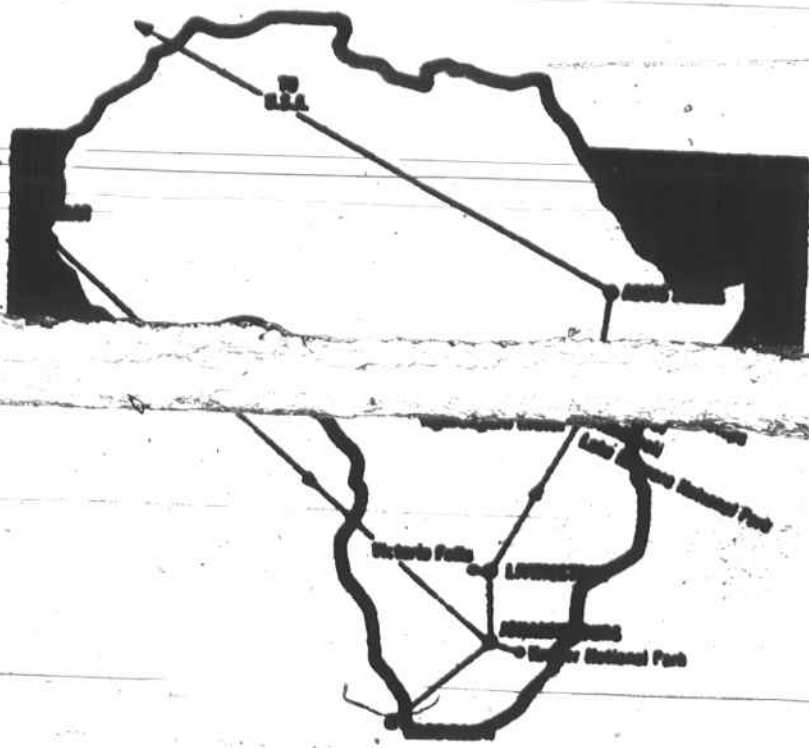


African Spotlight



School Of Engineering At A&T Receives Grant

The School of Engineering at A&T State University has been named the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the General Electric Foundation.

ciative of these funds which will be used to develop recruiting materials in support of our ongoing recruitment

"We have found that one of the principal deficiencies encountered in recruiting sometimes, is the absence of

according to Suresh Chamdra, acting dean of the Engineering School.

members will make personal visits to high schools, community colleges and technical institutes around the state.

believe that an effective recruitment program can be very effective in building the enrollment in engineering programs at A&T."

"We are extremely appre-

On African Studies

"It seems to me," said a speaker in a recent lecture, "that the objective of African Studies may be said to be an attempt to inculcate in the student, through his classroom instruction, reading experiences, research projects, and other activities, a clearer, fuller understanding and awareness of the part Africans have played in the world history; a relevant empathy with the struggles and hardships of the black race; and a greater pride in the achievements and contributions made by Africans in the fields of science, industry, education, literature, art, music, etc., and in helping to forge a consciousness of African or black internationalism."

Another scholar, writing in a recent Africanists journal said, "Jungle imagery and prejudged stereotypes abound in American knowledge of Africa.

"In a 1967 survey of American schoolchildren, E. Perry Hicks and Barry K. Beyer found that the majority still saw Africa 'through a web of myth and unfavorable stereotypes which appeared to increase as students progressed from grade seven through grade twelve.

"The 1970's," said Philip D. Curtin, "have a right to ask for something more, with nearly 2,000 university Africanists."

Said Francis Botchway, "there is still a lot to be done in assessing the contribution of Africans to civilization and the progress of mankind.

"An analysis of ancient classical evidence, and a systematic and scientific study of Greco-Roman records - literary, epigraphical.....and archeological - from early time to the age of Justinian will show that the Africans who went to ancient Greece and Italy participated in an important chapter in the evolution of classical history.

"Such an undertaking in African Studies would dispel the unwarranted generalization that blacks have no history.

"To those who say that there is no documentary source of African History, for the period which predates European History, modern research in Africana has refuted that argument.

"Africans were not without a tradition of historiography, and, that this is so, is now the undisputed verdict of true African scholars.

"African historians, by the end of the 15th century, had a tradition of recorded history, and certainly so by the time when al-kadi wrote Tarikh al-Fateh.

"There is also a need for an approach to the problem of African Studies from the perspective of political philosophy.

"The central myth in the mythology surrounding Africa, is that of the denial that Africans are a historical people.

"In order to provide a proper perspective in African Studies, we must stress politics and sociology, for it is these two more than any other discipline that provide the framework for understanding social policy."

And above all, those interested in African values and norms, must travel so as to dispel in themselves the negative aspects of one sided orientation.

Every library that I know of in the State of North Carolina has a number of books on Africa and some of those books make interesting reading. But remember that Africa is not a country but a continent made up of many countries. So be careful of making a generalization on Africa based mainly on what you probably read in just one book.



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