APARTHEID AND MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY?
WHAT IS THE MCGOFF FESTIVAL STAGE?

It is a stage in the Wharton Center for the Performing arts on the MSU campus. The stage was named, in 1981, for Margaret Ewert McGoff, wife of John P. McGoff, in response to their substantial contribution to the Wharton Center.

WHAT IS APARTHEID?

1. It is a policy of rigid racial segregation in all walks of life that derives its legal authority directly from the constitution and government of the Republic of South Africa, the only country in the world to have racism so deeply formalized.

2. Apartheid means that officially black South Africans are not citizens in their native country.

3. Under apartheid it is illegal for black South Africans to:

   - Vote
   - Buy land
   - Make fundamental changes through labor unions
   - Join effective political parties
   - Be unemployed
   - Travel without a passbook


4. Apartheid results in the degradation of human life, poverty, oppression, and humiliation of black people.

5. Currently the situation is not improving as protests, arrests, prison torture, and murders continue.
6. A majority of the members of the United Nations have recommended a boycott of South Africa including no official relations.

7. Apartheid results in cheap black labor and profits for American entrepreneurs and unemployment for American workers.

WHAT IS THE MCGOFF FAMILY CONNECTION WITH APARTHEID?

1. Both Margaret McGoff and her husband, John P. McGoff, have been “official guests” of the government of South Africa. This means the government of South Africa paid their expenses as “opinion formers” who would promote a good image of the apartheid South Africa government.

   (L.A. Times, 2/19/79 & Hansard, the official South African Parliamentary record, 12/6/78)

2. John McGoff has been identified in the official South African Government’s Commission of Inquiry (Erasmus Report) as accepting $11,350,000 to act “as front man in a secret campaign to buy American newspapers” to influence American opinion.


3. The secret campaign of the South African Government “was simply to take over influential newspapers,” and to win over influential politicians and leaders in the U.S. “by trading on human greed, weakness, and prejudice.”

   (American Universities Field Staff Reports, No. 43, 1979)
4. Mr. McGoff is presently under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department for allegedly acting as an unregistered foreign agent for South Africa.
   (Lansing State Journal, 8/25/83)

5. John McGoff is termed the "number one friend in the United States" of the South African government. McGoff agrees.
   (L.A. Times, 2/19/77)

   (Detroit News, 12/22/79)

7. "McGoff has made himself notorious in his extreme right wing militarist and white supremacist politics particularly his support of the apartheid regime in South Africa, where he has said he would like to retire."
   (Mid-Peninsula Press, Escanaba, Michigan, 7/15/77)

8. John McGoff publicly declares "he would do everything in his power to bring United States and South Africa closer together."
   (American Universities Field Staff Reports, No. 43, 1979)

9. The family has both financial and business investments in South Africa.
   (Lansing State Journal, 7/1/79)
   "We are there to make a profit, not to serve as ambassadors of good will."
   (John McGoff, MSU State News, 7/1/79)

10. "We hope for profits, we're trying to bring the black man into a society we hope he can understand."
    (John McGoff, L.A. Times, 2/19/77)
WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CONCERNING APARTHEID?

1. Michigan State University has publicly placed itself on record as being opposed to apartheid in many ways, including its 1978 divestment from corporations operating in South Africa.

2. "MSU must provide an academic environment that emphasises for all students the need for awareness of minority perspectives, problems and aspirations and will encourage constructive responses to cultural differences and better serve minority interests."
   
   Cecil B. Mackey, President, MSU
   (MSU State News, 9/24/82)

3. MSU "has an obligation to eliminate all forms of expressions of latent and overt racism."
   
   Cecil B. Mackey, President, MSU
   (Lansing State Journal, 6/8/82)

4. "Racism in any form is absolutely inconsistent with the principles and commitments of MSU."
   
   Cecil B. Mackey, President, MSU
   (Lansing State Journal, 6/8/82)

5. "It is the intent in the naming of buildings and facilities to consider names of individuals whose lives and work have exemplified values for which MSU stands."
   
   (MSU Trustees 1983 policy for naming buildings and facilities)

If Michigan State University has taken such a clear public position on apartheid and racism, why does the name McGoff remain on the Festival Stage?
WHAT CAN WE DO TO EXPRESS OUR OUTRAGE AGAINST APARTHEID?

Local Activities

1. Write to the MSU Board of Trustees, Hannah Administration Building, MSU, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.
   Request as a Michigan voter or as an opponent of apartheid, that the McGoff name be removed from the Festival Stage.

2. Notify potential performers of the connection of the stage with apartheid.

3. Individually boycott performances on the Festival Stage until the McGoff name is removed.

4. Have your group or organization send a boycott petition to the Trustees. Petitions are available at the Peace Education Center, 1118 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, Tel. 351-4648.

5. Have your group pass a resolution asking the Trustees to remove the McGoff name.

6. Participate in the SALC protest leafletting of performances on the Festival Stage.

Local Organizations Working Against Apartheid

A. The Southern Africa Liberation Committee (SALC) a member of the Peace Education Center.
   Current activities:
   1. Sponsoring films on Southern Africa.
   2. Supporting Michigan House Bill 4516, which would prohibit public pension funds from being invested in corporations operating in South Africa.

4. SALC meets every Monday, 5:00 PM, 204 International Center. For further information call the Peace Education Center, 351-4648, or 332-2493.

B. The associated Students of MSU, the African Students Union, and the Black Faculty and Administrators have passed resolutions requesting that the Trustees remove the McGoff name.

C. More than 60 campus and community groups and organizations have signed boycott petitions.

The United Nations proclaimed 1982 as:

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOBILIZATIONS FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

The commitment continues in 1984.

The United Nations urges organizations, governmental and non-governmental, at all levels of society throughout the world to actively support these sanctions.