

# King memorial marked by controversy

By JOHN MORAN  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — When Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III announced 14 months ago that a monument would be built in Lincoln Park to honor the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., he said the "entire community" had come together on the project.

Since then the monument is nearly completed, but controversy, not unity, has marked much of this effort.

Many involved in the planning of

the monument, which will be finished with the addition of an eight-foot bronze statue in October, are putting the controversies about the design behind them. But some of the planners, while reluctant to talk publicly, still say the project has lacked the appropriate participation of the black community.

And some civil rights activists say the project is an injustice to King's true legacy.

Concern over the design stems from the monument being conceived,

sited, designed and sculpted by whites.

A committee established by Whalen and the Rev. Robert W. Dixon to oversee the creation of the monument is divided over how much of a problem it is to have little original input from the black community.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Committee of Albany was originally made up of black ministers whom Dixon, a leading local black pastor, brought together after Whalen suggested the idea of a monu-

ment. The committee has since been expanded to include a wider cross-section of business and community people.

Some on the committee feel it doesn't matter who designed the monument or sculpted the statue. Others say it's wrong that not a single black person's name is engraved on the monument for being part of its creation.

In any case the committee, in its original, smaller version of pastors,

See PROJECT, Page B7

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A MESSAGE FROM

## Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

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The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CDCAAR) has joined the vital fund raising campaign of the Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa (FDESA). As a previous supporter of CDCAAR, you have been committed to the liberation of South Africa. You are aware of the importance of April 27, 1994. As we approach this momentous occasion of the first open elections in South Africa, we appeal for your support. CDCAAR asks that you respond to the enclosed request with the largest contribution that you can afford. There is no more important time in the history of the anti-apartheid movement.





[1994]

# REPORT BACK TO THE COMMUNITY ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

## Speakers

**Barry Walston** - CDCAAR Representative to the South African Elections

Barry recently returned from a working visit to South Africa where he assisted in flyer distribution, voter registration and poll watching for the ANC. He will share his experiences as well as a video he took while there.

**Jeffrey "Smiley" Kume** - ANC Representative

Smiley will speak about the implications of the reconciliation process, and what's ahead for South Africa.



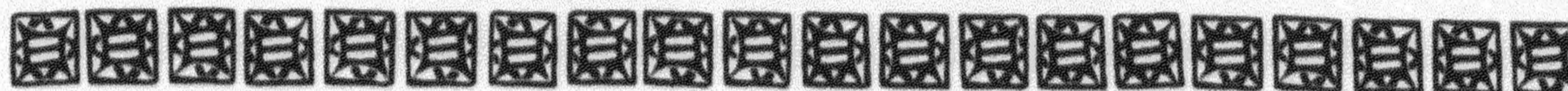
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## International Conference Against Apartheid

Earlier this fall Vera Michelson and Les Davis of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CDCAAR) attended the Fourth International Conference Against Apartheid Sport held in Stockholm, Sweden. They were two of four United States delegates who joined 200 representatives from 39 other countries. (CDCAAR has been active locally in protesting the OTB African tennis players.) The conference was sponsored by the South Africa Non Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), the Swedish Sports Federation and the United Nations. A brief report follows.

"It's not over yet" was the general sentiment of conference delegates at the Fourth Annual International Conference Against Apartheid Sport. Delegates from Africa, the Scandinavian countries, Europe, the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and the Soviet Union reaffirmed their work in the sports boycott as they listened to sports activists from South Africa passionately describe the condition of sports for Blacks in the apartheid state.

They also warned conference delegates not to be fooled by "gestures" by State President de Klerk. Mluleki George, the president of the National Olympic and Sports Congress (NSC) told the gathering that "it has not reached a stage yet where we can say that" the changes are profound and irreversible. Therefore, it would be dangerous for the international community to relax any measures against apartheid in sport. He urged the conference to keep up the sanctions campaign in all areas including sport. He said, "When we have reached the point when we can say the changes are profound and irreversible we will signal all of our friends in the international community."

While the sports boycott is as vibrant as ever there are some new developments which must be noted. South African anti apartheid sports activists do not want to be caught with their racquets down on the day of freedom. Today, under apar-

theid, sports facilities for South African Blacks are either non-existent or completely inadequate. All sports funds and facilities are used to train white South African sportspersons. Developing non-racial sports to a competitive level will require massive assistance and resources. Preparation for sports in a free South Africa and subsequent reentry into Olympic competition (South Africa was banned from Olympic Sports in 1970) will require international aid for development of sports facilities, equipment and the training of coaches and sports administrators. Sam Ramsamy, chairperson of SANROC, said that "experience from Zimbabwe and Namibia had shown that once a political settlement was reached the international community stopped funding. It is essential to obtain assistance now."

Sports activities stressed that this aid must be closely monitored by non-racial sporting bodies in order to prevent charitable or neocolonialistic relationships from developing with sporting entities and to ensure that the material aid is properly routed.

The NSC (which organized last summer's successful protest against the English Cricket Team) is also seeking unity in sports. Their ultimate objective is to form one controlling non-racial sports body for each discipline to replace existing apartheid sports federations. To this end, unity talks have begun in Tennis, Track and Field and Road Running and Cricket. These talks include topics such as sports development for Blacks, schools and education, sponsorship, and Defense Force/Police involvement in the apartheid sporting structures.

After three and a half days, the conference ended with an emotional closing ceremony which included a presentation by Cheryl Roberts of the NSC and poetry readings and songs by four Swedish athletes which paid tribute to the South African liberation struggle.

by Vera Michelson

## Liberian Relief Dinner & Fundraiser

Capital District Returned Peace Volunteers

F: Liberian Relief Dinner and user

RE: Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, New York. The Liberian Dinner will be held at the North Hall in the Campus Center on the campus, Route 4.

Food and medical supplies are sorely needed in Liberia after more than a year of civil strife. The recent death of 600 men, women and children who had taken shelter in a church has drawn world attention on the plight of

the West African country. Over 500,000 Liberians are refugees. Logistics of assistance are complicated by heavy rains, intermittent fuel shortages, lack of appropriate vehicles and continued fighting. Schenectady resident John Kucij, a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, is helping to organize the relief effort. "The conflict has been one of small skirmishes and midnight ambushes until the bloodbath in the church sanctuary," said Kucij. "Machine guns and machetes left a pile of dead children and their mothers. The drive is to provide relief to the victims of the anarchy that now plagues Liberia."

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1. Nominating Committee report

2. steering committee issues  
discipline

attendance and participation at general meetings and functions

functioning and expectation of steering committee members

developing and sustaining new issues

review of left hanging issues - dev. of timeline for organization development and accomplishment of needed backbone materials

Dr NOV  
J.C

3. new logo

4. Nov. meeting

5. Nov. general meeting

6. South Africa NOW

9 Political/mark 10 new

"left-hanging" assigned to who? deadline? supervisor

candy sale -R

disco ~~note~~

study group / Nov. 17

ten year anniversary

incorp.

bylaws T

video a's letter to Todd

alice and boji

stationary / letterhead

brochure

monthly calender

concern

Nov 31 Library

Peter Orris

Chicago

then Adam Ross

P ME/mike Redd

Pension Out -



To: Steering Committee  
From: Mike  
Date: October 17, 1990

Confidential

By way of review, it is my understanding that the following occurred at the October 8, 1990 Steering Committee meeting of CDCAAR.

1. I believe that there is agreement we have achieved political clarity over the long term and this has been very beneficial to the life of CDCAAR.
2. There was acknowledgement that some members of the Steering Committee of CDCAAR have other political priorities and that this has impacted on the work of the committee.
3. I believe that there was agreement that at this time that a general malaise has set in. I.e. that things take too long to get done and Steering Committee members do not always do what they say they will do (see "things hanging" for examples). This has effected the "creative" energy of the group as a whole.

I believe the following issues still need to be addressed:

1. Discipline at Steering Committee meetings. I.e. coming on time, calling Anita if we can't come, suggesting agenda items to Anita in a timely fashion, sticking to a two hour meeting, in general, taking the meeting more seriously.
2. Attendance and participation in general CDCAAR meetings - being on time, etc.
3. How should the Steering Committee function? What are the programmatic expectations of its members?
4. Organizational Health - continuous problem of sustaining new members by getting them involved in the work.

Conclusions from the meeting and tasks taken:

1. Mert will contact the African American Institute to secure a table in the hallway during Randall Robinson's visit.
2. Mike will continue to try to get SUNY students to take on the SAYCO tour and talk with Senti (ANC). If this doesn't work there are no alternative arrangements to hand the tour.
3. Albany Medical College - students do not seem to be asking for anything specific at this time. They have the telephone numbers of Vicki, Mark and Mike Riddick.
4. McMulty visit set. Mark will coordinate, ask Zaida and Mabel to be part of this visit. Mert will also go.

*STUDENTS*

*Mike Reddick  
Dep. Maxwell  
Rep. Williams  
PAT. 1*

*M  
M  
LWS*



5. Merton and Mark will coordinate the election/nominating committee for the Steering Committee. The formation of this committee will be announced at the October CDCAAR meeting. Elections at the November meeting.

6. Mike will call Mike Riddick about chairing the meeting in October or figure out backup. Agreed Deborah Williams Muhammed should be asked to report on racist violence work.

7. Recent Klan activity discussed.

8. Next meeting at Vicki's - November 8, 1990 at 8:00 p.m.

"Left hanging"

1. Haziine's plan for selling candies to raise funds.
2. Disco fundraiser follow up.
3. Study group on what is happening inside (violence, negotiation. This is needed if SAYCO visit falls through.
4. Ten year anniversary plans
5. Incorporation - not for profit
6. Bylaws
7. Video - letter from Anita to Todd
8. Talking to Alice about the radio show with Boji.
9. Stationary/Letterhead
10. Brochure
11. Monthly calendar



**U.S. - SOUTH AFRICA  
SISTER COMMUNITY PROJECT  
3254 ADELINE ST., BERKELEY, CA 94703  
510/601-7635**

The Sister Community Project has assisted eleven U.S. cities to establish linkages to black townships in South Africa. Originally formed to provide international exposure for and assistance to communities which were being threatened with forced removal, the Sister Community Project is now expanding the scope of its activities to respond to new political realities in South Africa:

- A "skills exchange" project has been initiated, which will bring South African civic leaders to internships in American municipal government. It will also send American technical experts to work with communities, and with support organizations serving those communities.
- Individual cities are carrying out a wide range of projects, including: Wichita just completed a major book and equipment drive for Thornhill; Milwaukee is raising \$10,000 for the community center in Potsdam, and sending a work brigade to South Africa in August; San Francisco is fundraising to pay the expenses of Mfengu families moving back onto the land from which they were forcibly moved; Seattle is developing a South Africa version of their own Black Dollars Day Task Force, to assist in economic development in Daliwe; Berkeley is developing a major, public fundraiser for Oukasie, tied to elections day in South Africa (I believe they have been in touch with you); Atlanta is raising funding to purchase and ship a tractor to Braklaagte.

Although Sister Community Project is moving toward people-to-people development links and community-to-community material aid projects, it remains committed as well to monitoring the human rights situation in the South African communities with which it is involved.

We expect that up to four more U.S. cities and South African townships may be linked in 1994.



**Struggling With the Struggle  
Albany, New York  
Saturday, February 5, 1994**

Draft Agenda 1/21/94

**8:30 - 9:15** Registration (Coffee and Donuts provided)

**9:15** Opening Remarks, Review of Agenda, and Welcome - CDCAAR

The Current Situation in Southern Africa: What Does This Mean  
For Our Work? - Prexy Nesbitt

**9:50** - Introductions - two minutes by each group represented (estimated 30 groups)

**10:50** The Political Context of Our Work

U.S. Policy towards Southern Africa - Imani Countess, WOA  
Current State of the U.S. Movement - Jennifer Davis, ACOA

**11:30** New Problems and New Opportunities -- A Discussion

This is an opportunity for the full group to discuss the broader, theoretical issues raised by the panel, with a particular focus on the work we do here in the U.S. What are the constituencies currently involved in Southern Africa work? What are new constituencies or new linkages we need to make? What should some of the new foci of organizing work be at this moment?

**12:45** Summary of the Morning Session by Facilitator

Restatement of Agenda  
Announcements

**1:00** Lunch-- no schedule, break (Indian Food Available - \$6)

**2:00** Where Do We Go From Here -- Strategies For Local Action

Introduction by facilitator  
Break up into small group discussions

Each small group begins by making a list of the types of local actions people in that group would like to discuss. Then groups try to discover common themes and discuss the potential for local organizing on certain issues. Each small group should come with three suggestions of actions they would like to present to the larger group

**3:00** Reports Back From Small Groups and Discussions

**4:00** What have we accomplished?

Facilitator and Prexy Nesbitt  
Comments from Jennifer Davis, Imani Countess

**4:30** Ends



# TO ALBANY

## STRUGGLING WITH THE DIRECTIONS

CD-CAAR "STRUGGLING WITH THE STRUGGLE" ONE DAY (2/5/94) MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CORNER STATE AND WILLET STS, ALBANY, N.Y.

### FROM THE SOUTH:

FROM THE NYS THRUWAY (I-87) TAKE EXIT 23 TO I-787 NORTH. EXIT AT US 20 WEST/DOWNTOWN ALBANY\*

### FROM THE NORTH:

FROM THE NORTHWAY (I-87), TAKE EXIT I-90 EAST/ALBANY. FOLLOW I-90 EAST TO I-787 SOUTH. EXIT AT US 20 WEST/BROADWAY\*

### FROM THE EAST:

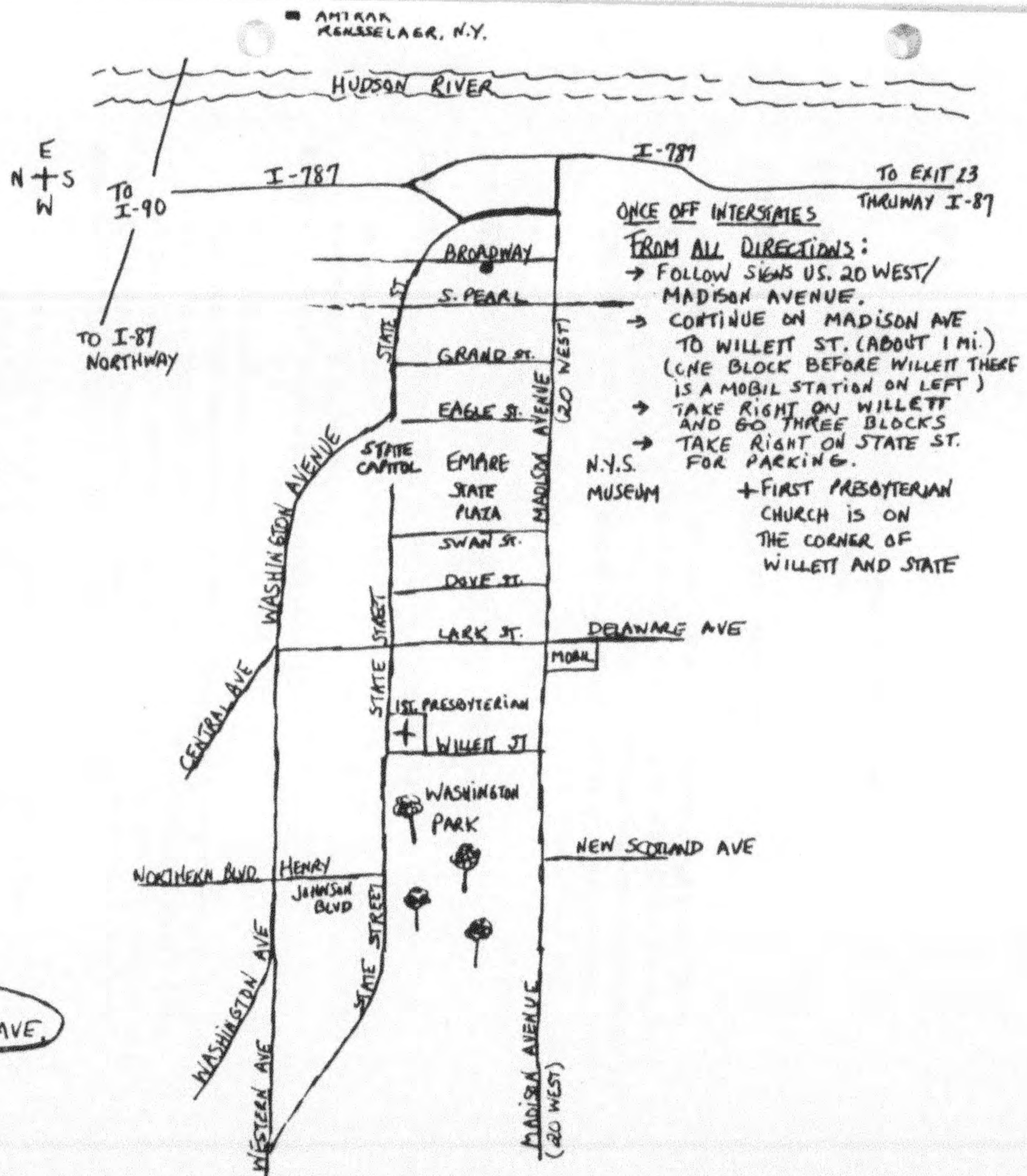
FROM I-90, TAKE ALBANY/TROY EXIT, THEN STAY LEFT FOR I-787 SOUTH. EXIT AT US 20 WEST/BROADWAY\*

### FROM THE WEST:

FROM THE NYS THRUWAY (I-90) CONTINUE EAST ON I-90 TO I-787 SOUTH. EXIT AT US 20 WEST/BROADWAY\*

\*FROM DOWNTOWN ALBANY/BROADWAY YOU NEED TO GET ON U.S. 20 WEST/MADISON AVE.

(NYS THRUWAY IS I-87 NORTH TO ALBANY AND BECOMES I-90 WHEN IT GOES WEST TO BUFFALO. THE NORTHWAY IS I-87 NORTH TO CANADA)







**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12202

A Project of the Social Justice Center

**WHO:** 35 to 40 key Southern Africa solidarity activists  
**WHAT:** Struggling With the Struggle Meeting  
**WHEN:** Saturday, February 5, 1994  
**WHERE:** 1st Presbyterian Church  
362 State St.  
Albany, New York  
(map enclosed)

Dear Fellow Activists,

Some 35 people from around the region (and several people from other places) will be coming to Albany on February 5th for the one day "Struggling With the Struggle" Meeting. Please let us know when you are arriving, and if you're coming in on Friday night whether you need a place to stay. We need this information in order to plan the lunch on Saturday and to set up the small group discussions. You can call Vera Michelson (518-436-0562) or Debbie Maxwell (518-393-4002).

After consultations with Prexy Nesbitt, Imani Countess, and Jennifer Davis we have worked out an agenda for the day that begins to get at some of the questions we laid out in the previous letter. Please take a look at the agenda and get back to us with any suggestions you have (we can't promise to do everything you suggest, but we'll try our best).

Before you get to Albany we suggest that you think about organizing in your area in preparation for the discussion. If you can write a half page or one page description of what's happening in your area and what you think is the potential for future action that would be great. A lot of people are doing work around the elections in South Africa, but remember our primary focus is what do we do after the elections. We are trying to focus the discussion on what are new constituencies or new linkages we need to make in our work, what are new foci of organizing in the next period and how this work fits into what else is going on in your community.

We've enclosed some materials that were sent in by groups that we have been in touch with. This material is not comprehensive, but rather is a sample of some of the work and thinking going on right now. Please bring along to the conference copies of materials you think might be useful (we won't have copying facilities so, if you can, bring along 40 copies).



Finally, there are a few logistics we wanted to lay out before you arrive.

Copying Costs. Because we've run up a big copying bill we're asking people to contribute \$5 toward copying costs for materials for the conference.

Food. There aren't restaurants around where we are meeting, and in any case we only have an hour for lunch. So plan to bring a bag lunch or bring \$6 for some of the best Indian food you've ever eaten.

Lodging. If you plan to arrive Friday night and need a place to stay:

---Red Roof Inn - Reservation # 1-800-843-7663; \$46 for one double bed; \$50 for two double beds; \$4 to get there from the airport. It's not in town but we will give you a ride in the morning.

---State Street Mansion Bed and Breakfast - 281 State St.; 518-462-6780; \$49 for a single; \$59 for a double; \$79 for 2 double beds; share a bathroom; includes a continental breakfast; within walking distance of conference.

---If interested in floor space, we will try to arrange it. Call Vera(Mike) or Debbie.

Snow Date. February 26th. We will call you if it becomes necessary to postpone the meeting due to bad weather. Save February 26 just in case.

Sincerely,

*Vera and Debbie*

Vera and Debbie  
for CDCAAR





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A project of the Social Justice Center  
January - February 1994

We are asking you to **walk the final mile...**

Some of you have been members of CD-CAAR since 1981 when the South African rugby team came to Albany. All of you, in so many ways, have supported the struggle for justice in South Africa over the years. And now, what seemed like such a distant possibility back in 1981, is about to happen. The first election ever in which all South Africans will vote as equals is scheduled for April 27, 1994. As South Africa approaches this most important election, once again show your support for justice and peace by making a contribution toward the South African election process. Inside this newsletter there is an appeal from Nelson Mandela.

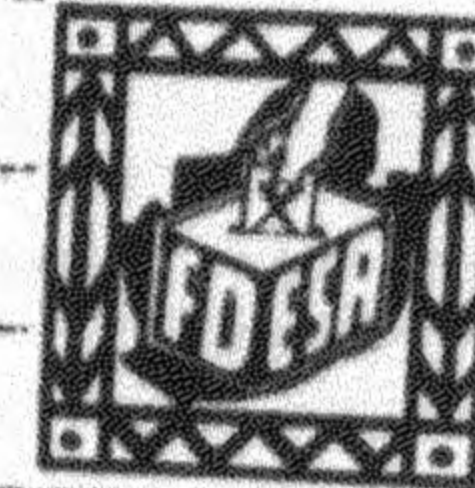
Please read all the information carefully and then make as generous a contribution as you are able.

**Your support is as important now as it ever was over all the years of protest. Walk this final mile for a democratic, non-racial South Africa.**

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
a project of the Social Justice Center, Albany, New York

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



Enclosed find my contribution of (circle one) \$50 \$25 \$10 \$\_\_\_\_  
to aid the election process in South Africa.

Make checks out to: Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa  
mail to: 729 Boylston Street, Suite 520, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

(This Fund has been established by a group of long time anti-apartheid workers in the U.S. as a way to assist in the upcoming elections. CD-CAAR will be informed of all contributions from our readership.)



## A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM NELSON MANDELA

(reprinted from: the Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa appeal)

**THIS IS THE MOST URGENT APPEAL I HAVE EVER MADE FOR SUPPORT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE AT A DECISIVE POINT IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE.**

After decades of selfless sacrifices, we have succeeded in creating the climate in which a democratic general election is imminent.

This will be the first time ever that all South Africans will vote as equals for a government of their choice.

Having said that, however, we remain fully aware of the obstacles that stand in the way of free and fair elections. Amongst these is the horrific and senseless violence that continues to plague our country.

Of equal concern, because it could prevent the achievement of democracy, is the fact that we go into these elections under an enormous handicap. The fact that the entire eligible African population like myself has never voted and possess no experience about the voting process is an obstacle. Another is the overwhelming disparity of resources that exists between the Pretoria government and the democratic movement. The legacy of apartheid has left our society in complete disarray...

Our first and most important task, therefore, will be to ensure that all our people, black and white, vote knowingly and willingly. This responsibility of providing non-partisan voter education will fall entirely on the democratic movement since the government does not have the credibility to carry it out. Neither is it in their interest.

The size of the task takes on daunting dimensions when you consider that of the 20 million eligible voters, 18 million will be voting for the first time and 9 million are illiterate. Many of the regions in which our people live are inaccessible, without election facilities and any other public service worth mentioning. We also need to reach out to the approximately 6 or 7 million people living in makeshift or corrugated squatter camps bordering most metropolitan areas.



The Pretoria government has already begun its election campaign. At this very moment, it is making approaches to the very communities it has until now refused even to acknowledge.

The Pretoria government is making full use of public and state facilities worth billions of dollars to support their own interests. The Pretoria government will continue to finance its campaign with taxpayers' money as well as with funds that flow freely from many sources including the private sector, industry, and big business. It will continue to carry its propaganda efforts to every corner of South Africa and beyond, via the national electronic media which have remained fully under its control.

We, on the other hand, still have to create a national electoral infrastructure, put in place essential facilities, train and educate electoral workers and volunteers, establish offices throughout the country. Additionally, we have to reach out and communicate to inaccessible communities and counter the propaganda efforts of the government in the national media.

Our organization was unbanned a mere three years ago. We have never fought an election and will have to acquire the skills that under normal conditions require decades to put in place.

The cost of acquiring the necessary infrastructure and providing the essential training and education to ensure that the elections will be free and fair will not be less than US \$100 million. But what is the cost when one compares that to the price of failure and the result in human suffering?

Another Yugoslavia? Angola or Somalia? Civil war? Bloodshed? Famine?

...This is not an election merely to be contested between different organizations; it is a contest between freedom and oppression, and its outcome will affect over 100 million people throughout Southern Africa. As I said, this is the most urgent appeal I have ever made for support. Let us ensure that our country's children never know the suffering and humiliation of previous generations.

Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of democracy; not ignorance, not illiteracy, and most certainly not the advantageous resources of those who wish to preserve their privileged positions. With your help and support we cannot fail.

*Only a democratically elected government that reflects the real will of the majority can realistically answer the cry for peace, jobs, and justice.*

Nelson R. Mandela



# Get your ID now!



Make your **X** for freedom

APRIL 27, 1994  
THAT IS THE DAY THAT THE  
FIRST FREE, TOTALLY OPEN,  
MULTIRACIAL ELECTION IN  
SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY  
WILL BE HELD.

(left) ANC election poster stresses the importance of proper identity documents.

April 27th will shape the future of the people of South Africa for years to come. But there are still many obstacles to the democratic exercise of rights by all of South Africa's people. Some of the obstacles that may hinder full electoral participation are the following:

- 18 million people have never voted in an election before; they have no knowledge of voting laws or procedures.
- Voters will not be pre-registered. They will show their identity documents at the polls. It is estimated that 5 million Blacks do not have any identity documents whatsoever.
- There will be 7,400 voting stations and one day of voting. Approximately 3,000 people will vote at each station (3 per minute) - this includes time for clearing identity documents.
- One half of the Black electorate live in rural areas controlled by conservative whites and Neo Nazis. Campaigning here is very difficult is not impossible. Traditional trespass rule ("no go" laws) allow farmers, mineowners, etc. to control access to their property.
- A poor public transportation system, and the paucity of private transportation, may severely inhibit voters' actual access to polling places.
- 7 million Blacks live in squatter camps with no electricity and no running water.
- 50% of the Black population is illiterate; 50% of the Black population is unemployed.
- The Transitional Executive Council (TEC) has 23 parties. There are 23 parties in the elections including the ANC and the Nationalist Party. The TEC has set up subcouncils on media, election laws and security; they are now operational. There is a fundamental disagreement between the government and the TEC over the nature and scope of the TEC's powers. According to the government, the TEC is an advisory body only and does not have the power to issue directives. The TEC believes that it has concurrent executive powers.
- This difference is of serious consequence - the government would maintain that the TEC does not have the authority to order the deployment of South African security forces into Mangosuthu Buthelezi's violence-torn KwaZulu homeland.

• The right wing Freedom Alliance which includes the Afrikaner Volksfront, the Bophuthatswana government, the Conservative Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the KwaZulu government are not members of the TEC. Ciskei, a member of the Freedom Alliance, has joined the TEC.

• The single greatest threat to the conduct of free and fair elections is political violence. Over 10,000 people have died in state sponsored political violence, the great majority being Black supporters of the African National Congress, since Mandela's release from jail in 1990. The South African Human Rights Commission reported that "the violence is being fueled by elements who perceive their interests, privileges and power to be threatened by a negotiated and democratic settlement. Increased incidences of violence in the country exacerbate fear of voting among the electorate - especially those who are first-time voters. Unless effective action is taken to reduce bloodshed, many thousands of Black voters may be too frightened to participate.

• Groups both within and without of South Africa are working to make sure that the election will be as free and as fair as possible. Some of the actions being taken are as follows:

• The United Nations has promised to send between 2,000 and 4,000 observers. The Commonwealth will deploy 70; Japan, 100; the European Union, 312; and NGO's from Europe, the U.S. and the Far East and pledged substantial observers.

• Voter education ( the importance of participation, education and training of new voters, holding mock elections) and monitoring the violence which is wracking the country are of critical importance.

• Within the country, Matla Trust is a non-partisan organization set up to provide voter education for Black South Africans. The Institute for Contextual Theology is another non-partisan group doing voter education. EMPSA is a joint effort by the South African Council of Churches, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference and the World Council of Church to bring an international presence to the grassroots level and to monitor the violence, the negotiations process, and the run-up to elections. This program places teams of monitors in violence torn-communities where they serve four to six weeks. (Contact for more information: Willis Logan, National Council of Churches, Africa Office, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y.N.Y. 10115 (212)870-2645 or Robert Dumas, U.S. Catholic Conference, 3211 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017 (202)541-3382. In the U.S., the Africa Fund is enlisting people to be Election Watchers to inform people in the U.S. of threats to a free and fair election. (Contact for more information: Dumisani Kumalo, The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, N.Y.N.Y. 10038 (212)961-1210.

**"Passing the Torch to a New Generation: Celebrating our Youth and Preparing Leaders for the 21st Century." Albany Branch NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Dinner, Empire State Plaza, March 4, 1994, 7:00 p.m.**



## Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano Visits U.S. ...to U.S. Activists: "Don't get tired!"

Eileen Kawola

On September 26, 1994 at a reception at Sylvia's Also on Malcom X Boulevard in Harlem, and on September 28, 1994 to about 200 U.S. activists at a breakfast meeting organized by the American Committee on Africa at the New York Theological Seminary, President Joaquim Chissano greeted and spoke to friends of Mozambique. As the conditions in Mozambique change in this new time of peace, and as development issues become critical, this meeting provided the opportunity for President Chissano to discuss new directions for those who worked with, and for, Mozambique through the years of struggle.

"Our main weapon has always been to be able to mobilize people and mobilize public opinion outside of Mozambique...Continue to do what you are doing. Continue to support consolidation of freedom. Continue to share experiences with new generations so that we can continue the friendships we have built. Continue to transmit information. Help us to destroy bad and build good," Chissano told the audience as he expressed several times how encouraging it is to experience the commitment of the solidarity movement.

Jennifer Davis, Exec. Director, the Africa Fund, with Mozambican President, Joachim Chissano at Harlem reception, September 28, 1994.



Photo: Vera Michelson

The reconstruction of Mozambique is under way...  
Pastor Jamisse in front of new Methodist  
Church/community center being  
built to serve the people of  
Liberdade, Mozambique.



Photo: Eileen Kawola

On both occasions, Chissano outlined the peace progress and the work being done, as well as what needs to be done, as Mozambique moves toward national reconstruction. It will be necessary to rebuild destroyed infrastructures and destroyed lives. It is a country of orphans, displaced and traumatized children; a country where schools and hospitals have been destroyed. It is a country where millions of its people have been living as internal and external refugees attempting to escape the war; refugees now beginning to return to their homes.

In addition to reconstruction, he addressed the issue of reconciliation, noting that "...reconciliation - the word is misused. RENAMO broke not from Frelimo but from the whole family of Mozambique." He pointed out that the Mozambicans who fought with RENAMO did so first for the Rhodesians and then, for sixteen years, for the South Africans. That brutal war of destabilization cost Mozambique horrendous human and economic costs. Yet, with mixed emotions and despite continuing RENAMO demands, violations and delays, Chissano expressed hope for a new Mozambique. He called on U.S. activists to keep working for Mozambique by continuing to give support in many ways: people-to-people projects, strengthening U.S. government and Mozambique government ties, calling for clear U.S. policy on Mozambique. "Mozambique has potential. It is now one of the poorest countries but can be turned into one of the richest and become a partner of the United States... **Don't get tired!**"

(Note: It is very difficult to find up-to-date and accurate information on Mozambique. An excellent source of news can be found in the **Baobab Notes**, put out by the Mozambique Solidarity Office. Baobab Notes is a reliable and easy-to-read newsletter aimed at providing alternative and often inaccessible information to people in the U.S. about events in Mozambique and Southern Africa. For a yearly subscription (6 bi-monthly issues) send \$20 to MSO, 6 Goodrich Rd. #2, Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130-2005. Telephone: (617)983-2239.)



## Noting Brutal Hypocrisy: Haiti and Angola

Vera Michelson

CD-CAAR notes here that the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, with all its noise making over free and fair elections for democracy in the world, continues under the Clinton administration and becomes very clear when we look at two cases in point - Haiti and Angola.

**HAITI** - Haiti's President, Jean Bertrand Aristide, was democratically elected by the overwhelming majority of the Haitian people. In September 1991 he was overthrown by a gang of thugs who were on guess whose payroll? No surprise - the CICADA. This is the same CIA which is trying to make us believe that President Aristide is mentally unbalanced!! And since the coup in Haiti, thousands of Haitians have been killed, arrested and tortured, and "disappeared."

An Americas Watch /National Coalition on Haitian Refugees report entitled "Silencing a People: the Destruction of Civil Society in Haiti" describes the army's actions as "systematically repressing virtually all forms of independent association." The army's aim, according to the report, is to "return Haiti to the atomized and fearful society of the Duvalier era so that even if international pressure secures the return of Aristide, he would have difficulty transforming his personal popularity into the organized support needed to exert civilian authority over a violent and recalcitrant army." (from Peace and Democracy News, Summer 1993).

A Witness for Peace delegation which visited Haiti in the Fall found that there was widespread suspicion among the Haitian people that even if the U.S. government does exercise the power to get Aristide back in office, it would only be as a figurehead, with a compromised ability to govern. In the Governor's Island accords, Aristide was forced to make many concessions but to what avail? It is now the winter of 1994 and Aristide has still not been returned to power, the army has a firm control over the country, and new gangs are being formed, with army backing, to intimidate the people from showing any support for Aristide. The years tick away on Aristide's six year term.

The Clinton administration will not support real democracy in Haiti unless pressured to do so. Just consider Clinton's promises before the election and now his continuing failure to establish a just political refugee policy. The Administration mouths platitudes about democracy and shamefully lets the military continue to rule. There is no political will to resolve the crisis. And the Haitian people continue to suffer.

**Please do not let this intolerable U.S. policy toward Haiti stand.**

**Contact your elected representatives and:**

1. stress that the U.S. exert the necessary pressure to return Aristide to power.
2. oppose any plan for making Pres. Aristide "expand" his government to include pro-military forces.
3. demand an investigation into the role of the CIA and other government agencies in supporting anti-democratic forces in Haiti, drug trafficking and disinformation.
4. ask your Representative to co-sponsor Carrie Meek's bill supporting Haitian refugees.

**ANGOLA** - Just as corrupt as U.S. policy in Haiti is the stand the U.S. is taking toward Angola. The government party in Angola (the MPLA) won internationally declared fair and free elections in September of 1992. Since then Jonas Savimbi and UNITA (long backed by the CIA and South Africa) have plunged Angola into a virtual hell. Savimbi refused to accept the democratic election results and has resumed his brutal war against the Angolan people. The country barely functions, the infrastructure has been destroyed. A recent U.N. report cites the Angolan war as resulting in the highest fatality rate of any conflict in the world. Other experts call it the worst war in the world. One thousand people a day are dying. How do you bury 1,000 people a day...?

The U.S., which both overtly and covertly armed and aided Savimbi over the years, is largely responsible for the carnage. And now the U.S. is guilty of a conspiracy of silence. Indeed, the silence is deafening... There are no loud condemnations of Savimbi. The U.S. is not leading the fight to implement a mandatory U.N. embargo on arms, fuel, etc., to UNITA. In fact, the U.S. is doing very little to insure that the winners of the democratically held election are allowed to rule.

Foreign Minister Venacio de Moura said the U.S. has special responsibility to revive the 1991 peace accord because of its past history of support for UNITA. It is our special responsibility to let our representatives know that what is happening in Angola is intolerable and that we expect them to be doing everything possible to see that the U.S. takes the lead in stopping the war, in denouncing Savimbi for the destructive role he is playing and in forcing the UNITA leadership to negotiate in good faith.

The Washington Office on Africa proposes a list of specific ways the U.S. could work to restrain its former client and bring an end to the carnage in Angola:

1. allocate intelligence resources to identify states, companies, individuals who are involved in arms supplies to UNITA ;
2. put pressure on diamond merchants who are purchasing diamonds being sold by UNITA to fund the war;
3. insist that South Africa stops flights with supplies, including those originating in Bophuthatswana;
4. issue strong warning to stop any attacks on U.S. (or other) on and off shore oil installations.

**...WRITE LETTERS ON HAITI AND ANGOLA...** a list of our representatives and senators is included on the next page. Take the time to write!

**...COMBAT MEDIA DISINFORMATION...** demand accurate information from you local news outlets. Write op-eds, letters to the editor and meet with the editorial boards of your newspapers to set the record straight on Haiti and Angola.



**If you want to read more about Haiti...**

"After the Coup" (Still in the Hands of the Thugs) - a report of the Special Delegation of the National Labor Committee which is an excellent book describing conditions as they really are in Haiti and the true role of USAID. This can be purchased by contacting: National Labor Committee, 15 Union Square West, New York, New York 10003-3377 (212)242-0700. Cost \$5.00.

We also suggest that interested readers subscribe to "Haiti Reborn." Project of the Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. (301)699-0042. (The Quixote Center has long been a source of valuable information on Haiti.)

Another good resource on Haiti: "Teaching About Haiti." This is an updated and expanded 40 page edition of the teaching guide prepared for last year's Haiti Solidarity Week. For more information, contact Network of Educators in the Americas (NECA), 118 22nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037 (202)429-0137.

**And about South Africa...**

**Voting in the Shadow of Apartheid** - This pamphlet answers questions about the coming elections in South Africa - the purpose, who can vote, the problems. It also contains a section about the Namibia elections of 1989.

**The Struggle Continues: South African Women and the Vote** - This pamphlet addresses some of the issues affecting Black South African women as they prepare to participate in that country's first national democratic election. It should serve as a valuable resource to anyone interested in the South African women's movement, voter education, democracy, and the position of women in that country's current political transition. (The above pamphlets are available from: The Africa Fund 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. (212)962-1210. The cost is 35 cents each, 20 cents for 20 or more. Minimum order is \$1.00)

**Corporate Responsibility from the Ground Up: The South African Council of Churches "Code of Business Conduct"** - This valuable report by Donna Katzin addresses the questions of responsible reinvestment in South Africa. (Available from: Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Drive, Rm 566, N.Y., N.Y 10115 (212)870-2295. Cost \$2.50 single issue; \$1.50 ea. for 20.)

**Congressional Addresses:**

**Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan**  
464 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202)224-4451  
214 Main St.  
Oneonta, New York  
Phone: (607)433-2310

**Rep. Michael R. McNulty**  
(21st Congressional District)  
217 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202)225-5076  
827 O'Brien Federal Bldg.  
Albany, New York 12207  
Phone: (518)465-0700

**Rep. Sherwood Boehlert**  
(23rd Congressional District)  
1127 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202)225-3655  
10 Broad Street  
Utica, New York 13501  
Phone: (315)793-8146

**Sen. Alphonse M.D'Amato**  
520 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202)224-6542  
420 O'Brien Federal Bldg.  
Albany, New York 12207  
Phone: (518)463-2244

**Rep. Gerald B. Solomon**  
(22nd Congressional District)  
2265 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202)225-5614  
Gaslight Square  
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866  
Phone: (518)587-9800

**Read about Haiti,  
Angola, Cuba. Write  
Congress, Tell  
them what you  
think!**

**write now**

**Note:** (provided by Susan DuBois) People from the U.S. have been providing a nonviolent presence in Haiti as international observers. "Cry for Justice" has sent observers throughout the Fall in anticipation of President Aristide's return. The Washington Office on Haiti has been coordinating these efforts. WOH can be reached at 110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 310, Washington, C.C. 20002, (202)543-7095. Witness for Peace has also been in Haiti throughout the Fall. At a conference in the U.S. in October, two of the participants from this delegation reported on their observations. They had encountered a grassroots network of Haitian human rights observers working in rural areas who bring back reports which are then transmitted out of the country. Some of the Haitians with whom the delegation spoke said that although they wanted President Aristide to return, even if he did not return the democratic movement could not be stopped over the long term.



Work to end  
the cold war  
against



## CUBA CUBA CUBA

(News from the Cuba Information Project  
(212)227-3422, 198 Broadway, Suite 800, New York, N.Y.)



### FREE TRADE WITH CUBA ACT - H.R. 2229

Introduced by Rep Charles Rangel (D-NY) on April 29, 1993, this bill would remove all restrictions on trade and investments, travel, as well as telephone and mail communications with Cuba. It would lift the embargo on trade by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. owned companies (one of the provisions of the Torricelli Act passed last year) and clear the way for unrestricted sales and donations of foods and medicines to and from Cuba. Also, this bill would call upon the President to open negotiations with the Cuban government to settle outstanding claims by U.S. companies whose properties were nationalized in 1959. The bill has been referred to four House committees: Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, and Post Office and Civil Service, and Ways and Means which has agreed to a hearing on the bill sometime in Feb. 1994. (While there is little chance this bill will pass as it is written, we are encouraging grassroots support for it. Contact your Representative now about becoming a co-sponsor of HR 2229. The longer the list of sponsors, the more seriously the call for a new U.S. policy will be taken. See list of Capital District area representatives and N.Y.S. Senators in this newsletter)

### REVIEW OF U.S. TRAVEL POLICY TO CUBA

It is important to make sure the State Department knows there is a growing constituency calling for an end to all travel restrictions to Cuba. The phone number for Secretary of State Warren Christopher is (202) 647-5298.

### THIRD U.S.-CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENT CARAVAN 2/25/94 - 3/25/94

Building on the victories of the two Caravans this year, this third Friendshipment will travel on 13 routes stopping in 130 cities picking up humanitarian aid for the people of Cuba. For more info: (612) 378-0062.

**"DATELINE HAVANA" TRIP** You can help balance the view of the NEW WORLD ORDER. While the U.S. government restricts who can travel to Cuba, peace and justice activists may visit the island for the purpose of gathering news for a local newsletter, radio program or organization. Three trips have been planned for the winter of 1994. (Jan 21-30, Feb. 18-27, Mar.25-Apr.3) The overall theme will be getting to know the real Cuba by exploring the many facets of the island's life. There will be visits to hospitals, schools and a day care center, meeting with women's organizations and neighborhood block associations. It is an opportunity to learn about Cuba's strategy for survival and how people there are bearing up under Washington's trade ban. If you are interested or would like more information, call the CUBA INFORMATION PROJECT (212) 227-3422.

### From The Center for Law and Justice, Inc.

#### Jessie Davis Update... "it's not about money."

The sister of Jessie Davis, the Albany man shot to death by Albany police in 1984, turned down an offer of \$350,000 made by the City of Albany to settle her civil right cases against the city and against five police officers involved in the shooting death of her brother. As a result, Judge Neal P. McCurn ordered a federal trial to be held on June 20th in Utica, moving the site from Syracuse where it was scheduled originally.

Corporation Counsel, Vincent McArdle, Jr., and the attorneys representing the police defendants in the case expressed surprise over Ms. Thornton's rejection of the offer. They have been unable to understand why Jessie Davis' family is compelled to learn the truth surrounding his death. Louise Thornton has said, "It is not about money, it's about truth and justice."

In an open letter to the community on December 23, 1993, Louise Thornton made a request for help on an emergency basis to help fund the civil rights litigation in this case. \$6,000 is urgently needed to pay for two expert pathologists to testify at the trial. Lewis Oliver, lawyer for the family, has said that this testimony is very important for success at trial. Louise Thornton: "This trial is the only way that the truth about what happened to my brother will ever see the light of day."

Please send contributions which will bring this important testimony to court to:  
Alice Green/Jessie Davis Fund, c/o Center for Law and Justice  
Pine West Plaza, Building #2, Washington Ave. Extension  
Albany, New York 12205

### Community Conference on Youth and the Law

The Fourth Annual Community Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice will take place on Saturday April 16, 1994. The all-day gathering will address "Youth and the Law: Problems and Solutions." Area youth are involved in the planning and organizing of the conference. Tentative workshop topics include: legal rights, survival skills, crime prevention programs that work, and the state of juvenile justice.

The Conference is being presented by The Center for Law and Justice and the New York State Division for Youth. Over 50 other community groups and agencies are expected to co-sponsor the Conference. For more information, contact the Center at (518) 427-8361.

### Applications for Program Director - Youth Crime Prevention and Legal Rights Education

The Center for Law and Justice is seeking applications for the position of Program Director for a youth crime prevention and legal rights education program. Applicants should have superior writing, communication, analytical, and organizational skills and be able to work with youth from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. The Director will assist in developing workshop programs and materials, teach modules, do community outreach, and evaluate programs. Those interested should send resumes to The Center for Law and Justice (see address above)



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism**  
a project of the Social Justice Center  
33 Central Avenue  
Albany, New York 12210

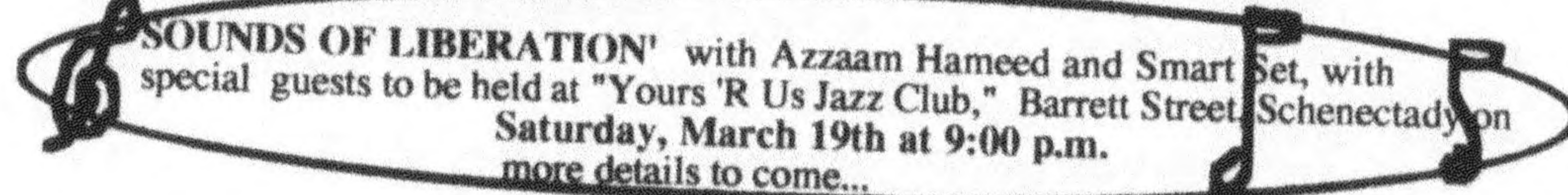
**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No.509  
Albany, N.Y.**

### **Who is democracy really for?**

#### **How can you give concrete support for South African democracy ?**

1. Inside is an urgent request from Nelson Mandela for aid in the upcoming elections. Please read carefully and respond as generously as possible. ( Note: Some of you may have received the same request in a direct mailing from Boston).

2. Save March 19th for a CD-CAAR fundraiser to benefit the South African election fund and the Jessie Davis Defense Fund (see information on the Jessie Davis case on the Center for Law and Justice page inside)

 **SOUNDS OF LIBERATION** with Azzaam Hameed and Smart Set, with special guests to be held at "Yours 'R Us Jazz Club," Barrett Street, Schenectady on **Saturday, March 19th at 9:00 p.m.**  
more details to come...

**NELSON MANDELA:** *"Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of democracy; not ignorance, not illiteracy, and most certainly not the advantageous resources of those who wish to preserve their privileged positions. ...Only a democratically elected government that reflects the real will of the majority can realistically answer the cry for peace, jobs, and justice."*

(from "A Personal Appeal from Nelson Mandela" to U.S. anti-apartheid workers and supporters to aid in the April 27, 1994 South African elections.)

**ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS:** *"Our Faith calls us to a pastoral concern for the people of our country who are victims of apartheid injustice and mismanagement of the economy of this country. We are also called to a prophetic responsibility to proclaim the values of God's reign over and against the systematic economic distortions and imbalances created by apartheid..."*

(from a report "The Church, the Poor and Business: a Proclamation on Ethical Corporate Conduct in South Africa" written by an Ecumenical Task Force on Economic Matters convened by the South African Council of Churches and the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference, May 1993)



**Struggling With the Struggle  
Albany, New York  
Saturday, February 5, 1994**

Draft Agenda 1/21/94

**8:30 - 9:15** Registration (Coffee and Donuts provided)

**9:15** Opening Remarks, Review of Agenda, and Welcome - CDCAAR

The Current Situation in Southern Africa: What Does This Mean  
For Our Work? - Prexy Nesbitt

**9:50** - Introductions - two minutes by each group represented (estimated 30 groups)

**10:50** The Political Context of Our Work

U.S. Policy towards Southern Africa - Imani Countess, WOA  
Current State of the U.S. Movement - Jennifer Davis, ACOA

**11:30** New Problems and New Opportunities -- A Discussion

This is an opportunity for the full group to discuss the broader, theoretical issues raised by the panel, with a particular focus on the work we do here in the U.S. What are the constituencies currently involved in Southern Africa work? What are new constituencies or new linkages we need to make? What should some of the new foci of organizing work be at this moment?

**12:45** Summary of the Morning Session by Facilitator  
Restatement of Agenda  
Announcements

**1:00** Lunch-- no schedule, break (Indian Food Available - \$6)

**2:00** Where Do We Go From Here -- Strategies For Local Action

Introduction by facilitator  
Break up into small group discussions

Each small group begins by making a list of the types of local actions people in that group would like to discuss. Then groups try to discover common themes and discuss the potential for local organizing on certain issues. Each small group should come with three suggestions of actions they would like to present to the larger group

**3:00** Reports Back From Small Groups and Discussions

**4:00** What have we accomplished?

Facilitator and Prexy Nesbitt  
Comments from Jennifer Davis, Imani Countess

**4:30** Ends



2/18/94

*Speaks at Union College*

# Angela Davis honors black activists of past

By IAINA JONAS  
Staff writer

SCHENECTADY — When living legend Angela Davis brushed by 26-year-old Marc Morris Thursday and then spoke about the necessities and difficulties of organizing people for political action, he said, "I understand."

Morris, a member of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, was one of about 300 people who spilled over into the balcony of Union College's Memorial Chapel to hear the woman who personified to many Americans the black power movement of the late 1960s.

Her trademark Afro from that period is gone, replaced by blond-tinted dreadlocks cascading to the middle of her back. When she entered the room, however, the familiar picture of the activist who raised her hand in the symbol of black power during her conspiracy trial in 1972 flashed through the minds of many who attended her speech at Union.

Davis gained fame in 1969 when she was fired as an assistant profes-



Davis

or of philosophy at UCLA because she was an avowed Communist. A year later, when she was 26, a warrant was put out for her arrest in connection with the August shootout outside the Marion Civic Center in which a judge and his three abductors were killed.

Although Davis wasn't there, she was arrested later that year and spent 22 months in jail awaiting trial on charges of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy for allegedly helping to plan the attack on the courtroom. After a four-month trial, it took an almost all-white jury 13 hours to acquit her of the charges. Davis' lawyer said she never would have been charged had it not been for her political activism.

Twenty-two years later, Davis, now a socialist, was invited to speak as part of the celebration of Black History Month. But she warned such a dedication shouldn't be used to confine the knowledge of the contributions and history of African-Americans to one month.

"Which, after all is the shortest month of the year," she joked.

Davis, now a professor in the history and consciousness program at the University of California at

Please see DAVIS B-9

Continued from B-1

# DAVIS: Pays tribute to black activists of past

Santa Cruz, is the author of several books, including "Women, Culture & Politics." In her talk Thursday night, she reflected on the women who worked in the shadows of the high-profile organizers who created America's civil rights movement.

One by one, she rattled off names of Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker and Ruby Robinson, who helped organize the Freedom Summer of 1964, the drive to register thousands of African-Americans in the Deep South to vote. The grass-roots movements would eventually lead to the women's movement, the Black Panthers the Young Lords and the gay rights movement, Davis said.

"Jesse Jackson's two campaigns would have been inconceivable without Fannie Lou Hamer," she said, referring to the woman who worked to register Mississippi blacks to vote.

The movements of the 1960s and 1970s owe their existence to grass-roots, indefatigable organizing, Davis said.

"There's a tendency to look back at the '60s and '70s as a revolutionary era, as if it decended upon us,"

she said. "What is not pointed out is the hard work people did."

Davis attributed her acquittal in 1972 to the the "Free Angela" movement that spread nationwide after her arrest.

"I felt increasingly confident that I would not be convicted," she added. "If that mobilization had not happened in that time, I would not be addressing you today. I would be sitting in some prison in California."

Despite her long and continued history of political activism, Davis declined a request Thursday night to instruct today's students how to organize.

"That time has passed," she said. "We need to recognize those kind of movements would not work today."

But she did call for students to organize against a new kind of racism disguised under a different name. She said the urgent call embraced by national political leaders to battle crime is placing the stereotypical black criminal as the 1990s enemy of America.

"We racially divide a group of people without having to enter into using the word race," she said.

Union College gave \$100,000 gift



## Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa



February 25, 1994

Dear Friend,

April 27, 1994 is the day when every citizen of South Africa will have the right to go to the polls and vote for the political organization of his or her choice. The African National Congress (ANC) and its allies will be fielding candidates throughout the country. It is not an overstatement to say that this election will decide South Africa's future.

As a supporter of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism you know that the democratic movement's ability to garner a decisive majority of votes in April will determine whether Nelson Mandela will be the next president of South Africa.

In addition, and equally as important, the newly installed Parliament will oversee the drafting and ratification of a new constitution that will address the injustices that are the legacy of apartheid. The new Parliament will preside over a number of key issues, including the re-incorporation of the apartheid engineered homelands that have artificially divided the population into different ethnic "nations."

A group of concerned individuals in the United States, with a history of supporting anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa, have established the Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa (FDESA) as a way to assist in the upcoming elections. FDESA was incorporated in August of 1993 with the sole purpose of raising at least one million dollars to support free and fair elections on April 27th.

In order to reach this goal we need your contribution of \$50, \$100 or as much as you can afford.

Three centuries of colonial and apartheid rule have excluded the majority of the population of South Africa from participation in the political process. White political parties have the advantage of experience and an in-place political apparatus from years of holding white-only elections. It is imperative that the previously disenfranchised majority have the resources to fairly compete in the electoral process.

(over)

729 Boylston Street, Suite 520 ■ Boston, Massachusetts 02116 ■ (617) 437-6363 ■ Fax (617) 267-2585



Glover/page 2

The size of the task facing the ANC takes on daunting dimensions when one considers that of the nearly 21 million eligible voters, 18 million will be voting for the first time. Identity documents must be issued to 5 million eligible voters who are not yet registered. This work alone will require a workforce of 180,000. Another 7 million people live in squatter camps bordering metropolitan areas. These are among South Africa's most deprived and vulnerable communities.

All these people have to be reached, shown how to vote, and provided with the knowledge and security that will allow them to vote, well informed and willingly.

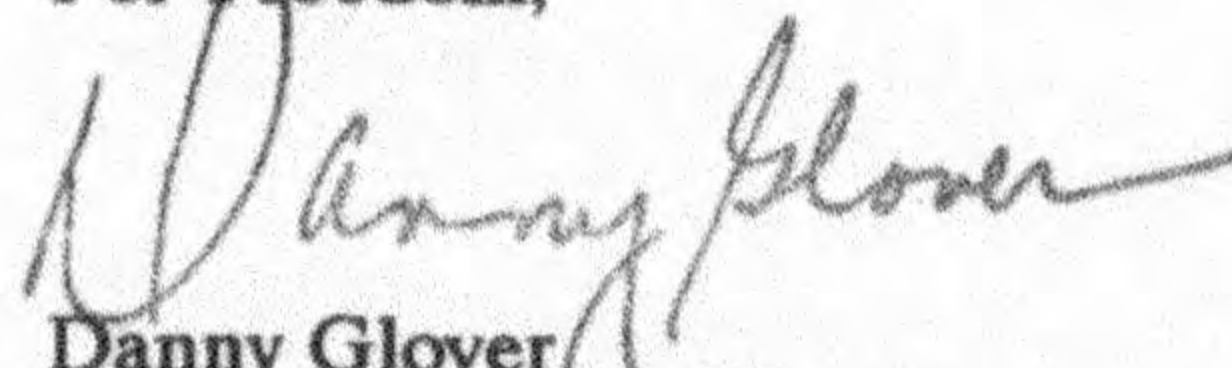
All of this takes money.

I am coming to you now to ask you to join with FDESA in this campaign because I believe we have the long shared hatred of apartheid and of the abhorrent racial policies of the white South African government.

Now, at long last, we have an opportunity to do something that will actually end that oppressive system once and for all. Your contribution now is critically needed. Only a few short months remain before the election on April 27. Every dollar we receive will be rushed immediately to the groups in South Africa who are working for a truly democratic election.

I look forward to your joining us. Let us dare to hope that, the morning after the election, we will be able to share in a mighty celebration of the freeing of South Africa and the dawn of a new day for democracy,

For Freedom,

  
Danny Glover  
National Co-Chair, FDESA

P.S. Your contribution of \$50, \$100 or more will be sent to South Africa immediately to ensure that all ballots will be cast and voices heard on April 27.



Shellie Spencer's *Smart Set*

Will Perform at the

***Yours-R-Us Jazz Nightclub***

145 Barrett Street, Schenectady, New York

**Saturday, March 19, 1994**

from 9 pm until 1 am

***Sounds of Liberation***

**"Light Fare" Buffet**

Proceeds To: The African National Congress For Election In South Africa  
and The Jessie Davis Fund

Sponsored By: The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Donations: \$15.00 in advance \$20.00 at the door

***For more information and tickets - call CD-CAAR at 432-4623***

Tickets can also be purchased at:

In Schenectady: Yours-R-Us, 145 Barrett Street 370-9865

Charlene's Beauty Salon, 98 State Street 382-7742

In Albany: Nubian Pathways Bookstore, 215 Central Ave. 463-6673





# SOUNDS OF LIBERATION

Featuring:

Shellie Spencer's *Smart Set*



March 19, 1994  
9 PM - 1 AM  
Yours-R-Us Jazz Nightclub

Sponsored by:  
The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid  
and Racism



**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT:**

**The African National Congress For The  
Election In South Africa**

*"This is the most urgent appeal I have ever made for support in the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa. We are at a decisive point in the history of our people. . . . Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of democracy; not ignorance, not illiteracy, and most certainly not the advantageous resources of those who wish to preserve their privileged positions. With your help and support we cannot fail."*

Nelson Mandela

**The Jesse Davis Fund**

*"People talk about the Jesse Davis case but they don't do anything. I believe very much that the truth shall make you free. This trial is the only way that the truth about what happened to my brother will ever see the light of day."*

Louise Thornton

**SOUNDS OF LIBERATION  
PROGRAM**

**Music**

**SHELLIE SPENCER'S SMART SET**

Nett Taylor -- Vocalist  
Azzam Hameed -- Piono/Vocals  
Ron Mayfield -- Guitar/Vocals  
Ray Jung -- Bass  
Rob Cenci -- Drummer/Vocals  
Rick Hambright -- Sax/Flute

**Poetry**

Milton Evans  
Abdur-Rahim Muhammed

**Reflections**

Nozizwe Mvemve, ANC Representative



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

### **SPONSORS**

Adeline Apena  
Nancy Connell  
Dr. James and Margaret Cunningham  
Irv Landa  
Eileen Kawola  
Dick Melita  
Carl and Theresa Swidorski  
Sisters of Color

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

#### **Co-chairs**

Stacey Dawes  
Dick Melita  
Mark Morris

#### **Members**

Nichola Alexander  
Ann Frazier  
Debbie Maxwell  
Vera Michelson  
Michele Slater  
Merton Simpson  
Theresa Williams

Special thanks to Carla Paige



Anton Town Court on April 7.

### Anti-racism group to hold fund-raiser

SCHENECTADY — The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism will hold a fund-raiser Saturday at Yours-R-Us Jazz Nightclub, 145 Barrett St.

Proceeds will go to the African National Congress for Election in South Africa and the Jesse Davis Fund.

The event, titled "Sounds of Liberation," will include a light fare buffet. The program, featuring Shelle Spencer's Smart Set musicians, will run from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Tickets may be purchased at Yours-R-Us, Charlene's Beauty Salon, 98 State St., Schenectady and Nubian Pathways Bookstore, 215 Central Ave.

Information and ticket reservations may be made by calling the coalition at 432-4623. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

3/17/94

## SOCIAL ACTION

### EVENTS AND MISCELLANY

**Hunger Awareness Day.** The Hunger Action Network of NYS and the NYS Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy are looking for community groups or individuals interested in organizing local events for Hunger Awareness Day, 3/24. Contact HANNYS at 434-7371 or Assembly Task Force at 455-5203 for more info.

**Rensselaer County Environmental Action** is requesting nominations for Rensselaer County Environmentalist of the Year Award for 1994. The award will be presented during RCEA's annual dinner on 4/21. A letter detailing the accomplishments of nominees should be sent to: RCEA, R.R. 1, Box 1024, Poestenkill, N.Y. 12140 by 4/1.

**Sounds of Liberation.** The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism holds a benefit for the African National Congress for Election in South Africa and the Jesse Davis Fund. Guest speaker will be ANC representative Nozwe Mvembe, who will discuss what the election means to her. Also features light buffet and music with Shelle Spencer's Smart Set. On 3/19 at 9 AM-1 AM at You-R-Us Jazz Nightclub, 145 Barrett St., Schenectady. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. CD-CAAR, 432-4623.



**Excerpts from  
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHURCHES  
AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT**

Louise Thornton  
178 Jefferson Street  
Albany, New York 12210  
December 23, 1993

...We need to raise a total of \$6,000 in order to bring this case to trial in federal court in Syracuse. We do not have the money to pay for experts to travel to Syracuse and testify, and we need your help on an urgent basis in order to raise the money for the experts.

On July 8, 1984, my brother Jessie Davis was shot and killed by five police officers who entered his apartment by breaking the door down with a sledge hammer with guns drawn. Jessie Davis was not charged with any crime, he had no record of criminal convictions and no history of violence, at all times during the incident he was in his own apartment, and the police had no arrest or search warrant. The police fired six bullets, five of which struck Jessie, including one shot through the top of his skull (vertex) and one shot in the back. The police claim that my brother had a knife, but photographs taken by a police photographer within four minutes of the shooting show that Jessie had a toy truck and a key case in his hands, not a knife. These photographs were not shown to the Albany County Grand Jury which cleared the police.

As the representative of the family, I have commenced a civil rights action against the police officers and the City of Albany for a violation of Jessie Davis' civil and constitutional rights which is scheduled to go to trial in Syracuse on Tuesday, February 3, 1994.

Two pathologists who have been retained by our family state that because of the bullet entry through the parietal lobe (top of the brain), Jessie Davis immediately lost the capacity of voluntary motor activity and could not have hidden a knife and picked up a toy truck and a key case. In their opinion, whatever my brother had in his hands in the photographs is what he had in his hands prior to being shot in the brain, and therefore, in their opinion, Jessie Davis did not have a knife in his hands as claimed by the police.

In addition, the two pathologists are prepared to testify that my brother was crouching or on his knees at the time he was shot through the brain, not standing erect and running at the officers with a knife, as the police claim. The basis for the pathologists' opinion is the downward track of the bullet from the top of the head through the brain, and the track of the bullet entering the lower left back to the right shoulder, parallel to the ground. In order to appear in Syracuse to testify, each of the pathologists require payment of \$3,000, a total of \$6,000.

During the past several years, Alice Green of the Center for Law and Justice and Anne Pope of the Albany Branch NAACP have helped raise the money that was necessary to retain the experts and obtain their opinions which have carried the case this far.



However, the NAACP and the center have been unable to raise the approximately \$6,000 necessary to pay the two pathologists for their preparation and testimony at the trial in Syracuse. Lewis B. Oliver, Jr., of the law firm of Oliver & Oliver has undertaken the litigation in behalf of our family. Oliver & Oliver has expended literally hundreds of hours in preparation for trial, but they do not have the ability to contribute the thousands of dollars toward fees for experts. Mr. Oliver has told us that the testimony of these two pathologists is very important for our success at trial.

FBI documents show that the Police Department told FBI agents that the Albany police had attempted to obtain latent fingerprints from the knife, and this year we have learned that this was also a lie. Although the police told the FBI that they attempted to take fingerprints from the knife, the Albany police in charge of the identification unit and the internal affairs unit have admitted that they never attempted to obtain fingerprints from the knife and never submitted the knife for examination to the State Police Crime Laboratory.

My brother did not own the knife that police claim was in his hand when they say he was standing up and running at the officers with a knife over his head.

The City has caused the trial to be moved to Syracuse in order to make it more expensive and harder for us to carry the case through to trial, but the community in Syracuse has opened up their hearts and made it possible for us to go ahead with the trial. On November 30, 1993, members of the community in Syracuse held a rally outside the federal courthouse and the President of the Onondaga County Urban League, members of the Common Council of the City of Syracuse, and the Muslim minister for Syracuse spoke at the rally. The community has found a free law office in Syracuse for Mr. Oliver and free housing arrangements for Mr. Oliver and myself for the length of the trial. But we have been unable to raise money to pay for the experts to testify in Syracuse.

I am desperately appealing for your help in order to raise the minimum of \$6,000 that is needed to bring this case to trial. The killing of my brother, Jessie Davis, is often cited as an important event in the consciousness of the community in the Capital District. His killing is the subject of much thought and conversation in the community. I believe that having the police and experts testify in open court is the only way for the real truth about what happened to my brother to come out. Up to this time many groups including the churches in the Capital District have not yet taken a leadership role in helping bring this case to trial.

People talk about the Jessie Davis case but they don't do anything. I believe very much that the truth shall make you free. This trial is the only way that the truth about what happened to my brother will ever see the light of day.

Yours truly,

Louise Thornton





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

February 15, 1994

Dear Friend:

The time is fast approaching when South Africa will hold its first elections -- April 27, 1994. The battle has been long and hard. Many have lost their lives. The whole world has been in a struggle to eradicate the apartheid system and now the stranglehold of the white minority government will finally come to an end.

There are many obstacles Black South Africans face in the upcoming election period. The governing Nationalist Party **has** money, vehicles to transport election workers, phones, computers, trucks for supplying operations in rural areas, fax machines, printing equipment, bull horns, paper and a history of voting. The ANC **does not have** adequate money, vehicles, phones, computers, trucks, fax machines, printing equipment, bull horns, paper and a history of voting...which are all imperative for a fair election.

As President Mandela has said, "This is not a contest merely between opposing parties. It is a contest between oppression and freedom."

We have enclosed an important letter from President Mandela which further describes the needs of the majority population to "level the playing field."

At home in the Capital District, the Jesse Davis lawsuit goes to trial in June, 1994. As you probably know, the family has decided not to accept the \$350,000 settlement offered by the city. Excerpts taken from a very compelling letter of Ms. Louise Thorton, Jesse's sister, which we have also enclosed, explain that the family needs to raise \$6,000 for the expert testimony of two pathologists who will testify that Jesse was crouching or on his knees at the time he was shot through the brain, not standing as the prosecution says.

In order to address both of these needs, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CD CAAR) is pleased to announce a very special event that we are holding this Spring. As you can see from the attached flier, on March 19, we will be sponsoring **SOUNDS OF LIBERATION**, an evening with Jazz Ensemble Smart Set and special guests.



This is where you come in. This event is a serious fund-raiser to raise money for both the ANC and the Jesse Davis Fund. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

We are asking you to fill out the enclosed tear off and send us a check for \$25 or \$50. Your organization or your name will be listed as a sponsor/patron in the evening program. Your contribution will go a long way in helping us reach our goals.

Towards Peace and Justice,

*Stacey Dawes Marc Morris*

Stacey Dawes Marc Morris  
for CD CAAR

TEAR OFF AND SEND

**Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism**  
**SOUNDS OF LIBERATION**

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM

\$25 - SPONSOR       \$50 - PATRON

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CD CAAR

RETURN TO:  
CD CAAR  
P.O. BOX 3002  
ALBANY, NY 12203

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 9, 1994.





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

March 22, 1994

Azzaam Hameed and Smart Set  
19 Elder St.  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12304

Dear Azzaam (2 z's and 2 a's),

Just a brief note on behalf of CD AAR to let you and Smart Set know how exhilarated we all feel in the aftermath of the Sounds of Liberation event.

I know I can speak for the organization when I say that the evening was everything we had hoped for and more. The positive energy coming from the stage affected everyone in the club. The warmth, the love, the joy and great sounds of Smart Set.., the brilliance of the poets and the revolutionary message from Nozizw created a perfect blend and inspiration to those of us who are already engaged in struggle, those who are just thinking about it and those who don't have it on our agendas.

Some of the comments we heard were "great night", "love this band", "wish I knew about this band before", a wonderful evening for grown ups", "CD CAAR does it again", "didn't know Abdur could sing", "I feel cleansed", "glad she dragged me out of the house", "feel rejuvenated", "Man, what a powerful night", Now this'll make you feel good" and on and on.

To you Azzaam, Shellie, Smart Set and to Milton Evans and Abdur-Rahim Muhammed ...we thank you for a collaborative effort that will be remembered for a very long time.

Aluta Continua,  
"Struggle Continues"

Vera Michelson





**A PERSONAL APPEAL**

**FROM**

**NELSON MANDELA**



**THIS IS THE MOST URGENT APPEAL I HAVE EVER  
MADE FOR SUPPORT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM  
AND DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE AT A  
DECISIVE POINT IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE.**

After decades of selfless sacrifices, we have succeeded in creating the climate in which a democratic general election is imminent.

This will be the first time ever that all South Africans will vote as equals for a government of their choice.

Having said that, however, we remain fully aware of the obstacles that stand in the way of free and fair elections.

Amongst these is the horrific and senseless violence that continues to plague our country.

Of equal concern, because it could prevent the achievement of democracy, is the fact that we go into these elections under an enormous handicap. The fact that the entire eligible African population like myself has never voted and possess no experience about the voting process is an obstacle. Another is the overwhelming disparity of resources that exists between the Pretoria government and the democratic movement. The legacy of apartheid has left our society in complete disarray.

The generations of degradation and humiliation, the years of deprivation and oppression, have left our people and millions of our children knowing little more than ignorance, hunger, poverty, and disease. Forty years of National Party vote has been like 40 years of civil war.

But democracy cannot be delayed because we have been deprived or because the existing government has overwhelmingly advantageous resources. We cannot and will not allow these and other obstacles to stand in our way.

Our first and most important task, therefore, will be to ensure that all our people, black and white, vote knowingly and willingly. This responsibility of providing non-partisan voter education will fall entirely on the democratic movement since the government does not have the credibility to carry it out. Neither is it in their interest.

The size of the task takes on daunting dimensions when you consider that of the 20 million eligible voters, 18 million will be voting for the first time and 9 million are illiterate. Many of the regions in which our people live are inaccessible, without election facilities and any other public service worth mentioning. We also need to reach out to the approximately 6 or 7 million people living in makeshift or corrugated squatter camps bordering most metropolitan areas.

The Pretoria government has already begun its election campaign. At this very moment, it is making approaches to the very communities it has until now refused even to acknowledge.





The Pretoria government is making full use of public and state facilities worth billions of dollars to support their own interests. The Pretoria government will continue to finance its campaign with taxpayers' money as well as with funds that flow freely from many sources including the private sector, industry, and big business. It will continue to carry its propaganda efforts to every corner of South Africa and beyond, via the national electronic media which have remained fully under its control.

We, on the other hand, still have to create a national, electoral infrastructure, put in place essential facilities, train and educate electoral workers and volunteers, establish offices throughout the country. Additionally, we have to reach out and communicate to inaccessible communities and counter the propaganda efforts of the government in the national media.

Our organization was unbanned a mere three years ago. We have never fought an election and will have to acquire skills that under normal conditions require decades to put in place.

The cost of acquiring the necessary infrastructure and providing the essential training and education to ensure that the elections will be free and fair will not be less than US \$100 million. But what is the cost when one compares that to the price of failure and the result in human suffering?

Another Yugoslavia? Angola or Somalia? Civil war? Bloodshed? Famine?

Only a democratically elected government that reflects the real will of the majority can realistically answer the cry for peace, jobs, and justice. This is not an election merely to be contested between different organizations; it is a contest between freedom and oppression, and its outcome will affect over 100 million people throughout Southern Africa. As I said, this is the most urgent appeal I have ever made for support. Let us ensure that our country's children never know the suffering and humiliation of previous generations.

Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of democracy; not ignorance, not illiteracy, and most certainly not the advantageous resources of those who wish to preserve their privileged positions. With your help and support we cannot fail.

TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION THAT CAN BE USED TO AID THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OF PREVIOUSLY DISENFRANCHISED SOUTH AFRICANS AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27, 1994, PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

**Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa**

729 Boylston Street, Suite 520 • Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
(617) 437-6363 • Fax (617) 267-2585

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Only a democratically elected government that reflects the real will of the majority can realistically answer the cry for peace, jobs, and justice.

*N. Mandela*

Nelson R. Mandela





The Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa has been established by a group of concerned individuals in the United States who have a history of supporting anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa, as a way to assist in the upcoming elections. This U.S.-based group has been established as a national "people-to-people" campaign to directly support political campaigns and electoral efforts in South Africa. The Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa will raise at least \$1 million in campaign funds that will be sent to South Africa to help guarantee basic fairness in next April's elections.





# MANDELA FOR PRESIDENT

BE PART OF A MIRACLE

YES! I want to help elect Nelson Mandela as the next President of South Africa.  
Please find enclosed my contribution to FDESA of:

\$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I want to volunteer to help elect Nelson Mandela as the next President of South Africa by:

- Publicizing 1-800-MANDELA and encouraging people to call and make a credit card donation to FDESA. Callers will hear a message from Nelson Mandela and FDESA National Co-Chair Danny Glover. Callers will then be switched to an operator to make their credit card contribution. Please have someone call me!
- Holding a house party with my friends, family and/or colleagues and using a 10 minute videotape of Nelson Mandela called "A Personal Appeal." Please have someone call me!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING) \_\_\_\_\_

Fund for Democratic Elections in South Africa • 729 Boylston Street, Suite 5 • Boston, MA 02116  
(617) 437-6363 • Fax (617) 267-2585



THE CENTER for LAW & JUSTICE, Inc.

# ADVOCATE

Community Education

Mobilization & Empowerment

Change in Criminal Justice

SPRING 1994

VOLUME 3 NO.2

## COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ON YOUTH

### FOURTH ANNUAL CAPITAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Center for Law and Justice and the New York State Division for Youth will present "Youth and the Law: Problems and Solutions," at the Fourth Annual Capital District Community Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice on Saturday, April 16, 1994, from 9 AM to 5 PM at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Rooms 2 and 3.

The program will consist of two parts. The morning session will include a brief dramatic performance by Nicole Gant, a student at UAlbany and a youth panel discussion by area high school and college students designed to encourage audience participation.

The afternoon session will include four workshops entitled:

1. Juvenile Justice-What Does It Mean?
2. Prevention and Societal Survival Skills for Youth
3. Programs that Work-Sharing and Learning to Prevent and Treat
4. Legal Rights Workshop

The lunch break will feature vendors, craft and information booths and youth entertainment. There will also be a noontime workshop for parents on how to talk to your children about AIDS.

The Conference is free and open to the public, however, a \$5.00 donation is requested of those who are able to contribute.

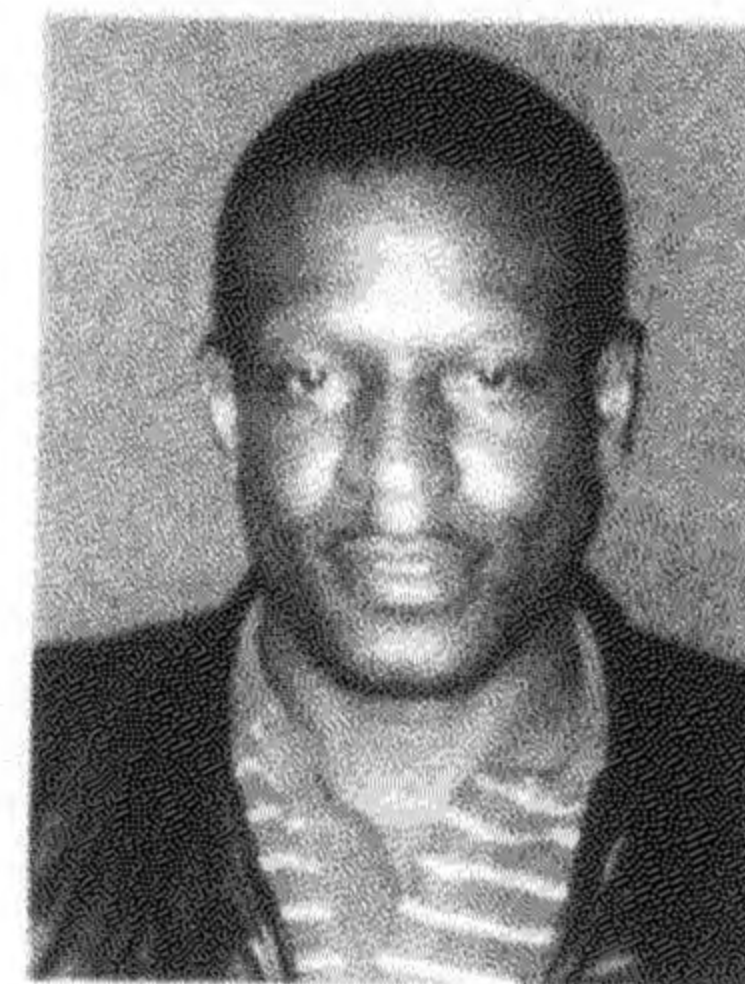
For more information call the Center for Law and Justice at 518-427-8361. Also see information on the conference on pages 6 & 7.

#### Inside

\*Why Conference on Youth & The Law 6

\*Conference Schedule 7

\*Legislative Task Force on African American Issues 8



Robert Butler and Vera Michelson, 2 of those to receive awards April 6.

### SIX TO RECEIVE FREDERICK DOUGLASS AWARD

The Annual Frederick Douglass Struggle for Justice Award will be shared by 6 area people. The winners of the award were announced on March 14th by the Executive Committee of the Board of The Center. Awards will be given to UAlbany student, Rosa Clemente; long time activists, Vera Michelson and Dr. Vivian Gordon; and Albany plaintiffs in federal civil rights cases, Louise Thornton, Robert Butler, and James Lunday.

### GREEN RAISES THE ISSUE OF RACE

In her testimony before the New York State Commission on Youth Crime and Violence, Alice Green, raised the issue of race and how it impacts on the juvenile justice system. Green, the Executive Director of The Center for Law and Justice expressed  
See Issue of Race on Page 11.



## CENTER NEWS

### NEW VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS AID THE CENTER

New volunteers and student interns have joined the staff of The Center to assist with a number of exciting projects. They include: Jo Ann Steve, developing a crime prevention curriculum for Troy; Venita Whidbee, Ceylon Moor, and Richard Johnson working on the conference; Amy Griffith studying area policing; Lolisa McLaughlin working as a legislative intern; and Joseph Kudner, writing and developing a legal rights directory. They are all committed to the work of The Center and contributing something meaningful to the community.

### DIRECTOR TESTIFIES BEFORE COMMISSION ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Center Director, Dr. Alice Green was invited to testify before the New York State Commission for the Study of Youth Crime and Violence and Reform of the Juvenile Justice System. She testified at the Commission's hearing held in Albany on March 10th at the Legislative Office Building.

The Commission which is chaired by Andrew J. Stein and co-chaired by Leonard Dunston, Director of the New York State Division for Youth, is required to submit a report to the Governor on the problems of youth crime and violence and make recommendations for legislative, programmatic, and administrative improvements in the juvenile justice system. Their preliminary report is to be submitted to the Governor by March 31st of this year and a final report is due December 1, 1994. For more information on Dr. Green's testimony see page 1.

### CENTER BOARD HOLDS PLANNING RETREAT

George Smith, a retired civil service employee, facilitated a weekend retreat of the Board of Directors of The Center. The retreat, which was held in Rensselaer, New York on January 21 and 22, was for the purpose of discussing the structure and functioning of the Board and the future direction of The Center. By the end of the retreat, three committees were established to oversee the development, program, and educational and community outreach of The Center.

### JESSIE DAVIS FUNDS STILL NEEDED

The Jessie Davis family still needs financial support in order to bring their federal lawsuit to trial. Tax deductible donations may be made to:

The Jessie Davis Fund  
c/o The Center for Law and Justice, Inc.  
Pine West Plaza, #2  
Washington Avenue Extension  
Albany, New York, 12205  
(SEE CENTER NEWS ON PAGE 3)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### T.V. SHOW PROMPTS INCREASED COMMUNITY ACTION ON JOSEPH COHEN CASE

The 1992 hanging death of Joseph Cohen, a Capital District Black man was the focus of a segment on the February 19th nationally-syndicated television program "The Crusaders." The case was first aired on the death of Joseph Cohen, Jr., on November 27, 1993. The repeat version included a status report on the case.

After the November airing of the show, a coalition of concerned citizens was formed to heighten public awareness of the Cohen case. Representatives of the group that includes Albany County Legislators, Donna Robinson and Leon Dukes, and Alice Green, met with Albany County District Attorney, Sol Greenberg, to request that the case be submitted to a grand jury for investigation. Mr. Greenberg has not made a decision regarding that request.

### COURT RULES AGAINST NYS CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY

The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Manhattan ruled that the standard of evidence used by the state in the placement of names on the central child-abuse registry presents an "unacceptably high risk of error." As a result, many people are often put on the list who shouldn't be.

Child protection workers who investigate charges of abuse and neglect, have been able to place a person's name on the central registry on the basis of "some credible evidence" standard. That process has prohibited many persons, who should not have been on the list, from securing employment in schools, daycare centers and other childcare situations. As a result of the court's decision, New York State will no longer use such a standard and will be required to prove allegations against a subject by a "fair preponderance of the evidence" standard.

### ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE SAYS "NO" TO WELFARE FINGERPRINTING

This proposal would have required home relief clients to let the Albany County Department of Social Services take a computer image of one finger. The computer would be used to scan that finger whenever a client visited with a caseworker. Supporters of the plan argued that this would discourage people from trying to get benefits in different counties using different names.



The state legislature allowed pilot programs in Rockland and Onondaga counties to test the process. A state report earlier this year concluded that no fraud was uncovered. Savings of \$600,000 in both counties were reported; however, any linking of these savings to the fingerprinting program was not established. (Based on story in the Times Union, March 15, 1994).

#### **WHITE SUPREMACIST CONVICTED OF KILLING MEDGAR EVERS IN 1963**

Byron De La Beckwith, 72, a white supremacist who bragged about killing the civil rights leader Medgar Evers and avoided conviction in two previous trials, was finally convicted of murder. The conviction came on February 5th in Jackson, Mississippi.

Beckwith is appealing the conviction. If he does not prevail, he will have to serve a minimum of 10 years before he is eligible for parole under Mississippi law.

#### **ACCD AND CAPITAL DISTRICT GROUPS UNITE TO FIGHT PRISONS: URGE OTHERS JOIN COALITION**

The African Community of the Capital District, Inc. and three African American Capital District organizations plan to join together to fight the growing imprisonment of African youth and urge the involvement of other community groups in effort. The coalition scheduled a March 15th meeting to discuss further collaboration and to outline a plan of action.

#### **CENTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

At its annual meeting on March 24th, the Board of Directors of The Center for Law and Justice elected new officers of the Board. The new officers are:

Co-Chairs: Dr. Frankie Bailey, Professor, School of Criminal Justice, UAlbany and Ceferino Narvaez-Ortiz, President of Centro Civico in Albany.

Vice Chair: Peter Sanzen, Professor of Criminal Justice at Hudson Valley Community College.

Secretary: George Boyce, State Farm Insurance

Treasurer: Charles Touhey, Omega Homes, Inc. and Africana Studies Department, UAlbany.

The new officers will serve for a period of one year.

#### **YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT DIRECTOR HIRED**

Carol L. Bourne, has been selected to direct PREP (Prevention and Empowerment Project), which will promote crime and violence prevention activities in Troy. The program received funding from the Howard and Bush Foundation.

PREP targets youth between the ages of 12 and 20. It seeks to deter youth from initiating involvement in criminal and violent behavior through the use of socio-cultural activities that teach young people to understand violence, manage anger and conflict, and develop positive self-identities, a strong sense of community and useful leadership skills.

Ms. Bourne was formerly employed by the Urban League of Albany, Malcolm-King College, National Conference of Black Lawyers, and the Chicago Center for Developmental Education. She also attended the Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism, in Evanston, Illinois.

#### **CENTER NEWS (Continued from page 2)**

##### **CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FROM NY BAR FOUNDATION**

The Board of Directors of The New York Bar Foundation has awarded a \$1,000 grant to The Center for Law and Justice. The grant is to be used by The Center to publish and distribute a directory of legal services for the poor.

Noting the increasing need for legal services for the poor in the Capital District, The Center applied for the grant so that it could distribute information about existing free or reduced-cost legal information and services already available in the area. Center Director, Alice Green said that, "There is a great need for all kinds of legal services by those who cannot afford such services. What many do not realize, however is that there already exists a number of groups and agencies that provide free legal information, representation, or services. For example, the Albany Law School operates legal clinics for AIDS, family violence, and post-conviction remedies. We have collected such information about the availability of free legal help, so that poor people can take advantage of it. The Directory, entitled, "On Your Own: Finding Free Legal Help" will be available in about a month. They will be distributed by The Center and other Capital District organizations, such as welfare departments, community centers, health clinics, jails, and other programs. It will certainly not meet the need for competent legal services for the poor, but it will help lead people to existing services and allow others to represent themselves in matters that don't require an attorney".

The Center hopes that the directory will assist in increasing public understanding of the law and promote access of the poor to the judicial system.

**PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE: USE THE PEOPLE'S BIOGRAPHER WORKBOOK.** See Ad on Page 4.

**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ON YOUTH: SATURDAY, APRIL 16, AT EMPIRE STATE PLAZA.** See Details on Pages 6 & 7



**GUEST EDITORIAL**

**TALKING ABOUT SAVING THE YOUTH**

by John Massey

With violence in America continuing to rise at an unexpected rate, American leaders are forging strategies and initiatives that are deemed to be solutions. These solutions are ideas that abound because the emotions of the general public are rising. And the pill that's perceived to cure this headache is prison expansion and "three strikes and you're in."

In an election year politicians play on the fears of the public and their ignorance about the way bureaucracy is ran. The same neighborhoods continue to resemble war zones. The same institutions in the community continue to provide low grade services or no services at all. And the monies that's needed to build up the communities always seem to find other directions that do not benefit the community. Children are leaving the community at a rapid pace, some returning immediately, in the same condition that they left, and others returning years later no better off than when they left. One thing that the Public must realize is that not everyone who goes to prison has a life sentence. Barring exigent circumstances many soon return to the community. With the proper kind of rehabilitative development most of these men and women can return as assets in the rebuilding mode. As it stands now, most of those returning are only liabilities to their community. They continue the negative behavior that sent them to prison in the first place, never really assessing their problems and effectively dealing with them. Some go to school, some learn a trade and some just do nothing. The one's who do nothing are prone towards irresponsibility; however, for those who take a step to better themselves--regardless of how small that step may be--there's always hope. Long Term Prisoners are the one's at the other end of that rope trying to prepare the youth to return to the community. We are the stabilizing force that becomes fathers, brothers and mentors to the youth coming into a prison system so filled with bureaucracy that there's no time to focus on the individual. Long Term Prisoners, as a result of their experience and training, has been filling that void left in a child's life through neglect. If the youth of the community are to be saved then an initiative, that the youth can recognize and respect, must be developed. Today's youth are untrusting of people who have not traveled the same path as them. They have a tendency to lock down, a symptomatic term most psychologists would classify as a slow learning process. Children are a major part of the picture, and must be recognized as such. If this negative era is ever to reverse itself then society is going to have to start paying attention to, and communicating with, its youth.

Long Term Prisoners, who presently fill these prisons, can be the panacea to the problems of youth. There is an understanding

between the two that transcends the understanding of someone who have never experienced being imprisoned or have been involved in some of the things youth are prone to become involved with. If Long Term Prisoners were allowed to, they could be a valuable asset to the community. Specifically, they could teach and instruct the youth about their experiences telling them why it is not right to waste one's life in prison.

It must also be understood that there will always be crime in the community. But the level of crime in the community can decrease tremendously if elected officials and agency heads were to utilize logic and reasoning in understanding and dealing with the problem.  
(From Long Termers Committee Newsletter, Woodbourne Correctional Facility)

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**VOICES FROM PRISON**

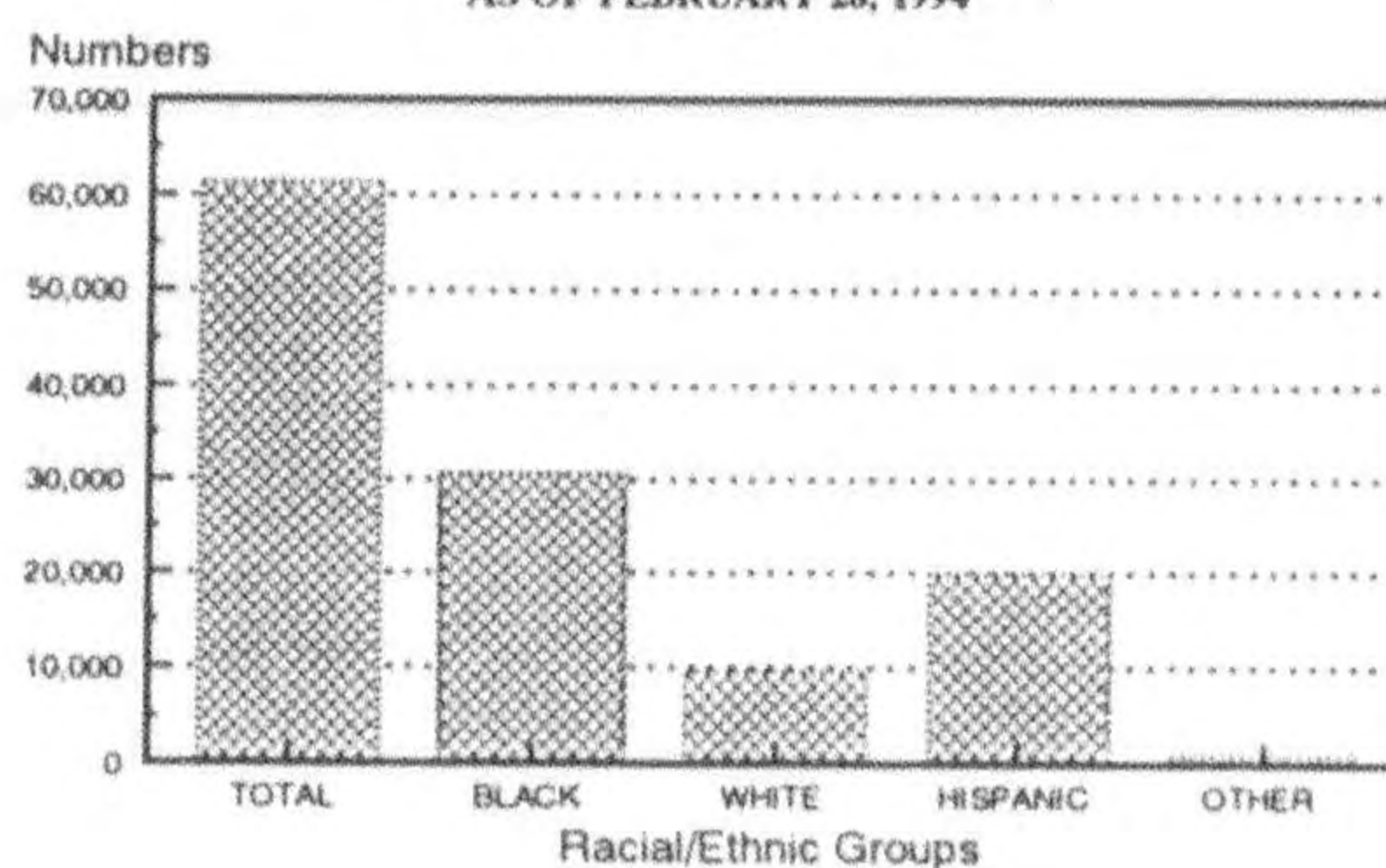
Eddie Ellis, Director of the Community Justice Center in Harlem, Dr. Alice Green, Director of The Center for Law and Justice, and Richard Johnson, traveled to Green Haven Correctional Facility on February 3rd to meet with prisoners and plan the 5th Annual Legislative Conference. The Conference is sponsored annually by the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus and planned by The Center for Law and Justice and prisoners from the facility. Its purpose is to bring together the above groups along with representatives from other community groups and prison administrators to plan strategies to reduce crime and the over reliance upon incarceration. This year's conference is scheduled for April 7 at Green Haven which is located in Stormville, New York.



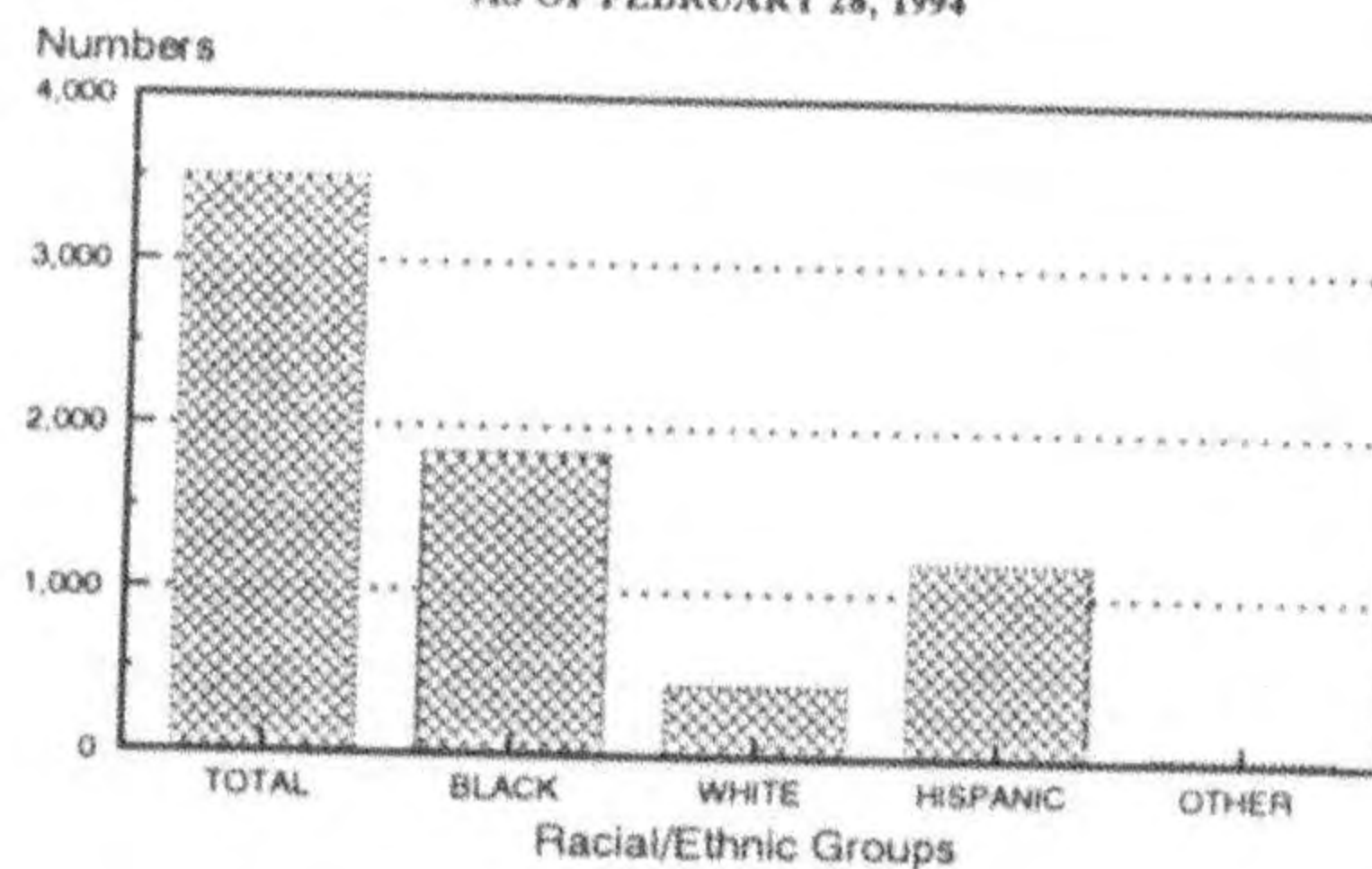
**NEW YORK STATE PRISON POPULATION**

The graphs below depict New York State Prison population by gender, race and ethnicity as of February 28, 1994. The statistics were compiled by the New York State Department of Correctional Services.

**NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**  
Male Inmates By Racial/Ethnic Group  
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1994



**NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**  
Female Inmates By Racial/Ethnic Group  
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1994



**Total Prison Population as of February 28, 1994:**

**64,689**  
**Blacks - 32,633 = 50.4%**  
**Hispanics - 21,119 = 32.6%**  
**Whites - 10,035 = 15.5%**  
**Females - 3,509 = 5.4%**



## WHY A COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ON YOUTH AND THE LAW?

As we rapidly approach the 21st Century, it has become clear that we are losing too many of our children and youth to crime, violence, drugs, poverty, and despair. While affecting parts of all our communities, these ills are visited most viciously upon a disproportionate number of African American and Latino children because of racism, bad social policies, failed school systems, poor housing, the proliferation of guns, and ineffective juvenile and criminal justice systems. They have created an environment in which:

Nearly half of all African American and Latino children in large urban schools drop out by the age of 16.

Every 6 hours a child of African heritage dies from firearms.

85% of youngsters in NYS Division for Youth custody are African American or Latino.

Our communities, fearful that violence and crime will engulf us all, too often embrace punitive incarceration as the only answer. But the increased incarceration of our young people has failed to deter youth crime or violence. We must come to understand that imprisonment of individuals will not address the root causes of the crime and delinquency which result in large measure from flawed social policies.

The Fourth Annual Community Conference whose theme is "Youth and the Law: Problems and Solutions" is called to:

Promote understanding of the complex problem facing our youth and their relationship to the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Conduct an intergenerational dialogue that will lead to the adoption and use of concrete solutions and strategies that will address the societal and spiritual problems facing our youth and communities.

Adopt and embrace a set of community action plans and strategies thought useful in addressing the crisis before us.

### CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Carole Bourne, Kenneth Bowland, George Boyce Jr., Gail Byrnes, Denise Clement, Richard Johnson, Rita Lashway, Anthony Martin, Lolisa McLaughlin, Celyon Moore, Janice Mwapaga, Kerry Pompey, Helga Schroeter, Michael Simpson, Wanda Stratton, Donald Tutt, Venita Whidbee, Kenneth Winston, Debra Williams-Muhammad, Brian Wright

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ON YOUTH: SATURDAY,  
APRIL 16, AT EMPIRE STATE PLAZA.

## SCHEDULE

8:00 - 9:30 Registration and Refreshments

9:30 - 10:00 **Welcome:** Alice P. Green, Executive Director, The Center for Law and Justice, Inc. ; Planning Committee Coordinators: Brian Wright (Schenectady); Wanda Stratton (Albany); and Donald Tutt (Rensselaer)

10:00 - 11:00 **Youth Speak** - (Dramatic Performance and Panel Discussion by area high school and college students)

11:00 - 12:00 **Response:** Dr. Frankie Bailey, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany; Brian Wright, Schenectady Community Services

12:00 - 1:00 **LUNCH BREAK** - Lunch, Information Booths, Vendors, Entertainment (Music and Dance)

**AIDS Workshop** - "How to Talk to Your Children About AIDS" - Yvonne Goodbee, Cornell Cooperative Extension

1:00 - 1:15 **Award Ceremony** - Presentation of the "Frederick Douglass Struggle for Justice Award" by the Honorable Michael Brown, Alderman, Albany Common Council

1:20 - 2:50 **Workshops:**

**A. Juvenile Justice - What Does it Mean?** Discussion of the System, how it functions, and recommendations for change

**B. Prevention and Societal Survival Skills for Youth** - Countering the Risks Strategies for avoiding and surviving those forces that impinge upon the healthy development of youth.

3:00 - 4:30 **Workshops:**

**C. Programs that Work** - Sharing and Learning to Prevent and Treat Presentation of model local youth programs

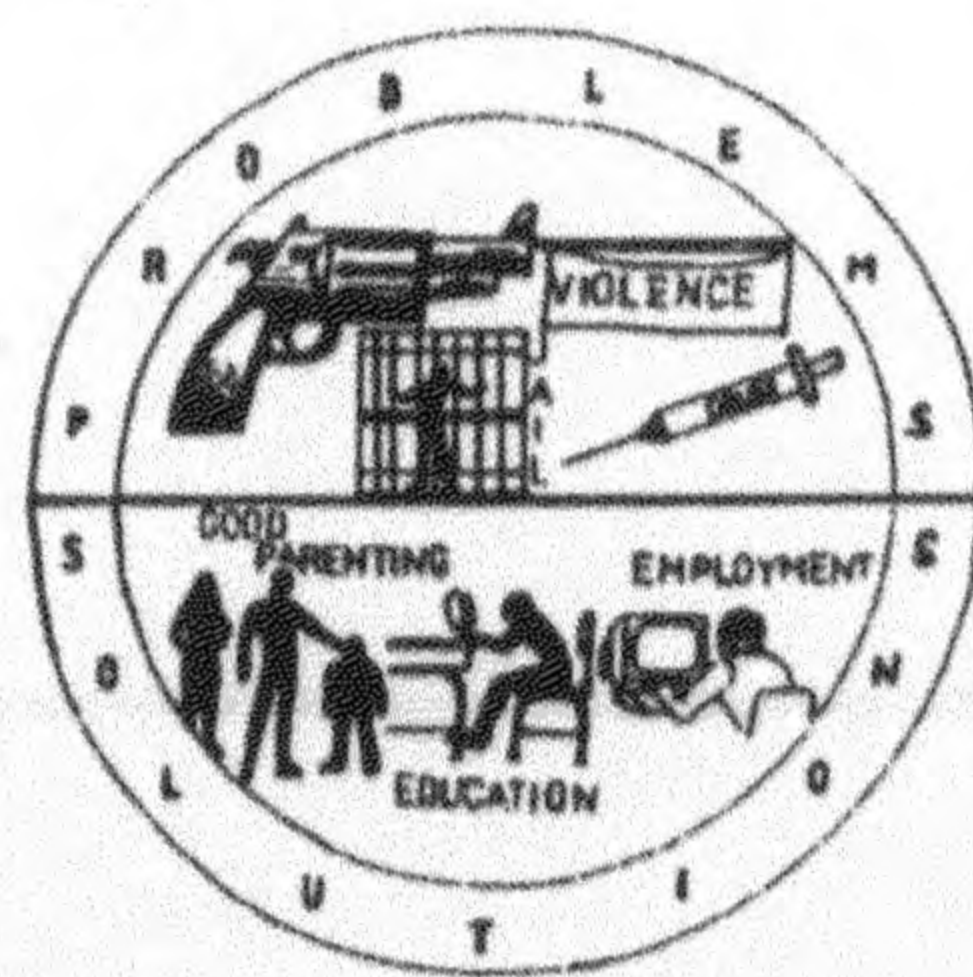
**D. Legal Rights Workshop** - Devra Nusbaum, Esq. Presentation by local attorneys of the legal rights program they developed for area youth

4:30 - 5:00 **Summary & Action Agenda for Change**



**1994 CONFERENCE SPONSORS: PARTIAL LIST**

Albany County Probation Department; Albany Dispute Mediation; Albany Law School; Albany Friends Meeting; The Albany Service Corp.; Alcoholism Council of Schenectady County; Blacks in Government; Boys & Girls Club of Albany; Campus Action; Capital Area Council of Churches; Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism; Capital District Women's Bar Association; Carver Community Center; Center for Dispute Resolution; Centro-Civico, Albany; Centro-Civico, Amsterdam; Citizen Action; Communicator, The; Fund for Modern Courts; Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association; Hudson Valley Community College-EOP and BSA; Law, Order & Justice Center; League of Women Voters of NYS; NAACP-Albany & Schenectady Branches; National Lawyers Guild - Capital District Chapter; NYCLU-Capital District Chapter; NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault; NYS Coalition for Criminal Justice; NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence; NYS Commission on Corrections; NYS Defender's Association; NYS Division for Youth; NYS Division of Parole; NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives; NYS Martin Luther King Commission and Institute for Non-Violence; NYS Minorities in Corrections; Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action - SUNY; 100 Black Men of Albany, NY, Capital Region, Inc.; Prisoner Support Network; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Dean of Students Office; Russell Sage College-Sociology Department; Schenectady County Office of Community Services; Schenectady County Human Rights Commission; Schenectady Youth for Change; School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany; Siena College-Sociology Dept.; Social Justice Center; Statewide Youth Advocacy; Taylor Residence Court - Troy; Trinity Institution, Inc.; Troy Area United Ministries; Troy Boys & Girls Club; Troy Rehabilitation & Improvement Program; United Tenants Association; Urban League of the Albany Area; Women's Building, The.



**CONFERENCE BROCHURE LOGO DESIGNED BY MARCUS ANDERSON**

A 17 year old African American, Marcus is a Senior at Bethlehem Central High School. An avid art enthusiast, he plans to major in Illustration and Graphic Design when he starts

university this fall. Having been accepted at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Syracuse University and State University of New York College at Fredonia, Marcus is now taking a closer look at these campuses before he makes his decision on which to attend.

Other than High School art awards, this Spring Marcus won a Gold and a Silver Key in the 1994 Northeast Regional Scholastic Art Contest. They were among the exhibits at the New York State Museum from January 29 to February 21. The Gold Key piece has been sent to New York City where it will compete with other regional Gold Key Art winners. This piece which won in the "communications design category," is a comic book that portrays an African American Superhero whose mission is to rid his neighborhood and city of drugs, drug dealers, violence and all social ills.

**CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

JUVENILE JUSTICE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

This panel will cover the full spectrum of the juvenile justice system - family court, system's operations, youth advocacy, and the personal experiences of youth in the system. The audience will have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the panel and other participants.

*Facilitator:* Omoye Cooper, NYS Division of Parole

*Panel:* Ellie Ward, Director, Statewide Youth Advocacy; Marc Minick, Director of Grants and Revenues Development; Vincent Reilly, Jr., Judge, Family Court, Schenectady Co.

PROGRAMS THAT WORK - SHARING AND LEARNING TO PREVENT AND TREAT

Local and state prevention and treatment program models that are deemed to be successful will be showcased and discussed. Audience will be invited to share information about other programs available in the area or other parts of the country.

*Facilitator:* Brian Wright, Mental Hygiene Specialist, Schenectady County Office of Community Services

*Panel:* Karen Beetle, Community Dispute Settlement; Yvonne McNeal, High Intensity Incarceration Program; Eddie Ellis, Community Justice Center of Harlem. See Workshops on Page 11.



## THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ISSUES

by Rad Anderson

Chaired by Assemblyman Roger L. Green, a New York State Legislative Task Force on African American Issues was formed last year. "Children First: Adopting a New Covenant on Behalf of The Next Generation," formed a rallying cry. The following existing negative realities which beset children of African American heritage formed the basis for action:

the high number who are born into poverty;  
the high frequency of deaths from firearms;  
homicide is the leading caused of death; and,  
excessively high "school drop out" rate.

A summit was convened in Albany on December 3, 1993 to discuss the plight of children, particularly children of African American heritage. In attendance were leaders from politics, religion, labor, human services, business, the media and human rights organizations. Three major findings and recommendations, were identified and published in a report:

**1. Adopting a Program for Domestic Disarmament and Peace For the Survival of our Children and Youth.** This is the number one priority issue, and its focus is on the 26 assembly districts where the vast majority of the injury and deaths to ... children occur and the underdevelopment of the next generation is said to be compounded by family dissolution, chronic economic depression, community underdevelopment and systematic educational failures. The Governor was called upon to take direct action by calling an emergency session of the State Legislature to enact a "Legislative Program for Domestic Disarmament and Peace."

This emergency legislative session was asked to be convened on January 17, the National Holiday Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At the core of the Domestic Disarmament program are three gun control bills. In addition to the recommended passage of these bills, the program for Domestic Disarmament and Peace is to include a seven-month campaign against the culture of violence. Elements of this campaign include: personal and community anti-violence campaign based on gun buy back and anti-violence campaign incorporating the support of religious institutions, schools, artists, the media, youth service providers etc.; value based education centered on the State Regents adopting a policy of educational reform designed to create skills for problem solving as alternatives to violence; and, media action to counter the culture of violence.

**2. Adopting the principle of "First Call:"** For this effort it was requested that the Governor defend and protect the integrity of his program entitled the "Decade of the Child." This was to be demonstrated in the Governor's January 18 Budget message in which all children and youth would be defined as Protected Class. The budget would further support this class through the restoration of funding to all programs that provide service to children and youth and, hold harmless budget items which fund programs traditionally supported by African American Legislators in both the Assembly and the Senate.

**3. Adopting a Marshall Plan for African American Children...** The Governor was called upon to adopt a Marshall Plan encompassing a redistribution and reconstruction initiative targeted at the 26 Assembly Districts which the task force says suffers from:

- social disintegration among children and families
- chronic economic depression
- community underdevelopment
- systematic educational failure

The Marshall Plan is to include resources that address the following:

comprehensive family centered services  
enhancement of the values of personal and social responsibility  
policies that are culturally grounded in ... the African American Community  
Policies that will enhance the principle of community empowerment, self-reliance and self-determination

Several specific programs were recommended for the 26 legislative districts. They centered on employment, education, family support and empowerment, economic development, youth development, cultural development, juvenile justice and public safety and child and adolescent health. Costing more than \$1.6 billion for planning, capital and other costs, these programs are recommended for funding through the reallocation of funds from four existing state budget categories: Foster Care, Department of Correctional Services, State Capital Budget and the Governor's Proposed Employment Program. Supplemental Federal funding would come from the following programs: Family Preservation, Commission on National and Community Service and the Crime Bill.



## SYRACUSE'S CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD MOVES FORWARD

Edited by Rad Anderson, from Syracuse Newspapers

An eleven member Community Review Board (CRB), officially established in Syracuse since May 1993, has been meeting for more than two months now. Created by the Common Council after two years of work by a 22 member Task Force on Community and Police Relations, two public hearings and hours of debate, the CRB's main charge is to review complaints of police misconduct and advise the police chief on discipline.

Of the eleven members: five are African American, five are white and one is Asian American. A Director is scheduled to be hired by early April.

Following the hiring of the Director, the first order of business of the board will likely be to begin reviewing 26 brutality complaints filed against the Syracuse Police Department from January 1991 to June 1992. Brutality claims against the city and Onondaga County total \$23.8 million. Other issues which the board will address include: inappropriately aggressive behavior, racial slurs or insults, refusal to take complaints, damage to property, violation of constitutional rights and lack of truthfulness in police reports.

CRB members, however, admit that reviewing complaints is only part of their job. They also plan to try to improve relations between the police and the community. One board member was heard saying: "A lot of good can come from this. It is something that is very much needed. It's not just to find something wrong with the system, but it also has educational potential."

## CAPITOL UPDATE: DEATH PENALTY

by Damaris Walsh McGuire: State Coordinator, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty

On March 8, in a tense vote, the New York State Senate voted in favor of reinstating the death penalty in New York. This vote was the 18th time that the Senate has passed a death penalty bill and occurred after the Senate's unsuccessful and embarrassing attempt to link the death penalty bill with gun control measures.

Hailed as a victory for death penalty opponents, the vote leaves the Senate one vote short of an override of Governor Mario Cuomo's expected veto of any death penalty legislation passed by the legislature. This represents a loss of one anti-death penalty vote from 1993.

The Senate vote comes at a time when public and elected officials have placed crime and violence at the top of issues about which they are most concerned and when key death penalty opponents in the State Assembly have resigned their seats in mid-term for other elected offices or positions.

A March 1994 survey conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion noted that 26.8 percent of New Yorkers believe crime is the number one problem facing the state. Unemployment, taxes and the economy were the other top concerns expressed by voters. Only 2.6% of New York voters considered the death penalty as New York's top problem.

Special elections called to fill the vacancies created by the departure of key anti-death penalty leaders have added two more pro-death penalty supporters to the Assembly ranks. Interestingly, in the only Assembly special election where the death penalty was a real issue, the anti-death penalty candidate emerged victorious. With the departure of death penalty opponent Oliver Koppell to become Attorney General, a pro-death penalty legislator has been named chair of a key Assembly committee that deals with some death penalty legislation and which Koppell previously chaired.

Any death penalty legislation passed in the Assembly now will be only five votes short of an override of Cuomo's veto. Last year, the Assembly came up seven votes shy of an override.

The most unexpected development in the Assembly was the sudden death of Saul Weprin, the Assembly's Speaker who staunchly opposed the death penalty. Sheldon Silver, who represents Manhattan's Lower East Side, was chosen by his Assembly colleagues as the new Speaker. Silver is the first Speaker since 1978, when the death penalty once again became a burning issue, who is on record as supporting capital punishment. Silver has stated publicly that he will not use his power to influence any Assembly's vote on this issue.

Over at the Governor's Mansion, "Three Strikes and You're In," life imprisonment without parole for persons convicted of three violent felonies, has become the centerpiece of Cuomo's proposals to combat crime. The Governor again repeated his call for a life without parole sentence for first degree murder, stating that "there exists no harsher or more terrifying penalty than to spend the rest of one's life -- perhaps half a century or more -- in a cage."

Legislation authorizing a public referendum on the death penalty has been reintroduced in both houses of the Legislature. This referendum would ask voters to amend the New York Constitution to include a death penalty. Last year, this legislation passed in the Senate, but was stopped in the Assembly Codes Committee.

*(If you want to help keep New York from once again having the death penalty, write or call:*

**New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, 170 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210, (518) 465-0707, FAX: (518) 465-0722.)**



### SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BLACKMAN COMES OUT AGAINST DEATH PENALTY

Justice Harry A. Blackman recently said that after a 20-year struggle with the issue of capital punishment he has concluded that "the death penalty experiment has failed" and that it was time for the rest of the court to abandon the "delusion" that capital punishment was consistent with the constitution. The Supreme Court, itself, generally accepts the death penalty.

Statistics indicate that for the 40 states with and the 10 states without the death penalty, no correlation exists between the death penalty and murder rates. James Acker, an assistant professor at the University of Albany's School of Criminal Justice who specializes in the death penalty recently said "There is no reliable evidence that the death penalty has any impact on the murder rate."

### DEATH PENALTY DISCRIMINATION FOUND SHOCKING

"We're shocked at the results" said representative Don Edwards, chairman of the House Judiciary Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee. He was referring to the fact that all 10 federal death penalty prosecutions the Justice Department authorized during the Clinton administration have been against Black Defendants. This is according to a report issued on March 15, 1994.

The report also stated that of the 37 people for whom the federal government has sought the death penalty since early 1991, under the so called drug kingpin statute, 29 have been Black, four white and four Hispanic. The report contrasted with a Justice Department study released last year that found whites represented three quarters of the convictions under the same overall statute from 1987-1990, before any death penalty cases were brought. However, that study did not indicate how many were involved in a murder, which is necessary for a death penalty prosecution. (Based on story in Times Union, March 17, 1994.)

### PUBLICATIONS

Columbia Human Rights Law Review. A Jailhouse Lawyers Manual and 1994 supplement. Columbia University School of Law. 1994.

Green, Alice P. "Black Prisoners Organize for Self-Development." The National Prison Project Journal. Vol 9, NO 1, Winter 1993/94.

Kunjufu, Jawanza. Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys Vol III Chicago: African American Images. 1990.

Nightingale, Carl Husemaller. On the Edge - A History of Poor Black Children and Their American Dreams. Basic Books. 1993.

Wilson, Amos N. The Falsification of Afrikan Consciousness. New York: African World Information Systems. 1993.

Wilson, Amos N. Understanding Black Adolescent Male Violence: Its Remediation and Preventions New York: African World Information Systems. 1992.

### CALENDAR

\*On April 20-23, 1994 conference entitled, "An American Dilemma Revisited: Race Relations in a Changing World" will honor the work of Dr. Gunnar Myrdal and provide an opportunity for scholars and policymakers to collaborate with concentrated discussion on the key issues germane to the contemporary crisis of African Americans. The conference is hosted by The Morehouse Research Institute. For more information contact The Institute at 830 Westview Dr., S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30314.

\*April 7, 1994 Legislative Conference. Green Haven Correctional Facility. For more information, contact Alice Green, 427-8361.

\*April 16, 1994. "Youth and the Law". Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Meeting Rooms 2,3, and 4.

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The Advocate is published quarterly by the Center for Law and Justice, Inc.



**WORKSHOPS**

(Continued from page 7)

**PREVENTION AND SOCIETAL SURVIVAL SKILLS TO COUNTER THOSE "RISKS"**

Our children are put at great risk of loss of self esteem through isolation, discrimination, harrassment, arrest and imprisonment. This workshop will provide information and strategies for avoiding or surviving those environmental forces that impinge upon the healthy development of our youth.

*Facilitator:* Denise Clement, OMRDD

*Panel:* Dr. Cecil Canton, Minorities in Correction and NYS Department of Correctional Services; Michael DeSautels, Attorney, Linan, Bacon & Meyer Terence Kindlon, Attorney; Qadir Wilson, Youth; John Lee, Youth

**LEGAL RIGHTS WORKSHOP**

Local attorneys have developed a legal rights education program for youth. Attorneys will present a workshop to promote understanding of one's legal rights if confronted by police on the street, in the home, and in the car. Participants will be asked to critique the program and provide input. Plastic cards with one's legal rights explained on it will be issued to those completing the workshop.

*Facilitator:* Ed Burhmaster, Attorney

*Panel:* Gloria Arthur, Attorney, Connell & Aronowitz; Louis Carter, Paralegal.

**Continued from page 1**

**(Issue of Race)**

deep concern that the juvenile and criminal justice systems are basically confining and imprisoning Blacks and Latinos.

In her testimony, she said that, our prison system confines mostly Black and Latino men, women, and children who, according to one study, come primarily from a small number of New York State communities. Some 75% of the total prison population comes from primarily 6 minority neighborhoods in New York City. The remaining 25% come primarily from Black and Latino communities in the 5 upstate urban areas which includes the Capital District.

In 1992, African American and Latino children made up 84% of of the youth under Division for Youth care. And, 16 and 17 year old Black children were imprisoned in adult prisons at a rate over 12 times that of white children their ages.

Dr. Green noted that although race is a key factor in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, policy makers and administrators treat statistics on race as mere quantitative data and ignore the significant policy and programmatic implications that they present. She also claimed that although Black and Latino communities are most affected by the juvenile and criminal justice system, they are the least consulted about the care and treatment of their members who are caught up in the system.

**REGISTRATION**

Fourth Annual Capital District Community Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice

Theme: "Youth & The Law: Problems and Solutions"

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(There is no charge for this conference. However, a donation of \$5.00 would be appreciated. All donations are tax deductible). I will not be able to attend, but I would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

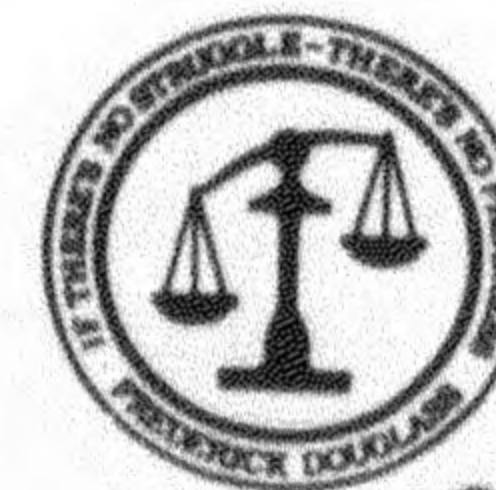
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Schenectady Gazette March 5, 1994

## LOCAL NEWS



Mabel Leon of Schenectady shows off the T-shirt that she plans to take with her to Cuba on a journey that starts today. Leon is traveling to Cuba through

Mexico as part of an international effort to deliver food, medicine and supplies to the island and urge the United States to lift its trade embargo.

JIM CASSIN Gazette Photographer



## Sch'dy woman heads for Cuba to help people, break barriers

By SYLVIA WOOD  
Gazette Reporter

SCHENECTADY — In a perfect world, Mabel Leon could take a flight from Albany County Airport to Cuba.

But like all U.S. citizens, Leon is prohibited by law from leaving her Cherry Street home in Schenectady for Cuba without special government permission.

The travel restriction is part of a U.S. trade embargo that President John F. Kennedy imposed on the Caribbean island 32 years ago.

Leon is now trying to lift that embargo.

And today, she'll fly to San Antonio, Texas, in the first leg of an international journey to open the door between Cuba and the United States.

"There is this perception that Cuba is everybody's enemy," Leon said. "That's not the perception shared by the rest of the world."

"I think it's time for our policy to change," she said.

Leon is hoping to do her part by joining a trip to Cuba that is being organized by Pastors for Peace.

The Minnesota-based group is try-

ing to foster ties with Cuba and end the trade blockade with its third "friendshipment" of humanitarian aid to the island.

Leon is the only Capital Region resident to make the trip with about 230 other volunteers from across the United States, Canada and Europe.

The group will help pack and distribute 100 tons of food, medicine and supplies to Cuba, including bicycles and 10 school buses.

The supplies are meant to help ease the impact of the trade embargo that has left the island with shortages of everything from antibiotics to gasoline and milk.

For most of the volunteers, the trip actually started last month with contingents setting off from Canada, Mexico, England, Sweden and Germany.

More than 60 vehicles, including the school buses, have since been traveling 13 routes through the United States. They will converge Sunday in Laredo, Texas.

Because of the U.S. trade embargo, the group will travel from there into Mexico and to the port city of Tampico, where they will load the buses, food and medicine into a freighter.

From there, Leon and the rest of the volunteers will fly to Havana, Cuba's capital, to help with the distribution.

During two earlier shipments, the U.S. Treasury Department has unsuccessfully tried to block the "friendshipment," for skirting the U.S. trade embargo with the threats of fines and jail.

Leon said the trip is worth the risk.

Although Cuba is about 1,500 miles away from Schenectady, the cause hits home for Leon, a former day-care center director at the Christ Church Day Care Center.

"One of the things that happens when you make a trip like this is that you meet real people," she said. "You can put a face on the country."

"Lifting boxes of medicine and taking them to hospital where people need them, or boxes of milk for young children, this is what aid should be."

Leon, who's lived in Schenectady since 1965, became interested in Cuba after visiting the country in 1992 for two weeks with the Albany-based Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.



John Q. Public

Letters to the Editor  
**WHAZUP!**

July 1994

**Dear Editor:**

I am writing in response to Steve Penson's letter in **WHAZUP!** May 1994, in which he describes the violence in South Africa as "a shift from government use of violence to the futile tribal violence."

The mainstream of South African politics, as it relates to the policies of racial oppression implemented by the National Party Administrations since 1948 and by the white minority regime since 1910, has never been significantly impacted upon by grouping of Black South Africans called "tribes". The term itself has a primitive connotation as it refers to social groupings that share some cultural practices and common ways of doing things. Seldom do we see in print references made to English tribes, German tribes, French tribes, Greek tribes, etc. The African National Congress (A.N.C.), led by John Langalibalele Dube in 1912, and today by the President of South Africa, Comrade Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, does not recognize a Zulu, a Xhosa, a Shotho, a Tswana, a Venda, a Pedi, a Tsonga or Ndebele, whom Steve Penson would refer to as "tribes" of South Africa without attaching the same labels to white "tribes" of South

Africa such as the English, the Afrikaners (Boers), the Germans, the Portuguese and the Greeks.

The A.N.C. has constantly corrected this misconception of "tribal" violence globally and inside South Africa itself and anybody who has been following politics of that country with vigilance and an open mind could have easily noted that political conflicts, and not "tribal violence" among black South Africans have been centered mainly in Natal and southern Transvaal specifically in the mining areas of the province. Natal is predominantly inhabited by Zulu speaking black South Africans and those among them who, typical of South African socio-economic-political situation, did not have access to any formal/informal education and worked in the mines of Transvaal. Grouping this section of South African people into a political organization opposed to the principles entrenched in the Freedom Charter (a document authored by South African people opposed to racism) has been the tragic and unfortunate work of the Inkatha Freedom Party (I.F.P) which purports to champion the aspirations of the so called Zulus. (Readers of this paper should note that John Dube, Josiah Gumede, Anton Lembede, Albert Luthuli, Dorothy Nyembe, Archie Gumede - tried and tested leaders of the A.N.C. - come from Natal and are Zulus by socio-cultural incidence.)

The unfortunate and tragic loss of lives as a result of political conflict between the I.F.P. and the A.N.C. in Natal and Transvaal is definitely not "tribal violence". Hence the political agenda of I.F.P. and how the items on that agenda have been addressed by the leadership of that political organization cannot be referred to as tribal in as far as this bloody conflict is concerned.

The I.F.P. has former National Party (N.P.) parliamentarians as its members. In addition, I.F.P. and N.P. led by Chief Buthelezi and former State President F.W. De Klerk respectively had been close allies for some time until the A.N.C. and other political organizations were unbanned in 1990. This unholy alliance soured during the negotiations leading to the elections won by the A.N.C.

Now that the majority of South African people have indicated by their vote that all along they have been behind the struggles as waged by the A.N.C., other political parties/organizations with hidden and dangerous agendas for South Africa will not be difficult to expose and dispose of.

**M. Ndandani**  
**On behalf of the Capital District**  
**Coalition Against Apartheid and**  
**Racism**



4/26/94 TIMES UNION



SUSU MOTSHUTSHU will travel to New York City to vote in South Africa's elections.

Times Union/SKIP DICKSTEIN

## Exercising democracy, a world away

By KAREN NELIS  
Staff writer

Thalita Komane never thought she would see free, democratic elections for people of all races in South Africa during her lifetime. Still, she expressed her desire for her country's future by naming her son "Tshepo," which means "hope" in her language.

This week, Tshepo turns 10, and his mother will vote in South Africa's first-ever non-racial election.

Komane lives in Albany now, but anyone older than 18 and holding a valid South African passport is eligible to vote. The South African government has set up 21 polling places in the United States to allow South Africans here to participate in the elections. Komane will travel to New York City today to cast her ballot. Elections in South Africa will continue through Thursday.

Other South Africans living in or visiting

the Capital Region will travel to New York City or Boston, the other nearby polling place, to vote in the elections, while several Albanians are witnessing history in the making firsthand by serving as international poll watchers in South Africa.

Three New York State United Teachers union officers, the president of United University Professions, state Secretary of State Gail S. Shaffer, and a member of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism are in South Africa to observe the elections.

The union officials are there under the auspices of the African-American Labor Council. Two of them, NYSUT President Thomas Hobart and UUP President William Scheuerman, have been stationed in the troubled Natal province controlled by the Zulu tribe, which until last week had been

fighting against the elections.

NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer Fred Nauman and Second Vice President Walter Dunn are in other provinces. Shaffer, who is serving as a U.N. observer, is in East London, South Africa.

Hobart, reached by telephone Monday at about 10:30 p.m. South Africa time, said the union delegation was in Johannesburg on Sunday when a car bomb exploded near the African National Congress headquarters and killed nine people. Although he was close enough to hear the explosion, Hobart said he was not fearful of the violence.

Violent incidents, including the car-bombing, are "targeted" attacks on those directly involved in the politics, Hobart said. There are 18,000 neutral foreign observers spread throughout the country. "We're not in any

Please see MONITORS A-9



## People with Capital Region ties involved in South Africa election

danger," he added.

Still, Hobart made it a point of calling his family after the bombing to assure them he was safe.

Hobart said he was staying at a hotel in the town of Durban, and that he would be observing polling over the next three days at various sites south of Durban, near Port Shepstone. Hobart, who also served as an election observer in Nicaragua and Chile, said he was happy to be watching history in action and helping democracy.

Hobart noted that many black South Africans had their first experiences of voting or attending a rally as members of trade unions. "Free trade unions can only exist in a democ-

cracy," he said.

Besides watching history, Hobart said he was enjoying South Africa. "This is a beautiful part of the world," he said. "I was walking along the Indian Ocean today watching the surfers."

Susu Motshutshu couldn't agree more. She's a South African on a five-month internship at the central administration offices of the State University of New York, and she'd much rather be in South Africa — for the weather and the politics. "I hate the weather here," she said.

Motshutshu will travel to New York City today to vote at a polling place at the United Nations. "I'd love to be home more than anything else,"

she said, but she knew she couldn't pass up an opportunity to learn possible ways to improve higher education in South Africa. She is a media officer for the University of Venda in one of South Africa's ethnic homelands.

Motshutshu said the atmosphere in South Africa is tense, but nothing, not even bombings, will keep people from the polls. "It's been years we've been struggling for freedom," she said.

The final end of apartheid has a deep, personal meaning for Motshutshu. "I've lost two brothers in the struggle," she said, adding that one died at the age of 29 in 1985 and one

at 19 in 1993. "It's nice to see my brothers didn't die for nothing," she said.

Dwight Rosslee, a South African currently visiting relatives in Wilton, said he is optimistic about the changes coming in the country, but notes that much work still will have to be done.

Those new to power will have to learn how to govern, and something must be done to stem the country's economic woes, Rosslee said. Rosslee links economic problems to the violence and high rate of crime in Johannesburg. "The criminal violence won't just go away," he said. "That is because people are without jobs."

Rosslee, who will travel to Boston to vote, said he owns a furniture manufacturing company in Johannesburg, but he had to reduce production sharply as the elections approached. Workers sometimes have decided to stay home for fear of the violence, he said.

Rosslee, who is white, said he does not fear the country's move from white-dominated rule to black rule. "I welcome the changes," he said. "The changes are what the country needs."

Harry Walston, an Albany man who has been working for change from this side of the world, is witnessing the changes now in Cape Town. Walston, a member of the

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, is working directly with Nelson Mandela's party, the African National Congress, which is expected to win the elections.



Walston

"People are still excited about the starting this process," Walston said by telephone Monday from South Africa. "They're not going to let the reports (of violence) deter them."



### Campaign tragedy



Associated Press

African National Congress marshals carry away a child who was trampled by crowds at a campaign rally for Nelson Mandela in a Cape Town soccer stadium Sunday. Three people, including a 6-year-old boy, were crushed to death when organizers opened gates to let some of the 20,000 supporters spill onto the field. Barry D. Walston of Albany is in South Africa to ensure the elections are fair and free. **See story, B-1.**



## Albany man assists in birth of new South Africa

■ Barry D. Walston, 32, participates in a Cape Town voter education project

BY VINCENT JACKSON  
Staff writer

After working in the Capital Region for 18 months to raise awareness about South African apartheid and racism, Barry D. Walston finds himself an active participant in the dismantling of that country's political system.

Walston has been in South Africa since April 8 working on voter education. He will also work to

ensure that the voting stays fair and free during the historic multiracial elections April 26 to 28.

"Personally, I have always thought of going to Africa," said Walston, 32, of Albany, a member of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, which sponsored his trip. "My assignment is Cape Town. I have been passing leaflets, talking to residents and holding workshops."

Walston has been familiarizing South Africans with balloting. He explains to them, for example, that if the mark is made outside the box printed on the ballot, their votes can be disqualified.

He is working directly with Nelson Mandela's party, the African National Congress, which is

believed likely to win the elections.

"Yesterday, I was sitting at a rally and something just hit me at this 60,000-person rally," said Walston, reached by telephone Sunday at about 10 p.m. Cape Town time. "There is all this energy looking for a new change, a new democracy. I was overwhelmed. There is an enormous feeling. People were excited."

Since arriving in South Africa, Walston has heard Mandela speak twice — at a rally in Orlando Stadium in Soweto on April 10 and at an approximately 70,000-person rally at Athelton

Please see WALSTON B-5

## WALSTON: Aids Cape Town voters

Stadium in Cape Town on Sunday.

Walston, who is black, said he dreamed of visiting the continent of Africa his entire life. After arriving, he spent the first two days of his stay in Soweto. He said the conditions there were even worse than portrayed in the media.

"There are squatters' farms, and the conditions are deplorable," said Walston. "You have 10 families living in a two-house shed. There are real horrible conditions in Soweto."

The purpose of the Soweto stop was to visit the squatters' camp and to give residents an idea of the election process. Walston's Cape Town stay started on April 11 and will last until May 6.

There have been media reports of South African violence in connection with the elections and the possibility of an escalation in order to disrupt

the proceedings.

"I'm not scared about what's happening," said Walston, who added that he has not seen any incidents involving the ANC. "A lot is happening on the grass-roots level to ease tensions and to hold fair, free and safe elections."

Walston has been staying with families in Soweto and Cape Town that the Capital Region apartheid coalition has made contact with over the years, said Vera Michelson, co-chairwoman of the group, which has existed since 1981.

In his professional life, Walston works for the New York National Guard, recruiting students and preparing them for the general equivalency diploma program.

Walston was supposed to go to South Africa last year as part of an ANC youth conference, but the event was canceled.

When it was time to raise money to send one of its members to South Africa for the elections, the coalition was able to raise enough money — about 2,200 — to send Walston.

After the election, Walston will be visiting more squatters' camps and going into the townships to talk to people about their election experiences.

"I have a responsibility to come back to Albany and make a presentation to the coalition and to church groups, to pass on information to (local) youth agencies," said Walston, who has been working with the student movement from the University of Western Cape.

Once Walston returns, one of his missions will be to try to clear up misunderstandings Capital Region residents have about South Africa.

4/18/94  
T.U.



Expenses 11/1/94 To 12/31/94

1. Mabel Leon for Feburary 5th meeting <sup>Regional</sup>	\$275.00
2. Paper Cutter for January bill	\$30.93
3. Center for Law and Justice for co-sponsorship of a conference	\$50.00
4. VISA First USA for Sounds of Liberation expenses (req. by Mike) <sup>Electron Fundraiser</sup>	\$169.56
5. Mike for petty cash (2/17)	\$50.00
6. Mabel Leon for Feburary 5th meeting	\$49.32
7. Pastors for Peace for humanitarian aid (req. by Mabel)	\$25.00
8. SPRINT for CDCAAR's Feburary telephone	\$201.47
9. NYNEX for CDCAAR's Feburary telephone	\$17.73
10. Roli for getting a draft for Simiao L. Manhica (taken fro saving account)	\$500.00
11. Paper Cutter for Feburary bill	\$58.57
12. Postal Service for Feburary mail	\$125.00
13. March 19 Sounds of Liberation program (taken from saving account)	\$500.00
14. NYNEX for CDCAAR's March telephone	\$17.65
15. SPRINT for CDCAAR's March telephone	\$16.05
16. Barry Walston for S.A. trip (taken from saving account) <sup>money had been raised</sup>	\$1200.00
17. Social Justice Center for January to March rent	\$65.70
18. Washington Office for Africa for Feburary 5th program (TRAVEL)	\$310.00
19. Paper Cutter for March bill	\$8.64
20. Donation: Funds for Democratic Elections - <sup>liberation</sup> From Fundraiser Sounds of	\$500.00
21. Jesse Davis Funds	\$100.00
22. NYNEX for CDCAAR's April telephone	\$22.19
23. Jim Cason for February 5 conference call (req. by Debbie)	\$201.37
24. Debbie Maxwell for mailing	\$41.50
25. SPRINT for CDCAAR's April-May telephone	\$65.38
26. NYNEX for CDCAAR's May telephone	\$38.05



27. Postmaster for mail	\$18.93
28. Social Justice Center for April to May rent	\$43.80
29. Bytner Travel	\$56.14
30. Postmaster	\$17.50
31. NYNEX for CDCAAR's June telephone	\$28.18
32. SPRINT for CDCAAR's June telephone	\$48.70
33. NYNEX for CDCAAR's July telephone	\$15.96
34. Social Justice Center for June to July rent	\$43.80
35. Postmaster for June mailing	\$69.00
36. NYNEX for August telephone	\$16.87
37. Paper cutter's August bill	\$4.27
33. NYNEX for CDCAAR's September telephone	\$15.46
34. Donation: NAACP Legal Defense Fund (req. by Mike) <i>FOR DAVID</i>	\$100.00
35. Social Justice Center for August to September rent	\$43.80
36. Dr. Vivian Gordon Tribute (given by Eileen)	\$300.00
37. NYNEX for CDCAAR's October telephone	\$18.98
38. NYNEX for CDCAAR's November telephone	\$15.98
39. Social Justice Center for October to November rent	\$43.80
40. For issuing new checks (forgot to write earlier)	\$12.14
41. Postmaster for PO box	\$17.50
42. NYNEX for CDCAAR's December telephone	\$17.12
43. Donally Colt for Civilian Review Board buttons	\$30.00
44. Donation to Mozambique project (given by Eileen) <i>MIKE TO MOZAM B.I.C. NEWARK</i>	\$1.000
45. Donation to Mozambique school (given by Eileen)	\$250.00
46. Donation to SJC (given by Eileen)	\$250.00



Revenues 1/1/94 to 12/31/94

1. Transfer from the last year	\$2604.04
2. January interest	\$1.58
3. From Peace Development Fund <i>for Feb Regional conference</i>	\$500.00
4. February interest	\$2.77
5. From the Fundraiser (given by Stacey) <i>for</i>	\$1604.00
6. From NESASN for February 5 conference	\$835.52
7. March interest	\$2.21
8. April interest	\$2.57
9. May interest	\$3.80
10. June interest	\$3.17
11. Transfer from the saving account	\$1030.97
12. July interest	\$2.86
13. August interest	\$3.13
14. Donation from the Tides Foundation	\$1,000.00
15. September interest	\$3.52
16. October interest	\$5.18
17. Reimbursement from Mike	\$20.00
18. November interest	\$2.86
19. December interest	\$4.16
20. January interest	\$4.78
TOTAL (approx)	\$2000.00



2/95



Keynote speaker Leon Van Dyke addresses the audience at an awards ceremony where The Brothers received awards of appreciation from Mayor Jerry Jennings. MARC SCHULTZ Gazette Photographer

## Former civil rights activists The Brothers feted in Albany

By JOHN MORAN  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — Former members of The Brothers, Albany's most notorious civil rights group, were given awards of appreciation by Mayor Jerry Jennings Tuesday in a celebration of black history month.

The irony of marching on City Hall in the 1960s and being honored at City Hall 30 years later was not lost on the former Brothers.

"I once pulled him out of a squad car in front of City Hall," Michael Dunn said, pointing to fellow Brother William Gibson. "We both got arrested that day."

The Brothers used to demonstrate a lot; they protested at the construction site of the Empire State Plaza over the lack of minorities hired there, they held a sit-in at the police station over police abuse, and they protested against slum lords.

They organized rent strikes to get better treatment for tenants and even put together one of the first welfare-rights organizations.

"We protested and sat-in but we also provided a service to people," said Leon Van Dyke, 82, during the keynote address of the Tuesday event.

"There was no Whitney Young (a health center that serves Arbor Hill) but The Brothers got volunteer doctors from Albany Medical Center to examine pregnant women and children," Van Dyke said.

That temporary clinic became the precursor to the Whitney Young Health Center.

In addition to Van Dyke, Gibson, Dunn and seven other Brothers were given "certificates of accomplishment" for their contribution to civil rights in Albany.

The awards went to: The Rev. Clarence Newton, Leslie Davis, Earl Thorpe, James Pryor, and James Brown.

Awards were also given to deceased Brothers Sam McDowell and Gordon Van Ness.

Additional awards went to two people who supported The Brothers, Peter Pollack, who helped edit The Lib-

erator newspaper, which the group printed, and activist Vera Michelson, who has long been active in the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

During The Brothers heyday in the 1960s, the police chief was John P. Tuffey.

Last Friday, Jennings appointed that chief's nephew, Kevin Tuffey, a senior state police investigator, to become the new police chief next month.

The Brothers were mixed about the return of a Tuffey to head the police department, which in the 1960s the civil rights group said was used by the Democratic machine to harass, and often unjustly arrest, many of the men being honored Tuesday.

"I'm not looking forward to seeing one of the Tuffeys coming back in," said Gibson. "They are strictly old-school politics."

"The machine, I still call it the machine, used the police force to silence their critics. I don't know much about this new Tuffey coming in. We'll have to wait and see," said Van Dyke, who is now employed by the state Education Department.



## Vacco's witch hunt

Attorney General Dennis Vacco's decision to remove sexual orientation from a list of classes protected by discrimination in his office is abhorrent. Vacco is sending a dangerous message at a time when Americans are learning to hate each other at record speed.

This is not an issue reserved for gays and lesbians alone to speak out on. Allowing a climate of venom and possible violence against gays and lesbians affects all of us, whether we are heterosexual or homosexual.

It might be helpful to remember the words of Pastor Martin Niemoeller, who said of the Nazis: "In Germany they came first for the communists and I did not speak up because I was not a communist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak up because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I did not speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, but by that time there was no one left to speak up."

**VERA MICHELSON**  
Albany





**DEMONSTRATORS** in downtown Albany protest an appearance by the Springboks, a South African rugby team, at Bleecker Stadium in 1981.

unaware of Fitzpatrick's Albany connection until contacted recently by the *Times Union*.

Fourteen years ago, Kunstler represented one of the defendants in the Springboks case and tried desperately, and unsuccessfully, to learn the identity of the informant.

In the Shabazz case, Kunstler contends that Fitzpatrick, who had recently been arrested on drug charges, is trying to land a big case for the FBI to save his own hide. Kunstler said he intends to pursue the Albany angle as he investigates Fitzpatrick's credibility.

Oliver, who worked with Kunstler on the Springboks case, said the recent allegations about Fitzpatrick perfectly parallel the concerns he had 14 years ago.

"It seems to me this is a pattern that is probably continuing," Oliver said. "If he lied to the Albany police and the FBI about Vera Michelson, he is probably lying about Miss Shabazz."

## Blacks say FBI has racist agenda

BY JOHN CAHER

Staff writer

With its racial overtones and scandalous allegations, the case of Qubilah Shabazz has quickly become one of the most controversial criminal matters of the year.

Shabazz, 34, the daughter of Malcolm X, was only 4 years old when she witnessed the Feb. 21, 1965, murder of her father at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. Three Black Muslims were convicted of the crime, but Shabazz's family has always suspected that Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan was behind the assassination plot.

Now, Shabazz is suspected in a plot to kill Farrakhan, and the key to an indictment obtained by the FBI in January is a series of conversations the woman had with a federal informer and childhood friend named Michael K. Fitzpatrick. Shabazz, the

government alleges, tried to hire Fitzpatrick to kill Farrakhan in retribution for her father's assassination.

But attorneys for Shabazz, and many members of the black community, consider the indictment a sham, possibly a plot by the government to divide the African-American community. They claim that Shabazz was entrapped by Fitzpatrick, a longtime FBI informant.

Records show that Fitzpatrick met Shabazz when they were students at the U.N. International School in Manhattan.

The indictment is based on a series of telephone conversations between Shabazz in New York and Fitzpatrick in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area between July 28 and Aug. 22. Officials say the plot gelled in September, when Shabazz moved to Minneapolis.



4/27/95

# Shabazz defense calls on Albany

■ A local activist  
is subpoenaed to give  
testimony supporting  
Malcolm X's daughter

BY JOHN CAHER  
Staff writer

ALBANY — An Albany activist has been subpoenaed to testify in the racially divisive murder-for-hire trial of Qubilah Shabazz, which is scheduled to start next week in Minneapolis.

The case against Malcolm X's daughter hinges on the reliability of a government informant, and activist Vera Michelson was summoned by the defense to testify about the credibility of the informant.

Michelson's connection to the informant stems from a protest planned in Albany 14 years ago, when a South African rugby team played a match here. Michelson and several other activists garnered the attention of local police and the FBI after a secret informant, possibly the same one involved in the Shabazz case, fed authorities inaccurate information.

Michelson learned from the *Times Union* in February that the informant, Michael Fitzpatrick, may have been the man who infiltrated her circle of friends in 1981 and possibly provided authorities with information leading to several misguided arrests, ultimately costing Albany \$47,000 in legal damages.

Shabazz, 34, is accused of trying to hire a man named Michael Kevin Fitzpatrick to bump off Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Shabazz's family has long suspected that Farrakhan was involved in the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X.

Defense attorneys contend that Fitzpatrick is a liar and *agent provocateur* who tried to lure a psychologically fragile woman who witnessed her father's murder when she was 4 into a bizarre murder plot. He has been paid \$45,000.

In February, the *Times Union* reported that:

■ Fitzpatrick was in Albany in 1981 and was an FBI informant. Michelson and several friends were under investigation by the FBI, which was concerned about possibly violent demonstrations against the Springboks, a touring South African team.

■ On at least two occasions — including once at Michelson's apartment — Fitzpatrick attempted to encourage violent demonstrations, even though the local activists insisted on non-violent acts of civil disobedience.

■ Authorities raided Michelson's apartment after they were told by a confidential source that it was a virtual armory of weaponry. Police found almost nothing in the way of contraband at Michelson's apartment. They did, however, find a loading device for a firearm, which Michelson claimed had been planted.

■ Michelson and the others were acquitted of all criminal charges and eventually won a civil rights lawsuit against the city.

Michelson said she and another activist, John Spearman of New York City, were subpoenaed by the defense after the *Times Union's* article on Fitzpatrick.



Continued from A-1

## INFORMANT: Shabazz accuser lies, critics say

witness-protection program. He was recruited by the FBI after being implicated in a 1970s bombing in New York City — for which he never served time, according to published reports. Fitzpatrick reportedly helped authorities prevent a Jewish Defense League bombing of the Egyptian tourist office in Manhattan.

Activists who recall the mysterious visitor to their Albany circle in 1981 say that on at least two occasions he attempted to expand the local protests from peaceful demonstrations to acts of violence and destruction. They now suspect that he was trying to entrap them into committing felonies, just as Shabazz's attorneys claim he entrapped her.

"He just wanted to escalate the whole thing," said Albany activist Vera Michelson, in whose apartment the protesters' key meeting was held. "He mentioned something about a 'power source' on Central Avenue. I told him he was making me uncomfortable."

Another protester who was at the meeting had similar memories.

"(Fitzpatrick) consistently tried to push things into another realm," the one-time Communist activist said, requesting anonymity. "Our sense of demonstration was to stop the game and run out into the field. His was to blow up power stations and use baseball bats."

Albany attorney Lewis B. Oliver, who was at an NAACP meeting the night before the match, said Fitzpatrick showed up and broached the subject of a violent response to the Springboks game. Oliver said members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People members and guests immediately scorned the idea.

Fitzpatrick's precise part in the local controversy is shielded by a federal court order. It cannot be stated unequivocally that he was the informant whose information led to the arrests of the Albany activists. However, old police and court records and interviews with law enforcement sources make this much clear:

■ At the time Fitzpatrick was in

Albany, he was indisputably an FBI informant. It was an FBI informant — only one informant, who was never publicly identified — who provided the false information that sparked the arrest of Michelson and several of her comrades.

■ Fitzpatrick was one of the people who attended the meeting at Michelson's apartment.

■ The Springboks snitch was feeding information to an FBI agent named James Rose, who, before he was transferred to Albany, worked on domestic terrorism investigations in New York City. While Rose was working in New York, Fitzpatrick was involved in a bombing there. Rose, now a state employee, refused to discuss the case.

■ The information provided by the snitch was inaccurate at best, and possibly a flat-out lie.

A confidential Albany police report obtained by the *Times Union* shows that in 1981 the FBI and city police, concerned about terrorism from both the anti-apartheid group and a Ku Klux Klan branch out of Connecticut, began collecting information on potential agitators.

Their investigation centered on a New York City man, John Spearman, leader of the Revolutionary Youth League, a militant arm of the Communist Workers Party. Fitzpatrick, a reliable source said, had joined the youth league and became friendly with Spearman, who ultimately brought him to Michelson's apartment.

Based on information from the unnamed confidential informant, police secured a search warrant for Michelson's apartment overlooking Bleecker Stadium. The informant told authorities that if they raided the apartment they would find "smoke bombs, sticks, knives, rifles, shotguns, handguns" and other contraband, according to a search warrant application.

Instead, they found some firecrackers, a little bit of marijuana and a loading device for a firearm, which the activists' attorneys argued had been planted. Michelson and others were acquitted and eventually won

\$47,000 in a civil rights lawsuit against the city.

Spearman was not in the apartment at the time of the raid, but he was picked up while driving a friend's car and charged with possessing an illegal gun that was found in the glove compartment. At trial, attorneys argued that the gun had been planted. Spearman and the man who owned the car were acquitted of all charges.

With most of the potential agitators in jail, there was little trouble during the game. However, several hours before the match there was a Springboks-related bombing in Schenectady that remains an unsolved crime.

Meanwhile, on the night of the game, authorities intercepted a vehicle making its way into Albany, a car in which Fitzpatrick was riding. Numerous weapons were confiscated — including a bayonet, tear gas, a hunting knife, clubs and a metal pipe — but all criminal charges were quietly dropped. Two high-ranking law enforcement officials said the charges were dismissed and records were purged to protect a confidential FBI informant.

In both the criminal and civil actions that stemmed from the Springboks affair, attorneys for the demonstrators fought hard to learn the identity of that informant, according to court records. Reason: The credibility, reliability and motive of the informant was in serious question because information that resulted in the search of Michelson's apartment — namely, that the residence was an arsenal — was flat-out wrong.

"Michael Fitzpatrick, if he was the confidential source, obviously was a total liar," said Oliver, who defended Spearman in the criminal matter and one of the plaintiffs in the civil rights case. "All of the information given to the Albany police and the FBI pertaining to John Spearman and ... Vera Michelson was a total lie, solely motivated to curry favor from law enforcement officials."

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## FROM THE SPRINGBOKS TO SHABAZZ

# FBI snitch tells tall tales, critics say



**INFORMANT** Michael Fitzpatrick in this 1978 year-book photo from the U.N. International School.

■ 14 years ago, an informant lied about anti-apartheid forces in Albany; some say the same man is framing Malcolm X's daughter

**BY JOHN CAHER**  
Staff writer

ALBANY — On a warm summer night 14 years ago, a group of activists met at a Central Avenue apartment to plot the biggest demonstration in Albany history.

The issue: the Springboks, a touring South African rugby team that had attracted the ire of anti-apartheid forces, black power groups, Communists and garden-variety activists across the country.

The crew gathered at the apartment and planned classic acts of civil disobedience — picketing, sit-ins, possibly storming the playing field. But one in the group wanted more action. He proposed sabotaging public utilities, a plan the group rejected.

Nonetheless, almost every person

at that meeting was arrested within days on various charges relating to terrorism. The arrests were based on false information supplied by an informant and eventually cost the city of Albany \$47,000 in legal damages.

The only person at the meeting to support violence, the *Times Union* has learned, was Michael Kevin Fitzpatrick, an FBI informant now at the center of one of the most explosive and divisive cases of the year — the alleged scheme by Malcolm X's daughter Qubilah Shabazz to assassinate Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Fitzpatrick's credibility is the central pillar of Shabazz's defense against charges that she plotted to murder Farrakhan. Black leaders claim that Fitzpatrick, who is white, is part of a government plot to undermine African-American unity. Defense attorneys for Shabazz describe Fitzpatrick as a liar and agent provocateur — or precisely the type of person that authorities and records indicate supplied police information in the Springboks matter.

The Springboks episode galvanized left-wing political activists in the Capital Region as no other incident before or since. It also came to represent an embarrassment of major proportions for the city, since the arrests of the activists turned out to be based on bad information from an FBI informant who had infiltrated the group. While the name of the informant has never been made public by authorities, an impressive body of evidence indicates that it was Fitzpatrick who supplied the police with faulty intelligence.

Fitzpatrick, a New York City native, was 21 when he came to Albany. He was already a veteran informant who had been in the government's

Please see **INFORMANT A-8**



*Times Union*  
**MARCHERS** protest the appearance of the Springboks in Albany in September 1981.



Continued from A-1

## INFORMANT: Shabazz accuser lies, critics say

witness-protection program. He was recruited by the FBI after being implicated in a 1970s bombing in New York City — for which he never served time, according to published reports. Fitzpatrick reportedly helped authorities prevent a Jewish Defense League bombing of the Egyptian tourist office in Manhattan.

Activists who recall the mysterious visitor to their Albany circle in 1981 say that on at least two occasions he attempted to expand the local protests from peaceful demonstrations to acts of violence and destruction. They now suspect that he was trying to entrap them into committing felonies, just as Shabazz's attorneys claim he entrapped her.

"He just wanted to escalate the whole thing," said Albany activist Vera Michelson, in whose apartment the protesters' key meeting was held. "He mentioned something about a 'power source' on Central Avenue. I told him he was making me uncomfortable."

Another protester who was at the meeting had similar memories.

"(Fitzpatrick) consistently tried to push things into another realm," the one-time Communist activist said, requesting anonymity. "Our sense of demonstration was to stop the game and run out into the field. His was to blow up power stations and use baseball bats."

Albany attorney Lewis B. Oliver, who was at an NAACP meeting the night before the match, said Fitzpatrick showed up and broached the subject of a violent response to the Springboks game. Oliver said members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People members and guests immediately scorned the idea.

Fitzpatrick's precise part in the local controversy is shielded by a federal court order. It cannot be stated unequivocally that he was the informant whose information led to the arrests of the Albany activists. However, old police and court records and interviews with law enforcement sources make this much clear:

■ At the time Fitzpatrick was in

Albany, he was indisputably an FBI informant. It was an FBI informant — only one informant, who was never publicly identified — who provided the false information that sparked the arrest of Michelson and several of her comrades.

■ Fitzpatrick was one of the people who attended the meeting at Michelson's apartment.

■ The Springboks snitch was feeding information to an FBI agent named James Rose, who, before he was transferred to Albany, worked on domestic terrorism investigations in New York City. While Rose was working in New York, Fitzpatrick was involved in a bombing there. Rose, now a state employee, refused to discuss the case.

■ The information provided by the snitch was inaccurate at best, and possibly a flat-out lie.

A confidential Albany police report obtained by the *Times Union* shows that in 1981 the FBI and city police, concerned about terrorism from both the anti-apartheid group and a Ku Klux Klan branch out of Connecticut, began collecting information on potential agitators.

Their investigation centered on a New York City man, John Spearman, leader of the Revolutionary Youth League, a militant arm of the Communist Workers Party. Fitzpatrick, a reliable source said, had joined the youth league and became friendly with Spearman, who ultimately brought him to Michelson's apartment.

Based on information from the unnamed confidential informant, police secured a search warrant for Michelson's apartment overlooking Bleecker Stadium. The informant told authorities that if they raided the apartment they would find "smoke bombs, sticks, knives, rifles, shotguns, handguns" and other contraband, according to a search warrant application.

Instead, they found some firecrackers, a little bit of marijuana and a loading device for a firearm, which the activists' attorneys argued had been planted. Michelson and others were acquitted and eventually won

\$47,000 in a civil rights lawsuit against the city.

Spearman was not in the apartment at the time of the raid, but he was picked up while driving a friend's car and charged with possessing an illegal gun that was found in the glove compartment. At trial, attorneys argued that the gun had been planted. Spearman and the man who owned the car were acquitted of all charges.

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**DEMONSTRATORS** in downtown Albany protest an appearance by the Springboks, a South African rugby team, at Bleecker Stadium in 1981. Times Union

unaware of Fitzpatrick's Albany connection until contacted recently by the *Times Union*.

Fourteen years ago, Kunstler represented one of the defendants in the Springboks case and tried desperately, and unsuccessfully, to learn the identity of the informant.

In the Shabazz case, Kunstler contends that Fitzpatrick, who had recently been arrested on drug charges, is trying to land a big case for the FBI to save his own hide. Kunstler said he intends to pursue the Albany angle as he investigates Fitzpatrick's credibility.

Oliver, who worked with Kunstler on the Springboks case, said the recent allegations about Fitzpatrick perfectly parallel the concerns he had 14 years ago.

"It seems to me this is a pattern that is probably continuing," Oliver said. "If he lied to the Albany police and the FBI about Vera Michelson he is probably lying about Miss Shabazz."

## Blacks say FBI has racist agenda

BY JOHN CAHER

Staff writer

With its racial overtones and scandalous allegations, the case of Qubilah Shabazz has quickly become one of the most controversial criminal matters of the year.

Shabazz, 34, the daughter of Malcolm X, was only 4 years old when she witnessed the Feb. 21, 1965, murder of her father at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. Three Black Muslims were convicted of the crime, but Shabazz's family has always suspected that Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan was behind the assassination plot.

Now, Shabazz is suspected in a plot to kill Farrakhan, and the key to an indictment obtained by the FBI in January is a series of conversations the woman had with a federal informer and childhood friend named Michael K. Fitzpatrick. Shabazz, the

government alleges, tried to hire Fitzpatrick to kill Farrakhan in retribution for her father's assassination.

But attorneys for Shabazz, and many members of the black community, consider the indictment a sham, possibly a plot by the government to divide the African-American community. They claim that Shabazz was entrapped by Fitzpatrick, a longtime FBI informant.

Records show that Fitzpatrick met Shabazz when they were students at the U.N. International School in Manhattan.

The indictment is based on a series of telephone conversations between Shabazz in New York and Fitzpatrick in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area between July 28 and Aug. 22. Officials say the plot gelled in September, when Shabazz moved to Minneapolis.



## Albany activist to testify regarding FBI's informant

By BRIAN NEARING 4/27/95  
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — A longtime city activist has been asked to testify by lawyers defending the daughter of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X in a murder-for-hire trial in Minneapolis.

Vera Michelson will be asked about her dealings with FBI informant Michael Kevin Fitzpatrick, who worked with Michelson and other anti-apartheid activists who were protesting the appearance of the South African rugby team in Albany in 1981.

Fitzpatrick is the key witness against Quabilah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, who was assassinated in 1965. Fitzpatrick claims Shabazz tried to hire him to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Shabazz's defense lawyers are claiming that Fitzpatrick is an FBI informant with a history of trying to lure people into criminal acts.

While in Albany in 1981, Fitzpatrick allegedly tried to convince Michelson and other activists into violent confrontations with police, according to published reports. All protests against the rugby team were non-violent.

Michelson said she believes Fitzpatrick misled the FBI by giving them false information about guns and bombs being stored in her apartment. Her apartment was raided by police shortly before the controversial game. All that was found was a load-

ing device for a firearm, something that Michelson claimed was planted.

The local activist said the police entered her apartment with guns drawn, but then seemed disappointed that they didn't find a cache of guns and bombs.

"I'm feeling really good about this [opportunity to testify]. This guy is a liar and it's been 14 years. I'm glad to help set the record straight. It will be kind of a healing," Michelson said. She added Shabazz's lawyers expect to have her testify in May.

Michelson said a New York City police officer who had infiltrated a left-wing political group there told the FBI 14 years ago that Fitzpatrick attempted to provoke political groups into violent action.

"The question I have is why does the FBI continue to use such a sleazy informant?" she said.

She and the other activists were acquitted of subsequent charges; they later won a civil rights lawsuit against the city and were awarded \$47,000. Michelson said the city got stuck paying the bill for the police raid when it was based in information from the FBI.

She said FBI agent James Rose was the bureau agent who used Fitzpatrick for information and Shabazz's lawyers say Rose will also be testifying.

Gazette reporter John Moran contributed to this report.



May 15

# United States District Court

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.  
QUBILAH B. SHABAZZ

**SUBPOENA IN A  
CRIMINAL CASE**

CASE NUMBER: 4-95-3

TO: *Vera Michelson*  
*13 Pennsylvania Ave*  
*Albany NY 12206*  
*H 518 436 0562*  
*W 518 370 7366*

YOU ARE COMMANDED to appear in the United States District Court at the place, date and time specified below to testify in the above case.

PLACE United States Federal Courthouse 110 South Fourth Street Minneapolis, MN 55401	COURTROOM Honorable James M. Rosenbaum Courtroom #2 <hr/> DATE AND TIME Monday, May 1, 1995 at 9:00 a.m.
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YOU ARE ALSO COMMANDED to bring with you the following document(s) or object(s):

\*\* NOTE -- Please contact attorney to confirm date and time

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE OR CLERK OF COURT <b>FRANCIS E. DOSAL</b>	DATE  
(BY) DEPUTY CLERK <i>Jaime Vargas</i>	3/22/95
ATTORNEY'S NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER Daniel M. Scott, FPD/Tom Azzone, Investigator 110 South Fourth Street Minneapolis, MN 55401 (612)348-1755	