

S. Africa Connection Explored — 5/20/82  
**Activists Ask to Meet Stratton;  
Topic: Arsenal Weapons Sale**

By PHILLIP BLANCHARD  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — An anti-apartheid group based here wants to talk to Rep. Samuel S. Stratton about alleged illegal arms sales to South Africa, but its chairman says he can't get an audience.

Michael J. Dollard, chairman of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, has released copies of correspondence he has had with Stratton concerning reports that, in 1979, three 155-millimeter cannon barrels manufactured at the Watervliet Arsenal were sold to a Vermont company and somehow found their way to South African forces, which were staging actions against the neighboring country of Angola. The transaction, which was a small part of arms sales allegedly in violation of the 1963 arms embargo of South Africa, came to light in a report issued last month by the House Subcommittee on Africa.

The report, prepared by the subcommittee staff under the direction of Rep. Howard Wolpe, D-Mich., suggests that the arms sales to Space Research Corporation of Vermont from 1976 to 1978 were a subterfuge for illegal arms shipments to South Africa. The three cannon barrels in question were part of overall shipments through the Vermont firm that included 60,000 155-millimeter shells, at least four 155-millimeter guns, and technical assistance to allow South Africa to establish its own 155-millimeter gun and ammunition manufacturing facilities, according to the subcommittee report.

The technology of the 155-millimeter guns was new to the South Africans, the report said. "The SRC-South Africa transactions led to South Africa's acquisition and development of advanced... artillery systems which have made major contributions to its regional military capabilities," according to the report.

The subcommittee staff recommends a number of bureaucratic measures which the government could undertake to ensure that such arms sales are not made in the future.

Dollard, whose group was formed last summer to protest the South African national rugby team's national tour, said he's been trying to meet with Stratton to discuss the subcommittee report ever since its release. "We want Stratton to provide support for the Wolpe committee recommendations that will prevent this kind of incident from happening again at Watervliet or any other arsenal," said Dollard.

Dollard's request for a meeting prompted an April 16 letter from Stratton, which Dollard released publicly yesterday. In the letter, Stratton acknowledges the request for a meeting but does not say if he will agree to one.

Dollard said last night that he has no argument with the explanation for the Watervliet Arsenal's involvements offered in Stratton's letter.

"The Arsenal received this particular order from the Army's Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen, Md.," wrote Stratton. "The request was routine in nature since the Arsenal performs a

good deal of work for this particular facility each year.

"As to where these cannon tubes are distributed once they are produced by Watervliet, this is something over which the Arsenal has no control. Their production orders come from authorized personnel within the U.S. Army and they have no direct dealings with private companies.

"In this instance," Stratton concluded, "the Ballistics Research Laboratory instructed the Arsenal to ship the tubes to Space Research Corporation in Vermont."

Dollard said further requests for a meeting with Stratton were rebuffed by Roger Mott, the congressman's aide. Attempts to reach Mott yesterday for comment were unsuccessful.

The subcommittee report lays the blame for the incident on the Central Intelligence Agency, among others. The report says, "according to the preponderance of evidence, it is probable that a U.S. defense consultant who was assisting the CIA's covert action program in Angola... planned with South African government officials shipments of U.S. origin arms to South Africa for use in Angola."

"At the very least," the report said, "this episode suggests serious negligence on the part of the agency. At most, there is a possibility that elements of the CIA purposely evaded U.S. policy."

Since 1963, there has been an official U.S. and United Nations embargo on arms shipments to South Africa because of that country's policy of apartheid, or forced segregation of the races.

FOLLOWING THE WEAPONS TRAIL ...  
FROM WATERVLIET TO  
SOUTH AFRICA !

There is a chain of international intrigue, beginning at the Watervliet Arsenal and running to a small Vermont town that straddles the American-Canadian border.

It is a chain that stretches as far as South Africa, which received weapons produced at the Arsenal and sold in violation of an American embargo.

And, according to congressional investigators, questions have been raised about the possible involvement of government officials in the chain.

--Michael Muskal, TIMES UNION, March 27, 1982, p.1

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We Did a Good Job: Police - 4/9/82

# NAACP Lashes Police For Behavior at Protest

By PAM SNOOK  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — City police aggravated rather than quelled potential violence at September's controversial Springboks rugby match at Bleeker Stadium, claimed the Albany chapter of the NAACP.

Police helped trump up charges against Michael Young and John Spearman, two New York City men who helped organize the protest, the NAACP claimed in its statement.

But the group commended the county jury which acquitted the men of possession of weapons charges.

The NAACP called the warrant for the related arrest and search of an Albany woman and her Central Avenue apartment "highly irregular." The group also lashed at police for holding the woman, Vera Michaelson, in jail for several days allegedly without legitimate cause.

Albany police are ill-trained to handle a large protest and under-trained to handle street confrontations, Hamilton said. "Their (police) approach to stopping somebody on the street so often gets out of hand," he said. Simple inquiries turn into arrests because police don't know how to approach people on the street and evoke hostile responses unnecessarily, Hamilton said.

The group said in its statement it will renew its 1968 request for changes in the police department including better training, more minority officers, decreased harassment and increased protection of minority residential areas.

During the rugby game protest, "the Albany Police Department behaved in an outrageously irresponsible fashion, doing far more to incite violence than to prevent it," the NAACP said in a two-page statement.

Numerous police were stationed with rifles on tall buildings across from the Clinton Avenue stadium instead of in the streets with the crowd, said NAACP spokesman Harold Hamilton. Water, not guns and dogs, could have controlled protesters.

After the match, police directed spectators into protesters, creating potentially more trouble, Hamilton said.

"This is not true," said police spokesman Captain John Dale.

"We've worked numerous demonstrations in this city. We're well qualified to handle large groups. Apparently we did a good job (at Bleeker). There was no trouble," Dale said.

Some officers were stationed atop building across from the stadium to get the best view. None of them were snipers, he said.

"We've never used water, mace or bullets," Dale said.

In addition to complaints of crowd control, the Albany NAACP also lashed at police about related arrests and searches.

"The Albany NAACP serves notice it will increase its vigilance against inappropriate police behavior," the statement read.

"We condemn those police agencies that sought to stifle protest rather than keep peace and sought to frame innocent people in a futile attempt to disrupt a peaceful, legitimate challenge to the existing order," Hamilton said.

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## NAACP blasts Albany police in rugby case

4/8/82  
By E.J. McMAHON Jr.  
Knickerbocker News Reporter

The Albany branch of the NAACP today charged Albany police "behaved in an outrageously irresponsible fashion, doing far more to incite violence than to prevent it" at last September's Springboks rugby match in Bleecker Stadium.

In a statement, the NAACP said it was planning to "increase its vigilance against inappropriate police behavior."

"We call on police to protect our homes and persons from the muggers, the rapists, the burglars, the criminals of all sorts, but also protect us when we protest against injustices," the statement said. "We will challenge police impropriety whenever we learn of it, and urge all citizens to do likewise."

Capt. John Dale, the Police Department's public information officer, declined to comment on the statement until he had seen a copy.

The NAACP statement also commended an Albany County jury for its recent acquittal of John Spearman and Michael Young, who were arrested on weapons possession charges hours before the rugby match was played the evening of Sept. 22.

Spearman and Young were both involved with Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART), a coalition of groups organized to protest the appearance of the South African Springboks rugby team in Albany's municipal stadium.

The association statement said the case against Spearman and Young was "a political frame-up, and the jurors were smart enough to see it."

The NAACP statement said the two men were fighting "a corrupt local system that attempts to stifle protest while protecting representatives of a vicious, racist government that knows not the meaning of freedom and justice."

It called on Mayor Erastus Corning II to "implement needed changes" in the Police Department.

"We would consider (Corning's) anti-racism rhetoric voiced while allowing the rugby game to proceed to be more than empty words if he would root out

racism wherever it exists in his own administration," the statement said.

Corning was attending a meeting at City Hall this morning and could not immediately be reached for comment.

To support its claim the police incited violence at the match, the NAACP said "numerous riflemen" were stationed on buildings along the route of a protest march from the Capitol to the stadium before the match.

"You cannot control a crowd by preparing to kill people from a rooftop," the NAACP said.

After the game, police "directed the departing spectators (from the stadium) directly into the crowd of protesters rather than keeping the two groups apart," the NAACP said. Police Chief Thomas Burke has previously denied that allegation.

# Albany police deny NAACP

By E.J. McMAHON Jr.  
Knickerbocker News Reporter

A spokesman for the Albany Police Department has denied a local civil rights group's charges police irresponsibly handled security arrangements for last September's controversial rugby match in Bleecker Stadium.

"There was nothing done purposely to agitate the situation," Police Capt. John Dale said Thursday. "We're police officers and we sure as hell would



Dale

not want a confrontation."

In a statement prepared by its 10-member Legal Redress Committee, the Albany NAACP branch said the police "behaved in outrageously irresponsible fashion, doing far more to incite violence than prevent it" when the South African Springboks team played at the city-owned stadium Sept. 22.

The statement said the NAACP condemned "police agencies that sought to foment violence instead of provide order, that sought to stifle protest rather than keep peace, and sought to frame innocent people in a futile attempt to disrupt a peaceful, legitimate challenge to the existing order."

Dr. Harry Hamilton, chairman of the

Legal Redress Committee, said Albany police officers needed more training in crowd control.

"You don't react to controlling a crowd the way they did," Hamilton said. "They were out to hurt and possibly kill people."

Hamilton cited police "sharpshooters" he said were observed on the roofs of buildings along the route of a protest parade from the Capitol to the stadium before the game started.

He also said police had improperly directed spectators leaving the game to an area in which demonstrators were congregating. Only the efforts of the protest marshals avoided violence when the spectators passed heckling demonstrators, Hamilton said.

## charges of irresponsibility

Dale, however, said police were "very well trained in crowd control."

"This is a capital city and we have had numerous demonstrations much larger and much more violent than the one up there (at Bleecker Stadium), and in none of those have we had an officer fire on anyone," Dale said. "The men are trained continuously in when not to use their guns."

He said the officers on the roofs "were there mainly for surveillance. There were more news media people up there than officers."

Police Chief Thomas Burke has previously denied police steered spectators in the direction of the protestors after the rugby match.

Dale said all spectators were directed to "side exits" on the side of the stadium farthest from demonstrators, but "once they got to side exit, many walked around the other side to their automobiles or whatever."

Despite a heavy rainfall the night the game was played, thousands of persons converged on the stadium area to protest South Africa's apartheid racial policies. Hundreds of police officers, state troopers and sheriff's deputies formed a cordon around the stadium while the match was being played, but there was no violence and only a few arrests on minor charges.

The NAACP statement commended

the Albany County jurors for the recent acquittal of John Spearman and Michael Young, who were arrested on weapons possession charges hours before the rugby match.

Spearman and Young were described in the statement as victims of a "political frame-up."

"I deny they were framed," Dale responded. "The jury found them not guilty. The reason they found them not guilty only the jury knows."

Mayor Erastus Corning II dismissed the NAACP statement as "just the same sort of rhetoric that went on last September." He said he had no further reaction.

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## How did South Africa get U.S. arms? 3/28/82

By MITCHELL HINZ

A recently released report by the House Africa subcommittee documents once again the links between the CIA and South African attacks on Angolan independence.

The detailed study, released in late March, attempts to pinpoint U.S. government involvement in the actions of the Space Research Corporation convicted in 1981 for violating the U.S. arms embargo against apartheid South Africa.

The study first documents CIA programs to use U.S. equipment and technology to help South African and South African-backed forces during their aborted 1975 invasion of newly independent Angola. In addition, the report implicates several U.S. government agencies in SRC's illegal arms deal, although it fails to attribute any willful involvement in the secret deal to any government agencies.

How the South Africans contacted SRC, and what U.S. government organizations actually knew about the arms shipments is still

the subject of much contention. What is clear, however, is that between 1976 and 1978, the SRC shipped an estimated 60,000 long-range 15mm howitzer shells and the guns to fire them to the South African government.

The arms deal, signed in Vermont in April 1976, was also extended to have the American company provide the South Africans with the technology and SRC technicians to train the South Africans to manufacture the howitzer system themselves. And in a final twist, the South Africans ended up buying a 20% interest in SRC, a company with operations in three countries. The path of the arms to South Africa involved at least eight countries and countless intermediaries and third parties.

What concerned the House Africa subcommittee was the high level of involvement of U.S. government agencies both in initially pointing the South Africans in SRC's direction and in actually helping the U.S. company manufacture the shells. The 46-page House study, however, unearths

little new information on the SRC case.

The report details the link-up of the CIA with South Africa's ARMSCOR, via John Frost, a Belgium-based "defense consultant" who had done work for the CIA in the past. Frost was enlisted by the CIA to try to procure arms for pro-Western forces in Angola, inevitably working through and with the South Africans. While noting that the CIA has issued a blanket denial of its involvement, the report goes on to prove its general conclusion that the CIA's desire to promote "covert actions in Angola overrode its obligations to strictly maintain the arms embargo." The study refuses to go further than this general statement and nowhere do the authors ascribe any high level CIA involvement in specific SRC shipments.

When addressing the level of State Department and Pentagon involvement in the Space Research case, the report is even less emphatic. For example, although the report's authors clearly outline Army involvement in providing the rough howitzer shells to SRC that were later shipped to South Africa, they refuse to ascribe any willful involvement on the part of the Defense Department. SRC was permitted to obtain shells from an Army arsenal because of "ambiguity" in army requirements that SRC "certify it is acting on behalf of a friendly government," according to the report. This is in spite of the fact that SRC was required to provide such certification in a previous arms shipment to the government of Israel. In the end, the study's conclusion that the Army provided the shells because of "loose and ill-defined procedures" casts doubts on the credibility of the entire study.

In a similar account, the study notes that the State Department's Office of Munitions Control (OMC), wrote SRC a letter explaining that "items such as rough, non-machined nose forgings do not require munitions export permits," in essence saying that SRC did not require a license to export its shells from the U.S. Later, the director of the OMC

reported to the Africa subcommittee staff that he actually "didn't know if there could be any rough, non-machined nose forgings" that weren't arms. Yet the study concludes that OMC simply "missapplied its own regulations."

When the House Africa subcommittee held hearings on the basis of this staff report, the OMC director refused even to say that the State Department had done anything wrong. The State Department, OMC director William Robinson said, "considers that the SRC case was properly conducted."

The lengthy government report still leaves a number of important questions unanswered. The report documents at least six incidents in which government agencies or persons working for them helped SRC either to get the contract with the South Africans or to manufacture some of the equipment sent to the apartheid regime. In addition, the report notes a number of other incidents in which government agencies probably knew the South Africans were coming to sign a deal with SRC. Yet the report and the hearings that followed refused to conclude that there was any willful government involvement in this illegal arms shipment to South Africa.

Asked to comment on the report, Kenneth Zinn of the Washington Office on Africa noted that "the report and the hearings show that there are gaping holes in the arms embargo against South Africa." Zinn went on to point out that the need to enforce the arms embargo was all the more urgent in light of the recent Reagan administration decision to relax Commerce Department restrictions on the sale of certain types of equipment to the South African military (Guardian, March 17). Perhaps most interesting are recent reports by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that Centurion tank engines may have been sent to South Africa along the same routes that SRC's howitzers traveled.

As Zinn pointed out, "There is not much of anything left to use as sanctions against South Africa except enforcement of the arms embargo."

### Albany protest hits arms sales

By FRANK T. FITZGERALD  
*Special to the Guardian*

Albany, N.Y.,

About 60 members of the Albany Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CAAR) rallied April 3 to protest recently revealed U.S. involvement in arms shipments to the South African government (see story this page). The rally was held at noon outside the Watervliet Arsenal, a U.S. Army facility which produces about 1000 cannons per year, and which has been identified as a major source of arms exported to South Africa.

"We are here to hold our government accountable for its own embargo," explained Fr. Brian O'Shaughnessy, a

Roman Catholic priest and spokesman for CAAR. Although antiapartheid groups have long been aware of its loopholes and limited effectiveness, an embargo on arms sales to the South African regime has been imposed by the U.S. government and the UN since 1963.

CAAR spokeswoman Vera "Mike" Michelson said, "When the Army, State Department, and CIA join hands to send millions in arms to South Africa, what you have," she stated, "is not 'systemic laxity,' but 'systemic policy' . . . Support for apartheid, as CAAR learned last fall when it tried to stop the South African Springboks rugby game in Albany," Michelson concluded, "is simply U.S. policy as usual."



# REAGANISM: BLACK GENOCIDE



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FULL SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA! FREEDOM FOR NAMIBIA, VICTORY TO SWAPO!

The lives and freedoms of Black people in the U.S., southern Africa and the Caribbean are threatened by an onslaught of unprecedented scale and ferocity, and the Reagan administration is spearheading the attack. **REAGANISM IS BLACK GENOCIDE.**

In Florida, the bodies of over 200 drowned Haitian refugees have washed up on the beaches. In Atlanta, 30 Black children are murdered. In Buffalo, seven Black men are killed, their bodies mutilated. In Boston, 14 Black women are murdered. At least 150 Blacks have been wantonly slain, no one brought to justice, and the body count multiplies daily. These racist attacks are encouraged by the Reagan administration.

The Voting Rights Act is under assault. In Alabama, the government jails two Black women for helping other Blacks exercise their basic right to vote. The government is moving to bring on a second, historic reversal of the democratic rights of Black people in this country. The first reversal in 1877 (the Hayes-Tilden Compromise) rolled back all the gains won from the Civil War and Reconstruction. Now Reagan is trying to reverse every gain in basic democratic rights won by Blacks since the 1950s, to bring back Klan nightriders, lynch-mob terror, and Jim Crow, 80s-style.

Reagan would subsidize racism by allowing tax-exemptions for racist schools. Budget cuts in education will destroy a whole generation of Black leadership. Black unemployment is at least 30 percent, and over 50 percent among Black youth.

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And with daycare centers closed due to budget cuts, working women are forced to quit their jobs in order to care for children. Black-owned businesses are being buried in an avalanche of bankruptcies because of high interest rates. Reagan's record \$200-\$300 billion budget deficits — fueled by bloated hikes in military spending and perverse tax cuts for the rich are robbing the poor to pay the rich.

Reagan says "wait, give my programs a chance." Wait for what — more bodies of dead Black children, men and women? We can't wait because waiting means more Blacks voteless, jobless, homeless and dead.

Reagan calls South Africa a "friendly nation." The apartheid regime steps up repression against the Black South African majority, launches terrorist raids into Angola, takes a new offensive in Namibia and plots assassinations against Black-ruled Africa. When the UN moves to condemn the racist regime for its invasion of Angola, the U.S. protects apartheid by vetoing the resolution. The Reagan administration moves to break South African isolation by removing export/import restrictions, meeting secretly and illegally with South African military officials, and equipping them with the latest technologies of warfare and terror.

Reagan's support of Black slavery in South Africa also rears its disgusting head in the Caribbean. His racist immigration policy condemns Haitian refugees to concentration camps, deportations and death by drowning. Interfering in the internal affairs of Caribbean and Central American nations, trying to send U.S. troops to El Salvador and to destabilize Grenada, Jamaica, and Nicaragua — these are just a few of the Reagan atrocities.

Reagan's genocidal war against Black people must be stopped and the government punished for its war crimes. But as Malcolm X said, "You don't take your case to the criminal, you take your criminal to court." We can't take our plight to the White House because the criminal is Reagan — the U.S. government has proven itself to be the chief perpetrator of Black genocide. **Black people have no other recourse but to take our cause over Reagan's head, and present our indictments before the world's peoples.**

This is the 10th anniversary of African Liberation Day, traditionally a day of protest and solidarity. 1982 has also been declared the "International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa" by the UN Committee Against Apartheid.

In 1982, Black people have no voice, save our own. Hear this call and join the people of the world to protest Black genocide from the United States to South Africa. Let our feet march as one, our voices thunder in unison. Our cause is just and we must fight to make our victory certain!

Sunday 5/30/82

## Area residents join 400 protesters at Ku Klux Klan

By Joe Mahoney

Staff Writer

BRATTLEBORO, VT. — Up on the gazebo on the Town Common stood Bill Wilkinson, the Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan of the U.S., decked out in the white vestments and tall, pointy cap that are the symbols of the Klan's message of racism.

Flanking him were 22 other Klansmen, including several children, all of them holding American flags.

"We believe in segregation of the races because it is our Christian belief," Wilkinson's amplified voice crackled over a sound system.

Standing in a sea of 400 anti-Klan demonstrators, waving a cardboard placard that said "No racism here," was Jim McCoy of Guilderland.

"This is a divisive technique by the Klan," said McCoy, a slender black man who is a librarian at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. "Rather than trying to bring the Americans together, they are driving them apart and sowing the seeds of hate."

McCoy spoke in a voice that had gone hoarse from yelling at the wizard.

The wizard drove into Vermont — the first state in the Union to outlaw slavery — in a cream-colored Mercedes Benz sedan with Connecticut license plates "KIGY."

It was Wilkinson's first trip to Vermont and the Klan's second foray into this state in two weeks in an effort

to establish a toehold in rural Vermont.

McCoy and 14 others from the Capital District, all members of the Coalition Against Apartheid, drove two hours to tell the Klan they opposed everything it represents.

"The Klan is giving a vicious, racist and Nazi-type of message," said Dr. E.J. Josey, vice president of both the Albany chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the anti-apartheid group. "The reason I am here is to bear witness against one of the most vicious hate groups in America. We also want to avoid what happened in Nazi Germany. We can't sit idly by because these people are dangerous and we need to stop them in their tracks," Josey said.

Separating the Klan from the crowd were about 40 Vermont state troopers and about 25 Brattleboro police officers.

Police kept video cameras trained on the demonstrators, who were vocal — they shouted, "Cone Heads, Get out of Vermont" — but peaceful.

Police reported no arrests and no serious incidents.

"It's very gratifying that the 400 people here all seem to be opposed to these clowns who are a disgrace to America and a disgrace to the dead veterans," said Irv Landa of Albany, head of the New York Chapter of the Gray Panthers.

Pearl Campbell of Albany, an activ-

ist in the nuclear weapons freeze campaign, said "This sort of thing exacerbates hatred and leads people into thinking we need more weaponry."

She was snapping pictures of the demonstration with a pocket camera so she could send photographs to her daughter and son-in-law in California. "They would be here, too, if they could," she said.

Mike Dollard, a New York State Civil Service personnel specialist and president of the anti-apartheid group, said of the Klan, "These people are an abomination. This is the same way Hitler started in 1923 and he wound up

becoming the chancellor of Germany 10 years later."

"If you want a definition of a terrorist organization, it's the Klan," said Vera Michelson of Albany. "They try to feed on racism and people being out of jobs."

Wilkinson denounced affirmative action programs and saluted the Reagan administration and "free enterprise."

He called for school segregation, cutbacks in unemployment benefits and a round-up of what he termed "illegal aliens."

"You're the only illegal alien here," somebody in the crowd called out.

Vermont State Police Major James

### membership rally in Vt.

Ryan said the troopers had been strained by having to come out in large numbers at the Klan rallies. "It's something I wish wasn't here, but it is," he said.

Ninety minutes after the rally began, the Klansmen filed off the gazebo and

climbed into their vehicles as the anti-Klan crowd surging toward them was held back by police. One of the Klansmen taunted the demonstrators, shouting "white power" from the back of a pick-up truck that had begun to accelerate.

## 2 More to Sue City Over Rugby Arrests

By STEVE NELSON  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — The city is still weathering ripples of controversy first stirred nearly 10 months ago when 2,000 or so protesters marched on rainy Bleecker Stadium to protest the appearance there of the Springboks rugby team and the racial oppression of their homeland, South Africa.

The latest ripple came last Friday when two more people arrested in connection with the demonstration served notice of their intent to sue the city for a variety of alleged violations of their constitutional rights.

The impending legal action threatened by Michael Young of New York City and John Spearman of Lawrence, Kansas brings the number of suits filed against the city in connection with the Springboks stormy visit to four, according to city Corporation Counsel Vincent McArdie.

Nine people were arrested prior to and during the Sept. 22 protest. Two of them, Vera Michaelson, 35, of 400 Central Ave., Albany, and Aaron Estis, 22, of Somerville, Mass., initiated their suits in March, each of them seeking \$1 million in damages for alleged violations of their civil and constitutional rights.

The pair were arrested during an early-morning raid of Michaelson's apartment on the day of the match. Young, too, was arrested when Albany police and FBI agents stormed into the apartment.

Michaelson and Estis were charged with possession of marijuana and fireworks. Following their arraignment in city Police Court, they were sent without bail to Albany County Jail. Michaelson spent three days there, Estis nearly a week. The charges against them were later dropped but both contend they were falsely imprisoned and denied their right to participate in the peaceful protest.

Young was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, a felony. He and Spearman, both members of the Communist Workers Party, were in town to participate in the protest of the Bleecker Stadium match.

Spearman had been arrested the evening before while sitting in Young's car parked in a Albany State University parking lot across Washington Avenue from the Best Western Thruway House where the South African team was staying.

Police claimed at the time that they had found a loaded .38 caliber revolver under the front seat of the car. A speed loader for that weapon was allegedly found later in Michaelson's apartment.

Young and Spearman were later indicted by an Albany County grand jury on the weapon possession charge. On March 4, following a five-day trial in which the two men were defended by famed radical lawyer William Kunstler, the jury found the men innocent.

The notices of claim for both men were filed by Albany attorney Lewis Oliver, who is already representing Estis in his suit against the city and various members of the police department.

"I did it as a courtesy to a former client because they could not be here themselves to do it," he said. "I don't expect to represent Spearman or Young."

To do so, Oliver said, would be to risk a conflict of interest with the Estis case, which is expected to go to federal court at the end of the month.

City attorney McArdie questioned the timeliness of the two

men's claims, which charge the city, Police Chief Thomas Burke, Detectives John Tanchak, Lt. William Murray and "unknown others" with false arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, denial of bail, civil rights violations, slander, libel and violation of the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

"The law says such actions are to be filed within 90 days of the alleged incidents. The anti-apartheid thing occurred some time ago," he said.

"It's within 90 days of the acquittal, which they needed to

charge malicious prosecution," countered Oliver.

Contacted last night, Michaelson said fund raising to support her suit is continuing, but she could not say when further action would be pursued.

"We will go ahead with it," she said.

On May 21, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed "an unlimited state of national emergency." Seven months later, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States was catapulted into World War II.

area, R-Saratoga Springs, and Joan Hague, R-Glens who were placed in the same district by the legislative were glad to learn they would have districts of their own in the master's plan.

certainty over which plan will be adopted is keeping elections officials busy answering questions, many of which are posed by would-be candidates who are preparing to circulate petitions June 22.

consisting of most of Albany and the town of New Scotland. The copy of the master's map made available to the press this week is hard to read, but it appears to put Conners in a district that consists of part of Albany and the town of Colonie — home of Republican Assemblyman Michael Hoblock.

The Legislature had created a heavily Democratic "river district," straddling the Hudson River between Albany and

Albany County and the small Schenectady County towns of Princetown and Duaneburg.

"My own feeling is the master's plan is probably fairer," Nolan said. "My own thought all along is that the way to have reapportionment done would be to have each party to pick a dean of a major law school and have those two in turn pick a third independent person to conduct a reapportionment."



Knickerbocker News/Tom LaPoint

OF HOME — Delmar resident Antoine Gerbini translates Thursday's news accounts of

the Israelis advance toward Beirut for his mother, Georgette Gerbini of Lebanon.

## Beirut's troubles hit close home for Delmar family

By BRUCE SCRUTON

Knickerbocker News Reporter

DELMAR — Antoine Gerbini laughed as he read the service dispatch. "Civilians armed with machine guns? That's a contradiction."

Antoine Gerbini, 38, of the room, his parents

Mr. and Mrs. Gerbini were born in Turkey where their Lebanese parents lived because it was safer there for Christians than in French-occupied Lebanon. They moved to Beirut 50 years ago when it became safer for Christians in Lebanon.

With the creation of Israel from Palestine in 1948,

## 2 rugby protesters threaten lawsuits

By SUSAN SCHULMAN  
Knickerbocker News Reporter

Nearly 10 months after the controversial rugby game that brought Albany international attention, the city, county and state face possible lawsuits from two apartheid protesters.

A lawyer for Michael Young and John Spearman has filed notice of their intent to sue. Young and Spearman, both of New York City, were acquitted March 6 of weapons charges by an Albany County jury.

The two were arrested hours before the South African Springboks rugby team played in Albany's Bleecker Stadium Sept. 22. Police charged they found a gun in Young's car, which Spearman was driving, and ammunition in an apartment where Young was staying.

Attorneys for Young and Spearman contended police planted the gun and ammunition.

The notice of claim filed against the city for Young and Spearman by Albany attorney Lewis Oliver charges the city, Police Chief Thomas Burke, Detective John Tanchak, Lt. William Murray and "unknown others" with false arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, denial of bail, civil rights violations, slander, libel and violations of the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

Oliver said he also filed notices of claim against the county and state.

At the time of the acquittal, Albany County District Attorney Sol Greenberg was critical of the jury's decision, saying "the fact of the matter is that the gun was in the car."

Albany police have also denied previous charges that Young and Spearman were victims of a "political frameup."

With the legal action taken by Young and Spearman, the city now has four such cases resulting from arrests related to the Springboks game.

Vera Michelson of Albany and Aaron Estis of Massachusetts already have filed notices of claim against the city.

Estis and Ms. Michelson were arrested during a raid on Ms. Michelson's Central Avenue apartment, where Young was staying, but charges of possession of marijuana and fireworks later were dismissed in Albany Police Court.

Estis, represented by Oliver, and Ms. Michelson, represented by Albany attorney Anita Thayer, are each seeking \$1 million from the city for alleged violations of their civil rights.

Albany City Corporation Counsel Vincent McArdle said Thursday the false arrest charges filed by Estis and Ms. Michelson "have no merit."

Under municipal law, the city now has the option of conducting a hearing to determine if the dispute can be resolved without court action.

## Niskayuna, Clifton Park

## 2 rugby protesters to sue

Two demonstrators, arrested on the eve of the South African rugby match 10 months ago in Albany, have filed notice they intend to sue the city for what they claim was a violation of their constitutional rights.

Michael Young and John Spearman filed their notices of claim last Friday. The action brings to four the number of such claims that have been filed.

City Corporation Counsel Vincent J. McArdle said Thursday the city will argue the claims were improperly filed because they came more than 90 days after the rugby match.

Both men argue they were improperly arrested and detained by authorities so that they missed the anti-apartheid demonstrations that accompanied the match.

Spearman and Young were among nine people arrested in connection with protests at the Bleecker Stadium match between the South African Springboks rugby team and an all-star American team. Both were acquitted of felony weapons charges March 6 in Albany County court. Notices of claims have also been filed against the city by Vera Michaelson, of Albany, and Aaron Estis, of Sommerville, Mass. Misdemeanor charges against these two were dismissed in police court.

## Be glad you're not in South Africa

The GOPers have been at it most of the week down in New York City, wheeling, dealing, cajoling, shouting, whispering and shaking hands with anything that moves — and a lot of things that don't.

Next week, the Demos will be carrying on the same way up in Syracuse, only with less chance of getting ragged.

It's nominating time, and let no bellowing endorsement go unheard. And like it or lump it, it's the American way. It isn't all bad, either. If there's a clunker in the crop, you can always vote the rascal out.

This democracy-for-all isn't available in South Africa, unless you happen to be as white as a chunk of ivory. Asians, coloreds and blacks needn't fret about being promised a turkey at Christmas for the right vote. They can't vote.

A chap named Henning Pieterese stopped by the office the other day, and it wasn't many clipped English words before I realized how lucky I am to live in this country.

Poor Pieterese has one of the most unenviable jobs in the world: To boost racist South Africa. That's akin to the challenges facing a tobacco lobbyist at an emphysema seminar.

PIETERESE CAME ACROSS as a smoothie. He's only 26, but carries the maturity you'd expect from a more seasoned vice consul. Maybe being asked about apartheid, Springboks, blacks in diamond mines and whites in diamonds has something to do with the aging process.

Ralph Martin  
at large



Pieterese was quick with the pat answers on last year's rugby brouhaha in Albany. No, his government didn't back it. No, he didn't find anything wrong with it. And, yes, he thought too much was made of it.

Case closed — or is it?

I left Pieterese with the feeling the Springbok protesters didn't do all that prancing around in the rain for nothing. They got their message across. It helped increase awareness of the human rights issue in South Africa. Thanks to the fuss they stirred up, people who didn't know apartheid from canned pears found out something is amiss.

They learned Asians and coloreds (those of mixed racial lines) *can't* vote. They learned 17 million blacks (out of a population of some 24 million) *can't* vote. They learned about 4 million whites *can* vote.

And all this learning has embarrassed the ruling class, or so it seems.

PIETERESE INDICATED as much when he said there is a movement afoot to give voting rights to the Asians and coloreds. He hinted at it when he said there is a growing sentiment to educate the blacks

and give them better jobs.

But Pieterese retreated to present-day reality when it came to "one man, one vote" for blacks. He said it will never happen.

Pieterese didn't wait for a scornful glance before explaining the black tribes — a dozen or so that speak a babel of tongues — don't really want to be part of the central government. He said they are jealous of one another and don't want to lose the independence they fear integration would bring.

This may or may not be poppycock (there wasn't a Zulu in sight to give a counter view), but the fact is, it's a far different political game in South Africa than in democracies as we know them.

It is a country rooted in colonialism, structured along class lines, laced with primitive ways and diminished by exploitation. There are obviously no quick fixes for its plight.

But changes will come. Pieterese said as much. World conscience demands it. The cries for justice won't be silenced. But it will take time.

As for Americans, the time has long since come — thanks to a constitution that has given equal opportunity to all and years of struggle to guarantee this opportunity.

Critics of any questionable wheeling and dealing in the Big Apple or in Syracuse should be aware of this and be thankful for our political process, imperfect as it may be.

Things could be a heck of a lot worse — like being a non-white in South Africa.

K...  
6/18/82

## Rights Unit Parley At 7 Monday Night

By GAIL SHUFELT  
Gazette Reporter

*The Klu Klux Klan is a problem in the south. Nazism was wiped out in World War II.*

Most everyone knows that neither of these statements is true, if they ever were. For racism and anti-Semitism have been problems for some as long as there have been people.

And, even though the problems do and have always existed, there have never been any major or community-threatening incidents in this area. A small but growing organization in Schenectady wants to assure that this remains the case.

\* \* \*  
Founded earlier this spring as an arm of the local Human Rights Commission was the Schenectady County Committee to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism, which will be holding a planning meeting at 7 p.m. Monday on the first floor of the county Courthouse.

To be discussed at the session, open to anyone interested, is a fall program on "Dealing With a Threat to Our Community: Increased Racism and Anti-Semitism."

While local incidents may be small and isolated cases, they are happening, committee and commission chairman James Stamper and George Roman, Human Rights Commission executive director, noted.

And "the committee believes it is critical that the awareness of the community ... be raised ... with an increase in the number of incidents of racism and anti-Semitism and the klan moving closer to New York," they continued, alluding to the two recent KKK rallies in Vermont.

Statistics show, Roman said, that the number of incidents reported to the Anti-Defamation League were up 100 percent during the first part of this year and that several police agencies in the state have reported rising numbers of racial and ethnic problems.

\* \* \*  
The local committee actually

got its start from Chrysoula Fenimore, who, as a former member of the NAACP board, became highly perplexed and concerned over repeated questions about klan activities.

"If somebody was asking questions, there had to be something there." And so she went to work, soliciting help and support from the Human Rights Commission. At the earlier meeting, attended by nearly 300, a circulated questionnaire showed that 95 percent felt some type of permanent, working community organization and program was necessary and that 65 percent would become involved. The Committee to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism was born.

\* \* \*  
Its purpose is "to dramatize the debilitating effects the increased activity of the Klu Klux Klan and the neo-Nazis in this country will have on us here in Schenectady."

"The violent Klu Klux Klan and the neo-Nazis do pose a real threat to American society as long as the two groups espouse and direct their philosophy of hate and venom toward blacks, Jews and other minorities. Their distorted views affect every man, woman and child in America.

"... we hope to make citizens of the community aware of the danger and ignite their concerns in the direction of constructive, preventive actions," Stamper and Roman declared.

\* \* \*  
It is working towards this purpose through four standing committees, that have, so far, helped develop a training program for city policemen, conducted a workshop for area school officials, asked 400 clergymen to discuss the dangers of racism and anti-Semitic activity and established a speakers bureau and a film library, available to any group or organization interested. The county Library has also prepared a bibliography of materials available on bigotry, terrorism, racism, anti-Semitism etc.

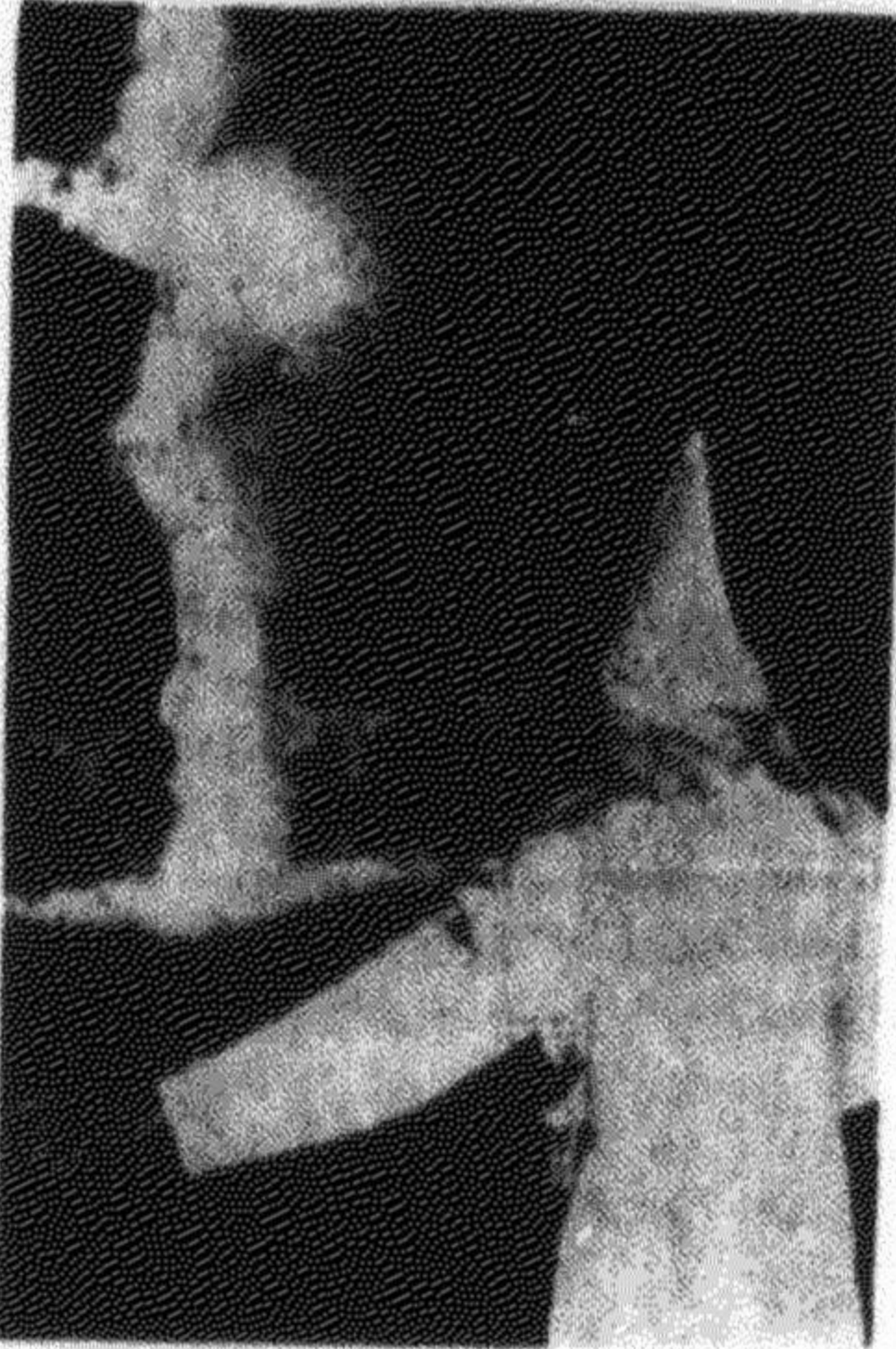
And the commission, Roman emphasized, is asking that anyone with information about any incident, "no matter how minor it may appear," to contact his office in the courthouse, 612 State St., so that records can be maintained and any possible trends spotted.

\* \* \*  
Among the organizations supporting the commission through involvement in the new committee are the Albany and Schenectady NAACPs, the local Interfaith Community, Schenectady Inner City Ministry, the Troy NAACP, the Albany and Schenectady Unitarian churches, Albany Presbytery, Troy Human Rights Commission, the Schenectady Roman Catholic Deanery and the Schenectady B'nai B'rith, Friends of the Schenectady Library, the local Jewish Federation, the Albany Urban League and the Catholic Diocese's Peace and Justice Committee.

Schenectady Gazette 6/26/82

# HOW CAN WE STOP THE KLAN

Militant Labor Forum



Why is the Klan organizing in Vermont?  
Who encourages Klan activity in our area? Why are Klansmen running for office across the country as Democrats? Come hear discussion on these issues and join in the anti-Klan organizing.

COME HEAR A DISCUSSION LEAD BY:

VERA "MIKE" MICHELSON, Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism

ODELL WINFIELD, National Black Ind. Pol. Party

MICHAEL KOZAK, Socialist Workers Party

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June 16-18 5-7pm  
June 19 11am-3pm





# Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

Chairman \*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*  
M. J. Dollard

Vice-Chairman  
E. J. Josey

July 8, 1982  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anita Thayer  
462-6753 - days

Vera Michelson  
489-1767 - evenings

## NATIONAL ANTI-KLAN LEADER HELPS LOCAL ANTI-KLAN FIGHT

Rene Dubose, noted Anti-Ku Klux Klan activist and Baltimore, Maryland civil rights leader, will hold a press conference at the Albany Airport in the News Media Room on Wednesday, July 14, 1982 at 1:15 PM. All press is invited to attend.

Two KKK rallies in Vermont this May and incidents of local Klan activity have prompted the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism to hold a July 14, 1982 educational forum on the Ku Klux Klan. Ms. Rene Dubose, the chairperson of People United Against Government Repression and the Klan/Nazis, a national organization based in Maryland, will speak on "The KKK: Closer Than You Think", Wednesday, July 14 at 7:30 PM at the Albany United Methodist Society (formerly St. Luke's Church) at the corner of Clinton and Lexington Avenue, Albany.

Ms. Dubose is a staff member and national organizer for the American Federation for Government Employees, and a former public school educator. She will speak about her experiences in the State of Maryland which had the highest level of Klan activity of any state in 1981.

In announcing the forum, Vera Michelson, forum committee chair said, "The first step in fighting racists like the Klan is to understand who they are and how they operate. The next time the Klan rallies near our city we will be ready with even more demonstrators than in May."

The sponsor of this event, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was organized one year ago and spearheaded the opposition to the September 22, 1982 rugby game with South Africa.

Over thirty local organizations and churches have endorsed this important event.



# Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

Chairman  
M. J. Dollard

NEWS RELEASE

Vice-Chairman  
E. J. Josey

For immediate release:  
July 16, 1982

For further information:  
Michael J. Dollard  
(518) 457-2952 (work)  
(518) 436-8008 (home)

## CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION RECEIVES THREAT FROM KLAN

As a direct result of its recent work in opposition to the Ku Klux Klan, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has received a threat from the Klan.

On Thursday, July 15th, a cleaner at the United Methodist Center at Lexington and Clinton in Albany, found a manila envelope addressed to Rene' Dubose c/o the United Methodist Center. Ms. Dubose, a prominent anti-Klan activist from Washington DC, had been the guest and principal speaker at the Coalition sponsored workshop "KKK - Closer Than You Think" the previous evening at the United Methodist Center.

Inside the manila envelope was a second envelope, also addressed to Ms. Dubose, and bearing a large sticker reading, "The Ku Klux Klan is watching you!"

Inside the second envelope was an assortment of Ku Klux Klan mailing cards stapled to a letterhead of the "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan." These cards contained a variety of messages including one that read, "You have been paid a friendly visit by the Ku Klux Klan. Should we pay you a real visit?"

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism considers this incident to be a direct threat against itself and against its guest, Ms. Dubose. It is also a direct threat against all of the good and decent

\*\* MORE \*\*

people in the Capital District who reject the violence, the ignorance and the undisguised racism of these little men in their dirty sheets.

This incident certainly reinforces the theme of the Coalition's public education program "The KKK - Closer Than You Think." The KKK is closer than you think! It is here in the Capital District. It was at the United Methodist Center early in the morning of July 15th. It also was in the Town of Bern last fall when a cross was burned. It was on New Scotland Ave. and on Hackett Blvd. when anti-Semitic stamps and posters were plastered on store fronts and on the doors of a synagogue.

The Coalition believes that this community must defend itself against attacks by the Klan. We strongly believe that a community can best defend itself when it is aroused, organized and knowledgeable. Rather than being deterred by threats such as that received at the United Methodist Center, the Coalition is determined to push on even harder and faster with the educational program that was successfully kicked off Wednesday night by Ms. Dubose's workshop for some 200 persons. A film series on the Klan will begin in September, and Coalition speakers will be available to churches, schools, community groups, senior citizens' groups, etc. throughout the summer and fall. The Coalition will also be promoting the National Education Association curriculum on the Klan for adoption by local school districts. The best defense is surely a strong offense. Ignorance, racism and hatred cannot survive in the clear bright light of truth and knowledge.

The Coalition is reporting this incident to the Albany police and making the threat documents available to them. Any subsequent incidents will similarly be reported immediately to the police.



# Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

**KKK - CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**  
A community Response Workshop

7:30pm Wednesday July 14, 1982  
United Methodist Center  
Clinton and Lexington  
Albany, NY

**\* INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME \***

Michael J. Dollard, Co-Chair  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

**\* MODERATOR \***

Cora Watkins, Co-Chair  
Capital District Chapter,  
National Black Independent Political Party

**\* ENDORSEMENTS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT \***

**\* SPEAKER \***

Vera "Mike" Michaelson  
Community Activist  
Member of the Steering Committee,  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

**\* STATEMENTS OF LOCAL PEOPLE  
VICTIMIZED BY THE KLAN \***

**\* APPEAL FOR FUNDS - COLLECTION \***

Money is desperately needed to fund the Coalition's work of community information and outreach. Please give til it hurts! Every penny, every nickle helps to get out the word of who the Klan is, how it operates, and how to fight back.

**\* SPEAKER \***

Rene' Du Bose  
Community Activist  
Member, Coalition Against Nazi/Klan Repression (Washington, DC)  
Organizer of Community Response Workshops in several areas of the country

**\* COMMUNITY DIALOG \***

Speakers, guests and members of the audience are invited to join in an open discussion on the Klan and how to fight back

SEE REVERSE FOR ENDORSERS

## ENDORSEES

### Clergy and Church Related Organizations:

Very Rev. Wilbur Hogg, Episcopal Bishop of Albany  
Rev. David Ball, Dean, Cathedral of All Saints  
Rev. William Roland, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
Rabbi Harry Rothstein, Congregation Bnai Shalom  
Rev. Nellis Trombley, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church  
Rev. Louis Brewer, Union Missionary Baptist Church  
Rev. Allen Brown, Sojourner Truth A M E Zion Church  
Rev. Randy Brown, Duryee Memorial A M E Zion Church  
Rev. Dr. Minnie L. Burns, Universal Baptist Temple  
Rev. William Callahan, Riverview Baptist Church  
Rev. David Giles, Shenendehowa United Methodist Church  
Rev. James Murphy  
Rev. George Poole, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church  
Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor, United Methodist Center  
Peace and Justice Commission, Albany Roman Catholic Diocese  
Capital District New Jewish Agenda  
Albany YWCA

### Labor Organizations:

Albany Teachers' Union  
Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Union  
Public Employees Federation, Division 202  
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

### Community Organizations:

Anchor Association  
Alpha Delta Sorority  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Capital District Grey Panthers  
Capital District National Lawyers' Guild  
Capital District Gay Community Inc.  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)  
Democratic Socialist of America  
Department of African/Afro-American Studies, SUNYA  
National Black Independent Political Party  
NAACP - Albany branch  
NAACP - Schenectady branch  
Socialist Workers' Party  
Stop the War Drive Committee  
Tri-Cities Alternatives to Violence Program  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Young Socialist Alliance

### Individuals:

Nebraska Brace  
Nancy Burton  
Arthur Mitchell  
Clarence Parker

## HISTORY OF THE KLAN

**Ku Klux Klan (KKK) - pronounced Coo - Clucks - Clan**

A secret American society which advocates white supremacy. The K

The Klan began in the 1860's after the Civil War, when its members broke the Reconstruction Governments in the South and re-imposed white racist rule. With white rule consolidated in the

South, the original Klan was disbanded in 1877.

The Klan was reborn at Stone Mountain, Georgia in 1915. This new Klan was directed not only at Black people, but also against Roman Catholics, Jews and the foreign born. The Klan's influence spread outside of the South and became established in states such as Colorado, Indiana, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Oregon. Mysterious meetings with fiery crosses and masked members robed in sheets became symbolic of the Klan. To instill fear the Klan used whippings, brandings, mutilation and hangings. The Klan numbered as many as six million members at its peak in the 1920's, but by 1944 it was again disbanded.

The Klan was revived in Georgia in 1944 in reaction to the movement for increased civil rights for Black people. As the Civil Rights Movement gained strength, unfortunately so did the Klan. During the 1960's many bombings and murders were attributed to the Klan, including the 1965 murder of Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, for which three Klansmen were convicted.

In the 1970's and 80's the Klan has only a small percentage of its peak membership of the 20's - perhaps 15,000 members nationwide - but they are as dangerous as ever:

- On November 3, 1979 a Klan mob attacked an unarmed anti-Klan rally in Greensboro, NC and killed five of the demonstrators.
- On April 19, 1980 three Klansmen burned a cross in the Black community in Chattanooga, TN and went on a random shooting spree, wounding five Black women.

over please

HISTORY OF THE KLAN

in 1911 of attempted murder for firing automatic  
 weapons into the house of a black man who had moved into a  
 "white" neighborhood  
 members broke the Reconstruction Government in the South and re-  
 imposed white racial rule. With white rule consolidated in the  
 South, the original Klan was disbanded in 1877.

**At least 300 incidents involving violence, harassment and intimidation were committed by members of the various Klan sects in 1911 alone!**

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 became symbols of the Klan. To facilitate fear the Klan used whip-  
 cracks, whistles, rattles and handbells. The Klan numbered as  
 many as 25 million members at its peak in the 1920's, but by 1945  
 it was again disbanded.

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 movement for increased civil rights for black people. As the Civil  
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 worker, for which three Klansmen were convicted.

In the 1930's and 40's the Klan has only a small percentage  
 of its peak membership of the 20's - perhaps 15,000 members nation-  
 wide - but they are as dangerous as ever.

- On November 2, 1915 a Klan mob attacked an unarmed anti-  
 Klan rally in Greenwood, NC and killed five of the demon-  
 strators.

- On April 19, 1930 three Klansmen burned a cross in the  
 Black community in Chattanooga, TN and went on a random  
 shooting spree, wounding five black women.

THE KLAN TODAY -2-

The Klan is no longer a single organization, but has broken

into a number of Sects:

\* Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

\* Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

\* New Order Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

\* United Klans of America

\* Death Knights of the KKK

\* Adamic Knights of the KKK

\* Confederation of Independent Orders of the KKK

The largest of these sects are the United Klans of America

headed by Robert Shelton, and the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan headed by Wilkinson. These sects frequently work with with any one of a number of racist and fascist fringe groups such as the Christian Anti-Jewish Party, the National States Rights Party and the American Nazi Party. In North Carolina Nazis and Klansmen have openly formed a "United Racist Front."

It is the Invisible Empire Klan that is trying to establish itself in New England and Eastern New York. Wilkinson himself has appeared at Klan rallies in Vermont and Connecticut during 1982. The Invisible Empire Klan is regarded as the most militaristic and violence prone of the so-called "national" Klans. In 1980 and 1981 alone, more than 250 members of this Klan have been arrested for crimes ranging from illegal possession of weapons to murder.

While historically always armed, the Klan of the 1980's has a trained para-military arm. Trained by former soldiers at places like "Camp My Lai" near Culman, Alabama or the camp near Warrior, Alabama, or at the suspected training camps in North Carolina. Pennsylvania, Connecticut and other states, these people are well armed and dangerous. The Klansmen who shot and killed the demon-

over please



strators had been trained at such a camp in North Carolina.  
The Klan is no longer a single organization, but has broken

into a number of sects  
In public Klan leader Wilkinson claims to oppose violence.  
\* Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan  
He tells reporters that he trains Klan members in weaponry merely  
\* Knights of the Ku Klux Klan  
for reasons of self defense. In private, however, his story is  
\* New Order Knights of the Ku Klux Klan  
totally different. He is known to have made the following statements;  
\* United Klans of America  
"I'm the only Klan leader who believes in having guns around"...  
\* Death Knights of the KKK  
"These guns aren't for shooting rabbits, they're for wasting people"  
\* Atlantic Knights of the KKK  
"...we believe in violence, there's no doubt about that"...we're  
\* Confederation of Independent Order of the KKK  
going to do away with forced bussing, affirmative action and the

Civil Rights Act."

The largest of these sects are the United Klans of America  
headed by Robert Shelton, and the Invisible Empire, Knights of the  
Ku Klux Klan headed by Wilkinson. These sects frequently work with  
with one of a number of racist and fascist fringe groups such  
as the Christian Anti-Jewish Party, the National States Rights Party  
and the American Nazi Party. In North Carolina Harts and Klammer  
have openly formed a United Racist Front.

It is the Invisible Empire Klan that is trying to establish  
itself in New England and Eastern New York. Wilkinson himself has  
appeared at Klan rallies in Vermont and Connecticut during 1971.  
The Invisible Empire Klan is regarded as the most militaristic and  
violence prone of the so-called "National Klans". In 1960 and 1971  
alone, more than 250 members of this Klan have been arrested for  
crimes ranging from illegal possession of weapons to murder.

While historically always armed, the Klan of the 1950's has a  
trained para-military arm. Trained by former soldiers at places  
like Camp Wai near Guzman, Alabama or the camp near Warbler,  
Alabama, or at the suspected training camps in North Carolina,  
Pennsylvania, Connecticut and other states, these people are well  
armed and dangerous. The Klansmen who shot and killed the demon-

### **Racism coalition to meet**

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism invites the public to a forum on the history and recent activities of the Ku Klux Klan on Wednesday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Albany United Methodist Church, corner of Clinton and Lexington Avenues, Albany.

speaker will be Renee Dubose of Washington, who will offer a national perspective. The meeting will be followed by a group discussion of local events.

TIMES UNION  
July 8, 1952

### **Anti-Klan Forum Wed. In Albany**

ALBANY — The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism will sponsor an Anti-Klan Forum Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Church at Clinton and Lexington avenues.

\* \* \*  
Rene Dubose, chairman of the Peoples United Against Klan and Nazi Repression, a Maryland-based national anti-Klan group, will speak about the Ku Klux Klan and how to organize against it.

The forum has been organized in response to recent Klan activities in Vermont, says Vera Michelson, spokesman for the coalition.

The title of Dubose's presentation is to be "The KKK: Closer Than You Think."

Schen. Gazette  
July 8, 1952

7/13/82

## ROUNDING UP

### Civil rights leader to speak on Klan

Rene Dubose, a civil rights leader and anti-Ku Klux Klan activist, will talk on the spread of the Klan Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Albany United Methodist Society, Clinton and Lexington avenues, Albany.

Dubose is a national organizer for American Federation For Government Employees and chairperson of People United Against Government Repression and the Klan/Nazis, a Maryland-based organization.

Her talk, entitled, "The KKK: Closer Than You Think," is sponsored by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid.

Citing recent Klan rallies in Vermont, coalition member Vera Michelson said, "The Klan-type mentality is something we really have to be aware of because of economic times like this."

In recent months, she added, a black family in Schenectady has received KKK hate mail and there was a cross-burning incident in the town of Berne.

The coalition plans to explore the possibility of having New York schools adopt a Connecticut curriculum which raises consciousness about the Klan's message of racism.



DUBOSE

...ations in the tur- year.

## Anti-KKK speaker to address coalition

During the past year and a half, local foes of the Ku Klux Klan believe the organization has made its presence felt in the Capital District with increasing frequency.

Alarmed by an increase of what it says are racist and anti-Semitic activities locally and across the nation, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is kicking off what its leaders hope will be a sustained effort to educate the public about the Klan.

As part of its program, the coalition is bringing Rene Dubose, a leading foe of the Klan in Maryland, to Albany Wednesday.

According to Vera Michelson, a member of the coalition's steering committee, Ms. Dubose is known nationally for her anti-Klan work.

The Maryland activist will speak on ways to fight the Klan at St. Luke's Church in Albany at 7:30 p.m.

## Group protests WQBK interview with Klansman

GLENMONT — "KKK Go, Go Away," read the homemade cardboard signs protesting a phone interview with a top Ku Klux Klan leader on radio station WQBK scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

The protesters found out about the interview earlier in the afternoon while participating in an anniversary celebration of the Sandinista victory over the Somoza regime in Nicaragua, held in Albany's Lincoln Park. They numbered about 30, said John Wolcott, a member of the Capital District Coalition against Apartheid and Racism.

"We didn't feel they should be given a platform to promote hatred and violence," Wolcott said Sunday afternoon, shortly after the picket in the radio station parking lot.

Radio station officials could not be reached for comment, but the interview with Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson was scheduled for between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Wilkinson, in Louisiana according to Wolcott, was to respond to calls from local listeners.

Last week local coalition members held a rally at St. Luke's Methodist Church to protest Klan activities. Recently, there have been anti-Semitic and racist posters showing up at stores owned by Jewish people in the New Scotland and Madison Avenue areas of the city, Wolcott said.

## Influx of Klan in Area Cited At Meeting to Combat Racism

By STEVE NELSON  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — The white-hooded klansman standing before a burning cross, once thought to be an exclusive symbol of the South, is moving north and communities here must be prepared to meet the threat head-on.

That was the message yesterday from Rene Du Bose, a member and community organizer for the Maryland-based People United Against Government Repression and the Klan/Nazis. Du Bose was in town to tell of the struggle against the Ku Klux Klan in Maryland and other Southern states and to help organize local opposition to the spread of the white supremacist, racist movement.

\* \* \*  
Flanked by Rev. Robert Dixon, pastor of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church of Albany and members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Du Bose spoke to the press yesterday afternoon about what it takes to fight the spread of the Klan.

The coalition sponsored a workshop last night at the United Methodist Center in Albany to organize the Capital District against the spread of the Klan.

"This is the beginning of an education program in the Capital District to combat the right-wing sentiment growing here," said Vera "Mike" Michaelson, a member of the coalition's steering committee.

"KKK — Closer Than You Think" was the theme of the

workshop. And Michael Dollard, chairman of the coalition, said there has been recent evidence of Klan sentiment in the area, besides the recent Klan rally in Vermont and alleged Klan organizing in the town of Berne.

He produced copies of racist material received last week by a black family who had moved into "a so-called white neighborhood" in Schenectady.

The written material trumpeted "Today's New Klan" and railed on about the effect "ape niggers" were having on the country. At the bottom of the diatribe was a crude drawing of a hooded Klansman, a cross and the warning "we'll see you, nigger."

A membership card for the National Association for the Advancement of White People, an organization headed by Klan leader David Duke accompanied the material.

"This kind of racism is going on increasingly regularly in this area," Dollard said.

\* \* \*  
The existence of such material in the Capital District might shock some, but it doesn't surprise Du Bose.

She lives in Maryland, which she claimed has the highest number of KKK members of any state in the country. She has traveled to Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia in her attempts to organize communities against the onslaught of racists.

She said a new group formed by the Klan, the United Racist Front, has stated openly that they want a race war. And they have targeted

North Carolina as the place for a future all-white state.

"What they are saying in their literature is they want a race war," said Du Bose, adding that paramilitary camps are being established by various KKK groups to train men, women and children for that war.

"We must ask why these camps are allowed to exist openly, flagrantly violating the law and why are they in effect being protected by the government," she said, reading from a prepared statement.

The outcome of a grand jury investigation into the murder of five anti-Klan demonstrators in Greensboro, N.C. "will be one test of the government's efforts to stop racist murders."

"This Klan violence is being shielded by the misguided notion that the Klan and Nazis are legitimate, law-abiding organizations that should be protected by First amendment rights," Du Bose said.

"The proliferation of paramilitary training camps, the illegal weapons the Klan carries at their recruitment drives point out decisively that the Klan is a violent organization bent on destroying whole races and groups of people whether it is blacks in the south, the Vietnamese in the southwest or Jewish people in the cities."

"The Klan organization is set up to violate the civil rights of others and only by communities banding together with educational programs, counter rallies, and enforcing existing anti-Klan laws will they be stopped," she added.

## Klan activities reported on rise in Albany area

7/7/72  
By Michael Muskal

Staff Writer

The Ku Klux Klan has threatened a local coalition that has been protesting against the white supremacy group, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid said Friday.

At a morning news conference, the group said it had received a package of threatening literature Thursday, the day after it sponsored an anti-Klan meeting in Albany that drew 200 people.

The collection of racist flyers and cards displayed by coalition officials says the coalition has received a "friendly" visit from the Klan. "Should We Pay You a Real Visit?" it continues.

The package was left at the main door of the United Methodist Church, Clinton and Lexington avenues, sometime Thursday morning, said the Rev. Andrew Taylor. During that time as many as 60 children were inside the building.

"Inside we had children being cared for by volunteers and outside we had people who want to use violence, to poison our community," he said. "If good people do nothing, the bad people will."

The coalition sponsored a forum Wednesday night, featuring Washington, D.C., activist Rene Du Bose, of the Coalition Against Nazi/Klan repression. The group has been fighting the growth of the both the Klan and the Nazi Party.

No one knows just how large that growth has been, but one indication has been the willingness of the Klan to sponsor public demonstrations such as the one last month in Vermont. The Klan is really about a half dozen rival organizations that purport to trace their heritage to the Klan that swept through the South after the Civil War.

There have been several racist incidents locally, said coalition chairman Michael J. Dollard. Also attending the news conference were the Rev. Robert Dixson and Frank Pogue, a professor at the State University of New York at Albany.

The incidents include literature sent to a black couple in Schenectady and suburban residents training to use firearms to prevent what they perceive as a threat from blacks, according to coalition members who refused to give details.

No Claim of Organized Klan — July 17, 1982  
**Site of Anti-KKK Presentation  
Littered With Klan Literature**

By CARLO WOLFF  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — One day after Washington, D.C.-based community organizer Rene Dubose came here to discuss and deplore the Ku Klux Klan, Klan literature was dropped at the United Methodist Center where Dubose had spoken.

Members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism held a news conference yesterday morning to detail the incident, saying it indicated an increase in racist activity in the Capital District.

Speaking in front of the United Methodist Center at Lexington and Clinton Avenues, the Rev. Walter Taylor said such racist whites appeal to other whites suffering from the economic recession, preying on bigotry by blaming "the lazy blacks, the shiftless blacks" for their woes.

"If they had full employment in our society," Taylor said, such racism wouldn't exist. Taylor is executive director of the United Methodist Society.

Taylor also claimed there had been racist incidents in suburbs within 30 miles of Albany. But when pressed, he couldn't detail them, and he refused to say where or when they'd taken place.

The literature that arrived at the center yesterday was discovered by a center worker, according to a news release prepared by Michael J. Dollard, chairman of the coalition.

Addressed to Dubose, the manila envelope contained a second envelope bearing the words, "The Ku Klux Klan Is Watching You!" and an assortment of Ku Klux Klan calling cards stapled to a "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" letterhead.

According to Dollard, the coalition considers the literature a threat to Dubose and Capital District residents. It also indicates, Dollard claimed, that the Klan is present in the Capital District, as illustrated by a cross-burning in the town of Berne and the distribution of anti-Semitic stamps and posters in Albany's New Scotland Avenue and Hackett Boulevard areas.

But, pressed for details after the conference, Dollard couldn't say where or when the cross had been burned in Berne, adding he couldn't provide details of last fall's sighting of a person or persons sporting keyrings with Klan symbols in the Rensselaer Amtrak station last fall.

But he pointed to yesterday's incident and the finding of Klan literature in a Saratoga restau-

rant on the July 4 weekend as examples of Klan activity.

He also said the incidents do not indicate an organized effort, but both he and Taylor said those involved could easily incite people to back the Klan's racist programs.

"We have no evidence of an organized unit here," such as one that recently staged a rally in Wilmington, Vt., Dollard said.

The coalition plans to continue its anti-Klan educational program, begun Wednesday night when Dubose addressed about 200 people. In September, the coalition will start a film series on the Klan, and coalition speakers will be available to community groups through the fall.

Odell Winfield, a local co-chairman of the National Black Independent Political Party, attended the conference and indicated afterward that the coalition may be missing the point.

Winfield, a state worker who lives in Ten Broeck Apartments, said he felt that the NBIPP and the coalition should work together to combat racism in the public school system and in city government, suggesting the anti-Klan program is attacking something intangible.

The NBIPP is a political organization aimed at raising blacks' consciousness of the economic and political system. It is not electorally oriented, Winfield said.

Cora Watkins, the other Capital District co-chairman of NBIPP, moderated Dubose's remarks Wednesday night.

With Albany city government "giving sanction to the rugby game last year, we really believe right-wing activity in the Capital District would increase," Winfield said in reference to the two games the South African rugby team, the Springboks, played in the area last September.

"But rather than have the black community fight something that is intangible," Winfield said, "we see a need to educate the black community about right-wing activities in the public school system and the community at large."

Although he said he "didn't want to break rank" with the coalition, "I think the press conference needed a little more work as far as what it can do if there is a Klan chapter here," Winfield said, adding he thinks no such chapter exists locally.

He said that since the tour last fall of the South African Springboks rugby team, South African businessmen have visited Albany twice. "These are the types of

activities that should be brought to the attention of the public," he said, since his organization and the coalition oppose apartheid, the policy of racial separation that is the basis of the South African society and economy.

Dollard noted a South African vice consul had visited Albany within the last month. The capital city was one stop on a 19-state tour aimed at promoting South African tourism. The representative met with the editorial boards of several newspapers while here, including that of the Gazette.

"Rather than go around fighting the symptoms, we should organize to eliminate the root causes of racism," Winfield said.