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Call for Racial Justice over Color Blindness in Next Sidore Lecture

By Erika Mantz
UNH News Bureau

March 8, 2001

DURHAM, N.H. -- Glenn Loury, director of the Institute on Race and Social Division and a professor of economics at Boston University, will discuss racial division and social policy in the fourth of this year’s University of New Hampshire Saul O Sidore Memorial Lectures Thursday, March 22 from 12:40 to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Union Building’s Theatre II. All Sidore lectures are free and open to the public.

Loury has written extensively on the political economy of race, promoting personal responsibility and decrying what he calls “the alluring but ultimately disempowering mantle of victimhood.” He is the author of “One by One From the Inside Out: Essays and Reviews on Race and Responsibility in America,” which was awarded the American Book Award in 1996.

In the book, he states “there is a great existential challenge facing black America today; the challenge of taking control of our own future by exerting the requisite moral leadership, making the sacrifices of time and resources, and building the needed institutions so that black social and economic development may be advanced.”

Recently, Loury wrote an introduction to a controversial study of affirmative action in university admissions, “The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions.” Once an opponent of affirmative action, Loury has shifted his position, and in the introduction he calls for racial justice over color blindness.

The Saul O Sidore Memorial Lecture Series was established in 1965 in memory of Saul O Sidore of Manchester, New Hampshire. The purpose of the series is to offer the university community and the state of
New Hampshire programs that raise critical and sometimes controversial issues facing our society.

This year’s series, “Education for the New Millennium,” ends April 19 with a look at the ethics of education.

The 2000-2001 Saul O Sidore Memorial Lecture Series is sponsored by the Sidore Foundation and the University of New Hampshire Center for the Humanities. For more information on the series or specific lectures, contact the Center for the Humanities at 603-862-4356 or visit www.unh.edu/humanities-center/

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