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The University of Montana

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Jan. 4, 1994

MARTIN LUTHER KING SCHOLAR TO LECTURE AT UM

MISSOULA --

Stanford University history Professor Clayborne Carson, senior editor of Martin Luther King's papers, will share his perspective on the charismatic black leader Thursday, Jan. 20, at The University of Montana.

Carson's free public lecture, "The Contemporary Significance of Martin Luther King: The Man and the Myth," will begin at 8 p.m. in the Montana Theatre. It will be the fifth program in the 1993-94 President's Lecture Series.

King has been a major focus of Carson's research since 1985, when Coretta Scott King invited Carson to direct a long-term project to edit and publish her late husband's papers. "Called to Serve, January 1929-June 1951," the first of 14 volumes in the edited works, was published in 1992.

Carson has also published papers on King's religious evolution, charismatic leadership, importance and flaws. A paper Carson read at a conference in 1991 deals with King and plagiarism. Carson's play, "Passages of Martin Luther King," was performed several times in April 1993 by the Stanford University drama department.

An activist in the African-American freedom movement during the late '60s, Carson documented the times in his first book, "In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s," a study of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. The book, published in 1981,

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won the Organization of American Historians' Frederick Jackson Turner Award. He more recently published "Malcolm X: The FBI File" and served as an adviser for the 14-part, award-winning public television series on the civil rights movement, "Eyes on the Prize."

Carson has taught at Stanford University since 1974. He's also taught at American University, University of California at Berkeley and University of California at Los Angeles, where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. He's lectured widely on a range of topics that include not only King and Malcolm X but also the Black Panthers, black-Jewish relations and the need for multi-cultural curricula.

His UM lecture comes during a week of campus activities commemorating King. The week will also include a candlelight vigil at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, in the University Center Mall and a dramatic performance by stage and TV actress Tommie Harris Stewart at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, in Urey Lecture Hall.

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CONTACT: Professor Clayborne Carson, (415) 723-2092 or (415) 497-4889

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