



*Dick Gregory makes a point in his address Tuesday night.*

*photo by Frank Jones*

## Dick Gregory speaks on America's "moral and spiritual bankruptcy"

Comedian and political activist Dick Gregory told an audience in Washington and Lee University's Lee Chapel Tuesday night that the United States is suffering from a moral and spiritual bankruptcy that crosses racial and social lines.

The scope of Gregory's talk was broad, and his criticism ranged from present day morality to the Russians, the whites, the blacks, big business, our educational institutions, organized crime, and big government.

Gregory challenged his audience to realize what kind of power they possess to change the conditions established by the "rich, rich aristocrats."

"I really wonder what day will you young folks realize how

much power you have," Gregory said, "and that all the conditions (in the world) are being created by a bunch of old, insane, pimp mentality folks; that when you bring your thing together, you really don't have to tolerate it."

"One day when you really get hip and decide that you're not going to let a handful of rich, rich aristocrats manipulate your head and determine when you gonna die and how you gonna die and when nuke bombs gonna fall and when they not gonna fall, then they'll stop it," Gregory said.

The former comedian also questioned today's standards of higher education. "Colleges are too busy teaching students how

(continued on page 11)

# Gregory comments on broad range of issues

(continued from page 1)

to make a living and do not teach students how to live," he said. He continued by saying that people are too materialistic, valuing their property more than they value their lives.

"One day, when you youngsters really dwell in truth," Gregory said, "most of your major institutions (of learning) will have to close down or straighten up. That's the day these colleges and universities will have to be oases of love instead of cesspools of hate."

Gregory, who participated in the civil rights protests of the 1960s, spoke proudly of the movement:

"I hope one day this country will get enough integrity and be mature enough to be honest about what we black folks did in the '60s," he said. "Never before in the history of this planet can you find records to match the beauty of our movement, and yet, white folks just took the attitude that the communists were behind it."

Yet Gregory said that despite past injustices committed against blacks by whites, he bares no malaise against "white folks."

"We black folks still have our hands out," he said. "One day we're going to put our hands in our pockets, and when that day comes, you white folks in America will have lost the only true friend you had."

Stating that he was aware that his scrutiny of events

might be a bit cynical, Gregory drew parallels between the timing of the railroad and New York newspaper strikes and the testimony now being given to the House committee investigating the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

He inferred that important testimony was not covered adequately by the national press, as the strikes demanded more attention. The selectivity of the press is not in the best interests of the news, Gregory inferred.

Gregory, who will be in Washington, D.C. Friday to testify before the committee, continued to infer that the CIA and the FBI arranged both assassinations.

"We got a trick for them come Friday. We'll show them documents and say 'here are 80 percent of the folks who killed King: retired and off-duty FBI agents, and we dare you to deny it cause we got documented truth,'" Gregory said.

He cited the coincidental deaths of six former FBI agents involved in the Kennedy investigations. All were subpoenaed to testify before the committee and all were killed before they could testify, he said.

A vegetarian and interested in health himself, Gregory told the audience that many of the preservatives in today's foods were developed by the Nazis and fed to Jews in concentration camps.

When you look at a jar of



Members of the Student Association for Black Unity present Gregory with a "certificate of appreciation."

strawberry preserves, he said, you might notice the word "artificial" near the bottom of the label—that cancels out the words "strawberry preserves," he continued.

Gregory noted that artificial strawberry preserves include a derivative from anti-freeze. "That explains why antifreeze costs so much during the winter," he said, "you eat it all summer."

He also said that imitation

vanilla extract includes the waste from the product turpentine. "People eat food which contains as ingredients words they can't understand or pronounce, and they think it's all right," he said.

Gregory revealed that he has developed a recipe for a food made from six natural ingredients—including kelp, sesame seeds, brewers yeast, and pumpkin seeds—which he believes can cure the world's

hunger problems.

"You have a big job to do," Gregory told his audience. "We can turn it (the system) around. I beg you to take care of your bodies, to understand the love that flows through you."

"I do not believe we have reached the point of no return," he said, "but we're getting there."

Charlie Smith contributed to this article.