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COMMENCEMENT '88

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COMMENCEMENT '88

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At the university's commencement exercises on May 14, approximately 2,000 candidates received degrees, certificates or military commissions.

Additionally, six persons were awarded honorary degrees. They were: Edward P. Morgan, veteran journalist and the commencement speaker; Dick Gregory, human rights activist; William A. Banner, professor emeritus of philosophy at Howard; the Rev. Dearine E. King Sr., a retired Baptist minister; Gilbert W. Lindsay, a member of the City Council in Los Angeles; and Frederick Minnis Sr., an attorney in St. Petersburg, Fla.

DICK GREGORY first gained national fame as a comedian in the early '60s, but changed course at the height of his career in show business to work as a human rights activist for a number of causes throughout the country.

His career as a comedian began in Chicago in 1958, and by 1961 he was nationally renowned. He appeared on the popular "Jack Paar Show" several times and recorded two albums. A profile in *Time* magazine in 1961 brought him even greater fame.

For more than 20 years, he has been on the forefront of political activism. In 1967, for example, he staged a 40-day fast to protest America's military involvement in Vietnam.

He is a self-taught nutritionist and the author of nine books, including, *From the Back of the Bus*, *The Murder of Martin Luther King* and *Cooking with Mother Nature*. He continues to spread his message in lecture halls around the country and abroad.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., Gregory attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for two years before electing to join the U.S. Army. While at the university, he was captain of the cross-country and track teams and was named, in 1953, outstanding athlete at Southern Illinois. A year earlier,



he ran the Missouri State Mile Championship in 4:27; the half mile in 2:07, placing third in national ranking.

WILLIAM A. BANNER retired from the Howard faculty in 1985 after 40 years of service. From 1945 to 1955, he taught Christian history and thought in the School of Religion (now the School of Divinity). From 1955 to 1981, he taught philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts, and was graduate professor of philosophy in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1981 until he retired in 1985.

He is the author of several scholarly articles and three major books: *Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy; Moral Norms and Moral Order: The Philosophy of Human Affairs; and Greece: 478-336 B.C.*

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Banner is a 1935 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Yale University in 1938, and the Master of Arts degree in philosophy and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Harvard University in 1944 and 1947, respectively.

THE REV. DEARINE E. KING, SR., devoted his life to pastoring, writing and teaching from 1942 until his retirement in 1986. His last church, Monumental Baptist Church, was in Chicago. Earlier, he had pastored two churches in Kentucky — Washington Street Baptist Church in Paducah and Zion Baptist Church in Louisville — and another in New York City, Friendship Baptist Church.

Born in LaGrange, Tenn., he is a 1938 graduate of LeMoyne College. He continued his education at Howard, receiving the Master of Arts degree in Religious Education in 1940, and the Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1942.

GILBERT W. LINDSAY is the first Black member to serve on the Los Angeles City Council. First appointed to fill a vacancy on the council in 1963, he won reelection time and time again and continues to serve on

that body. Earlier, he served as deputy supervisor of Los Angeles County for 10 years.

During his councilmanic tenure of a quarter of a century, he has witnessed his district, which includes the downtown area, experience dramatic growth as a major office and retail center.

Born on a cotton plantation in Jasper County, Miss., Lindsay attended the University of Arizona while serving in the U.S. Army.

FREDERICK G. MINNIS SR. is in private law practice in St. Petersburg, Fla., and specializes in civil rights and negligence cases.

Before entering private law practice in 1955, he was law professor at Florida A&M Law School for two years. He also has been a lecturer on Black studies at the University of South Florida and the University of Tampa.

Earlier, from 1934 to 1935, he worked for the Federal Emergency Relief Agency and was the only Black professional on a project that supplied data to the U.S. Congress in connection with the establishment of the Social Security system. From 1937 to 1941, he served as commanding officer of Company 1251 of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Beyond his current law practice, Minnis is actively involved with numerous social and political organizations in St. Petersburg, and is a member of the American Bar Association and the American Trial Lawyers Association, among others.

Born in Miami, Fla., he is a graduate of Howard, earning three degrees, the Bachelor of Arts in 1932, the Master of Arts in 1934 and the Juris Doctor in 1950. In 1953, he received a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University.

EDWARD P. MORGAN began his journalism career soon after his graduation from college in 1932. Over the years, he has been associated with some of country's

more prominent media organizations — United Press International, the Chicago Daily News Foreign Service, CBS and ABC News—among others. Currently, he is chief correspondent for "In the Public Interest" radio network.

During the many years of his distinguished journalism career, Morgan has received numerous professional honors, among them, the Overseas Press Club Award, The Peabody Award and the Capital Press Club of Washington Award.

Born in Walla Walla, Wash., he is a graduate of Whitman College, and a trustee emeritus of Howard University.

In his commencement speech, Morgan told the 1988 Class: "... you are human dynamos, with unfulfilled potential. This great university, largest of its kind in the world, which switched on the current of your education, so to speak, has unfulfilled potential too. It must continue to impress even more thoroughly on its students to come to what powers they have, what potential influence they bear as civilized citizens to help make this country a better place and the world along with it, just as you have been prepared ..."

"... Some of you are going to become doctors, teachers, business men and women attracted by the needs of the developing world. You will help and hasten their development and in the process you will grow yourselves. You are entering the mainstream as Americans, not just hyphe-nated Black Americans, and abroad you will find yourselves competing with Japanese, Germans, Chinese and many other nationalities. You will be a fresh, sophisticated peace corps, mobilizing that unfulfilled potential to concentrate on the human factor of issues and problems.

"There are plenty of urgent matters that need attention at home too. The rising Black middle class, of which you are already members, will find still more ways to improve the quality of life." (See Commentary for more excerpts). □