

Africa Day to present true images

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of the African Students Association will sponsor Africa Day today in hopes of turning the tide of negative images haunting many portrayals of Africa.

"When people talk about Africa, all that they see is forests," said Saheed Adejumo, public relations representative for the African Students Association. "You don't see anyone here reporting from the cornfields of Nebraska."

Africa Day will begin with a slide show of Tanzania at 11:30 a.m. in the EMU Fir Room. All events will be in the Fir Room.

At noon, Jean-Claude Solon, a member of the exiled Aristide government of Haiti and an exile himself, will discuss the current situation in Haiti.

Two South African students currently studying at the University, Pam Masango and S'phindile Khumalo, will discuss their home country's elections at 1 p.m.

At 2 p.m., Tom Lwebuga will lead a discussion on the situation in Rwanda, which will be followed by a presentation on Liberia by Sam Gollah and Kenne M. Fahnbulleh.

Table displays will also depict various parts of Africa.

Adejumo said Africa Day, part of a week of special days celebrating regions of the world, is

intended to enlighten University students about the realities of present-day Africa.

"They (Americans) think we run around naked and don't dress the same," Masango said.

She and Adejumo pointed to an AT&T ad aired a few years ago where Africa was depicted by a monkey.

"Some people just don't get more than what the media present," Adejumo said.

Rwanda was one of Adejumo's examples of how the media portray a situation incorrectly.

The fighting in Rwanda in which thousands have been killed isn't just ethnic but also economic, Adejumo said. Tension is high as more people compete for dwindling resources, he said.

Adejumo blames colonization for harming the African economy and the media for maintaining the international banking community's mistrust of African investments.

The media report only Africa's famines and hardships, he said, not the continent's successes and triumphs.

Adejumo said the number of African students at the University has fallen over the years. The decrease has been caused by both political and economic problems, he said.

Adejumo has researched the issue in the past. In the 1950s and 1960s, Oregon recruited African students as part of its role in U.S.

Cold War politics. He said ties with Africans were built as a way of fighting Communism.

In the 1970s, Africa's oil boom prompted many Africans to attend American universities, but with the economic decline of the 1980s only the rich are able to send their children these days.

The University administration has also helped in the decline by not building ties with African alumni, Adejumo said.

"Africa is just not a high priority here," Adejumo said.

He points to the Office of International Education and Exchange as to what he said the University is doing right in keeping African students at the school.

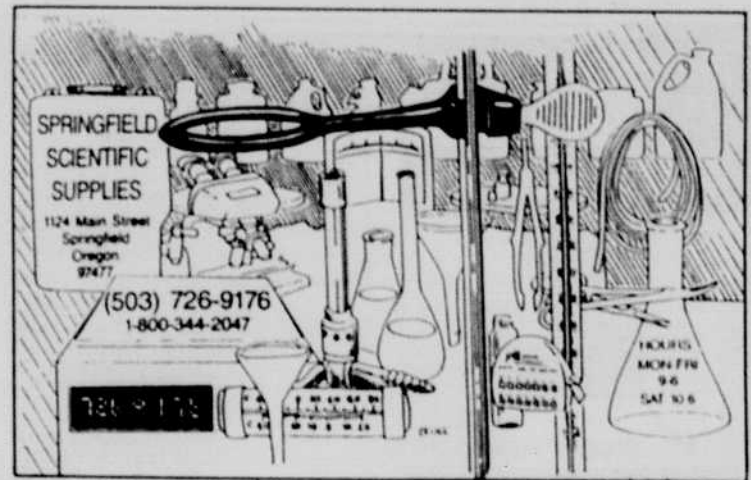
The International Community Services Program has helped retain many African students at the University.

Adejumo and Masango said it's not just the University administration that the 40 African students here have problems with but also University students.

"I feel like Eugene is this white sheet, and I'm the black spot," Masango said.

Many Africans who come to the United States go through a long period of culture shock because they are not used to being a minority, Adejumo said.

"There is definitely a period of adjustment," Adejumo said, "as many have had to deal with ignorant attitudes for the first time."



Sex MATTERS

A FREE, FUN lecture full of insights and outbursts about dating, love, and sex in the 90's. Topics will include:

- the difference between love and lust
- whether alcohol is a sexual stimulant
- some interesting pick-up lines
- simple romance rules
- the truth about whether men explode if they don't have sex
- homophobia
- breaking up
- self-esteem
- how to make condoms feel oh-so-much better



Presented by Jay Friedman, professional sexuality educator
Contact the Health Education Office at 346-4456 for more information



Thursday, May 5, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Ben Linder Room, EMU
FREE REFRESHMENTS!!!

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

The group also included Glen Lekalakala and Wilson Nthabu.

Mandela, a political prisoner for 27 years, was released from prison in February 1990 and has since helped lead the African National Congress through political turmoil generated by both the white-led government and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Friction between the IFP and the ANC, Masango said, was very

hard to ignore, she said. Masango has always been at the heart of that friction because she is from Soweto, the heart of much politically-based violence.

Thousands of deaths in South Africa during the past few years have been attributed to disputes about political ideology, according to news reports.

Being in the United States during such a historic time was difficult for most of the South African students at the University,

Masango said. The four have created a mini-communication network and they call each other after hearing more news from home.

But just because the four are several thousand miles from home doesn't mean they won't celebrate if Mandela wins.

"We're definitely going to get together," she said, adding that the celebration will recruit more than just South Africans. "We're going to celebrate for anyone who's been suppressed."

THIS WEEK



MAY 1 - 7

main desk
EMU 346-4362

Weekly Special: 15% Off
Ice Cream Products & Fruit Bars
Travelling this summer?
Get your International I.D.
& A.Y.H. Cards
NOW for discounts, etc.

Come by Thursday, May 5
for a free sample
(11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) of
DESK TOP POP

TICKETS ON SALE AT
EMU MAIN DESK:
KEVIN KINNEY 5/6
INTERNATIONAL NIGHT 5/8
PETTING ZOO 5/13
LEON RUSSELL 6/12
THE BLASTERS 5/21
PETER HIMMELMAN 5/24
KOREANA NIGHT 5/26
VERY LITTLE THEATRE: MASS APPEAL
5/6, 5/7, 5/13, 5/14 \$5.50
BARRING FOR LEVY 5/12

the wonderful
world of

CoLLoGe

collage workshop
sat, May 21
11:30am-6:00pm

EMU CRAFT CENTER
UO - EMU LOWER LEVEL - 346-4361