

APRIL

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, April 1, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. One of the ongoing stories that leads off the radio and television newscasts and makes page one in our newspapers regularly is the story of life in South Africa. Recently, Stevie Wonder dedicated his newly earned Oscar, for a song he wrote, to Nelson Mandela, the South African who has been jailed for 20 years on a charge of treason. The government-controlled radio and television promptly banned Stevie Wonder's music from South Africa.

Demonstrations against South Africa's policy of racial discrimination are seen around the world in news pictures; demonstrations that take place in New York and in Capetown, and in dozens of in-between places.

But what, if anything, do most of us know about South Africa?

With us today is Carrol Lasker, a native of South Africa and a scholar in African literature. Dr. Lasker is assistant professor and director of undergraduate studies in comparative literature and classics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Lasker, you've just returned from Atlanta, Georgia, and what I would have to guess was an exciting theatrical experience for you.

INTERVIEW DR. LASKER:

- "Kanna, He is Coming Home," through April 21 in Atlanta.
- March 23 symposium of humanities scholars on play
- Story of "Kanna" (run tape of "Moses" speech)
- Censors and authors ("Kanna": Adam Small, Stevie Wonder)
- Richness and depth of So. African literature
- Recommendations for listeners (library, TV, magazines)



14:00

We'll return in a moment with Carrol Lasker for some more Conversations Unlimited, about literature in South Africa and in other places around the world, including your home.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Carrol Lasker, director of the undergraduate program in comparative literature and classics. Dr. Lasker, we've been talking about literature and the state in South Africa. What part do literature and the classics play in everyday life in South Africa?

INTERVIEW DR. LASKER:

- Teaching in grade schools, black and white
- Tropical African literature
- Caribbean literature
- Role of translator
- World classics (any of the above represented?)
- Are any of these taught in U.S. public schools?
- Importance of Third World literature: growing around world as a way of establishing cultural roots?
- International exchanges?

29:00

OUTRO