

INTERNATIONAL

Tutu visits New Hampshire to accept award

By Michelle Emery

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Race relations in the United States will not improve until people come to terms with the past, former Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa said last week.

The retired Anglican archbishop, who won a Nobel prize for his activism against apartheid, is taking a one-year sabbatical in the United States and has joined the theology department at Emory University in Georgia.

He was in New Hampshire to receive the New Hampshire Humanities Council's William L. Dunfee Award for Excellence in the Humanities at the organization's 25th anniversary celebration.

"This country hasn't dealt with the aftermath of slavery and the Civil War, and the pain in the middle of the tummy of so many people that haven't been acknowledged," he said



DESMOND TUTU

before the banquet.

People shouldn't be surprised by incidents of racial outrage, he said, because the oppressed haven't been able to talk about their pain. "They haven't healed, they've festered," he said. "Open them up. Cleanse them."

Tutu, 67, chaired South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has completed its investigation of apartheid-era human rights violations but is still considering amnesty

applications. Set up in 1995, a year after all-race elections ended white rule, the commission was charged with probing atrocities committed by all sides in the fight against apartheid. It can grant amnesty to those who tell the full truth about their crimes and prove a political motive.

"We don't claim that this is the infallible blue print for how you will solve problems after a conflict or after repression," he said. "But we think maybe people can learn from the mistakes we made."

At the anniversary dinner, Tutu emphasized the commission's restorative, not punitive, goal. Revealing the truth allowed people to forgive their attackers, he said. "The purpose of truth is so we can heal a deeply wounded people," he said.

He predicted that strife in the Middle East, Bosnia, Northern Ireland and elsewhere will come to end.

"We will succeed because

that's what God wants," he said. "Your nightmare will end, too."

Last month, Tutu joined film stars and writers from around the world in Paris to launch an international appeal in support of President Clinton. The group called Clinton the victim of a fanatical prosecutor with unlimited power.

Tutu said last week he was appalled by the amount of time and money spent on the investigation.

"Forty million (dollars)? For what?" he said. "People are hungry even in this country. You think \$40 million could have been used in so many creative ways."

He said Clinton already has accomplished his most difficult task, apologizing to his wife and the nation.

"You really are a weird people," he said. "You're generous, loving, caring, but you're also very strange. Why do you want to rub his nose in the mud?"

Zimbabwe men have several alternatives to viagra

By Mercedes Sayagues
Special to Sentinel-Voice

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe — Viagra-mania may be a worldwide fad, but traditional healers in Zimbabwe are not impressed. They have an aphrodisiac for men that works very well and is said to be much cheaper.

Known popularly as vuka-vuka (wake up wake up) or vusankunzi (wake up the bull) in Ndebele, it is widely used in Zimbabwe and sold across southern Africa.

George Moyo, a reputable healer, prescribes vuka-vuka from his Tchabalala home. He dries, grinds and mixes leaves and roots of three plants into a powder, throws in bits of freshly cut aloe, leaves the mixture in water

for two days, and advises clients to drink half a cup daily.

"It has no side effects. What you feel, you feel in the bedroom," Moyo says.

"Before, [vuka-vuka] was only for married adults. Now men of all ages want it," laments Sam Sithole another local healer.

At a nearby stall, Simon Sibanda Jamela agrees: "Today's young men frequent too many nightclubs, drink too much, run around with too many women who use birth control, and then they come to us with sexual diseases and impotence, asking for vuka-vuka."

One formula works as a general tonic for the body. It is recommended that men

should drink daily after reaching adulthood. One daily teaspoon of the reddish brown powder diluted in soup, milk, porridge or flat coke, restores a man's sexual energy and health.

"Taken over a period of time, vuka-vuka boosts sexual drive, strengthens the sperm for conception and increases energy," says Peter Mutandi Sibanda, cultural secretary of Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association. Other varieties have different effects. One that uses 20 herbs boiled during a day will provide even greater stamina.

Clinical pharmacologist Norman Nyazema, who has studied vuka-vuka, reveals that one secret ingredient is

cantharidine from the myrabilis beetle.

Combined with herbs, often the roots of carissa edulis, cantharidine causes blood flow into the penis but not out. A sustained erection is guaranteed. As the body eliminates cantharidine naturally in a few hours, the effects wear off.

However, if the dosage is incorrect — a frequent risk in traditional medicine — the penis remains engorged, erect and painful. This condition is known as priapism. If left untreated, the channels of the penis become completely blocked with scar tissue.

Just as Viagra's side effects put some men at risk, vuka-vuka can cause kidney problems.

Mixed-race community destroyed by apartheid rebuilt

By Paul Harris

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — More than 20 years after he watched apartheid's bulldozers demolish his house, Noor Ebrahim believes he is going home again.

Ebrahim, 54, was forced out when the vibrant, racially mixed Cape Town neighborhood of District Six was declared a "whites only" area — a practice that ousted millions of people from their homes as the British colonial administration and then the

apartheid government took the best land for whites.

Now the government hopes rebuilding District Six and bringing back its former residents will kick-start efforts to reverse the state's policy of forced removals.

When white rule ended after all-race elections in 1994, the government drafted laws to give the land back. More than 26,000 claims involving individuals and communities representing hundreds of thousands of people have applied to get

their land back.

But progress has been painfully slow because of legal complexities and lost or

destroyed records.

Only 19 claims — covering 37,800 acres of land (See Mixed Race, Page 15)

WORLD BRIEFS

ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT OPPOSES FORMATION OF GAY GROUP

LUSAKA (IPS) — The Zambia Independent Monitoring Team, a human rights organization, is receiving opposition from the government for trying to form the Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender Persons Association of Zambia. The government, backed by anti-sodomy laws, has vowed that it will not condone the formation group or register LEGATRA as a legitimate association. Homosexuality is a felony which carries a fine or a jail sentence of up to 14 years. "Registration (of LEGATRA) is going as planned, and the public should ignore totally the government's view on homosexuality and lesbianism," says Alfred Zulu, ZIMT president. According to Zulu, LEGATRA will fight for the removal of all laws that discriminate against local gays, offer AIDS/HIV awareness, and counsel its members.

SOUTH AFRICA SEEKING REMEDIES FOR WITCH HUNTS

JOHANNESBURG (IPS) — As witchcraft killings in South Africa rise, mission schools have set up safe havens for women accused of being witches and a conference has been organized to discuss ways to stop the gruesome murders. One such place has since grown into a small town called "Nobody," named because a witch is not considered a human being. The other place is Helena, 50 kilometers northwest of the provincial capital of Pietersburg. Helena, like Nobody, seems to be growing fast — due to refugees from surrounding villages. Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi says the cabinet will discuss whether to declare witchcraft killings priority crimes. This decision follows pleas from delegates to establish a special police investigation unit to increase the very low prosecution and conviction rates. Police are currently investigating 442 cases. Twelve months after the first all-race elections, 239 people — mostly women — died in the Northern Province after being stabbed, stoned or set alight by angry village mobs on allegations that they were either witches or wizards. In 1996, there were 1,182 witch killings.

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