

# The Detroit News

## Leading Humanist Anthony Pinn of Rice University Quoted on Inauguration Speaker

**Anthony Pinn**, who studies African-American religions at Rice University in Houston, said prosperity preachers highlight the “transactional” nature of faith — that if individuals behave properly in the eyes of God, God will give them something in return to further their well-being. **“Their account of the gospel is very American. It’s a way of spiritualizing or theologically presenting the American dream ... life liberty and the pursuit of happiness,”** Pinn said. **“It’s got an economic dimension, but it becomes a way, in the context of religious faith, of making the American dream God’s will for the**

