

Strife In South Africa

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 by the national government and some Americans, violence has only recently become an option. "It's remarkable how patient and peaceful the ANC has been," he said. "It's only been after the ANC recognized the government wasn't going to change was when they realized other means were necessary."
 The ANC, contrary to what the white government says, "isn't interested in killing whites," said Ferguson. The organization's purpose, he said, is to bring about a political system that treats every citizen equally. "They want the rightful participation of blacks."
 Apartheid closely resembles American segregation before the civil rights advances of the 1960s, Ferguson said. "In many ways, it is" like the days of Jim Crow legislation, "and in some ways, it's worse," he said.
 "I supposed I'd never see those things again."
 Facilities ranging from public beaches to restaurants are segregated according to race. Blacks are free to travel as they like, but stopping along the way presents limited choices.

"You're unrestricted to travel up and down the road, but you're restricted in where you can go," Ferguson said.
 The judicial system is no different from the government, with judges sworn to uphold the principles of apartheid, Ferguson said, and that spells little relief for blacks seeking justice. White judges routinely insult black lawyers, and all blacks are searched upon entering court.
 "Any lawyer who goes into court trying to fight against apartheid is doomed from the start," he said. "In many ways, it's a hopeless struggle in the legal system."
 Black South Africans feel that economic sanctions, particularly from the United States, could further pressure the government into disbanding, Ferguson said. The support of African-Americans is equally important.
 "The average politically-aware South African wants to know there is support here for the political emancipation of South Africa," he said. "Unless the South African government is isolated in the world, it's not going to change."



Warfare is the leading cause of hunger in southern Africa.

SCLC, Local Business Fights AIDS With A Nail-A-Thon

By LORA VANDERHALL
 Post Staff Writer

The SCLC/Women National AIDS Program and Nails By Joyce will come together to sponsor a Nail-A-Thon and AIDS awareness program on Saturday, April 1 from 8 a.m. until 12 midnight.
 The location for this joint venture will be at Nails By Joyce, 4801 North Tryon Street.
 Last year, the SCLC/Women received a grant from the Center for Disease Control, in Atlanta, to dispense AIDS education and prevention methods in minority communities.

Four other programs of this kind exist in Atlanta, Detroit, Kansas City and Tuscaloosa.
 Rev. Norman Kerry, Jr., site coordinator for the Charlotte location said, "There is a desperate need for a grassroots type strategy in getting the message concerning AIDS into the black community."
 "Black women make up over 50 percent of all women affected with AIDS...that's devastating when you think of the fact that many of these women have given birth to children who now have AIDS."

Kerry as well as many community leaders and health officials will be available to dispense information and give support.
 "We will have representatives from the local health and drug centers. Community leaders such as Sarah Stevenson, Rev. George Battle, Ella Scarborough, Rudolph Seth, Judge Michael Todd, who is the president of SCLC and many others will be available to give their support," said Kerry.



Photo by Peeler

(L-R) Joyce McMillan, owner of Nail By Joyce, Rev. Coleman Kerry, Rev. Rudolph Seth and Katrina Hines have planned a grassroots approach to the problem of AIDS in the black community.

Joyce McMillan, owner of Nails By Joyce, hopes the Nail-A-Thon will serve a dual purpose.
 "The Nail-A-Thon is a way for me to participate in trying to reach a targeted group of women age 20-49."
 "This will also be a way to say thanks to the community for the support they gave me while I had my booth at Classy Hair Care

and for their support of my new location," said McMillan.
 All services will be discounted 30 percent on Saturday. In an effort to accommodate the crowd, three additional persons will be added to the staff of five.
 For additional information call Rev. Kerry at 332-4184 or Joyce McMillan at 596-5031.

Boosting Black Hope Requires Basics

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 con to black achievement, has dimmed among African-Americans. Without education, job prospects dry up, leading to disaffection, dependence and, in some cases, a life of crime. In Mecklenburg, there is an new emphasis on education, Falls said, especially for blacks.
 "We have to remain very diligent about the type of education our kids are getting," she said. "People are becoming more concerned about education. The schools are certainly thinking about it through their efforts."
 Through its Education Initiative Project, the Urban League aims to enlist the black community in helping students learn. The family plays an important part in the educational process, Falls said.
 "We have to create a culture of achievement for our kids," she said. "At one time, education was seen as a way out in terms of upward mobility."
 Teens N Touch, another Urban League program, is geared toward keeping students in school and out of maternity wards. With statistics showing one of every two black babies born out of wedlock, Teens N Touch encourages inner-city youngsters to have a positive image of themselves and to finish school.
 The program has about 70 participants from two housing projects, Earle Village and Boulevard Homes.
Role Models
 The African-American family, pressured by economic considerations, is becoming more prone to splitting, often leaving one parent to head the household.
 The scarcity of male role models is especially prevalent in the black community, said Robin

Myer, a counselor with Big Brothers-Big Sisters in Charlotte. The organization, which matches young people with adult companions, has 44 pairs of black males.
 However, there is a waiting list of 51 black boys compared to four males in screening to be Big Brothers.
 "That's pretty much the way it always is. It's out of balance both ways," Myer said.
 Big Brothers-Big Sisters' purpose is to engage young people and adults in "sharing-type activities," Myer said. Adult volunteers must be at least 21, have a job at least six months and transportation. Adults and children are screened to provide the best matches, which last one year.
 As Charlotte grows, so does its black population and the number of black children growing up in single-parent homes. Myer said that after looking at census profiles of the city's demographics, the demand for male role models continues to outstrip the supply.
 "The demand for black men is higher," he said, "but it is like that for whites as well. Black men are coming in proportionately (to the city's population increase), but there aren't enough of them."
 In "Moral Leadership and Transition in the Black Community," University of Pennsylvania sociology professor Elijah Anderson writes of the importance of black males in socializing youth.
 The "old heads," as Anderson calls black men, was "a man of stable means who believed in hard work, family life and the church. His acknowledged role was to teach, support and encourage---in effect, to socialize

young men to meet their responsibilities regarding work, family life, the law, and common decency."
 That type of consistency is less prevalent in African-American communities, and organizations like Big Brothers-Big Sisters are trying to fill the void.
 Ironically, Big Brothers will seek out fathers who have left home to encourage them to spend more time with their children. Myer said the reasoning behind it is that children prefer contact with their fathers than starting a new relationship.
 "One or two visits a month from a father is usually better than a visit a week from a Big Brother," he said.

The Charlotte Post
 Newspaper, Inc.
 Published Every Thursday
Yearly Rate: \$21.00
 USPS No. 965500
 For information call:
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