



Sept. 6, 1980
M.I.
Matter of faith

Dr. Krister Stendahl (L), Brandeis professor of divinity, who represented the Protestant faith at ceremony Sunday on 25th anniversary of Brandeis University's Three Chapels, shares a private moment with Humberto Cardinal Medeiros

News-Tribune photo

Brandeis chapels rededicated

WALTHAM — Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the dedication of Brandeis University's Three Chapels, prominent religious leaders representing the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths came together Sunday to praise each other and to call for increased religious tolerance.

Speaking at the site in Waltham of the only three chapels built simultaneously on an American college campus, Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, Archbishop of Boston, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, first Hilll director at Brandeis and Dr. Krister Stendahl, former Dean of Harvard Divinity of the School and currently professor of divinity there, all spoke glowingly of the unique religious concept which brought the three religions together at the predominantly Jewish university.

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They said, "You put up the three chapels at one time, or you don't put up any at all. And they won," Sachar said.

Introduced respectively by the current reverend, rabbi and priest of the three houses of worship, the three leaders had kind words for the experiment in religious tolerance.

"This university welcomes the Catholic community. The university respects religious freedom and welcomes those who believe in God but show their faith in different ways," Cardinal Medeiros told the approximately 150 persons gathered for the ceremony.

"This spirit of God should work to bring us closer together in the future. Our faith in the one God is basic," he said.

Stendahl, speaking for the Protestants, said, "These chapels are a challenge, a challenge in a special way to the Christian community."

The Swedish educated minister noted that because of their location in the largely Jewish university, the chapels give Christians "a little feel for what it might mean to be a minority, and heaven knows that's needed."

He also praised the Black Christian tradition and its "not easily intimidated faith. More than any others, they have a link with the Exodus," he said.

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Brandeis ceremony

(From left) Rabbi Irving Greenberg, first Hillel director at Brandeis; Dr. Kristler Stendahl, Brandeis divinity professor; Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, and Abram I,

Sachar, Brandeis chancellor and host of ceremonies on 25th anniversary of Waltham campus' Three Chapels.

Brandeis rededicates chapels

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became concrete. "Three chapels. I feared it would be for the terrible. I was wrong. It seemed perhaps inappropriate.

What did Christians know about Jewish hurt? Let alone what did Christians know about the joy and life of Judaism?"

The chapels stood as a symbol of what is possible if people come together, he said.

Giving the final speech, Sachar told the audience of the emotional day of President Kennedy's death and how students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the community, had come to grieve in the three chapels.

"This place was matted" with people as they staggered to the chapels,

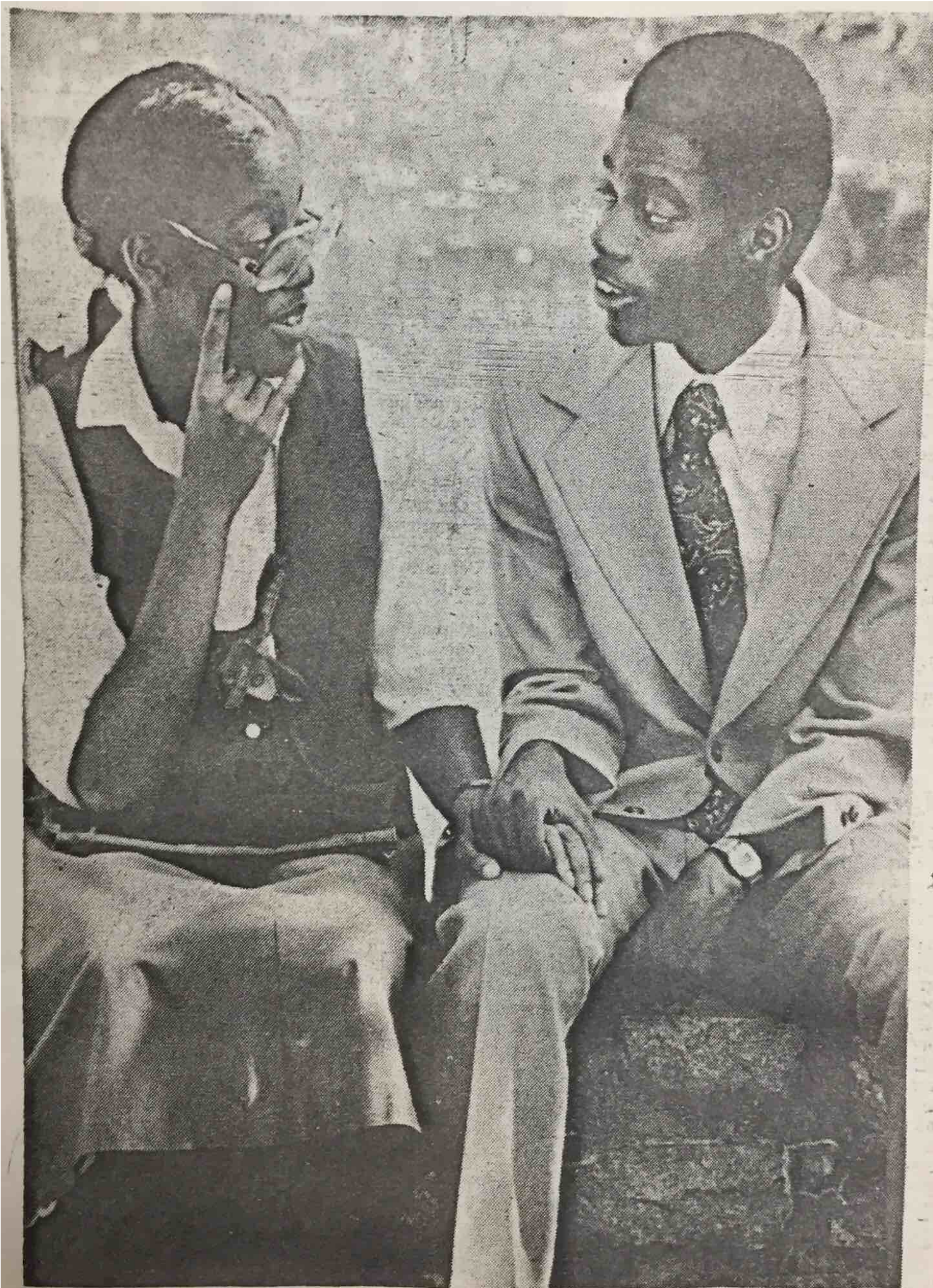
he said. "It seemed so natural to make one's way to the chapels where only the hearts need speak to one another."

Before the ceremony, a tree was planted in observance of the anniversary. In keeping with the symbolism of the different faiths, the tree had three branches of equal size growing out of its trunk.

Though the three chapels rarely participate in official interaction, ac-

ording to persons familiar with them, they provide the students with an opportunity to easily acquaint themselves with the other faiths.

"Growing up in Boston, everyone is an Irish Catholic, but that's not what the world is like," Margaret Sullivan, a 20-year-old Brandeis junior working for the Catholic Chapel, said. "It's a change for people when they first come here because we are really the minority."



DISCUSSING CHAPEL RE-DEDICATION — audience Sunday during the school's re-dedication of its ecumencial Three Chapels built 25 years ago.
Brandeis University sophomores Yevette Hamilton and Darrell Gaskin were part of the

(News Photo by Ed Hopfmann)

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