

South African journalist— U.S. businesses aid apartheid

By FRANCIS KASOMA
For the Emerald

The University must stop benefitting from South African racism, said Dumisani Kumalo, an exiled South African journalist Wednesday when he spoke on the role of U.S. corporations in South Africa and black resistance.

"I am here because this very university which prides itself on academic freedom, this very university which prides itself on being an integrated institution, benefits from racism. How can one reconcile academic freedom and racism? How can one say this university is an integrated institution when it has to depend on its profits from racism in South Africa?" Kumalo asked.

He said the people making apartheid work are the 350 U.S. corporations operating in that country.

The computers, the handcuffs, the electronic torture machines, the cars and jeeps the South African police and army use to torture blacks all are manufactured by U.S. corporations, said Kumalo. He singled out IBM and General Motors as the greatest culprits.

These corporations have never economically benefitted the black man, Kumalo said,



Dumisani Kumalo

contrary to what some people in this country believe. Together he said they employ less than 0.5 percent of the country's 21 million blacks.

Kumalo scoffed at one American General Motors executive's suggestions on how U.S. corporations can help South African blacks.

"He's really saying 'oppress the black people with dignity. Pay them a little bit more but, for Christ's sake, oppress them.'"

Kumalo said South Africa is a unique country for two reasons — it is the only country with legalized racism, and it is the only country since the days of Hitler with a race specification board. White women are paid a bonus of \$1,000 and over for

bearing more than two children.

He said South Africa had the highest prison population in the world — half a million men and women.

Kumalo said the racist South African government was about to collapse after the Sharpeville riots of 1969 in which 69 people died and 188 were crippled. Most U.S. investors fled, he said, but the two Rockefeller, Nelson and David, organized a consortium of banks and revived the racist government.

When Kumalo worked as a journalist, part of his job was to interview condemned blacks waiting to be hanged at Pretoria Central Prison.

One day, he said, a woman whose young son had just been hanged asked him to get permission from a prison official to remove the body. He was told that, according to the law, he could not release the body to the woman unless she paid a \$100 fee.

Kumalo, who fled South Africa in 1977 because of police harassment, founded the Union of Black Journalists, an organization that was banned by the government in 1977.

Kumalo has written a book soon to be published about his experiences under apartheid.

His lecture was sponsored by the People for Southern African Freedom and the Black Student Union.

Bible, Zen studies fulfill requirements

The University Assembly Wednesday approved a motion designating two courses, one an introductory study of the bible and the other a readings in zen classics, as fulfilling Arts and Letters group requirements.

Prof. Jack Sanders, head of the religious studies department, said in explaining his motion the courses, R 111 and R431, most closely fit Arts and Letters courses as they resemble literary surveys. Most religious studies courses at present fulfill Social Science group requirements.

The assembly also heard and approved a report of the ad-hoc committee in charge of establishing a memorial for the late Charles Johnson, University president from 1968-1969.

Recommendations made by the committee include an annual award given to an academic staff member for distinguished service, to be given at June Commencement exercises, and the placing of a work of art, preferably sculpture, on campus in his memory.

A committee will be formed to implement the recommendations.

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