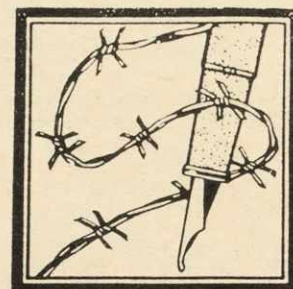


# Apartheid in S. Africa...

## Education — a catalyst

“ We the people of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know: that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people: that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a government founded on injustice

and inequality: that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in a brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities; that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without the distinction of colour, race, sex or belief.”



Almost thirty-five years after this proclamation was made in Kliptown, South Africa in 1955, the vast majority of power in South Africa still lies in the hands of the ruling class of people, the whites.

This past weekend, academics, members of the African National Congress, clergy and students gathered at St. Mary's University



# ...Apartheid at home?

for a conference on Post-Apartheid South Africa Education. The aim of this conference was to discuss the need for education and training to enable an easy transfer of power in Post-Apartheid South Africa. It was strongly felt by all at the conference that education is the catalyst which will bring change to this country. The widespread availability of quality education and training will enable South Africa's blacks to be not only the service sector but the doctors, engineers and teachers of the future.

Friday night's activities included a speech on the contem-

porary South African situation by Dr. Mokubung Nkomo of the University of North Carolina, a question period, and a reception. The conference began with opening comments by Dr. Bridglal Pachai, the PASA Planning Committee Chair, and a welcome by St. Mary's University President Ken Ozmon.

The speech by Dr. Nkomo, a South African who is currently an assistant professor in the College of Education and Allied Professions, outlined the South African crisis past and present, drawing on supporting evidence from such well-known people as Donald Woods and Nelson

Mandela.

In conclusion, he stressed that the country is in a dangerous position. South Africa is in a great recession. Poverty levels are at an all-time high. Much of the country's skilled labour force is emigrating to countries with less repressive governments. The military is cracking down and the resistance groups are deeply agitated. He stressed that externally, we in the west must do all we can to bring about an end to apartheid.

Dr. Nkomo called upon the United States to strengthen its Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, and Canada to take a harder line in its approach to South Africa, thereby increasing pressure on the government to change. Finally, he said the greater international community must join together in imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa to expediate the dismantling of South Africa's apartheid policies.

Saturday's activities included a series of panel discussion groups,

dances by African students, and workshops aimed at developing Canadian responses to the education crisis in south Africa. Participants in these activities included members of the ANC Mission to Canada, members of the South African Democratic Students Association, a representative of the National Education Crisis Committee, and the presidents of most of the Maritime universities.

A great deal of credit must go to Dr. Pachai and the many people who volunteered their time and expertise to make the PASA Education Conference such a success. The turnout in all areas of the conference surprised even the organizers. If international support for the dismantling of apartheid and for a free South Africa in any way matches the support felt at the PASA conference, then W. de Klerk and company are fighting a losing battle. It is time for change, and change there will be through training and education.

## Youth Writing Competition

Dear Friends:

Last summer, Caribbean Profile, Future Visions, and Riddim Trax, radio programs on CKDU-FM, awarded to ten young black children between the ages of 10 and 15 years scholarships to attend the annual Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Mini-University camps. We were told that the children enjoyed themselves very much, and found the programs both inspiring and informative. This program will be continued in the new year.

This winter, Caribbean Profile, Future Visions, and Riddim Trax once again are attempting to bring out and showcase the skills and determination of our young children. We are sponsoring a writing competition aimed at encouraging the young black writers in our communities. We would like children between 10 and 15 to submit to the competition copies of work they have written. The work could be a poem, an essay, or a project that they have researched and written themselves. Also, the child may decide to write a piece particularly for the competition.

We would like the work to focus on **black history**, an international **black hero**, a **black person** in our own neighbourhood, a **black community**, or anything else that highlights the child's awareness of his or her heritage. A child may submit more than one piece of work to the competition.

Send all submissions to:

Youth Writing Competition  
c/o Caribbean Profile  
CKDU Radio  
Dalhousie Student Union Building  
Halifax, N.S.  
B3H 4J2

We would like to receive all submissions by February 20, 1990. Each submission should possess the name, school, address, and phone number of the child submitting the piece of work.

**Four winners will receive** book prizes of \$75.00 each. These entries will also be read on the radio, and published in the Dalhousie Gazette. If you know of someone who should participate in this competition, please encourage them to do so.

We are committed to the development of the minds of our children. The winning entries will be contacted, and also announced in the papers and on the radio. Please encourage our young children to participate and have fun while learning about themselves.

Sincerely,  
Harvey H. Millar  
Coordinator of the Program

### Future Activities

Between the months of March and April, Caribbean Profile will be awarding scholarships to attend the mini-university camps at Dalhousie University, and Saint Mary's University this coming summer.

In the summer we will be organizing visits to university campuses for our young children, so look out for this.

This weekend, that is January 19 and 20, we are putting on a fund-raising dance at the Flamingo Cafe and Lounge in aid of our projects. Admission is only \$3. Please come out and support us. There will be live and DJ music. The DJ music will be provided by the hosts of the black radio programs on CKDU 97.5 FM station.

Kendall Mulder (DJ Delite) is with Future Visions (A black Nova Scotian show) — Sundays at 7 pm.

George Ogilvie (Dub Posse) is with Riddim Trax (A reggae show) — Tuesdays at 7 pm.

Harvey Millar (Papa Zouk) is with Caribbean Profile (a show about the Caribbean) — Saturdays at 5pm.

## Racism in N.S. persists

by Sandy MacKay

"After a year of questions, we still haven't seen any significant change."

Evangeline Cain-Grant, the president of the Parent-Student Association of Preston (PSAP), made this charge as the opening statement of the Forum on Racism, held in North Preston on January 9th. This event started a week of activities, an Anti-Racist

"So what does that mean about suntans? Do people hate being white?"

Week to commemorate last year's Cole Harbour incident.

Darren Simmonds, a student from Cole Harbour High School, introduced the theme for the week's activities, *Learning from the Past, Developing the Present, Enhancing the Future*.

The Forum had four speakers, from a local perspective to international views. As Madeline Downey introduced the speakers, she also introduced this as the drawing of alliances with national and international groups.

"Cole Harbour was not an isolated incident," Downey said of the incident which saw the arrest of 14 black and five white youths. She said the purpose of the Forum was to look at the racism inherent in the system, and to socialize the young people into the struggle.

The first speaker, Toni Goree, explained how her family had moved to Pictou, and how her children had been treated on the schoolbus and in the school. Her

eight-year-old son was roughed up by a sixteen-year-old, who told the child, "Get out of my way, nigger." When she called the principal, he claimed there had never been any incidents of racism at the school, which serves an area made up of 60 per cent whites and 40 per cent natives. Further severe treatment of her children led her back to the principal. After seeing the aggressors weakly punished and hearing

saying that "black news is problem news. The media turn anyone seeking social change into an activist who is easily discredited. The media have given light to the story based on extremes and extremists." (Last Wednesday's Chronicle-Herald, characterized the tone of the forum only as angry.)

He went on to say the racism is inherent in the system, and said, "anyone who doesn't recognize this (he listed examples, notably the Minister of Education, Ron Giffin) shouldn't be in that job."

Blacks have never had access to the media, and many of the misconceptions about black inferiority are due to media coverage of pseudo-intellectuals like Phippip Rushton. Taylor went on to say that black leaders in Nova Scotia, such as Rev. D.D. Skeir, have been totally ignored by the Nova Scotia media.

Taylor suggested integration was a good thing, if it did not happen as a one-way transfer, "like coffee into milk." He encouraged the benefit to all parties involved if integration was an association of all communities.

Taylor likened the economics of a town like North Preston to some of the fishing villages that recently had their town industry scrapped by multinationals. "They will have to operate with no industry, like we have been operating without any local industry. We want some of the same solutions the fishermen are

more threats, such as cross burnings, Goree started driving her children to school herself.

"There was no policy on racism, and on the promise to look into a policy on racism, nothing has happened," she said.

Goree's primary recommendation to the forum was that parents be vigilant about their school systems, that they not let "little things pass." She further demanded an inquiry into the Nova Scotia education system, which allows only the very rich to go to university. (In the wake of recent proposed tuition fee hikes, this should be somewhat simpatico with all of you out there.) She stressed that the best tool for blacks was education.

Jerry Taylor, a Nova Scotia Reformist, was the next speaker. He was a product of the integration schemes of the seventies, and he had suggestions on integration and education, as well as media, economics, and development.

Taylor discredited the media by

asking for," he said.

He ended on plans for development. "Heal thyself" was his theme. "We should encourage ourselves to develop, as a community of people. We should encourage integration both ways. We should utilize the experiences of other communities. Other blacks and whites have integrated in Canada, and they're doing okay."

Taylor added a humorous note, quoting a media source reporting on an Asian woman's eye shape change. "The media said she did it because she hates herself," he said. "So what does this mean about suntans? Do people hate being white?"

Sherona Hall, a member of the Black Action Defense Committee and the Women's Coalition against Racism and Police Violence took the stage next.

The main tenet of her argument centered on the erosion of social programs in the 1980s. Hall noted that programs for women's groups, black groups and community groups had lost funding under the neo-conservative governments that came to power in the 80s. "People are becoming more tolerant of racism and, in one decade, we've come full circle back to where we started," she said.

Hall went on to list instances of racial injustice in the 80s. They included the treatment of Donald Marshall, the murder of Manitoban Helen Betty Osborne, and the

Montreal murder of Anthony Griffin by police. She went on with a list of crimes perpetrated against minorities by police, crimes that went essentially unpunished by the justice system.

"There is no justice for black people, unless you stand up and demand that justice, demand changes in the educational system. Times are getting very serious," she said.

Hall likened her experiences in Toronto to those of her brothers and sisters in Soweto. They are attempting to broaden their struggle beyond the black community but, Hall said, "as long as the violence that pervades our communities doesn't reach the white neighbourhoods, they don't care."

Black people have never achieved anything without a fight, she said. "We get no justice sitting down. Form broad alliances; don't get isolated. Make sure the youth understand their history. Teach them their history and let them take it from there." The last speaker was Masija Luddi, a spokesperson for the

decease so he could be treated at the hospital.

Luddi warned against leaving racism as an abstract term. He suggested we sharpen our critical eyes, and realize there is white racism and black racism. He said, "what you experience here is white racism. Avoid moving too far to the other extreme, or you end up doing what has been done to you, and that endangers the struggle."

Luddi, like the others before him, stressed the importance of seizing links, of creating alliances. He said an isolated struggle marginalizes that struggle.

He further encouraged solidarity, for Nova Scotian blacks to look to the white community, to link with groups like CUSO and OXFAM that advocate justice and can offer support and resources.

"You have developed that courage to survive. The focus should always be on development. Keep on recruiting. This idea (PSAP) is good, but get even the teachers involved," he said.

Evangeline Cain-Grant said the meeting was very successful,



Martin Luther King  
1929-1965

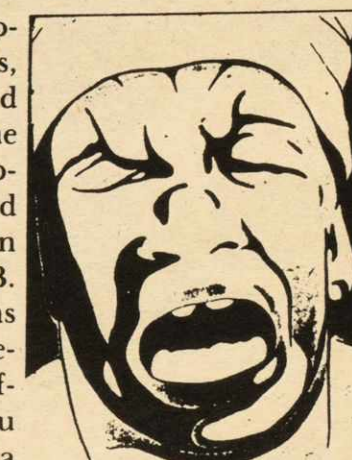
"Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon . . . It is a sword that heals."

## Silenced?

Looking for a way to voice your feelings of persecution? Write for the **Voices of Colour Supplement** and express your experiences of racial discrimination.

Articles should be approximately 500 words, typed, double spaced with name and phone number attached. Submissions can be dropped off at the *gazette* office on the 3rd floor of the SUB. If you have any questions or need to use a typewriter, drop by our offices and ask for Munju or Padraic, or give us a call at 424-2507.

Submissions due March 23, by 3 pm.



## Black people have never achieved anything without a fight!

African National Congress. He opened with an example of the curious ways of African racism. United Nations peacekeeping forces in Namibia included Kenyan soldiers, one of whom was injured. The hospital that he was taken to was segregated; as a black man, he could not legally be admitted. However, because he was with the UN forces, he was made "temporarily white" by

but feels "the education system has lied to us about equal opportunity for everyone."

The meeting was characterized by constructive suggestions by all of the speakers, on development and organization. The "anger" that the commercial media found was certainly not the prevalent attitude, though it was certainly justified.