U.S. Education Amazes S. Africans

the schools and the desks. The classes are tremendously overcrowded, the ratio is 100 students to one teacher," he said, " The government doesn't even encourage education for blacks. There are road blocks every 100 meters where the police check passes and confiscate books."

Another educator, who asked not to be identified for fear of punishment, said it would be wonderful if South African schools had programs like Teen-Age Parents Services and a school for excluded students." It would make the young mother or delinquent still feel like a part of the community instead of resorting to the streets," she said.

The consensus of the group was that blacks in America have much greater opportunities than the blacks in South Africa.

"It's great that the state pays for each child's education equally. I would encourage all black people to go to school. If I lived in America I would go for it," she

While tour guide Kim Jones, a student at Smith, told the history of the school, many of the educators marveled at magnolia trees and searched for spots of shade. Others hummed native African songs and snapped photographs.

Continued From Page 1A

Stallings was suspended by the archdiocese of Washington

for having mass at his Imani (Swahili for faith) Temple on

July 2. The services at the Ima-

ni Temple, which is temporarily

located at Howard University's

Law School Chapel, attracted

Having tried to work within

the framework of the church,

Stallings said what he is doing

is the best way to bring about

Some observers say Stallings

will be excommunicated from

the church if he continues but

he does not believe that will

happen. 'That's (excommunica-

tion) is the last thing they want to do. It would split the black Catholic church," he comment-

Stallings has continued say-

"The Catholic church is not

ing mass and performing sacra-

ments despite his suspension.

meeting the cultural and spirit-

ual needs of its black parishion-

ers," he said. " Ours (Imani Tem-

theology...we're talking about

creating so that we can make

inroads. The church has not allowed us to take control of our

Stallings contends that white

When a priest is sent into a

priests are not educated about

local parishes," he said.

the black community

is a liberation

over 3,000 people.

change.

Rev. Stallings: 'We Should

Not Deny Our Culture'



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Kim Jones (center) leads a tour of South African educators at Johnson C. Smith

June Fredricks acknowledged that there are distinct differences between the two black cultures but she says that there some similarities. "In order to be

taught about that community

This is not being done for the

"We have specific cultural needs and they need to be sen-

"Most of our leaders used to come from the church," Stallings

"Church made us feel like we

were somebody. Church is

where we develop our agenda for

Stallings made the observa-

tion that when blacks are in

church they participate and

when they go to sporting events,

they're active; but whites are

generally quiet in church but are vocal at sporting events.
"We should not deny our cul-

In his services at the Imani

Temple he combines African re-

ligious rites and gospel with tra-

During Stallings's 12-year as-

signment in Washington, he

built up a black parish from 200

While Stallings has a large

congregation, he says African-Americans need to redirect

themselves to finding self-

"We are no longer vigilant and

inquisitive. We're not watching

and asking questions," he said.

ture or inclinations," he added.

ditional Catholic liturgy

to 2,000 families.

determination.

life. Life for us...is holistic.'

and culture before he enters.

black community.

sitive to that," he said.

a teacher you have to have a degree just like in America. You are about 21 when you get out of college," Fredricks said.

There are also similarities in

entertainment taste. When Jones asked if the group was familiar with The Cosby Show, the group approvingly replied in unison,"Ummhumm."



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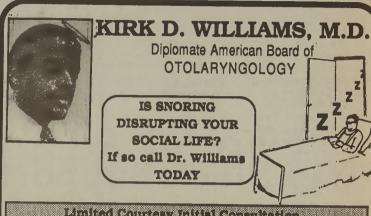
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