

UFAHAMU

AFRICAN ACTIVIST ASSOCIATION
AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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FEATURES:INTERVIEWS:

- ART IS LIFE, LIFE IS ART [Interview with John Khani & Winston Ntshona, Serpent Players of South Africa] 5

- In Search of a Face [Salih Abdou Mashamoun--The Sun and the Eclipse]..... Sondra Hale and Mohamed Omer Bushara 82

THEATER:

- TRADITIONAL BLACK AFRICAN THEATER [Problems of Critical Evaluation]..... J. Ndukaku Amankulor 27

- Trance and Theater [The Nigerian Experience]..... Dapo Adelugba 47

ART:

- THE CHILDHOOD OF AFRICAN ART Simon Ottenberg 63

- Mbari Art..... Lawrence E. Anadi 74

- Igbo Drawing and Painting [Two Little Known Art Forms].Uche Okeke 106

- Art and Social Responsibility [Two Paths to Commitment]..... Rhonda Jones 119

FILM:

- IMAGES OF BLACK PEOPLE IN CINEMA [A Historical Overview] 133
..... Teshome H. Gabriel

POETRY:

- TWO POEMS..... Lourdes Sison Pammit 116

- REVIEWS: Tina Esh and Illith Rosenblum's *Tourism in Developing Countries - Trick or Treat?* S.E. Migot-Adholla 169
Andrew Salkey's *Joey Tyson* Bede Ssensalo 173
Anthony Graham-White's *The Drama of Black Africa*..... J.N. Amankulor 178

EDITORIAL..... 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS See inside back cover
Drawings in ink, pen & brush by Obiora Udechukwu

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REPORT FROM THE AFRICAN ACTIVISTS ASSOCIATION

The main thrust of the AAA this past year was pressuring Congressmen from the Los Angeles area to oppose military assistance to Angola, and to oppose the threatened change in policy that would allow South Africa to receive Export-Import Bank loans, after being barred from this for the past 12 years. On Angola, we visited many of the Congressmen during the holidays and joined a local united front in staging demonstrations. Our actions on the Export-Import Bank loan policy took the form of pickets and leafletting at the Los Angeles-based Fluor Corporation, which has been spearheading the effort for changing this policy; teach-ins at several churches and colleges in the area, using the film "Last Grave at Dimbaza"; and asking the audiences to sign a petition, copies of which were then sent to the IA Congressmen and Diggs.

We also held discussions on Angola and Southern Africa, with African students leading these. Literature on South Africa was made available, and an information sheet on Zimbabwe was prepared and distributed. A position paper on US foreign policy toward Africa was prepared and presented to the Southern California Democratic Party platform, at its request.

A bi-quarterly newsletter kept students informed of our programs. We had a successful and enjoyable Benefit Dance for the Henry B. Chipembere family. Three out-of-town speakers were sponsored this year: Kwame Salter spoke on the relation of the Black student struggle in the 1960s to the struggle for African liberation, Yosef Ben-Joehannan gave a lecture on ancient African history, and Lami Janjha discussed the teaching and life of Kwame Nkrumah. An exhibit of some of the African art pieces kept in the UCLA museum was prepared and discussed by an African student, and several films were shown. We made several tapes for a local radio station, but due to technical problems these were never aired.

Over 30 students contributed to the work above, but we should have done much more than this. Meanwhile, the courageous students of South Africa are not only denied a decent education because of "Bantu" education, but are also denied basic human liberty as they are regularly banned and jailed for opposing *apartheid*.