

Anti-apartheid:

Group strives to educate people about South African government

Editor's Note: This is the first in an occasional series of stories on international student groups.

By ANITA YESHO
Collegian Staff Writer

Although South Africa is thousands of miles away, a small group of people at the University is working to increase awareness of the hardships blacks face in a country governed by a white minority.

By showing films, sponsoring speakers and initiating petitions, the Committee for Justice in South Africa hopes to make people aware of the effects of apartheid in South Africa.

The group opposes apartheid, the segregation of blacks and whites that is law in South Africa. Although about 90 percent of the South Africans are black, of mixed race or Asian, they are ruled by the white minority.

Under apartheid, non-whites must live in certain residential areas, hold certain types of jobs and receive much lower wages than whites.

Only whites may vote or hold public office. Blacks are not considered to be citizens of South Africa, but rather citizens of "homelands" established by the South African government.

Carl Rupert, treasurer of the committee, said it is unlikely that the government will fulfill its promise to give the homelands their full independence.

Rupert said some of the people who created the apartheid laws in the late 1940s were Nazi sympathizers who thought Adolf Hitler's biggest mistake was that he tried to work too fast.

The ultimate plan in South Africa is to put the blacks in the homelands and let them die off slowly so that no one notices, he said.

Rupert added that some people think the situation in South Africa is getting better, but it is not. The South African government does not include

the people in the homelands in its statistics, so the situation is worse than it appears, Rupert said.

The primary purpose of the group is to "educate ourselves and others" about these problems in South Africa, said committee member Carla Bachman.

The committee is fairly new, founded last Winter Term and given registered student group status last fall. It was started by Bachman and Daniel E. Georges-Abeyie, associate professor of administration of justice. Georges-Abeyie is now the group's adviser.

The committee has about 10 active members, although last year there were more, said Bridget Chadwick, the president of the committee.

"Our biggest problem is that students tend to be very apathetic," she said. "International awareness is low," Chadwick added, but anti-apartheid groups at other universities face the same problem.

Although apartheid affects mostly blacks, the committee is predominately white, and the few black members are mostly international students, Jill Weaver, vice president of the committee, said.

"American blacks who do get involved are more likely to be involved in groups like the Black Caucus," Weaver said.

Gallagher said it is unlikely that the petition will get Mandela out of prison, but it will let the United Nations and the South African government know people are still concerned about him.

The committee's projects is a petition to the United Nations protesting the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, the leader of the ANC who has been in prison since 1962 because of his opposition to the South African government. He is to serve a life sentence.

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However, the ANC has a military wing, and some people don't like that, Gallagher said. "Part of our group supports (the ANC) and part doesn't," she said.

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Proposed bill to increase aid to veterans' children

By ANITA J. KATZ
Collegian Staff Writer

Legislation to increase financial assistance to children of deceased or disabled Pennsylvania veterans was introduced to the state Senate last week by Sen. John J. Shumaker, R-Dauphin County.

The legislation would increase the allocation for the Veterans' Educational Grant from \$200 per semester to \$500 per semester per qualified student.

"With educational costs continually rising, this bill will raise the assistance rate to provide a more adequate compensation to eligible children," Shumaker said in a prepared statement.

Brad Shopp, Shumaker's administrative assistant, said the original allocation of \$200 per semester was set in 1959.

For more information about the current program, students can write to: The Department of Military Affairs, attention Bureau for Veterans Affairs, Annville, Pa., 17003; or Harry R. Holston, second floor Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, Pa., 16823, (814)335-2435.

Shopp said eligible students must be between 16 and 21 years old; children of honorably discharged Pennsylvania veterans who died in service or who have wartime service-connected disabilities; Pennsylvania residents five years prior to applica-

tion; enrolled full-time in a state or state-aided school for post-secondary education and certified by the State Veterans Commission as meeting these requirements.

Final approval is based on financial need, he said.

Although the aid has been available for many years, Shopp said few students have participated in the program. In 1981, 56 students received aid from the program; in 1984, 88 students received aid.

"The number of participants has increased but not many students seem to know about the program," he said.

The bill was sent to the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and is expected to be approved, Shopp said. The program is funded by grant and subsidy appropriations, he said.

Freeman said another reason for the need for intellectual communication between the United States and Latin America is the growing size of this country's Hispanic population. About 20 million Hispanics now live in the country and the number is expected to grow to 40 million by the year 2000.

"We're looking at becoming the fourth largest Spanish-speaking country in the world," he said. "We must try to understand the effect of these 40 million people on our society."

In keeping with the first session of the seminar, held Jan. 26, the presenters recounted their recent expe-

riences and thoughts on the topic of international dimensions of outreach. Freeman recounted his recent experiences at the University of Monterey, Mexico, where he served as consultant on curriculum development and change.

The topic of Puerto Rico was covered by co-presenters Joseph Prewitt-Diaz and Maria Luciano-Hernandez, both natives of the American territory.

Prewitt-Diaz, assistant professor in the College of Education, reiterated Freeman's assertions that the people of Puerto Rico have been mistreated by the United States throughout history.

He said that in times of need, the Puerto Rican people have willingly come to the aid of the United States. They have filled jobs in times of labor shortages, volunteered for the services in times of war and suffered heavy casualties, he said.

"We have all suffered a great deal in the process of being 'good friends,'" he said, alluding to Freeman's earlier remarks.

Regardless, he said, people in the United States still consider Puerto Ricans as foreigners.

He said this attitude is present here at the University.

Prewitt-Diaz pointed to the lack of a Hispanic presence and awareness in the College of Human Development.

"This (Latin American outreach) is very important to your college," he said. "Consider that there are 42,000 Hispanic students in Pennsylvania's educational system."

He specifically indicated a need for training in basic language and culture in the area of nursing, a human development field in which English-speaking people often have to deal with Hispanics.

The final session of the three-part seminar will be held at 3:30 Thursday in 323 Human Development East. The presentation will be a tape-recorded discussion by Fred Fisher, associate professor of community development, who is working on an outreach program in Kenya.

Latin neighbors important to U.S.

By PAT COLLIER
Collegian Staff Writer

Communication with the United States' Latin American neighbors is an essential aspect of international outreach, the main speaker at a seminar sponsored by the College of Human Development said last week.

Walter Freeman, professor of human development, placed particular emphasis on the need for educational cooperation between the United States and its neighbors, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

"These are two areas which represent our most critical Latin American contacts," he said. "In the past, people of these lands have become U.S. citizens, fought in our wars and provided cheap labor for undesirable jobs."

Freeman said despite the contributions Puerto Ricans and Mexicans have made in the United States, they have been treated as second-class citizens. Nonetheless, their countries remain our best friends on the international scene, he said.

Freeman said another reason for the need for intellectual communication between the United States and Latin America is the growing size of this country's Hispanic population. About 20 million Hispanics now live in the country and the number is expected to grow to 40 million by the year 2000.

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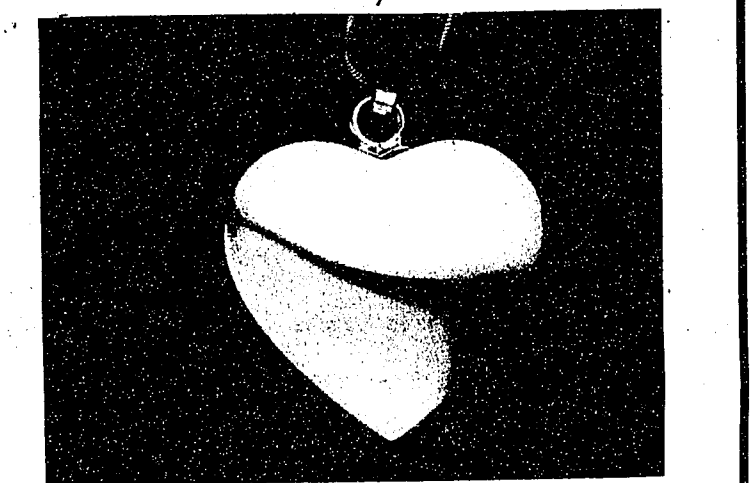
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