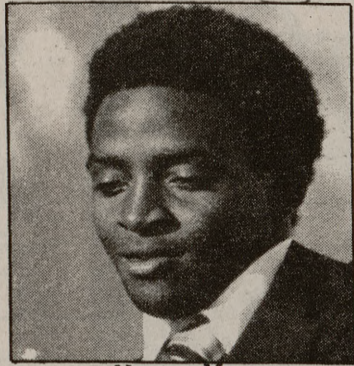


Student fighting apartheid

A&M activist is spotlighted

By MARK RUDOLPH
Reporter



Norman Muraya

The apartheid situation in South Africa is a growing concern for many people around the world. But for one particular Texas A&M student, it is the number one issue facing the world today.

For Norman Muraya, president of Students Against Apartheid at A&M, this issue has become an obsession. Everybody agrees to the injustice, but not everybody wants to take action, says Muraya.

Muraya, 24, of Kenya, Africa, became involved with Students Against Apartheid last May when the organization was formed.

He appears to be a very calm, reserved young man who expresses a great love for his homeland and a strong belief in improving it. But it is his compassion for his fellow man and the people of South Africa about which Muraya is outspoken.

"I one neglects judgement on the injustice in South Africa, one should wrap up the Truman Doctrine and close the department of foreign affairs," Muraya says.

"If we condone apartheid, we will never be able to look another country in the eye and make statements about applying the Declaration of Independence to human rights, the Truman Doctrine to outside oppression, or Christianity and the love of God for all mankind."

He says the people in his organization feel America has made too many mistakes in foreign policy and they don't want to see it happen again.

"I think the U.S. and many other countries claim to be democratic, and also operates the opportunity to show it," Muraya says.

The people of South Africa are asking for help now, or never, says Muraya.

Muraya says. "I just don't see how a person can work there," he says, "seeing how the people are being misused by getting such small returns in comparison to the resources of the country."

"I don't see how they (South African whites) can live with themselves."

Muraya asks American industry to stop being the main supporter of these people, to stop approving of what they are doing by supporting trade in South Africa. He says it is a denial of basic human rights and that people are forgetting that people are number one, not economics.

Muraya says South Africa is one of the most strategic countries in Africa, and he believes it eventually will become independent.

"The question is," he says, "what countries will become the allies of the wealthiest and most powerful nation in Africa."

He says decisions have to be made right now concerning apartheid in South Africa, and American students are crucial in affecting these decisions.

Muraya says the students against apartheid group at the University of

California at Berkeley recently revealed the names of banks doing business with South Africa. As a result, many people withdrew their money from those banks, he says.

Muraya's involvement with Students Against Apartheid stems from his obligations to his fellow man, he says. Muraya says he derives longtime benefits from helping others and wants to make the world a better place in which to live.


A mechanical engineering major, Muraya came to A&M two years ago, after earning a liberal arts degree from Wheaton College in Chicago. He plans to graduate in August and return to Kenya, where he would like to work with geothlley.

He says he appreciates some of A&M's traditions — Silver Taps, howdy's and standing during football games — but also says he thinks the University is somewhat segregated because of its low percentage of minorities. He says segregation stems from the idea that everybody is naturally suspicious. The realization that everybody basically has the same concerns and interests comes from interaction, he says.

"University is the last chance for a major influx of ideas," Muraya says. "It is the time to make choices." He says he thinks A&M is losing out on this aspect.

And Muraya says he notices many people who make living harder by bringing in unnecessary complications.

His goals are simple — to have a wife and family and to better his country. He says he considers equal opportunity and the distribution of resources more important than wealth.



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NAVY OFFICERS GET RESPONSIBILITY FAST.

A&M prof proud of ASEAN work

By JUNE PANG
Staff Writer

John Griffiths, professor of meteorology at Texas A&M, says he is proud to be involved in the first completed science and technology project of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Griffiths was invited by the United Nations in 1979 to be a technical adviser to a project group preparing a climatological atlas and compendium of ASEAN countries. The project was finished in 1983.

Griffiths said when he worked with ASEAN, it consisted of five countries: the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. In 1984 another country, Bruni, joined the organization, he said.

In 1979 the five ASEAN countries decided to gather climatological information about their area and put it to use.

But ASEAN didn't know how to gather the information and put it into useable form, so they asked the United Nations for help, Griffiths said.

Through the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations found Griffiths, who had been working on tropical areaclimatology.

The organization gathered data on weather conditions of ASEAN countries from 1951 to 1975.

Understanding past weather patterns helps in estimating present and future weather conditions, Griffiths said.

Climatological information can be used in planning and developing crop production, engineering projects, water distribution and tourism.

All the countries in Southeast Asia are in a tropical weather zone, he said. But some ASEAN countries are trying to grow temperate-zone plants such as apples and pears in high elevation areas, Griffiths said, and past weather patterns can help them decide when and where to grow.

The amount and intensity of rainfall also affects engineering projects, Griffiths said. Weather affects programs during construction periods, as well as after construction. For instance, he said, pavements in heavy rainfall areas need firmer foundations to prevent erosion.


Weather patterns also affect travel. Most people like to travel in dry and sunny weather, Griffiths said, and tourist centers and government agencies need the information to launch tourism businesses.

He added that knowledge of weather patterns also can help governments to distribute water more fairly and efficiently.

A Feast At The Hilton

Lord and Lady Raleigh will throw open the castle gates Dec. 4-7 for a Yuletide feast in the splendor of renaissance England. MSC Madrigal Dinners presents jugglers, wenches, madrigal singers and a hearty meal to put you in the holiday spirit. And should a touch of the devil get into you-you may purchase wine from the lord's private stock. Tickets are available at the Ticketron outlets in Dillard's and Rudder Tower. Tickets are \$18 for the public and \$14 for senior citizens and A&M students. Call 845-1234 for more information.

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