, but remember that God so loved the world that he gave his only son. Surely there must be some good in the world worth fighting for," Brown said.

Dr. King engaged the interlocking cruelties of violence, racism and poverty. We must also do this. The question is how will you engage them? Will you do it with violence? Will you do it with hatred? Or will you do it with love? Martin Luther King was non-violent. He engaged it with love."

Brown, who is presiding prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, leads a congregation spread over seven Western states. He is involved with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,

the South Central Los Angeles Organizing Committee, the NAACP, the Urban League and the Ecumenical Task Force to Revitalize South Central Los Angeles.

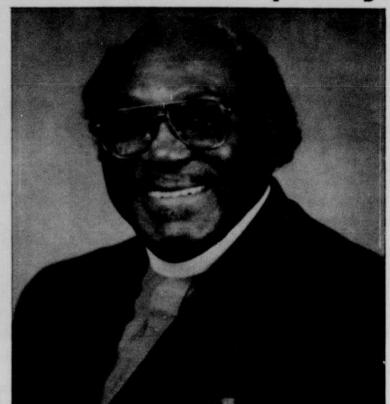
"I was with Dr. King when he uttered his immortal words, 'I have been to the mountaintop. Brown recalled. "We have to go back and listen to what he said. Most of us look to his first words. Too often we forget his last words, 'There are dark and difficult days ahead."

Brown perceives that darkness and difficulty increasing with the recent events across the nation.

We are becoming a two-tier society, one rich and one poor. After the Nov. 8 election, people have almost written off the poorest. There are many code words for racism. 'Counterculture' counter to the Anglo majority. Brother Newt is trying to play harmonious music by playing the white keys only. You have to play the keys of color, too," Brown said, referring to Newt Gingrich.

"Martin Luther King came from a family that manifested dogged determinism. He thought it showed some kind of cowardice if you don't finish what you start. Even if they kill you.

Brown recalls Dr. King's last months, when they marched together in Memphis. When some civil rights demonstrators turned violent, Brown and other followers whisked Dr. King to



Bishop E. Lynn Brown will speak about the intersection of faith and social policy tonight at the Hult Center. His speech begins at 7 p.m.

"All of a sudden we had windows being broken, breaking glass, and we threw Dr. King in the car because we thought it was plot. But he said if he started a march he liked to finish it. He vowed he'd come back '

of racial issues in law and in the

mass media. The class is struc-

tured as an open forum. Readings

are assigned, and students are

then expected to participate in

discussions of the readings in

for the class it was Greene's

hope that students would come

way from the class with a better understanding of race relations

in general and of themselves in

torically victimized by mass

media and stereotypical depic-

tions have to think in terms of

cultural terms and using that as

a vehicle to sort of empower

'Self-definition along with

"Groups who have been his-

In developing the curriculum

Dr. King did, of course, return to Memphis the following April. Prevented from finishing the march by an assassin's bullet, Dr. King made for his beliefs what Brown called "the ultimate sac-

even though the class is about

race relations, no one needs to

feel that their lack of exposure to

New class examines race, media and the law

Some professors just teach, but some professors can make the curriculum come alive.

Good professors can set fire to students imaginations', and make them want to devour as much information as they can about the subject.

If Dennis Greene's interview is any indication, he is definitely a good professor.

Greene, who is teaching a course at the law school titled Mass Media, Law, and the Dialogue of Race, came to the University via a very strange route. Dennis Greene is a founding member of the musical group Sha Na Na, a former vice president of Columbia Pictures, the president of Lenox/Greene Films and a playwright.

So what would bring a man who traveled the world for 15 years with Sha Na Na and played the original Woodstock to the University campus to teach law? Well, according to Greene, that was the plan all

"I had planned on going to law school at an early age, but



Dennis Greene, a professor at the law school, discusses race relations as portrayed in the media and as they exist in the legal system.

then I sort of put it off because of other activities like music. I had decided to go into motion picture work and I felt that the best kind of education I could get to protect myself would be a legal education.

Greene's class, as its title suggests, concentrates on the aspect other races and cultures is a handicap to them. In that way, Greene said his class truly is a Before coming to the Univer-

sity this winter Greene was teaching at the City College of New York. His classes included the Social History of the Entertainment Industry, which he taught previously at Yale, and Mass Media and the Conflict of Power. Having just finished teaching in New York, Oregon's debate over multiculturalism is rather foreign to Greene.

"One goes to school and pays good money to be exposed to new ideas and new people. It enables them to become smarter, and to get a job that will utilize the knowledge they have acquired. I think there is great value to exposure to a broad range of cultural issues and identities.

He also said that all classes that fall under the multicultural curriculum title should be of value and not just token classes. "These classes should speak to people and educate them.

Greene also said that multiultural curriculum, like rights legislation, "... can't be given the back-handed treatment so that at a certain point it can be pulled off the menu because it didn't work. That would be a crime. Because once you pay the dues just like we've paid the dues for civil rights it is important for people to live by those laws ... So the people who lived and died to create positive social change were not disgraced."

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themselves." However, Greene said that

particular.

self-definition.

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