

# FACS

A REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND RESOURCES  
FOR THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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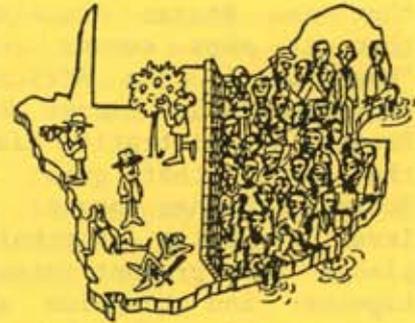
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119 College Pl, Syracuse, NY

## SOUTH AFRICA TEACH-IN SU COMMUNITY STUDIES APARTHEID

Eight Syracuse University groups sponsored a major teach-in on apartheid in November as part of an ongoing effort to study South Africa's system of racial segregation. The event, led by the Afro-American Studies Department, was a community effort to go beyond the "code words" on apartheid that most students pick up from the television news, according to Department Director K.C. Morrison.



"Teach-In: South Africa" took place on Saturday, November 2 at Maxwell Hall and featured noted Africa scholars Ann Seidman of Oxfam America and James Turner from Cornell University along with SU faculty and students who have studied South Africa. The teach-in was sponsored by the Afro-American Studies Department, the Foreign and Comparative Studies Program, People for Peace and Justice, Student Afro-American Society, the Coalition to End Racism and Apartheid, the Office of the Dean of Hendricks Chapel, the Office of Development, and the Chancellor's Task Force on South Africa.

Seidman, a Professor of Economics at Clark University and Senior Research Associate for Oxfam, focused her talk on the impact of US investment in South Africa. She told the audience of sixty people that US transnational corporations have played a major role in helping the white minority to stay in power. Over the years, 75% of US transnational investment in the continent of Africa has been concentrated in South Africa. "The US is a leading trading partner with South Africa," said Seidman, "(and these investments) have strengthened those sectors of the economy needed by the white minority to maintain their rule."

The positive impact of US corporations on the black majority has been extremely limited, according to Seidman. Those companies that sign the Sullivan Principles agree to provide equal pay for equal work but compliance is totally voluntary. Seidman said she had examined the reports filed by the Sullivan signatories and found that advancement by blacks was minimal. For example, only 3% of black workers supervise other blacks. "It's meaningless," she said. "It's a joke."

Seidman explained that US companies in South Africa are highly capital intensive and employ less than 2% of all blacks in the country. "US firms provide sophisticated machinery," she said. "Its very purpose

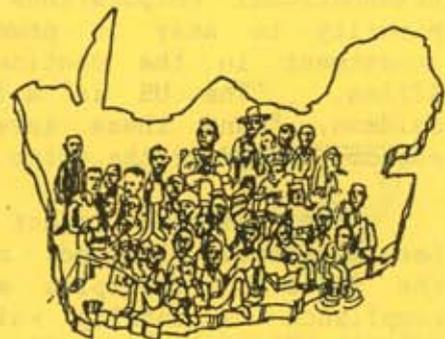
is to reduce the dependency of the white minority on the black majority." This has the effect of increasing black unemployment by eliminating their jobs. "And when you're unemployed in South Africa, there is no Social Security. You're moved back to the Bantustans." The Bantustans are national homelands set up for blacks by the South African government.

Seidman finished her talk by urging Americans to pressure US corporations to pull out of South Africa and to call for increased investment in South Africa's poorer neighbors such as Lesotho and Botswana. "The people there are living always on the margin of hunger," said Seidman. "They buy 1/6 the goods per person as in Europe. If US policy changed and we supported real development (in these countries), there would be a far greater market for US goods in a world at peace."

James Turner, Chair of Cornell's African Studies Department, argued that the Reagan Administration is so pre-occupied with the Soviet Union that it sees events in Africa only in terms of the East-West conflict. "What it is the Africans really want gets lost," he said, "which consequentially biases the policy of the US towards South Africa." The Reagan Administration has supported a policy of constructive engagement in the belief that quiet diplomacy will help liberalize South Africa. However, Turner argues, any changes we have seen have only been at the level of petit apartheid -- the laws which allow segregation in public places and prevent inter-racial marriage. "Now the kids can go into town together and boogaloo and see Boy George together," said Turner. But these small gains have not affected the overall plan of grand apartheid aimed at the "systematic denationalization of the South African population" which makes 21 million blacks "foreigners who can't vote in their country."

"This system not only shortchanges the Africans but it sets up a pattern that breaks up family relationships," explained Turner. Those who can't find work in the modern sector -- women, children, and old people -- are most likely to be abandoned to the Bantustans. Men working in industry cannot bring their families to live with them and can only make infrequent visits home to the Bantustans.

SU faculty and students also led a series of workshops on South Africa. In the workshop on Research Work under Apartheid, SU researchers reported that they had to walk a tightrope when doing fieldwork in South Africa. Eizens Silins, a Political Science graduate student studying the Bantustan system, told authorities he was studying the "development of new state structures." Administrators control what parts of the country researchers can visit and researchers who are believed to be involved in subversive activities risk being deported. "You're always on edge and anxious about the things you say or who you're seen with," he explained.



Associate Professor of Geography John Western emphasized the responsibility of researchers to protect the people they are studying. Western interviewed Colored (mixed race) South Africans who had been forcibly evicted from their Capetown neighborhoods in order to make room for whites.

South African apartheid has been a major issue on college campuses as students have called for universities to divest themselves of stock in US companies doing business in South Africa. The Chancellor's Task Force on South Africa was set up last spring in response to student protests calling for SU to divest. "We are examining the options which individuals and institutions have in confronting apartheid," said Vice President for International Affairs Goodwin Cooke who chairs the Task Force. A recommendation will be made to Chancellor Melvin Eggers in time for the spring semester. Meanwhile, the Task Force has been sponsoring a series of educational forums to expose the SU community to the diversity of views on South Africa. Cooke said that universities have a responsibility to study international issues. "I don't think there's any place in the world where moral outrage is so focused -- and justifiable moral outrage -- as in South Africa," said Cooke.

## Special Grants and Fellowships Issue



Do you need financial assistance for field work in another country? Maybe you're interested in teaching within your field at a foreign university. Perhaps your current passion in life is to help solve the serious global problems facing the world today. These are just some of the projects for which a variety of foundations provide financial support. In this issue, the FACS Newsletter continues its practice of publishing an expanded list of fellowships and grants

related to international studies. In fact, the list below is only a partial list of what is available. To find out more, there are several places at Syracuse University you can check.

The Office of Sponsored Programs offers an on-line search service for which you do not need a computer account. Find a working computer terminal on campus and type in ACSAPL. After you are connected, type in )OSP. The system will give you instructions on what to do next. Most of the fellowships listed below were updated through the search service. You can find out more about deadlines and financial aid offered by typing in the titles under which they are listed. You can also search by typing in a key word. A word of warning, however -- the key word "international" churns out over 400 entries. Try looking under a country or a field of interest first. For more information, contact the Office of Sponsored Programs at 423-2807.

# Calendar

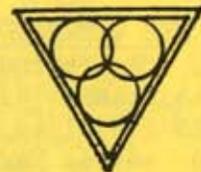
## NOVEMBER

- 15/16 LOVE AND DEATH, NVS Films, 7, 9, 11 PM, Watson Theatre.  
 19/20 GAIJIN, Spanish and Portuguese Film Series, 7 and 9 PM, Kittredge Auditorium, HBC.  
 20 DR. JEAN SINDAB on South Africa, 7 PM, 207 HL\*.  
 22/23 BURN, NVS Films, 7 and 9:30 PM, Watson Theatre.  
 22 SOUTH ASIA TODAY: A TEACHER'S WORKSHOP, Bird Library.\*

## DECEMBER

- 3 WAITING FOR THE INVASION: US CITIZENS IN NICARAGUA and GAZAPA: THE FACE OF WAR IN EL SALVADOR, Spanish and Portuguese Film Series co-sponsored by People for Peace and Justice, 7:30 PM, Gifford Auditorium, HBC.  
 8 TOM JONES, UU Cinema, 7 and 9:30 PM, Watson Theatre.  
 9 BUSINESS TAXATION IN JAMAICA, Metropolitan Studies.\*  
 10/11 THE TIN DRUM, UU Cinema, 7 and 9:30 PM, Watson.

\* See events section on page 11 for more information.



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