

Campus News

Maki Mandela Gives Vivid Account on Apartheid



Soweto USA returns (photo by Reubena Whitted)

In her vivid account of the oppressive conditions inflicted upon the 24 million black South Africans, Maki Mandela, daughter of imprisoned South African activist Nelson Mandela, gave a more harsh and realistic depiction of apartheid.

As the 32 year old Fulbright Scholar at the University of Massachusetts walked onto the Memorial Hall stage November 10 to deliver her speech, she was greeted with a standing ovation from an approximately 1,500 member audience.

In her speech, sponsored by the Carolina Union Forum Committee and the campus Y's Human Rights Week, Mandela began to talk about the restricted social conditions between black and white South Africans.

"It is a crime in South Africa to visit white areas, to have white friends. You can be thrown into prison, fined and detained," she revealed.

However, it was at the age of 9 when Mandela first experienced racism. Her love for children prompted her to kiss a white baby, for which she was slapped and firmly pushed to the ground.

"How does a mother explain to a 9 year old about apartheid?" inquired Mandela.

According to Mandela, all the black South African parents want is to bring their children up to show "love, compassion, and respect" for all human beings. But the separation of blacks and whites begins "from the cradle to the grave."

Mandela further discussed the poor hiring conditions for the black South

Africans. She particularly focused on her hometown, Soweto where the blacks live in matchbox houses. Also, they must have a housing document with the names of all the occupants in each house. If a black South African were staying with a relative and the white South African police invaded the house, the visiting South African could be thrown in jail because his or her name was not on the housing document.

"They (blacks) live in constant fear of being raided by the police," said Mandela. "They live in fear of what might happen to their children, relatives, and friends."

Since the South African government doesn't fund housing for blacks, the profits from beer halls provide the money according to the National Beer Act of 1908.

Education for black South Africans represents the most oppressive conditions of apartheid. Mandela said it has been one of their (the South African government's) major tools.

"They educate blacks just enough to fulfill the demands for the South African economy," said Mandela.

Mandela described the educational atmosphere for black students as the "most inferior." Black students are taught in fragile buildings under asbestos without laboratories or any other science equipment. Additionally, there are overcrowded classrooms with very few teachers. All the text books contain an emphasis on white superiority. Blacks have to pay for these books along with the uniforms and other fees whereas the education for

whites is free.

"Very few families are able to cope with financial fees because of low wage fees," revealed Mandela. This is why only one percent of blacks graduate from the twelfth grade.

In summing up the deprived educational system Mandela revealed that "the education of black Africans was never intended to produce responsible individuals who could find work in any country. It is only to produce good servants for the white men."

Mandela has always kept an optimistic view about her father, Nelson Mandela, who has been in prison for 24 years.

"I know he will be released," she stated earlier in a press conference. She also described her father as being "much more stronger, much more determined."

Even though her father was deprived from his fight for racial integration in the parliament and education and a people's free society, he has never showed any remorse.

"My father does not and has not for one minute ever regretted giving up his life, his child, his wife for the African

people. He knows it has not been in vain," explained Mandela.

Mandela commended some of the anti-apartheid efforts made by Americans.

"I think the (college) students have helped a lot in shaping the opinion of apartheid," said Mandela. As for black Americans she added, "I think black Americans are trying in an effort to speak and act out against apartheid but they have their home problems."

She feels that divestment is "just playing acting on their (businesses') part" and will not help the blacks. "What do blacks have to lose?" Mandela asked.

"They (blacks) are not fighting white people. They are fighting the racist apartheid system," she adamantly explained.

In relation to the Civil War and the 1960's era, oppressive conditions bring about an undesired reaction.

"Those people who make peaceful change impossible make violent change unavoidable," Mandela said.

She believes that the present reaction in South Africa will eventually make that peaceful change but it will be "a long war before blacks achieve their goal."

Yvette Cook, Staff Writer

Date Rape Is A Serious Crime

If your friend claims that she has been raped, the first thing you should do is believe her, said an Orange County Rape Crisis Center lecturer Wednesday night, Nov. 12, at the Upendo Lounge.

About 55 people attended "Can't Slow Down," a program co-sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and University Housing to inform people about the definition, penalties, reactions and prevention of date rape.

Bob Loddengaard, of the rape crisis center, lectured the group, which discussed good dating experiences and communication between dating partners.

"Should a person be direct about sex?" Loddengaard asked. According to Loddengaard, people would like to be more direct about sex, yet many are reluctant to and find it difficult to talk about.

Loddengaard presented the audience with a situation in which a girl says 'no' to a guy but doesn't resist when the guy forces himself on her.

"Is it rape?" he asked.

Many people in the audience responded by saying that it was not rape.

A lot of times girls say 'no' and don't mean 'no'," said a member from the audience.

Yet a lot of females disagreed.

"When a girl says 'no,' she means 'no,'" said Alicia Jackson.

Stuart Scott, of Alpha Phi Alpha, said, "Females don't have to put up a struggle to resist."

Loddengaard agreed. "If she says 'no,' that's rape," he said.

Loddengaard also stressed the importance of not blaming the victim. He said that rape was not necessarily a sex act, but was an act of power and control.

"Sex is an agreed upon act between two people," he said.

Loddengaard also mentioned that

alcohol plays a major role in date rape. Alcohol is usually involved in the situation 90 percent of the time, he said.

Loddengaard also informed the audience of the penalties for rape.

According to Loddengaard, first degree rape is punishable by life in prison; second degree, up to 40 years; and an attempt to rape, by up to 10 to 20 years in prison.

About 70 percent of all rapes are premeditated, said Loddengaard. Only 20 to 50 percent of all rapes are reported, he said. And only about two percent of those are false.

He also stated that one of every 12 women will be raped in their lifetime.

One problem that rapists and rape victims have, is admitting to themselves that they have raped someone or they have been raped, Loddengaard said.

According to a study conducted at Auburn University, 50 percent of the males surveyed had raped someone. Yet zero percent admitted on the survey that they had raped anyone.

Of the females surveyed, 85 percent said that they had experienced some form of sexual aggression against them and 20 percent had been forced into intercourse. Yet zero percent of these women said they had been raped.

Some of the reactions stemming from a female being raped include feelings of guilt, fear, aloneness, dirty, betrayal, untrustworthiness and loss of self-esteem.

Rape victims should go in search of safety, medical care, police, a helpline, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, and your personal support, he told the audience.

Loddengaard works as a lecturer and companion for rape victims at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center at 967-7273.

Sheila Simmons, Co-Editor