

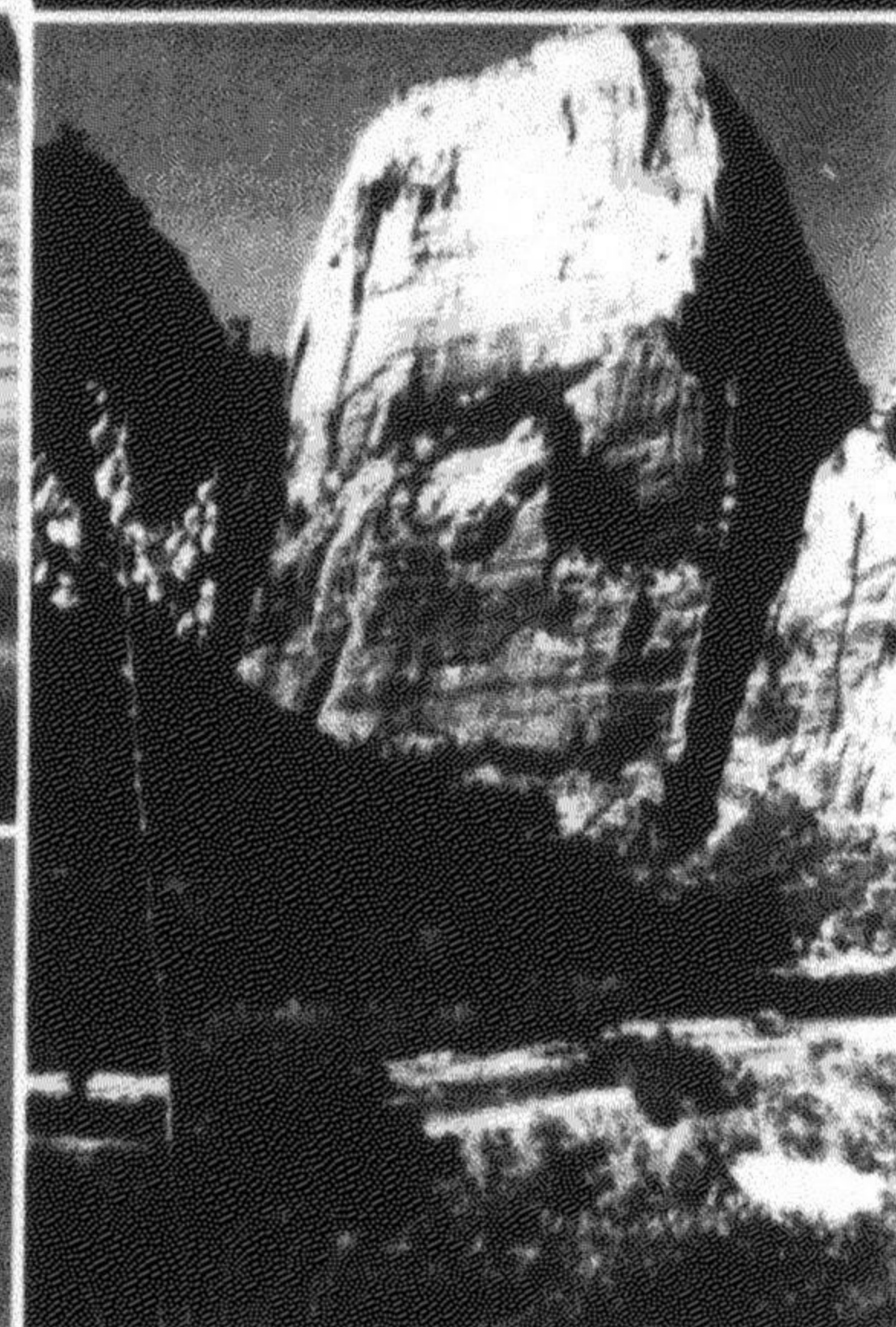
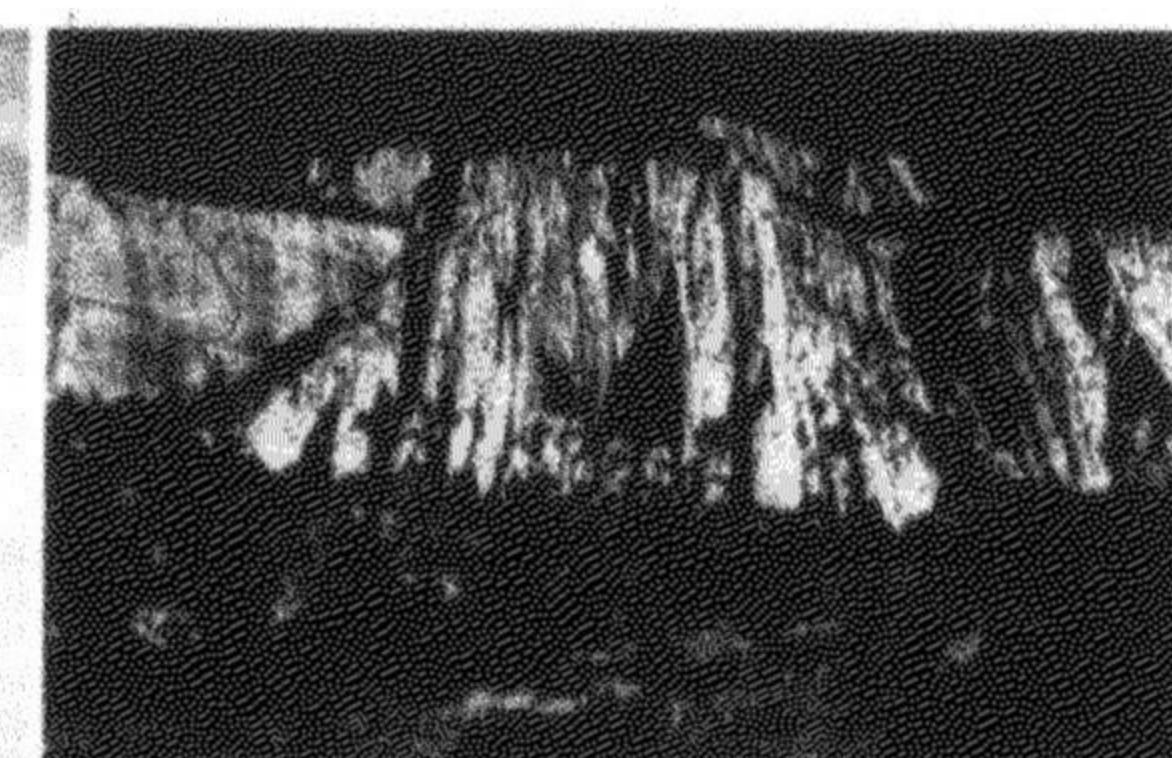


THE

# MOTORIST

Hudson Valley Auto Club

*S.A. article  
Letters*

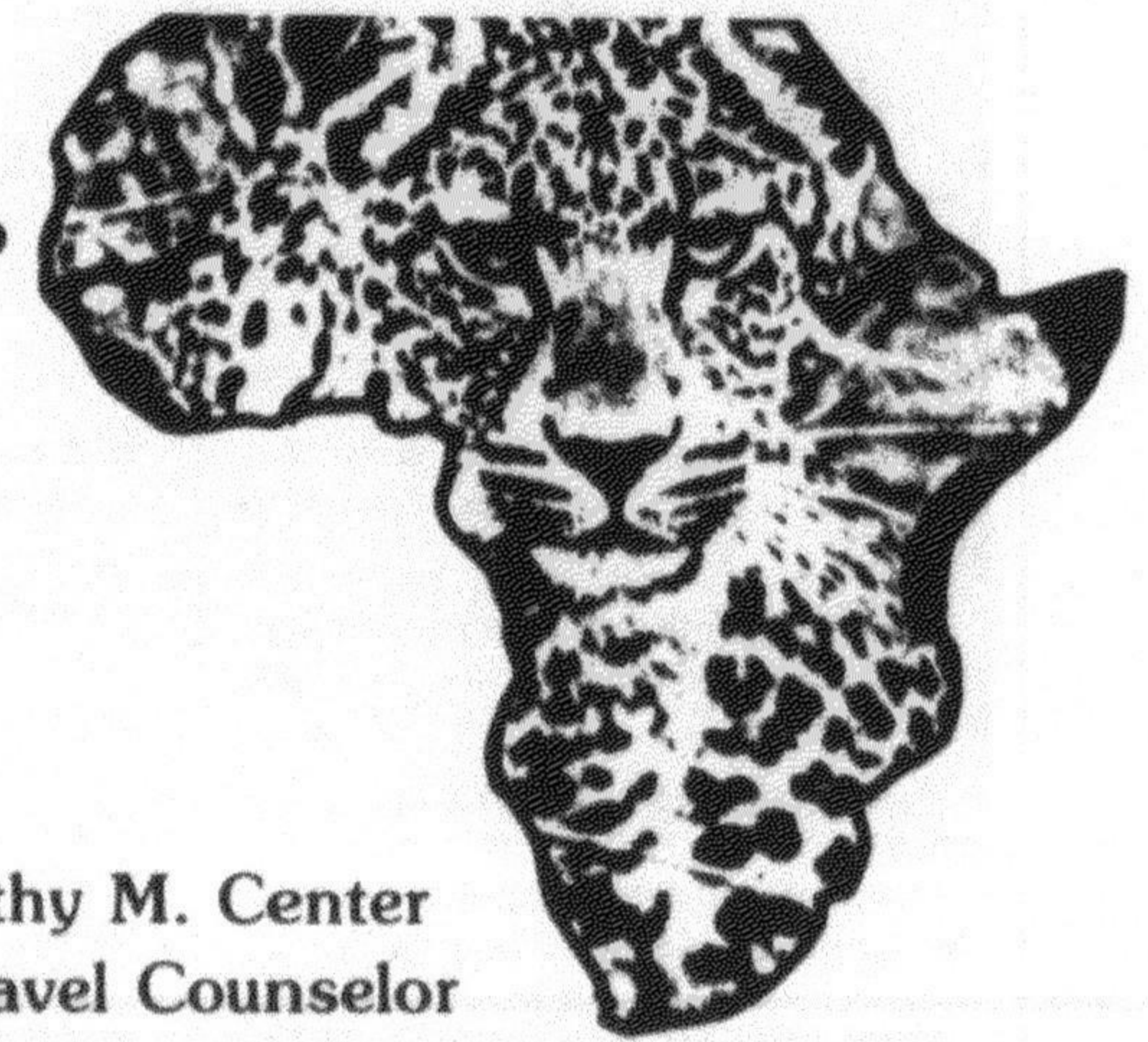


*HV's*  
COLOR  
COUNTRY



JULY/AUGUST 1984

# Down South African Way...



Dorothy M. Center  
— Travel Counselor

We have left our Winter behind to arrive in 90° Summer of South Africa and the *City of Gold* — **JOHANNESBURG**.

Having reported to you before some five years ago from South Africa, we'll be doing a bit different route this time . . .

Upon arrival at our Johannesburg Hotel we collapsed from the heat — after all it is only about twenty-one hours since we left New York and the freezing temperatures. Recovering is swift with the anticipation of our new journey just beginning.

We survive the "instructions" — "hold on to your pocketbook — don't travel around after dark, etc., etc." I sometimes wonder if every city in the World is competing for notoriety — from New York to Bombay — it is always the same. Using normal precautions should not endanger anybody. It beats sitting in your hotel room, clutching your belongings and eyeing everyone with suspicion! ENJOY — As you will find South Africans happy, smiling and very willing to assist.

A number of happy surprises. FOR ONE — no longer are the signs up "Ladies Bar" — that would allow a lady to enter the bar. Even with an escort, most bars were "Men's Bars." On my last visit the signs had just been put up, now it is just a matter of course for ladies to enter the bars. Being raised in Boston Society has been an asset in understanding these World Problems!

There are over 24,000,000 people living in South Africa. The population consists of Blacks, Whites, Cape Coloureds and Asians. The Blacks are of several ethnic and language groups. All are descendants from a migration from the Central Regions of Africa. The Cape Coloureds are of mixed origin. The largest Asian Groups are Indian and Chinese. All live in a unique social system. This visit we found Blacks operating some Hotels in Johannesburg. In Durban, however, we found most Indians running Hotels/Restaurants, etc.

Unique Social System? Yes, but changing, ever changing just as we have changed.

JOHANNESBURG, known as the "City of Gold," was born as a Mining Camp in 1886 and even some of the streets reflect the image — Nugget Street/Quartz Street/Claim Street — all a clue to its title "City of Gold."

A short ride from Johannesburg we find the GOLD MUSEUM with its authentic mine — "NO. 14 SHAFT-CROWN MINES." The shaft was completed and in operation in 1918 and is over 1,000 meters deep. Other supplementary shafts reach 2,000 meters. Our Museum Tour will take us down to NO. 5 level, about 250 meters deep which is about 800 feet.

On the surface we enter a long shed with lockers to leave our valuables — the only exception will be our cameras which we will be allowed to carry along. Ladies with high heels (yes, there are always a few!) will have to

don black boots. We are fitted with bright yellow coveralls and green hard hats. Just when I thought that was it, along came a miner to wire me up with a 25 pound pack generator for my "Miner's Light" that went on and off with a button. "How dark is it going to be down there" and "Will I get lost?" crossed my mind!

We waited for the "cage" to come up from its depths and load us on. Called the "Squeeze Box" because they squeezed as many miners in per trip as they could. We descend with one problem — I have left my stomach and knees on the ground level! We reach our depth and leave our squeeze box to find stretched before us the long, long tunnels of the mine.

Now, my friends, our guide is about 5 feet tall and he gets in and out of the tunnels very easily. Most of us have to duck — and thank goodness for the hard hats!

Further and further we go through tunnel after tunnel. We are shown the various blasting equipment, mining procedures along with safety features of the Crown Mines. I am unable to think about the mine workers that have done the mining here. Today they are mostly imported from other African Countries as the South Africans do not want to work the mines. The Governments of the African Nations arrange the passage and employment. They are signed up for a period of 2 years. After that time they are sent back to their countries. In six months most sign up again and return to South Africa as the pay is good, averaging about 500/600 Rand per month — about \$402/\$502 per month/U.S. \$. This pay also includes their room and board.

We go back into the squeeze box and return to the surface — this time I left my stomach and knees below!

After a tour of the Museum Grounds that has replicas of homes built by the Miners — most investors came from Great Britain — we are going to witness the pouring of liquid gold into mounds. The guards are on duty and the huge door to the pouring area is closed. When the furnace door is open the sight is awesome! Also the room temperature rises about 100 degrees. The gold is poured — if only we had that money equivalent! After the lecture on the pouring of gold and after the mold has cooled down we are all able to place our hands on the GOLD — worth? \$250,000 U.S. \$! Oh well, who needs it?

On the grounds of the Museum we are also shown the "above" ground type operations — panning of gold, etc. and the CROWNING GLORY of the Museum — the African Mining Tribal Dancing. Representing the various Tribes that work the Mines. The most exciting and most colorful I believe are the ZULUS. This will bring to a close our day and a return via an authentic Steam Train, used for various operations of the mines, brings us to the front gate.

At the Gold Museum Shop you may purchase Gold and I found a very nice piece of Gold Bullion on a Gold Chain. They come in three sizes and I selected a middle

sized one about 1/2 inch wide.

We are ready to continue on . . .

One of my disappointments is not being able to report to you on a planned BALLOON SAFARI — but, being at the mercy of the weather for this type of operation and only having one day to do the Ballooning we had to forego that experience. The one day (or, you may wish longer) trip consists of being picked up at your hotel and transported to the Magaliesburg Mountains. It is a "working" trip, you help inflate the balloons, take the flight and after about an hour "in flight" (most Balloon flights are about from 1½ to 2 hours duration) you will land for a Champagne Breakfast! You are then returned to your hotel. Even though disappointed, on the evening news back in our hotel in Johannesburg, we hear of heavy winds that ripped off the roofs of cottages in the mountain and lake areas, so we are just as well off!

The following day we had to be at the South African Railway Station in Johannesburg for our train to Cape Town. The South African Stations are really beautiful, clean and many facilities for the passengers.

From Johannesburg going South the drought that had hit Africa is very much in evidence . . . crops destroyed except where there was irrigation. However, as we got closer to Cape Town the fertile ground and green landscape showed us that the Cape Section had not been affected.

Our train travels from Johannesburg to **Klerksdorn/Warrenton** and **Kimberley** — here we stop off to see the Diamond Mines. **KIMBERLEY** — a name so familiar to us and finally we are standing here — here, is the "Big Hole" so deep there is no bottom — like staring into a crater — all for Diamonds! Today, it is DeBeers that controls the Diamond Interests of the World.

Kimberley is hotter than Johannesburg on our visit. Many British families live here, this is quite evident by the many "greetings" at the train station.

We board the train again for **Cape Town**. Many stops on this train as it is only scheduled a few times a week, but it gives us an excellent view of the country. The entire trip takes two days from Johannesburg to Cape Town and may be done First Class regular train — or, on the famous BLUE TRAIN with its elegant cuisine and accommodations.

As we approach Cape Town we travel the edge of a few mountain ranges . . . the largest seems to be the Hex River Mountain. All of these offer us spectacular scenery including the "hair raising" tracks we have to traverse!

**CAPE TOWN!** Cape Town is Cape Town — I truly believe it to be the most beautiful spot in the world. We are staying at "Sea Point" which should give you a clue as to our locale. In this area we seem to be held captive by days when the fog will come in and surround the city — it sits atop Table Mountain. The mountain can be seen

from most areas of Cape Town and it is the mountain, the city and the sea that makes Cape Town a spectacular city — situated on two Oceans — the Atlantic on one and the Indian on the other.

We have arranged to fly from Cape Town to **DURBAN**, thus we are on to **Durban** and the Natal Coastal Area. Known as the "Holiday City" as it is warm all year long and has many fine resort hotels.

As I have left my African Crafts Shopping to last, we browse around the many African Curio Shops here. All authentic — we find Zulu shields, spears, weaving, wood carvings and unusual beaded work.

The **ZULUS** are from the Natal area and on a previous visit to South Africa I had visited the tribal homes north of Durban.

The **BASUTO** Tribe are from Lesotho, a bit West of Durban and their crafts are colorful blankets, grass hats, clay beads, sheepskin and mohair rugs.

On my last visit I had also travelled to **SWAZILAND**, north of Durban. From here came the table mats, wooden bowls, Kanga Cloth and the **SWAZI TRIBE**.

The **MAKONDE/N'DEBEL/OVAMBO/FINGO & XHOSA TRIBES** are from the Cape Province. The **Bushman** from **Botswana** — **BAROTSE** from **Zambia**, all crafts from these Tribes are represented in the Curio Shops.

I have the good fortune this trip to add a good deal to my personal collection. Even though I have had many trips to the African Continent, I am still in awe of their carvings and crafts.

Reluctantly we have to depart on the long trek back home . . . it always seems so much longer! We have so many memories . . . Africa is such a huge continent it will take many more trips to satisfy one's curiosities. But, isn't that our right to TRAVEL, to LEARN, to UNDERSTAND and to experience first hand the lives, the cultures, so vastly different from our own . . . it only takes a moment to take your first step.

3 Academy Road  
Albany, New York 12208  
September 30, 1984

Mr. Seymour T. Pearlman  
The Hudson Valley Auto Club  
828 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Pearlman:

The article "Down South African Way" is the most blatant piece of South African propaganda that I have seen in some time. Is Dorothy Center, the author, an agent of the South African government or is she pollyanna? A travel piece on South Africa without mention that apartheid is the rule of the land has to be considered an incredible piece of work to even the most politically unformed.

She writes that South Africa has a "unique social system." A system which represses over 80 percent of the people, a system where over 80 percent of the people have no right to vote, cannot own land or travel freely is indeed "unique" although that is not the adjective most of the world uses for it.

She claims being raised in Boston Society "has been an asset in understanding these World Problems." The "World Problems" she refers to are the fact that women can now go in men-only bars - no mention of course that the bars she refers to are for whites only. Incredible naivete or bold chicanery is at work in this type of journalism and either is inexcusable.

She laments missing a balloon trip. No need Dorothy, you certainly have some vision of something that is full of air. However, that is too trite a criticism since what you have glossed over in your glossy article is the fact that millions of South Africans are being denied basic human rights. For you to write up South Africa as a cutesy travel piece is outrageous.

It is irresponsible of AAA to print it. It is political propaganda of the worst kind. This is the first time in over 10 years of reading through the Motorist that I have been offended. I hope someone on your editorial staff will be more judicious in the future.

Sincerely

*Eileen C. Kawola*  
Eileen C. Kawola



## Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

436-0562

October 1, 1984

Mr. Seymour T. Pearlman  
President  
The Hudson Valley Auto Club  
828 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Mr. Pearlman:

Several members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, as well as several people in the community, have read the article "Down South Africa Way" in the July/August edition of the Motorist and have expressed alarm over such a clear misrepresentation of life in South Africa. As a community based coalition, actively working to educate the community about the apartheid system of South Africa, we would like to make you and your membership aware of what life is really like in apartheid South Africa.

The date of the article is not given, but Ms. Center's off-hand Cook's Tour version of the Republic of South Africa in no way represents life in the most racist country in the world. Let me draw a harsh analogy. It would be like an article on the beauty of the Black Forest and the quaint towns of Bavaria written as a travel piece during Hitler's reign in Germany. Your organization and magazine are intended as a travel service for your membership but such an article makes a strong political statement. The United Nations, the International Olympic Committee, and many other international organizations have called for the total isolation of South Africa in an attempt to bring to an end the apartheid system. A lightly written account of a pleasure trip to South Africa making no mention of the all-pervasive apartheid system is misleading and irresponsible. The article's omissions call for a response.

In South Africa, a white minority has imposed an institutionalized racism called apartheid which denies basic human rights to a Black majority. More than 21 million Black people, four fifths of the population live under harsh and humiliating conditions. They not only have no voice in the political life of the country, but because of apartheid, they find themselves without hope or opportunity in their own homeland.

Recently, a new constitution was put into effect in South Africa which has established a three house parliament. This new parliament gives representation to the whites, mixed race and Indian populations. The Black majority has been totally excluded from the new parliament. The twisted rationale given for this exclusion is that the Blacks are not citizens of South Africa. The South African government has set barren pieces of land within the country and proclaimed them "homelands" and force the South Africans whose labor is not needed to maintain life in the cities to

relocate there. This may explain the statement in your article which says that South Africans do not want to work in the mines. The government does not consider the Black South Africans to be citizens of South Africa.

Perhaps if Ms. Center had been able to the the Balloon Safari she mentioned, she might have seen the appalling conditions of the Blacks outside of the cities. The health of South Africans is harmed by the apartheid system. There is only one doctor for every 45,000 persons who are Black, mixed race or Asian; there is one doctor for every 370 whites. Nearly half the children in a typical African reserve dies before the age of five. The infant mortality rate for Black South Africans, one of the highest in the world, is 69 per 1,000 in urban areas and 282 per 1,000 in rural areas. For whites, the infant mortality rate is 12 per 1,000, one of the lowest in the world.

A visit to the schools might have proved enlightening too. The government spends 10 times more for the education of white children than for the education of Black children. School attendance is compulsory and free for white pupils; it is neither free nor compulsory for Africans. A report by UNESCO on apartheid states that South African school books teach the African that he occupies an inferior position in society. White children are taught that Europeans are superior and that Africans are primitive and barbaric.

The article mentions the crafts available from the tribal people of South Africa. It makes no mention that the South African economy thrives because the Black South Africans provide an abundant and cheap labor force. It follows a policy of excluding Blacks, mixed race and Asians from most of the highly paid skilled occupations, and various laws reserve the better jobs for whites. Whites make up only 18 percent of the work force and earn 64 percent of all income in South Africa. Most of the Blacks work in mining (yes) and agriculture. In the former, the income of whites is six times that of Black Africans, in the latter, 20 times that of Black Africans. The poverty datum line in South Africa - below which "health and decency cannot be maintained" - was 123.3 rand per month in 1976. In 1980, over 60 percent of the Black households still lived below the poverty datum line. Over half the white households in major urban areas have white servants. They are paid an average of 17 rand per month, half of which was given in food, living quarters and other payments in kind. The white population enjoys a per capita income far higher than that of any other country in Africa but Black per capita income is one of the lowest in the world.

Ms. Center seemed awed at watching the liquid gold of South Africa being poured into molds, and at the worth of the gold. "Oh well, who needs it?" she writes. The South African government needs it. The income from gold and other vital resources is used by the South African government to conduct a massive arms build-up. South Africa is a military state, determined to maintain the racist status quo through strength.

And because South Africa is a military state, it is also a society under siege. Not only does the article present a biased picture of life in South Africa, it also fails to inform your readers that a trip to South Africa could be dangerous. Although South Africa is not as well reported in the media as El Salvador, Lebanon or Northern Ireland, a review of even the New York Times will show that not a week goes by in South Africa without car bombings in the major cities, police clashed in the townships and on the picket lines and violent deaths of the African people at the hands of the South African police and military. The article in no way represents

today's reality of a nation torn by pressures of an aggressive war against neighboring Angola and Namibia, and internal guerrilla war against the racist white regime in Pretoria, widespread labor unrest by Black trade unions and student unrest over the inferior education provided to South African Blacks.

There are many other harsh realities of life in apartheid South Africa, far too many to mention here. One final reality is relevant, however. All Blacks over the age of 16 must carry pass books and produce them on demand at any hour - while the author of your article travels in luxury and comfort.

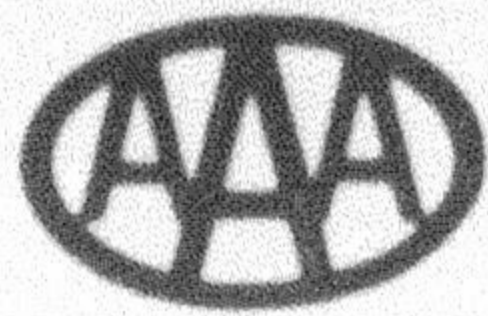
We believe you owe it to your membership to apprise them of the reality of life in South Africa. The Coalition has been studying the South African situation since the appearance of the South African rugby team in Albany in September 1981 and we have substantial informational resources at our disposal. We are requesting that you print this letter or a similar article which would present some of the harsh realities of apartheid South Africa. We would appreciate your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson  
Chair  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Statistical Information from:  
A Crime Against Humanity: Questions and Answers on Apartheid in  
South Africa. United Nations Publication DPI/705 41261, Oct., 1982.

## Hudson Valley Auto Club, Inc.



MAIN OFFICE  
828 Washington Avenue · Albany, New York 12203  
Telephone 482-3321

### BRANCH OFFICES

TROY · 257 Broadway  
Telephone 272-3650

HUDSON · 537 Warren Street  
Telephone 828-4537

October 16, 1984

Ms. Eileen C. Kawola  
39 Academy Road  
Albany, New York 12208

Dear Ms. Kawola:

Thank you for your letter of September 30, 1984.

We are very sorry that the article which appeared in the July-August issue of the "Motorist" was upsetting to you. If you read the "Motorist" regularly, you will find that this article was written by Dorothy Center in the same context as all her other articles were written after she returned from various destinations in the world. In no way was this article meant to be malicious or political. The Auto Club is not a political organization and our only interest is in informing people of tourist attractions around the world regardless of any internal problems which may exist. Our only concern to our clients is the safety and gratification from travel they receive.

Again, I apologize for any undue stress this may have caused.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary C. Vedder".

Mary C. Vedder  
General Manager

MCV:kt d

*The Most Trusted Name in Travel.*

## PULSE OF THE PEOPLE

### Apartheid

In recent weeks anti-apartheid activists have made local elected officials aware of their objections to the appearance in our area of entertainers who have performed in South Africa. Why the protest?

In South Africa, the government practices a racial policy called apartheid. Under their system of white supremacy, non-white South Africans, who make up more than 80 percent of the population, are denied basic human rights. Black South Africans are not allowed to vote, are not allowed to own land, and are forced to relocate to government-designated areas. Black South Africans have much higher infant mortality rates and much lower life expectancy rates due to the lack of medical facilities and doctors. Black workers are paid much lower wages than white workers for the same work. Blacks must carry a pass at all times and may be stopped by the police at any time. South Africa is a country whose government practices the most extreme racism aimed at keeping the ruling white minority in control.

No one who believes in basic human decency can justify this abhorrent, inhuman racist system. The United Nations has taken a firm stand against apartheid. They have called for the total isolation of South Africa. One of the means of isolating South Africa is the cultural boycott. It is a sanction imposed against wrong. Because the United Nations has requested that the international community honor the cultural boycott, entertainers who perform in South Africa are doing so in violation of an international ban. Thousands of entertainers honor that ban — some don't. Those who violate the ban use the argument that entertainment transcends politics or that it is art for art's sake.

In truth, culture is very much a part of a country's politics and an entertainer who decides to perform in South Africa is indeed taking a stand and is siding with the rulers of that country's racist regime.

Many people in the Capital District are aware of apartheid in South Africa and work in many ways against it. In fact, many people in other parts of the country are aware of the anti-apartheid movement in Albany. In 1981, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was organized to protest the appearance in Albany of the South African rugby team. Since that time, the work against apartheid has continued in various ways. The cultural boycott has been one of the more visible manifestations of this work.

The Capital District Coalition has organized protests against the appearance in our area of several performers who have violated the boycott including

Chick Corea, Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt, the Beach Boys, Paul Anka, America, Della Reese and the Mighty Clouds of Joy. As the summer approaches and more entertainers come to our area, there will be more protests. People in the Capital District should feel a sense of pride when a protest and a picket is set up against entertainers who have performed in South Africa. It means that our community is taking part in an international movement against tyranny and oppression.

EILEEN C. KAWOLA  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism  
Albany

### Turn to God

We must stop making man God, and turn to the true and living God Jesus Christ.

His Word says: "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles, 7:14

DOLORES YANNICK

Troy

### Bridge closing

When the Waterford Bridge closed I had two choices. I could either walk 12 blocks from my house or take the bus from Waterford to Cohoes and another to Troy. I couldn't take the second choice, because I would be an hour late for work.

The bus running from Stillwater to Cohoes runs every two hours. I couldn't make the connections without being late. So I decided to walk the 12 blocks from my house to the J.M. Fields parking lot.

I was willing to make the sacrifice. If you know anybody with sinus or arthritis, walking 10 blocks and then over the bridge, which is usually windy on these damp mornings, will make you worse. Doing this when you leave work very tired, getting caught on the bridge in the rain is frustrating. Now the walking path is about half what it was. I met a man on a 3-wheeler bike, I was halfway over, and had to go so close to the rail it frightened me. Let me tell you — I don't enjoy being that close to the water since I was never a good swimmer. Do you think anybody will enjoy this 12-block walk on an 85-degree day coming up pretty soon? How about a rainy day when the umbrella does no good? How about September when it gets cold, windy and then snowy? I would love to know if the person in charge of the bus schedule would do it?

When I called the manager of the bus company, he told me that the last shuttle bus ran at 9:10 a.m. and not again until 3:20 p.m. I asked him what happens to people like me, or

anybody who needs a bus within these five hours. I also asked him why they didn't run every other bus to Waterford. He told me that more people get on at 126th Street. I met two people from Northside, the same morning I was on the bus. Doesn't he consider us human beings?

EMMA L. RYAN

Waterford

### Right decision

Some people believe that the New York State drinking age should be raised to 21. They maintain that there are far too many drunk drivers on the road and that many of those drunk drivers are teenagers. This idea, however, that teenagers are the root of the drunk driving problem, is wrong. There are three reasons why I am glad the Assembly voted that the drinking age should not be raised.

Certainly, drunk driving is a very serious problem in this country. Hardly a day goes by without reading about someone (often an innocent victim) being severely injured or killed in a drunk driving accident. But was a really an accident that someone decided to drive after having too much to drink? The best way to solve this problem is to help the drinker make the right decision. Better law enforcement and stricter laws will help the drinker make the decision not to drive. Raising the drinking age will only delay the decision. Therefore, such a law would be an inadequate means of dealing with the problem of drunk driving.

Another reason the drinking age should not be raised is age discrimination. There are many forms of discrimination, all of which are illegal in the United States. Why, then, are we seeking to pass legislation that does just that? One may argue that is because people under 21 generally are not mature enough to be responsible drinkers. But if someone is considered mature enough to vote for president, what makes him so immature that he cannot drink alcohol? Furthermore, I believe that if someone is old enough to be drafted into the armed forces, he should be old enough to have a beer.

The third, and most important reason for not raising the drinking age is because it completely sidesteps the issue. The issue of course, is drunk driving. The proposed solution, however, is directed at a select group of people — not at society as a whole. If a city is trying to cut down on crime, is it really a solution to make it illegal for people under 21 to buy guns? Teenagers are being used as scapegoats for a problem which includes all age groups. If the drinking age is raised to 21, we will still have far too many drunk drivers on the road. What then? Raise the age to 25? Why not 30?

JOE JABONASKI

Waterford

Waterford



39 Academy Road  
Albany, New York 12208  
May 28, 1984

Letters to the Editor  
Knickerbocker News  
Capital Newspapers  
Albany Shaker Road  
Colonie, New York

To the Editor:

In recent weeks anti-apartheid activists have made local elected officials aware of their objection to the appearance in our area of entertainers who have performed in South Africa. Why the protest? In South Africa, the government practices a racial policy called apartheid. Under this system of white supremacy, non-white South Africans, who make up over 80 percent of the population, are denied basic human rights. Black South Africans have much higher infant mortality rates and much lower life expectancy rates due to the lack of medical facilities and doctors. Black workers are paid much lower wages than white workers for the same work. Blacks must carry a pass at all times and may be stopped by the police at any time. South Africa is a country whose government practices the most extreme racism aimed at keeping the ruling white minority in control.

No one who believes in basic human decency can justify this abhorrent, inhuman racist system. The United Nations has taken a firm stand against apartheid. They have called for the total isolation of South Africa. One of the means of isolating South Africa is the cultural boycott. It is a sanction imposed against wrong. Because the United Nations has requested that the international community honor the cultural boycott, entertainers who perform in South Africa are doing so in violation of an international ban. Thousands of entertainers honor that ban - some don't. Those who violate the ban use the argument that entertainment transcends politics or that it is art for art's sake. In truth, culture is very much a part of a country's politics and an entertainer who decides to perform in South Africa is indeed taking a stand and is siding with the rulers of that country's racist regime.

Many people in the Capital District are aware of apartheid South Africa and work in many ways against it. In fact, many people in other parts of the country are aware of the anti-apartheid movement in Albany. In 1981, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was organized to protest the appearance in Albany of the South African rugby team. Since that time, the work against apartheid has continued in various ways. The cultural boycott has been one of the more visible manifestations of this work. The Capital District Coalition has organized protests against the appearance in our area of several performers who have violated the boycott including Chick Corea, Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt, the Beach Boys, the Mighty Clouds of Joy, Paul Anka, America, and Della Reese. As the summer approaches and more entertainers come to our area, there will be more protests. People in the Capital District should feel a sense of pride when a protest and picket is set up against entertainers who have performed in South Africa. It means that our community is taking part in an international movement against tyranny and oppression.

Sincerely,  
*Eileen Kawola*  
Eileen Kawola

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
438-0309 (home) 462-7197 (work)

39 Academy Road  
Albany, New York  
May 28, 1984

Letters to the Editor  
Times Union  
Box 15000  
Albany, New York 12212

To the Editor:

In recent weeks anti-apartheid activists have made local elected officials aware of the objection to the appearance in our area of entertainers who have performed in South Africa. Why the protest? In South Africa, the government practices a racial policy called apartheid. Under this system of white supremacy, non-white South Africans, who make up over 80 percent of the population, are denied basic human rights. South Africa is a country whose government practices the most extreme racism aimed at keeping the ruling white minority in control. No one who believes in basic human decency can justify this abhorrent, inhuman racist policy.

The United Nations has taken a firm stand against apartheid. They have called for the total isolation of South Africa. One of the means of isolating South Africa is the cultural boycott. It is a sanction imposed against wrong. Because the United Nations has requested that the international community honor the cultural boycott, entertainers who perform in South Africa are doing so in violation of an international ban. Thousands of entertainers honor that ban - some don't. Those who violate the ban use the argument that entertainment transcends politics or that it is art for art's sake. In truth, culture is very much a part of a country's politics and an entertainer who decides to perform in South Africa is indeed taking a stand and is siding with the rulers of that country's racist regime.

In 1981, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was organized to protest the appearance in Albany of the South African rugby team. Since that time, the work against apartheid has continued in various ways. The cultural boycott has been one of the more visible manifestations of this work. The Capital District Coalition has organized protests against the appearance in our area of several performers who have violated the boycott including Chick Corea, Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt, the Beach Boys, Paul Anka, America, Della Reese and the Mighty Clouds of Joy. As the summer approaches and more entertainers come into our area, there will be more protests. People in the Capital District should feel a sense of pride when a protest and a picket is set up against entertainers who have performed in South Africa. It means that our community is taking part in an international movement against tyranny and oppression.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Kawola*  
Eileen Kawola

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
438-0309 (home) 462-7197 (work)

May 28, 1984

Pulse of the People  
The Times Record  
Troy, New York  
To the editor:

In recent weeks anti-apartheid activists have made local elected officials aware of their objection to the appearance in our area of entertainers who have performed in South Africa. Why the protest? In South Africa, the government practices a racial policy called apartheid. Under this system of white supremacy, non-white South Africans, who make up over 80 percent of the population, are denied basic human rights. Black South Africans are not allowed to vote, are not allowed to own land, and are forced to relocate to government designated areas. Black South Africans have much higher infant mortality rates and much lower life expectancy rates due to the lack of medical facilities and doctors. Black workers are paid much lower wages than white workers for the same work. Blacks must carry a pass at all times and may be stopped by the police at any time. South Africa is a country whose government practices the most extreme racism aimed at keeping the ruling white minority in control.

No one who believes in basic human decency can justify this abhorrent, inhuman racist system. The United Nations has taken a firm stand against apartheid. They have called for the total isolation of South Africa. One of the means of isolating South Africa is the cultural boycott. It is a sanction imposed against wrong. Because the United Nations has requested that the international community honor the cultural boycott, entertainers who perform in South Africa are doing so in violation of an international ban. Thousands of entertainers honor that ban - some don't. Those who violate the ban use the argument that entertainment transcends politics or that it is art for art's sake. In truth, culture is very much a part of a country's politics and an entertainer who decides to perform in South Africa is indeed taking

a stand and is siding with the rulers of that country's racist regime.

Many people in the Capital District are aware of apartheid South Africa and work in many ways against it. In fact, many people in other parts of the country are aware of the anti-apartheid movement in Albany. In 1981, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was organized to protest the appearance in Albany of the South African rugby team. Since that time, the work against apartheid has continued in various ways. The cultural boycott has been one of the more visible manifestations of this work. The Capital District Coalition has organized protests against the appearance in our area of several performers who have violated the boycott including Chick Corea, Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt, the Beach Boys, Paul Anka, America, Della Reese and the Mighty Clouds of Joy. As the summer approaches and more entertainers come to our area, there will be more protests. People in the Capital District should feel a sense of pride when a protest and a picket is set up against entertainers who have performed in South Africa. It means that our community is taking part in an international movement against tyranny and oppression.

Sincerely,

*Eileen C. Kawola*

Eileen C. Kawola  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism

(39 Academy Road, Albany, N.Y.)

438-0309 (home)  
462-7197 (work)

Eileen Kawola - Steering Committee Member  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
Albany, New York

sent 9/15/84  
J.U.  
Schen Gayette

In recent months there has been a lot of enthusiasm about the revitalization of Albany. Plans for the continued physical rehabilitation of the downtown area continue to be developed and implemented. Albany has also undergone a spiritual revitalization as a result of the national success of Pulitzer Prize-winning author, William Kennedy's writings. His books highlight the city and have resulted in a stirring of community pride.

Albany is also gaining widespread recognition however, in another area. Many local residents are perhaps not aware of this community's contribution to the national scene, but it is one for which they can certainly feel much pride. Albany is playing a leading role among major cities in the United States taking part in an international movement opposing the racist apartheid system of South Africa.

Albany's involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle became galvanized in 1981, when thousands of people from the Capital District made known their opposition to the appearance of the South African rugby team in their city.

The South African government does many things in its attempt to convince the world, and especially its strong ally the United States, that the racial situation in South Africa is improving and that the system there does not repress people of color. In the case of the rugby team appearance, the presence of one "non-white" player was touted as evidence that the government of South Africa does not practice a policy of separation of the races in sport. Richard Lapchick, Director of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University, however, recently wrote that the government of South Africa has allowed some cosmetic integration in sports at the national and international levels but that 99 percent of the 24

million African, colored(mixed race) and Asian athletes still compete only at club level, which is totally segregated.

This segregation of the races in sport is no exception. The entire country is totally segregated under a racist system called apartheid. Under this system, the white minority has total control of the country. Blacks are not allowed to vote, to buy or sell land, to move freely or to work or live where they choose. Their lives are totally dominated by the Afrikaner government which is determined to preserve its own domination.

Beginning in the 1960's the United Nations has passed a series of resolutions calling for the total isolation of South Africa. It is to be excluded from international affairs in the areas of culture, sport, business, and diplomacy. Most members of the world community voted for these resolutions and adhere to them. Still, the United States government, which imposes sanctions against other governments whose policies it finds repressive, such as Cuba and Poland, continues, under the Reagan administration, to "constructively engage" with South Africa.

Since the rugby protest in September of 1981, anti-apartheid activists in the Albany area have continued their effort to educate the people of the area about the evils of the South African system. One of the problems in doing so is that South Africa's government is continually attempting to present the situation there in as positive a way as possible. It introduces minor reforms, which still totally exclude the black majority from any of the rights of citizenship, as signals to the world that positive change is coming to that tormented land.

One of the most recent of such governmental gambits established a three house parliament under which it was claimed more South Africans were gaining basic political rights.

The facts about the new system, however, tell a different story.

As in the case of the one "non-white" player on the rugby team, the new parliament is, as a reform, really just a sham to influence world opinion. The new parliament was established by a government, not sincerely moving to bring progressive change to the apartheid system, but rather one determined to further entrench the status quo.

This reshaped parliament, mandated in a new constitution approved in an election in which only white voters could participate, is made up of three houses - one white, one "colored" (mixed race) and one Asian. No representation is granted to the black South Africans who represent approximately 80 percent of the population of the country. The very fact, that the new parliament is itself racially segregated, is evidence that apartheid continues. The white assembly is dominant and the white Executive President (former Prime Minister P.W. Botha) has broad authoritarian powers. Blacks continue to be denied the most basic citizenship rights in their own land.

In spite of South Africa's campaign to convince the world community of supposed reform in the apartheid state, the news coming out of South Africa belies the latest propaganda maneuver. In the elections to the new parliament in August, 1984, a mere 18 percent of the eligible "colored" (mixed race) population turned out to vote and only 17 percent of the eligible Indian population eligible to vote did so. For several months before the August elections, members of the United Democratic Front, a broadly based non-racial coalition of over 600 groups, opposed the new parliament. Members of the UDF have faced harassment and intimidation by the South African Security Police. Just before the election, leaders of the UDF and of the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses (the latter formed over 90 years ago by Mahatma Gandhi) were arrested by the police. The elections, which had been held up by the government as a manifestation of reform, became, in fact, one more occasion for government repression of any opposition to its policies.

The newly elected parliament is not truly representative of any but the white population.

In recent weeks, the American press has also carried news of rent strikes in South Africa by blacks. In South Africa, a black person is not allowed to own a home. Blacks whose work is important to the government in industry, in the maintenance of urban life or as domestic help in white homes are allowed to live in black townships outside of the white cities. Blacks whose labor is not needed to maintain white society are forced to relocate to government designated areas hundreds of miles from the major population centers. These areas are called homelands or "bantustans." In the homelands and in the townships, the government in Pretoria, the capital, set up puppet governments which are supposed to be the answer to apartheid's critics who say that the black South Africans have no voice in government. The puppet governments recently imposed rent increases on already financially overburdened people. The result has been protest. The rent strikes have been violently repressed by the police. Reports are that 31 South Africans have died in these most recent protests.

The situation in South Africa, for the majority of its people, is one of repression imposed by a minority racist regime. The government is making a concentrated effort to convince the world that it is working to better the situation. The latter is true; it is working to maintain a system where human rights are denied to the black majority. When the people from Albany protested the rugby game, the issue was not the right of athletes to play a game. The issue was, and remains, one of individual freedom and democratic self determination. When people from Albany boycott an entertainer who has violated the international cultural boycott of South Africa, the issue is not the right of entertainers to entertain freely. The issue is that South Africa ruthlessly deprives the majority of its people the basics necessary to maintain human dignity.



Albany's involvement in a human rights movement to end the apartheid system is a cause for civic pride. Our city is noted for its leadership role in recognizing and exposing propaganda exercises of the South African regime. Albany has earned a place in the forefront of the anti-apartheid movement in the United States.

September 14, 1984

## LETTERS

## South Africa

To the Editor:

In recent weeks anti-apartheid activists have made local elected officials aware of the objection to the appearance in our area of entertainers who have performed in South Africa.

Why the protest? In South Africa, the government practices a racial policy called apartheid. Under this system of white supremacy, non-white South Africans, who make up over 80 percent of the population, are denied basic human rights.

The United Nations has taken a firm stand against apartheid. They have called for the total isolation of South Africa. One of the means of isolating South Africa is the cultural boycott. It is a sanction imposed against wrong. Because the United Nations has requested that the international community honor the cultural boycott, entertainers who perform in South Africa are doing so in violation of an international ban.

Thousands of entertainers honor that ban — some don't. Those who violate the ban use the argument that entertainment transcends politics or that it is art for art's sake. In truth, culture is very much a part of a country's politics and an entertainer who decides to perform in South Africa is indeed taking a stand and is siding with the rulers of that country's racist regime.

People in the Capital District should feel a sense of pride when a protest and a picket is set up against entertainers who have performed in South Africa. It means that our community is taking part in an international movement against tyranny and oppression.

EILEEN RAWOLA  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism

Albany

## Clean air

To the Editor:

I am writing to thank you for your paper's thoughtful articles on the Clean Indoor Air Act (A.2746a/S2366) and the tactics used to defeat it in the Assembly this year. However, there is one point that I would like to clarify.

In 1983, the governor lent his name to the Clean Indoor Air Act and incorporated it into his legislative program because he believed that it was a public health issue that deserved his attention. I hope that my comments about the time that the governor's staff was able to put into the bill this year were not misleading.

I do not believe that the extent to which the governor supported the bill in any way related to its fate on the Assembly floor. This measure's importance was only underscored by the governor's decision to include it in his legislative program.

The bill was defeated because of the lobbying tactics of the very powerful tobacco interests, and I never meant to imply that anyone other than the tobacco industry should bear responsibility for the bill's defeat in the Assembly.

I hope this clarifies any misunderstanding about my comments.

ALEXANDER B. GRANNIS  
Member of Assembly

Albany

## Accurate reporting

## AS HY ROSEN SEES IT



By JOSEPH



## Citizen

WASHINGTON — On Memorial Day weekend presidential candidate was in Mexico denouncing United States for "arrogance." Not long ago this have been considered a sacrilege against the me have died for this country, as well as a suicidal pe move; but it was all in a day's work for Jesse Jackson

The most important fact about the Rev. Jackson that he is a black candidate; it is that he is a Democratic candidate, a man of the party of McGovern, Edward Kennedy, Bella Abzug, Ra Clark, and those 10 Congress-critters who re praised the Communist rulers of Nicaragua for "op up the political process" in that country.