

Seek end to artists apartheid connection

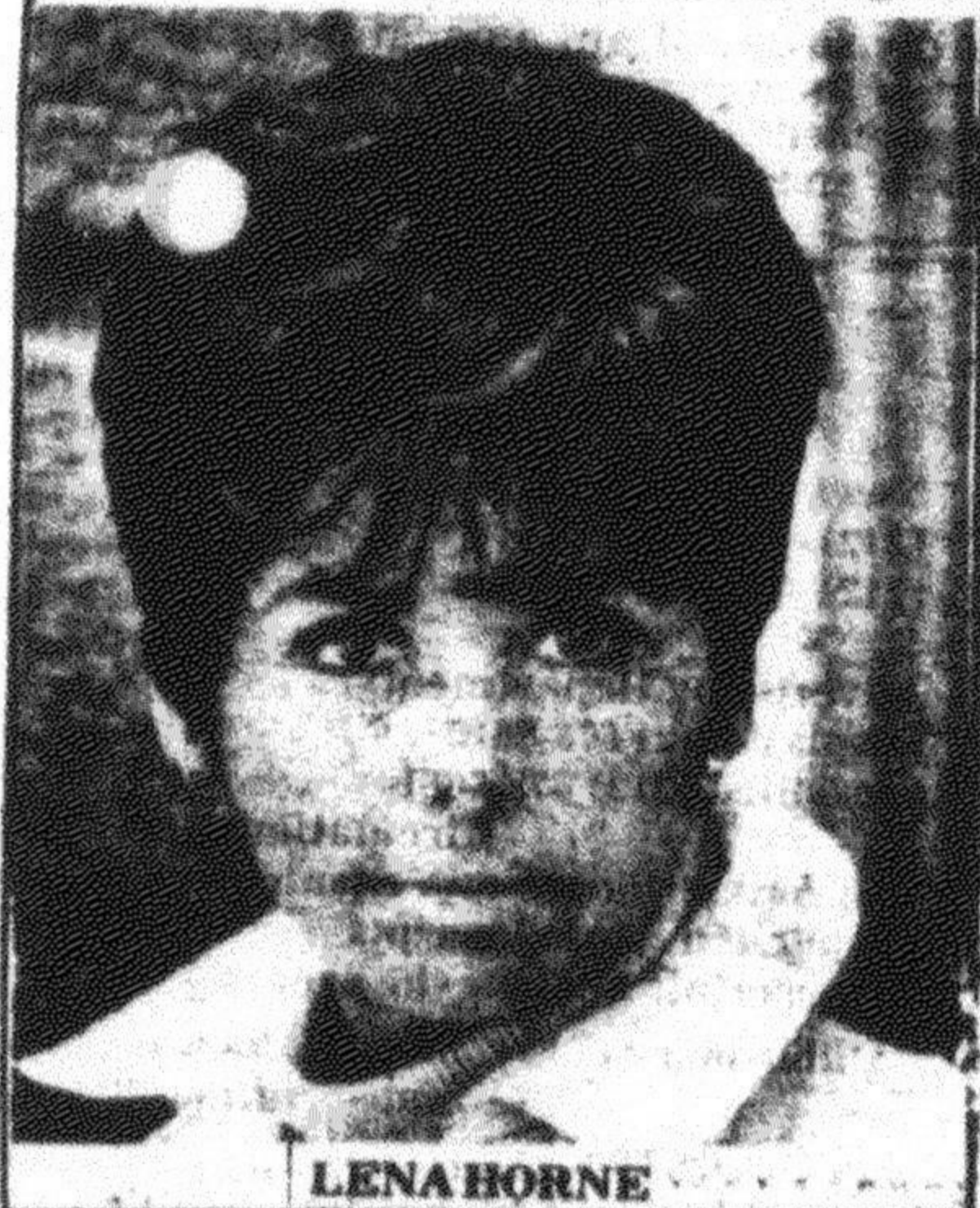
By SIMON AMEKWE
Amsterdam News Staff

Miss Horne, Betty White, Richard Gere and Phyllis Diller will be among those who are expected to perform at the Sun City complex in Bophuthatswana, South Africa, for love of money, defied the United Nations, and the masses of South Africa to demonstrate that apartheid need not be denounced in Harlem, Sunday.

The occasion will be the international forum, "Unity is Action," that will launch a program to end cultural collaboration with the apartheid regime in South Africa. It is set to start at 5 p.m. at the Harlem State Office Building, 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.

Miss Horne and her associates turned down offers that ranged from \$100,000 to \$2 million in their refusal to entertain in

(Continued on Page 58)



LENA HORNE

Seek apartheid end

10/23/82

(Continued from Page 1)

South Africa, particularly in the bogus, Indian-reserve-like "republic" of Bophuthatswana and its Sun City complex.

Those lured to "Sin City" range from whites like Frank Sinatra, Liza Minnelli, Janis Ian of "Evita" to Blacks like Ray Charles, O'Jays, Shirley Brown, Lovelace Watkins, Isaac Hayes, Millie Jackson, Dakota Staton, Sha Na Na, Johnny Mathis, Brook Benton and others.

Sunday's program will attempt to identify the full roster of Americans who have turned deaf ears to the pleas of the masses of oppressed South African Blacks and the Organization of African Unity for a cultural boycott of South Africa.

Scheduled speakers include Ambassador Ouamarou Youssoufou, OAU representative at the United Nations; Johnny Makatini and Theo Ben Gurirab, U.N. representatives respectively of the African National Congress and the South West African People Organization; Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and AJASS, Marie Moore of the

Amsterdam News and Sikhulu Shange of the New York Black Music Association.

The program is in keeping with the meeting for the "Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination" sponsored last March 18 by the U.S. Department of Information and the Non-Governmental Organizations attached to the world body.

That meeting at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium focused on the arts, media, and sports boycott of South Africa. Black speakers from that country unanimously stressed the need for a boycott of the regime in its efforts "to score propaganda victories" through manipulating of sporting or cultural events.

While the development of the Sun City entertainment complex and the huge offers have been luring Americans to South Africa since early 1981, the boycott focus has been in the sporting field for a much longer period. The United Nations had proclaimed 1982 the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa.

Group to picket Sinatra concert

*AmT. News
1/22/83*

Top show business personality Frank Sinatra will be the target of picketing by the Unity In Action Network anti-apartheid demonstrators when he performs at Radio City Music Hall, Sunday, Jan. 23 in a Sloan-Kettering Cancer Research Center benefit, starting at 7 p.m.

Identified with liberal and civil rights causes during the Kennedy era, Sinatra has moved closer to conservative and reactionary issues over the last 15 years. Paid over \$1.79 million for nine concerts, Sinatra performed in July of 1981 at the notorious \$42 million Sun City complex in the Republic of South Africa's "Indian Reserve" known as Bophuthatswana Republic.

His support of the racist

regime's capital bantustan has not only hardened racist oppression inside South Africa, but also encouraged the regime to expand its efforts to destabilize the region.

But such visits by Americans have forced the Network to embark on an intensive program of action and support of United Nations-sponsored efforts to end cultural collaboration with South Africa's partheid regime.

"Sinatra's engagement in Sun City was a definite part of President Reagan's so-called constructive engagement policy with the most abominable racists in the world," a Unity In Action Network spokesperson

stated. "The Reagan policy has not only hardened racist oppression inside South Africa, but also encouraged the regime to expand its efforts to destabilize the region."

Sunday's demonstration is intended to raise public consciousness about the cynical role of "old blue eyes" and those others who will follow his example. The protest is not intended to discourage patrons from attending the concert and supporting Sloan Kettering.

Final planning meeting for the demonstration was set for Thursday, Jan. 20, 6:30-9 p.m. at the headquarters of AJASS and the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, 243 W. 125 St. near the Apollo Theatre.

OUT FOR LUNCH — Everyone was out to lunch recently at this farm on Old Stage Road in Knox.

Rights coalition protests Kahane visit to SUNYA

Rabbi Meir Kahane's planned visit to the State University at Albany has been criticized by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid.

Coalition officials said they expected to hand out leaflets when Kahane appears Wednesday.

"It's surprising to me a state-supported institution permits an open racist to appear on campus," said coalition spokesman Michael Dollard. "They are tacitly supporting his racist position by providing him with a platform."

Kahane — former head of the Jewish Defense League and now leader of Kach, a group that advocates Israeli

annexation of all territories occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war — was invited to SUNYA by a student group known as the Revisionist Zionist Alternative.

"It is the student group — not the university — sponsoring the event," said SUNYA spokeswoman Christine McKnight. "The university routinely provides space to speakers regardless of how popular or controversial their opinions are. If the university is affirming anything, it is the First Amendment and not the opinions of any of the individual speakers."

Ms. McKnight said she didn't believe SUNYA had refused to permit any individuals to speak on campus because of controversy surrounding their views.

Pro-Arab group picks Albany

Albany is one of four cities where a national pro-Arab public relations drive has begun to try to persuade Americans to oppose U.S. support for Israel.

Radio and newspaper advertisements placed by the National Association of Arab Americans is intended "to sort of feel the pulse of the American public," spokesman Ron Cathell said.

The campaign is designed to make Americans ask "whether or not they like the idea of sending their tax dollars to another country that uses those tax dollars to invade another country,"

Cathell said.

American aid to Israel exceeds \$2.5 billion per year.

Advertisements purportedly on behalf of Arab-Americans appeared today in the *Knickerbocker News* and *Times Union* as well as in newspapers in San Mateo, Calif., Little Rock, Ark., and Topeka, Kan., Cathell said.

Melanie Stern, director of the Anti-Defamation League's upstate New York office, said the Lebanese situation was providing a new opportunity for old enemies of Israel to have their say.

Federal Judge Rejects Motion To Dismiss Protesters' Lawsuit

Steve Wilson
ALBANY — A motion to dismiss multi-million dollar lawsuits filed by two anti-apartheid protesters against Albany County District Attorney Sol Greenberg and two members of his staff was rejected yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge Roger Miner.

* * *
The ruling followed a hearing before the judge on a motion to dismiss suits filed by Vera Michaelson of Albany and Aaron Estis of Somerville, Mass. against a variety of city, county and federal officials and agencies. The pair was arrested following a police raid on Michaelson's apartment the morning of an ultimately peaceful protest of a

match at Blecker Stadium between the top rugby team in South Africa and an all-star team of American rugby players. Both were charged with minor offenses, specifically the possession of fireworks and marijuana.

It was the only match the South African Springboks played in a public facility during its American tour. The tour was the focus of protests by various groups and individuals opposed to the South African system of apartheid, an official government policy that denies blacks and other minorities basic rights.

The two suits charge a variety of law enforcement officials, among them Greenberg and As-

sistant District Attorneys Joseph Donnelly and John Dorfman, with violating Michaelson's and Estis' constitutional rights and conspiring to disrupt and interfere with the Sept. 22, 1981 protest in the rain at Blecker Stadium.

* * *
Estis and Michaelson filed suits in U.S. District Court Dec. 16, each seeking \$1 million in compensatory damages and \$2 million in punitive damages arising from their arrest and subsequent imprisonment.

Miner made his ruling from the bench yesterday, according to Lewis Oliver, attorney for Estis and the only legal representative of the parties involved who could be reached for comment last night.

Oliver said the DAs claimed they were immune from prosecution as county employees, but the judge rejected the argument.

Greenberg, Dorfman and Donnelly were represented by the Albany law firm of Charles Conway, Bardwell, Case and Blackmore. Michaelson is represented by the firm of Walter and Thayer.

2/21/80

Visit by Puerto Rican Gov. Protested by Albany Group

By STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — About two dozen people picketed last night to protest the appearance of Puerto Rican Gov. Carlos Romero-Barcelo as a keynote speaker at the 12th annual dinner of the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus.

* * *
But more than 3,500 people filled the convention center, three adjoining rooms and part of the concourse cafeteria at the Empire State Plaza to see and hear Romero-Barcelo and actor Ossie Davis.

A leaflet distributed by the protesters calls Romero-Barcelo "one of the most despotic governors in Puerto Rico's 20th Century history." The leaflet accuses him of "corruption, abuse of power, anti-democratic practices and flagrant violations of human rights."

The governor of Puerto Rico is not a true representative of the people," Ismael Melendes, a spokesman for the protesters, said during the hour-long picketing on the steps of the state Legislative Office Building.

"We tried to persuade the caucus to take back the invitation,

not simply because of (the governor's) politics but because we do not consider him a legitimate representative of the Puerto Rican people," added Jose Rosy, another spokesman.

A slim margin of 3,424 votes elected Romero-Barcelo to his second term in 1980, Rosy said, out of 1.7 million total ballots, however, more than 8,000 police officers, he said, had to cast open ballots in front of their superiors after they finished duty at the polling places.

The Popular Democratic Party initially posted a plurality in the election, the protesters' leaflet noted, but Romero-Barcelo's New Progressive Party was declared the winner by that slim margin, "after several months of recounts and legal battles."

The protest leaflet asserts the governor since then "has sought to take over and destroy traditionally autonomous institutions," such as the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the Olympic Committee of Puerto Rico, because they allegedly didn't side with him.

The leaflet says a report by the office of Puerto Rico's general comptroller "stated that more

than \$600 million of the Public Treasury" was lost to theft and fraud. That's 10 percent of the treasury, Rosy said. Meanwhile, although unemployment in the commonwealth is officially pegged at more than 27 percent, the governor has admitted the actual rate is 50 percent, he said.

* * *
The protest leaflet also accuses the governor's administration of repression, beatings of university students protesting tuition increases, beatings and arrests of journalists investigating police corruption, rape, assassination and murder.

"I, too, regret that all the factions of the Puerto Rican community had not been contacted about the governor's visit," remarked E.J. Josey before dinner was served. Josey is president of the Albany branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The governor of Puerto Rico was invited here. There are disagreements with every elected official. It would be unusual if there were not some sort of demonstration," said Herman Badillo, a former congressman, deputy mayor and borough president from New York City.



NAACP President Claims Andrews Was 'Railroaded'

By PAM SNOOK
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — The conviction of Charles Andrews as the slasher of two Pine Hills women was a travesty of justice and a case of racism, black leaders and community members said last night.

Andrews, now serving time in the state prison at Comstock, is innocent and was "railroaded" by the justice system, said Dr. E. J. Josey, President of the Albany Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"This is a clear case of racism," Josey told an audience of 25 people at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church on Alexander Street.

"It's the common belief of the community that they had to find somebody ... instead they found a young man who was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Josey said. Josey urged his audience to join the NAACP and help the Charles Andrews Defense Committee.

The committee is fighting for community support to help overturn Andrews' conviction for slashing the necks of Erin Reilly and Gail Walsh of Albany last June 2. The women were slashed in separate attacks 20 minutes apart in the Ridgeland Park area.

"We'll struggle further until Charles is free. Once the truth is out Charles will be free," said Stuart Adams, a co-chairman of the committee.

The truth, committee and NAACP members said, is that two women that were slashed only saw their attacker for two to three seconds. The women did not identify Andrews as their slasher the first time they saw his face. They did not identify him until the second time, said Dr. Harry Hamilton, a member of the NAACP's legal redress committee that is studying the case.

Several other questions arise in connection with Andrews' trial. Hamilton said. The jury was deadlocked several times and the judge could be faulted for coercing the jury into forming a verdict. There are other very serious points the committee will be discussing that could prove to be a turning point in the case," Hamilton said. But he refused to give details.

Against blacks in the justice system, Josey claimed. The crime rate among blacks in the country is only 11 percent of the country's population in 1973, they were 46.6 percent of the prison population, said Josey. "This disproportionate rate in racial discrimination in the justice system is rampant," he charged. "Blacks are easier to arrest and are more often victims of police brutality than whites he said. "We must work hard and dedicate ourselves to free Charles Andrews because the prison system will destroy him if we let him remain in there," Josey said.

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3/3/85
**CAPITAL
DISTRICT**



Federal court panel clears Albany, police

A federal court jury determined this week there was no cause for action against the city of Albany and two of its police officers who were being sued by an Albany man for false arrest, violation of his constitution rights, and several other counts.

The jury returned its verdict earlier this week after a four-day trial, clearing the city and Officers Richard Hendrick and Patrick Fagan of Arbor Hill Neighborhood Police Unit of seven charges brought by 22-year-old Wayne Dorsey.

Dorsey was asking \$3.5 million in damages or \$500,000 on each of the seven counts, stemming from his arrest by the two officers on Dec. 19, 1980.

Meanwhile, Dorsey was sentenced in Albany County Court last month to 4 to 12 years in state prison for an unrelated conviction on two counts of second-degree robbery.

He was being held at the Albany County Jail pending the outcome of the federal court case.

During that proceeding, Assistant Corporation Counsel Joseph Zumbo, who defended the city and the policemen, contended Hendrick and Fagan had a right to stop Dorsey as he was running along First Street carrying three large unpackaged Christmas stockings filled with toys and candy.

Dorsey, after giving the officers his name, threw the stockings at Hendrick and ran, according to testimony at the trial. He was apprehended and charged with resisting arrest and interfering with governmental administration.

The stockings had been purchased by Dorsey's grandmother and he was taking them to her home.

However, there was testimony at the trial that Dorsey was wanted for questioning at that time in connection with a Clinton Avenue burglary.



Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203

MARCH 17, 1983

Chairman

M. J. Dollard

Vice-Chairman

E. J. Josey

VINCENT O'LEARY, PRESIDENT

S.U.N.Y. AT ALBANY

1400 WASHINGTON AVE.

ALBANY, NY 12222

DR. O'LEARY:

ON BEHALF OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COALITION
I AM WRITING TO YOU IN SUPPORT OF DR. JAPHET ZWANA, AND HIS CONTINUED
PRESENCE AT SUNYA.

DR. ZWANA IS A SYMBOL OF THE INTEGRATION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND
COMMUNITY ACTIVISM. TOO OFTEN IN OUR WORLD "TOWN AND GOWN" DON'T MIX.
TOO OFTEN IN OUR WORLD DOES THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY GO ONE WAY WHILE
WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD GOES THE OTHER, TO THE DTRIMENT OF BOTH. DR.
ZWANA HAS TRIED HARD HERE IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT TO BRING THE TWO
TOGETHER. I AM PERSONALLY PROUD TO HAVE WORKED WITH DR. ZWANA ON A
NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT BROUGHT UNIVERSITY PEOPLE TO PLATFORMS IN THE
COMMUNITY, AND OTHERS THAT BROUGHT COMMUNITY PEOPLE TO THE UNIVERSITY.

DR. ZWANA'S WRITINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - "THE SOUTH END SCENE" -
AS WELL AS IN THE MAJOR PRESS ON APARTHEID AND RACISM HAVE ALL THE MORE
CREDIBILITY BECAUSE OF HIS UNIVERSITY STATUS. THESE WRITINGS HAVE ALSO
HELPED TO CREATE A PERCEPTION IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THE UNIVERSITY IS
IN FACT AN ALLY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM AND OPPRESSION.

DR. ZWANA IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY AS, I AM
SURE, HE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY.
I SINCERELY HOPE THAT HE CAN REMAIN A PART OF BOTH.

SINCERELY,

MICHAEL J. DOLLARD
CHAIRMAN

Albany Feminist Forum presents ...

An Evening of Discussion
The KKK and Women

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KLAN**

A look at Klan attitudes towards women, exploring connections between hatred of women and hatred of Blacks, Jews, Homosexuals and others defined as "alien" by the KKK. Information about local Klan activities and organizing efforts against racism will be included.

SPEAKERS:

MINNIE BRUCE PRATT: southern organizer of anti-racism work and poet.

VERA MICHAELSON: member of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

CORA WATKINS: Albany resident employed by New York State to consult with public school officials where racial violence occurs.

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Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203

MARCH 17, 1983

Chairman
M. J. Dollard
Vice-Chairman
E. J. Josey
DR. BENJAMINE HOOKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NAACP
186 REMSEN ST.
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, NY 11201

DEAR DR. HOOKS,

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT I FIND MYSELF WRITING A LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO YOUR ORGANIZATION. WHILE OUR ORGANIZATIONS NORMALLY HAVE COMPATABLE GOALS, IT APPEARS THAT YOUR EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF SOME GOALS HAVE BLINDED YOU OTHER GOALS.

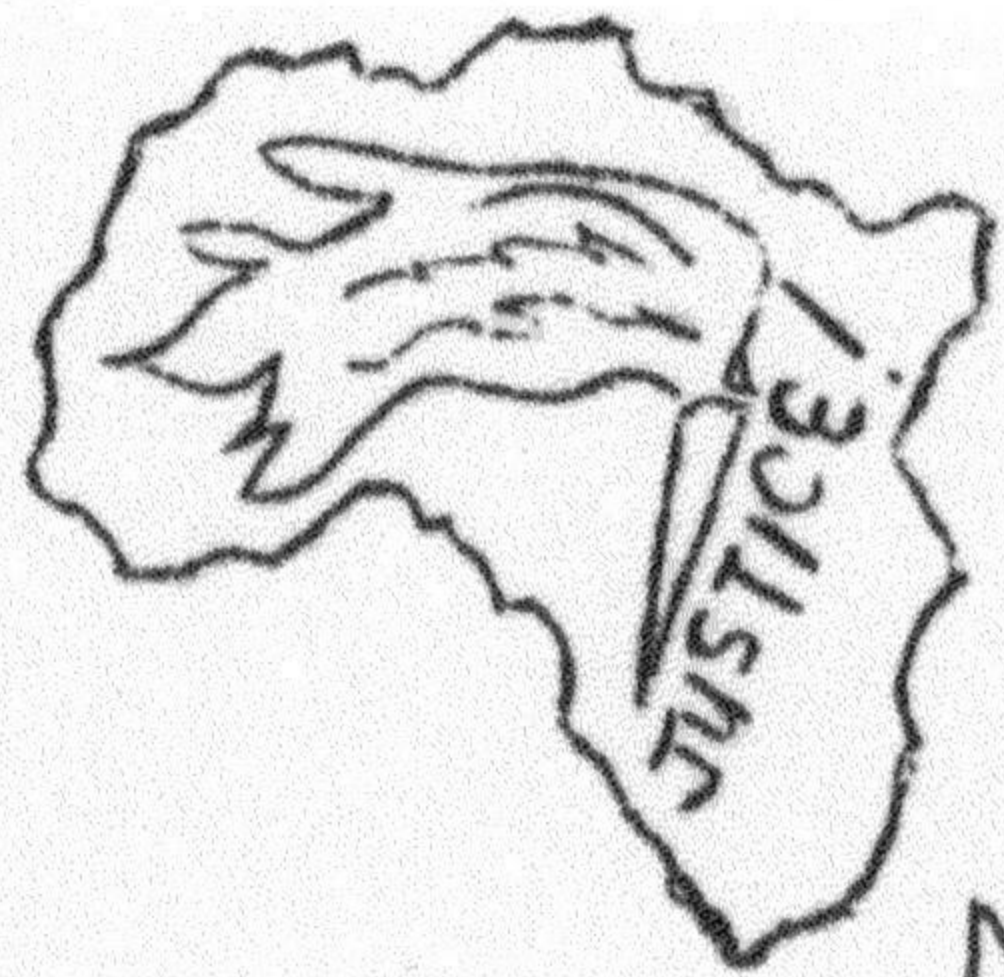
I AM REFERRING TO THE NAACP IMAGE AWARDS IN WHICH YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION CHOSE TO HONOR TWO PERFORMERS - HOWARD "JOHNNY FEVER" HESSMAN AND STEPHANIE M. L.S. - WHO HAVE VIOLATED THE INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA. BOTH THESE PERFORMERS HAVE SECUMBED TO THE ECONOMIC BLANDISHMENTS OF THE RACIALLY REPRESSIVE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND HAVE PERFORMED THERE - GIVING THE WORLD, AND MOST ESPECIALLY, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA THE IDEA THAT EVEN PEOPLE OF COLOR CONDONS THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS POLICIES.

I UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITY OF MOUNTING A PRODUCTION SUCH AS THE IMAGE AWARDS, AND REALIZE THAT YOU CAN'T THINK OF EVERYTHING. ON THE OTHER HAND THE STRUGGLE OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA MUST ALWAYS BE AT THE FRONT OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS. OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST REAGONOMICS AND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE BLACK MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR FREEDOM. APARTHEID IS NOT YET DEAD IN THIS COUNTRY - LOOK AT TCHULA - AND WE AS A PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE ANY SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY, TO THE FORCES THAT WOULD DRIVE US BACK INTO SLAVERY.

IN STRUGGLE,

M. J. DOLLARD
CHAIRMAN

OO: ALBANY BRANCH, NAACP



PROTEST

THE SELLING OF CHILDREN'S HATS

MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA BY

CALDOR'S DEPARTMENT STORE !!!

COME AND DEMONSTRATE AT
CALDOR'S 979 CENTRAL AVE.
ALBANY

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 12 noon

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we're going to say NO to
Caldor's!

Say NO to APARTHEID!

Say NO to RACISM!

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Political Party; Central America Solidarity Alliance; American-South
African Peoples Friendship Association; Women's International League
for Peace & Freedom; Blacks in Government; Porto Rican Independent
Solidarity Alliance; av. Robert Dixon, Mt. Calvary Church; PEF Div. 240-
Labor Department; PEF Div. 177-Transportation Local; *Doug Bullock,
Treasurer, Albany Central Labor Council; *John Funicello, Intern'l
Staff for Public Affairs, AFSCME; *Robert Redlo, Hudson Valley Joint
Board-ACT-WU; *Ed Block, UE International Representative; Jim Roti-
Roti, President, UAW Local 930; *Dick Mann, President, Albany Public
School Teachers Association; *Anthony McCann, President, Shenendehowa
Teachers Association; *Jane Wye, Secretary-Treasurer, Saratoga Central
Labor Council. *Organizations for Identification Only. Labor Donated.



Picket against racism

4/18/83 T.U.

Times Union photo by Paul D. Kniskern Sr.

The Caldor store on Central Avenue in Albany is the site of "informational picketing" Saturday staged by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. The group claims the store sells children's hats made by

blacks working in poor conditions in South Africa. Caldor's officials could not be reached for comment on claims made by the picketers.

Third contender may join race in Arbor Hill

4/22/83 P. 3A
 by E.J. McMAHON Jr.
 Knickerbocker News Reporter

The field of Democratic candidates for a county legislative seat from Albany's Arbor Hill neighborhood may grow from two to three.

Homer Perkins, the 3rd Ward Democratic leader, has represented the area's predominantly black constituency in the Legislature for more than a decade. Arbor Hill is in the 3rd Legislative District, which has virtually the same boundaries as the city's 3rd Ward.

Sandra Rose Temple, a former state worker now studying for a college degree, announced in February she would challenge Perkins in the September party primary.

Ms. Temple is a member of the Arbor Hill Democratic Committee, which is allied with Perkins' longtime political foe, Alderman Nebraska Brace.

In light of Brace's two successful aldermanic campaigns and the losses incurred by Perkins' allies in the 1982 county Democratic Committee primary, Ms. Temple's supporters had regarded the incumbent as vulnerable this year.

But now a third potential candidate has surfaced. He is James Bouldin, chairman of the Arbor Hill Concerned Citizens and a member of several civil rights and black professional groups.

A "Committee to Elect James Bouldin" started circulating a campaign brochure in the

neighborhood recently. The brochure is composed mostly of biographical material about Bouldin, with no mention of Perkins or Ms. Temple.

Ms. Temple said Thursday she was "bewildered" by Bouldin's candidacy.

"I haven't heard anything about him officially announcing," she said.

Bouldin said he hadn't formally declared his candidacy, but was "seriously considering" entering the race.

"There's a number of factors for me to consider first," he said. "If I were to announce, I would be running against the incumbent and the incumbent's record."

Meanwhile, the Bouldin-for-Legislator brochure has already become the source of some embarrassment to his campaign.

The back page of the brochure includes a "partial list of supporters" composed of 116 names. Those names include E.J. Josey, president of the avowedly non-partisan Albany chapter of the NAACP, and Greg Bell, the West Hill Improvement Corp. director who has been mulling his own race for legislature in the 6th District.

But Bell and Josey apparently never approved of having their names on such a list.

"I did discuss the race with (Bouldin), but I didn't have any idea my name would show up on a leaflet," Bell said, adding he planned to lodge a



James Bouldin
... candidate?



Homer Perkins
... incumbent

manager), Leon assured me E.J. Josey was 100 percent in favor of my husband," Mrs. Bouldin said. "If I made a mistake, I apologize."

Mrs. Bouldin said she couldn't explain what had happened in Bell's case, but added: "I think that a lot of people have second thoughts once their name goes into print. We kind of anticipated that, too."

Brace, who views the election as a chance to drive Perkins out of the party leadership position in the 3rd Ward, said he wouldn't "pay much attention" to Bouldin's candidacy until a formal announcement was made.

"I know the pulse of the community right now is in favor of Sandra Rose Temple," Brace said.

He noted Ms. Temple had been endorsed this week by the Rev. Ernest E. Drake, pastor of Metropolitan New Missionary Baptist Church. The alderman said Drake's church had the largest black congregation in the city.

"I see (Bouldin) as nothing more than a spoiler and divider," Brace said Thursday.

Bouldin denied he would play the role of a spoiler for the anti-Perkins forces in a primary campaign.

"I hear arguments about splitting the vote and so on, but if a number of candidates are involved I don't think that will necessarily be the scenario," he said.

"protest" with Bouldin.

Josey was not immediately available for comment, but Anne Pope, second vice chairwoman of the NAACP chapter, said: "As far as we can determine, a campaign worker made an error in picking up (Josey's) name and putting it on the literature."

Josey views the matter as "an unfortunate slip that can be easily corrected," she added.

Bouldin's wife, Lucy, said she had been involved in preparing the list of supporters.

"At the time when we were making up the list along with Leon Van Dyke (Bouldin's campaign

4/28/83
Knick

Bell seeks Demo 6th District nod despite fellow insurgents' doubts

By E.J. McMAHON Jr.
Kickerbocker News Reporter

Despite lingering dissension among his fellow insurgent Democrats, Gregory Bell has announced he will challenge 6th District Albany County Legislator Eleanor Billmyer in a party primary this fall.

Bell, 36, pledged Tuesday to run "a positive campaign which I will focus on the need for a more activist role for a county legislator."

He claimed Mrs. Billmyer had a "history of . . . continuous silence, when she should not have been silent."

Mrs. Billmyer, 64, was first elected to the legislature in 1979, and is allied with the regular wing of the party in the 6th District, which is headed by 6th Ward Democratic leader Nicholas Sacca.

Bell, a longtime Albany neighborhood and political activist, had postponed an announcement of his candidacy last week

because of disagreement among 6th District insurgents over who would make their strongest candidate in the primary.

Some of the insurgents would prefer to support George Carpinello, president of the Center Square Neighborhood Association, in the legislative race. Carpinello has not yet decided to run.

Insurgent 6th Ward Alderman Nancy Burton said she would not support Bell.

"I feel Mr. Carpinello is a better candidate," she said. "I think Greg's announcement is premature and occurs despite the fact that many people had discouraged him from running."

Bell said the disagreement among insurgents "is still a problem, but I don't want to deal with it in public. The person I'm running against is Eleanor and her record."

Mrs. Billmyer, however, said, "I feel I've been able to help a great many people in many categories."

"I've taken the concerns of the ward through proper channels to the legislature," she said. "I don't believe I have voted against my conscience on any matter."

Voters in the 6th District and the 6th

Ward, which the district contains, have long shown a tendency to buck the regular party organization and support insurgents. The district includes all or most of the downtown Center Square, Washington Park, Capitol Hill and Hudson/Park neighborhoods.

Bell, an 18-year resident of the city, is director of the West Hill Improvement Corp. (WHIC). He said he did not mention his WHIC job in his announcement because the corporation dealt with a neighborhood outside the legislative district and had "nothing to do with" his candidacy.

Bell, a former Hudson/Park Neighborhood Association president, also has been an outspoken critic of development in the Pine Bush.

He said the issues he planned to raise in the campaign included county fiscal practices, the operation of the county jail and increased help from the county Health and Social Services departments for victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The disease — which primarily strikes drug abusers, Haitians and male homosexuals — is a "real issue" among the district's homosexual residents. Bell said



Bell

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*Schenectady
Gazette Friday April 29th*

Arbor Hill's Perkins watches foes fight

By E.J. McMAHON Jr. 5/4/83
Knickerbocker News Reporter

The race for a county legislative seat in Albany's Arbor Hill neighborhood is beginning to heat up - four months before the crucial Democratic primary.

But unlike past political disputes in Arbor Hill, this one doesn't directly involve incumbent Legislator and 3rd Ward Democratic leader Homer Perkins. Perkins instead is on the sidelines, watching as one of his would-be primary opponents attacks another.

The dispute began a few weeks ago when James Bouldin, chairman of Arbor Hill Concerned Citizens, began distributing a brochure in the neighborhood touting his still-undeclared candidacy for Legislature.

Supporters of Sandra Temple, who announced her candidacy two months ago, responded by diverting their early political fire from Perkins to Bouldin.

John Temple, Ms. Temple's father and campaign chairman, has released copies of a series of letters in which he charged Bouldin with "very serious" violations of the state Elections Law.

Ms. Temple's supporters - including Alderman Nebraska Brace, a longtime Perkins foe - fear Bouldin will split the anti-Perkins vote and assure the incumbent's renomination in the primary.

Since the ward is overwhelmingly Democratic, Perkins probably would be able to lock up another term by winning the primary.

At the center of the dispute between the Temple and Bouldin camps is Bouldin's campaign brochure, which contains a list of 118 names of persons described as "supporters" of his campaign.

John Temple, in a letter sent to Bouldin April 19, claimed several individuals named in the brochure "have adamantly and vehemently protested the use of their

names without their consent or authorization."

He noted the list of supporters included Albany NAACP President E.J. Josey, who has said his name was used without his knowledge. The NAACP has a policy of remaining non-partisan.

Temple also charged Bouldin had violated election law by seeking contributions through a campaign committee not filed with the county Elections Board.

And Temple accused Bouldin of distributing the brochures at his place of employment, the state Civil Service Department. Bouldin is the department's chief affirmative action program specialist.

Temple repeated the charges in separate letters to state Civil Service Commissioner Joseph A.F. Valenti and Elections Board.

A Civil Service spokesman, Karl Felsen, said the complaint had been referred

to the administrator of the department's law bureau.

"If it's true (that Bouldin was distributing brochures at work), we'll make sure it doesn't happen again," Felsen said.

But Felsen said another question raised by Temple was unfounded. Bouldin is not covered by a state executive order prohibiting partisan political activity by public employees in policy-making positions, Felsen said. He said Bouldin also was not affected by a similar prohibition in the federal Hatch Act.

Donald McCarthy, counsel to the state Elections Board, said a copy of Temple's complaint had been received, but had not yet been reviewed by the board.

Bouldin, who reportedly plans to declare his candidacy next week, was out of town attending a professional conference Monday and could not be reached for comment on Temple's charges.

His campaign manager, Leon Van Dyke, also was unavailable.

May 21 1983

EDITORIALS:

Holocaust memorial

To the Editor:

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council plans to build a museum to memorialize the Jews killed during World War II. The museum will cost between \$30 and \$40 million, some of which will come from the taxpayers' pockets.

Since almost all races and nations have suffered holocausts, this memorial should be a memorial to all who have suffered mass murder and genocide.

Examples of others who have suffered mass murders or holocausts are as follows:

- The 290,000 Americans who perished in World War II;
- The 200,000 citizens of Dresden, Germany, burned alive by Allied firebombings;
- The 500,000 disarmed anti-Communist Croats butchered by Tito's Communist army;
- The estimated 30 to 60 million Russians killed by the Bolsheviks since 1917;
- The estimated 50 to 60 million Chinese citizens killed by the Communists;
- The 2 1/2 million Cambodian civilians wiped out by the Pol Pot regime between 1975-78;
- The estimated 1 million Armenians slaughtered by the Turks;

Any memorial designed to honor the memory of one single group, as the Holocaust Memorial Council intends to do, discriminates in that it exalts that group above all others. If justice is to be done to the memory of hundreds of millions who have perished, then they must all be memorialized in the planned Holocaust museum.

TIM GAFFNEY

Schenectady

CARTOON COMME



"...LET ME GUESS.... I'LL

State Worker Says He Mails Anti-Semitic 'Eye Openers'

By CARL STROCK
Gazette Reporter

A state employee is responsible for some of the anti-Jewish mailings that have been reported recently to the county Human Rights Commission.

* * *
Timothy J. Gaffney, a senior accountant in the state Department of Audit and Control, acknowledged that he sometimes sends what he calls "an eye-opener" to people who publicly support Israel. But he denied that he threatens or harasses anyone.

"I just send them something to say this is the other side of the issue," he said.

He also said he is not the only person who has access to the Schenectady post office box that appears as the return address on the mailings. That box, according to Postmaster Reginald Poulin, is registered to two organizations, National Force and Order and the Church of the Creator, with Gaffney, of 1939 Euclid Ave., listed as the person responsible.

The mailings from the box include a "declaration of independence from Jewish tyranny," a list of 45 government leaders with a star of David next to each name under the heading, "Jews Rule America!" and an advertisement for Church of the Creator materials.

* * *
Those materials include a 40-minute record titled, "Survival of the White Race," and a copy of a 508-page book, "Nature's Eternal Religion," which is described as "the white man's bible."

* * *
George Roman, county Human Rights Commissioner, said he received at least four complaints last month from people who received the mailings. He said Jews and other supporters of Israel appeared to be the targets.

Gaffney was the subject of an interview in the Gazette last Oct. 5, when he identified himself by the pseudonym Joe Richards. At that time he said he was "proud to be a white racist." He urged public executions of "traitors against the white race" and singled out Jews as the greatest threat to the white race.

He said a few days ago that the Church of the Creator has absorbed the organization that he claimed to head last year, National Force and Order.

Church of the Creator has headquarters in Otto, N.C., according to the recently published first edition of its newspaper, "Racial Loyalty." The editor of the newspaper and "pontifex maximus" of the church is identified as Ben Klassen.

mailing to him of material that he considers pornographic.

"If in his subjective opinion the material is pornographic, and it offers something for sale, he can get it stopped," Ziebarth said.

He said the Postal Service does

not investigate whether the material is sexual. "We just process the form and the order issues automatically," he said.

He said that device has been used to block mailed solicitations for the conservative magazine,

National Review, and the liberal newspaper, Christian Science Monitor.

Poulin, the Schenectady postmaster, said the form, number 2150, is available at the post office.

SCHENECTADY GAZETTE

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12301, MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 20, 1983

* * *
Klassen has an unlisted telephone number in North Carolina. There is no telephone in the name of the church.

According to the newspaper, the Church of the Creator advances the religion "Creativity," which has as its goal "the survival, expansion and advancement of the white race."

The newspaper vows to build Creativity into "a powerful battering ram that will sweep all enemies of the white race before us — be they Jews, Christians or mud peoples."

Gaffney would not discuss his relation to the North Carolina headquarters of the Church of the Creator.

The mailing of materials that many people find politically or racially offensive is not illegal, according to postal officials. The law provides a means for halting only pornographic mailings.

The law has often been stretched, however, to block the mailing of political material, according to Thomas Ziebarth.

Ziebarth, a lawyer in the consumer protection division of the U.S. Postal Service, said that by filling out a form at the local post office a person can block the

Dear Vera,

This guy Gussney once worked with
the NELC. or was interested in them
while a C.S.R. in Albany middle/late 70's
He tried to become involved with the
James Connolly - Trevor McNulty I.R.C. "to fight
the Jewish - British conspiracy" or something
along those lines. we avoided him.

regards. Martin.

A Benefit Night at the Movies

A powerful
account of a
native
Australian's
lifelong struggle
against racism



3rd Street Theatre

1573 3rd Street
Rensselaer, N.Y.
436-4428

Monday, June 13, 1983
two showings
7:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith

Proceeds to benefit Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Tickets - \$3.00
Available at the door
For advance tickets or
formation call 436-8219
or 463-4566

Directions to the 3rd Street Theater:
Take I-90 Eastbound just across the
River to Washington Avenue, Rensselaer
Exit. (Exit 7). Turn right. Drive 2 1/2 miles.
Turn left onto 3rd Street - or take
CDTA bus (3rd Street - Rensselaer)



Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203

Chairman
M. J. Dollard

Vice-Chairman
E. J. Josey

June 21, 1983

Dear Editor,

In the past several years the United Nations General Assembly in three separate resolutions has called for "all states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with the racist regime in South Africa which perpetuates apartheid. A boycott of American entertainers going to South Africa was intensified in 1982 by Sikhula Shange, a Harlem record distributor in exile from South Africa. The boycott was quickly supported by many organizations and entertainers who have performed for apartheid have faced pickets, boycotts and financial losses.

Ray Charles and Linda Ronstadt have both performed in South Africa and their upcoming performances at SPAC (Charles, July 3, Kool Jazz Festival and Ronstadt, July 17) will be protested by The Coalition Against Apartheid and other organizations. Both performers have arrogantly ignored pleas of South African liberation groups not to support the treacherous regime by performing in South Africa. They must be held accountable for their actions. We urge your readers to walk out on the Ray

Charles performance at the Kool Jazz Festival and to boycott
the Linda Ronstadt performance .

Please call Social Action Center - Albany for more inform.

Singer, pianist targets of apartheid protests

By Joe Mahoney ^{7/4} 6/22/89
Star for

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Entertainers Linda Ronstadt and Ray Charles will be the targets of two protests this summer at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, which achieved local fame when it led a boisterous demonstration against a South African rugby team two years ago, is protesting scheduled concerts by Ronstadt and Charles because, coalition members say, both musicians have violated a United Nations-sponsored cultural boycott of South Africa.

Charles is slated to perform Sunday at the Kool Jazz Festival at SPAC. The Ronstadt concert is slated for July 17.

Coalition member Vera Michelson said Tuesday that South Africa uses performers like Charles and Ronstadt to legitimize its policy of racial apartheid.

"They have to be met with protest," she said, "because we, and the South African liberation groups and the international community feel that this is the best way to have apartheid toppled."

Charles, she said, performed in South Africa in 1981, despite strenuous efforts by critics of South Africa's white minority government to convince the pianist-vocalist not to play that venue.

Ronstadt, she said, performed last month in Sun City, Bophuthatswana.

Bophuthatswana has been promoted by South Africa as an independent tribal homeland for blacks, and has been likened by opponents of South African apartheid to Indian reservations in this country.

"These homelands are not recognized by any nation in the world as independent countries," said Michelson. "The only

nation that recognizes them is South Africa. It's really a treacherous way of disenfranchising an indigenous population."

Ronstadt, who could not be reached for comment Tuesday, defended her trip to South Africa in the current issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

"The last place for a boycott is the arts," Ronstadt said. "I just don't like being told you can't go somewhere. Like when they told Jane Fonda she couldn't go to North Vietnam. Of course she could have gone to North Vietnam."


She also acknowledged that she went to racist South Africa against the advice of former California Gov. Jerry Brown, with whom she traveled to black-ruled Africa while Brown was a presidential candidate. "He's political," she said. "I'm not."



The United National General Assembly has described South Africa's policy of resettling blacks in tribal homelands as an effort to "consolidate the inhumane policies of apartheid, to destroy the territorial integrity of the country, to perpetuate white minority domination and to dispossess the African people of South Africa of their inalienable rights."

At the Kool Jazz Festival, Michelson said, coalition members will both hand out leaflets at the event and stage a walkout when Charles slides behind his piano Sunday.

Charles has also defended his appearances in South Africa, where his entourage was reportedly stoned by angry blacks during a visit to the city of Welkom.

SPAC spokesman Peter Hopper refused to comment on the protests and referred questions to SPAC director Herb Chesbrough, who did not return telephone calls to his office Tuesday.

Going to the 
Kool JAZZ
Festival - Sunday
JULY 3rd ??? -

Support the 
Cultural Boycott 
of ENTERTAINERS
who have performed
in South Africa -

JOIN the WALK OUT ON "Ray
Charles" - on July 3.

and/or 

help pass out
leaflets at SPAC

Many people needed !!

TO HELP or For more info

CALL 462-0891 or evenings 463-4654

(DAYS or NIGHTS)

489-1767 (late evening)

Coalition Against Apartheid And Racism

Daycote Ray Charles - July 3 (Sunday) at SPAC

two actions:

① "outside"

Leafletting and Picketing
11:00 AM

② "inside"

Walkout when Ray
Charles performs at
NIGHT

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone	NOT going to concert BUT CAN leaflet	Going to concert - will walk out	BOTH	HAVE CAR
				HAVE LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		
				HAVE LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		
				LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		
				LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		
				LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		
				LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		
				LAWN TICKET OR SEAT		

End Cultural Collaboration with Apartheid

COME TO THE JAZZ FESTIVAL
Sunday July 3 at SPAC

PROTEST RAY CHARLES' VISIT
TO SOUTH AFRICA



STOP AIDING APARTHEID — Hundreds of protesters turned out Saturday night to boycott the Ray Charles concert at the Beacon Theatre in Manhattan. The well-known entertainer is one of several Black performers who has travelled to racist South Africa despite protests from the United Nations and groups like the National Black United Front. (Dave Green Photo) *NY Amsterdam News* 10/30/82.

In October of 1980 Ray Charles was stoned by black political protesters in South Africa. Recently he was picketed at performances in New York City. Sunday, July 3 he will appear as one of the performers at the Kool Jazz Festival at Saratoga Performing Arts Center. A boycott of his portion of the program has been organized. What has this brilliant artist done to attract such attention?

In 1980 Ray Charles attempted to tour South Africa. Defending himself he said, "I don't live here. I know that every country I have been in has some kind of problem, so what's the big deal?" The "big deal" is that black South African organizations have requested that foreign entertainers not perform in South Africa.

In a formal appeal to foreign artists, the Azanian Peoples Organization (AZAPO) asked for "total support and commitment in our move to have South Africa completely isolated in sports, culture and foreign investments... in order to pressurize the racist minority regime into implementing fundamental change inside the country."

"Artists who come to South Africa are insensitive to our feelings and are imbued with capitalistic greed," AZAPO continued. "Granted, many of them are talented in the field of music and are regarded as heroes by our people, but must they stoop so low by siding with the enemy of humanity?"

In the case of big-time artists like Ray Charles, ignorance of the conditions of racial oppression in South Africa is no excuse. This is pointed out by boycott organizers in the U.S. As Elombe Bath, chair of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition argues, "some people have really become obnoxious in their response to people who try to give them information. And while some people didn't know (about apartheid) before they went, others did... Stephanie Mills, Millie Jackson, Chick Corea, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles. These people have been talked to over and over again. These people are hard targets."

(O V E R)

Ray Charles' tour of South Africa was particularly offensive. Even before he left the U.S., AZAPO tried to persuade Charles not to go. Once he arrived in South Africa, Charles was contacted and urged to cancel his tour. He refused. Even worse, he scheduled a concert in Soweto on October 19th, a day reserved by blacks for anti-apartheid protests. AZAPO and other organizations responded by organizing a boycott of his performance and tour. Only 30 people showed up at the concert and it was cancelled. Later concerts were cancelled as well and his entourage was stoned by black protesters.

Besides asking artists not to go to South Africa, boycott organizers have requested that artists who have gone there openly apologize and pledge not to return until the apartheid regime has been overthrown. Those who refuse to meet these simple demands, like Ray Charles, face pickets, boycotts and financial losses. It is against this background that Ray Charles' visit to Saratoga takes place.

All we are asking is that these artists take a principled stand on performing in the most racist society on this earth. This is what black South Africans want. We should support them.

WE ARE ASKING YOU TO:

Wear an armband:

Demonstrate your opposition to collaboration with apartheid. Show solidarity with the South African liberation struggle.

Boycott Ray Charles' Part of the Program

When he comes on stage, join us in walking from your seat or place on the lawn to the area behind the lawn. Return to your seat when the performance is over.

Leaflet:

People are needed to leaflet concertgoers at SPAC from 11-2pm. Carpools will be leaving from Albany. Call if you want to be included.

Next Meeting:

Friday July 1 7:30pm. Call for details.

Further logistical information will be available from anti-apartheid organizers on the day of the Jazz Festival.

For more information call 489-1767 or 463-4654 eves.

Sponsored by: Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism

Support the International Cultural Boycott

NO TO APARTHEID

NO TO BANTUSTANS

BEACH BOYS APOLOGIZE

UNITED NATIONS CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT

The International Cultural Boycott of South Africa, called for by the United Nations General Assembly, is part of the UN's campaign to impose comprehensive sanctions on the South African apartheid system. The original UN resolution (2396 in 1968) called on "All states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with the racist regime and with other organizations or institutions in South Africa which practice apartheid." Similar resolutions have been passed every year since then. The resolution of 1980 (35/206E) specifically calls on writers, artists, musicians and other personalities to boycott South Africa.

APARTHEID IS LEGAL RACISM

In 1981 the Beach Boys went to South Africa and knowingly violated the boycott. According to their manager, Tom Howlett, they researched the whole matter and concluded that it was OK to go to Sun City, the glitzy gambling complex located in Bophuthatswana, because it was "integrated." This is absurd in light of the fact that according to South Africa's constitution blacks are an inferior race.

Bophuthatswana is one of the small portions of barren land which the South African government wants recognized as "homelands" for blacks so the whites can continue to possess exclusive rights to 75% of the land area of South Africa (the 75% which is fertile). Except for South Africa, there isn't a single country in the world which recognizes these "homelands" or Bantustans as independent nations. Rolling Stone has referred to Bophuthatswana as "a bogus black 'free state' located inside the officially racist country of South Africa."

The Beach Boys, according to their manager, also consulted Frank Sinatra who said it was OK to go. Frank Sinatra has visited South Africa many times and follows his buddy, Ronald Reagan, who wants to establish special relations with South Africa against the wishes of democratic minded people in the US and around the world.

THE BEACH BOYS SHOULD JOIN OTHER ENTERTAINERS IN THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT

The Beach Boys should have consulted Roberta Flack, Tony Bennet, the Jacksons, Elton John or hundreds of artists and players all over the world before going to South Africa. They would have learned why these artists refused to go to South Africa despite the fact that they were offered millions of dollars to do so. They also could have consulted with religious leaders and representatives of South African blacks about the realities of the apartheid system.

THE BEACH BOYS SUPPORT APARTHEID.

BOYCOTT THEM.

DEMAND A PUBLIC APOLOGY.

So far, the Beach Boys have refused to publicly declare their opposition to apartheid and apologize for violating the Cultural Boycott. That is why we are here to picket. We urge you to demand an apology and disassociate yourself from those who directly or indirectly help to maintain a system which deprives millions of the right to walk freely in their native land.

More information: Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism
Box 3002, Pine Hills Station, Albany, NY 12203

The following entertainers have performed in South Africa. We must not let them perform in our communities.

America	Nikki Giovanni	The Platters
Bob Anderson	Francis Grier	Barbara Ray
Paul Anka	Richard Hatch	Helen Reddy
David Baca	Goldie Hawn	Della Reese
Josephine Baker	Isaac Hayes	Tim Reid "Venus Flytrap"
Cliff Barnes	Joe Henderson	Richard Roundtree
Shirley Bassey	Howard Hesseman	Telly Savalas
** George Benson **	"Dr. Johnny Fever"	Leo Sayer
Brook Benton	Jimmy Bo Horne	Shirley Scott
C.L. Blast	Susan Howard	George Shearing
Ernest Bourgnine	Janis Ian	Sha Na Na
Beach Boys	David Jackson	Frank Sinatra
Gwen Brisco	Millie Jackson	Percy Sledge
Shirley Brown	Willis "Gator Tail" Jackson	Jimmy Smith
Nina Burrell	Jack Jones	Diane Solomon
Glen Campbell	Tom Jones	The Staple Singers
Colin Carr	Fern Kinney	Edwin Star
Clarence Carter	Eartha Kitt	Candi Staton
Monk Channing	Louis Lane	Dakota Staton
Rav Charles	Jilame Laredo	The Supremes
Cher	Mary Larkin	Brian Tarff
Jimmy Cliff	Jerry Loren	The Temptations
Billy Cobham	Main Ingredient	Rufus Thomas
Pete & Conte Condoli	Peter Mancer Dancers & Reborn	Timmy Thomas
Rita Coolidge	Ann Margaret	Bross Townsend
Chick Corea	Johnny Mathis	Tina Turner
Andrew Crouch	Hattison Brothers	** Stanley Turrentine **
Henry "Manolita" Darrow	Curtis Mayfield	Two Tons of Fun
Joe Dolan	George McCrae	The Variations
** Lou Donaldson **	Mighty Clouds of Joy	Village People
Lamont Dozier	Stephanie Mills	Lovelace Watkins
The Drifters	Liza Minelli	Al Wilson
Jack duPree	Monk Montgomery	Jimmy Witherspoon
Ecstasy Passion & Pain	** James Moody **	** Betty Wright **
Carla Fontana	Olivia Newton-John	Robert Wright
George Forest	Linda Oliphant	The Younghearts
Midel Fox	Osmonds	Effrem Zimbalist, Jr
Buddy de Franco	Charles Pace	
Gloria Gaynor	Wilson Pickett	
Terry Gibbs		

**** Public Apology Secured ****
Removed from Boycott List

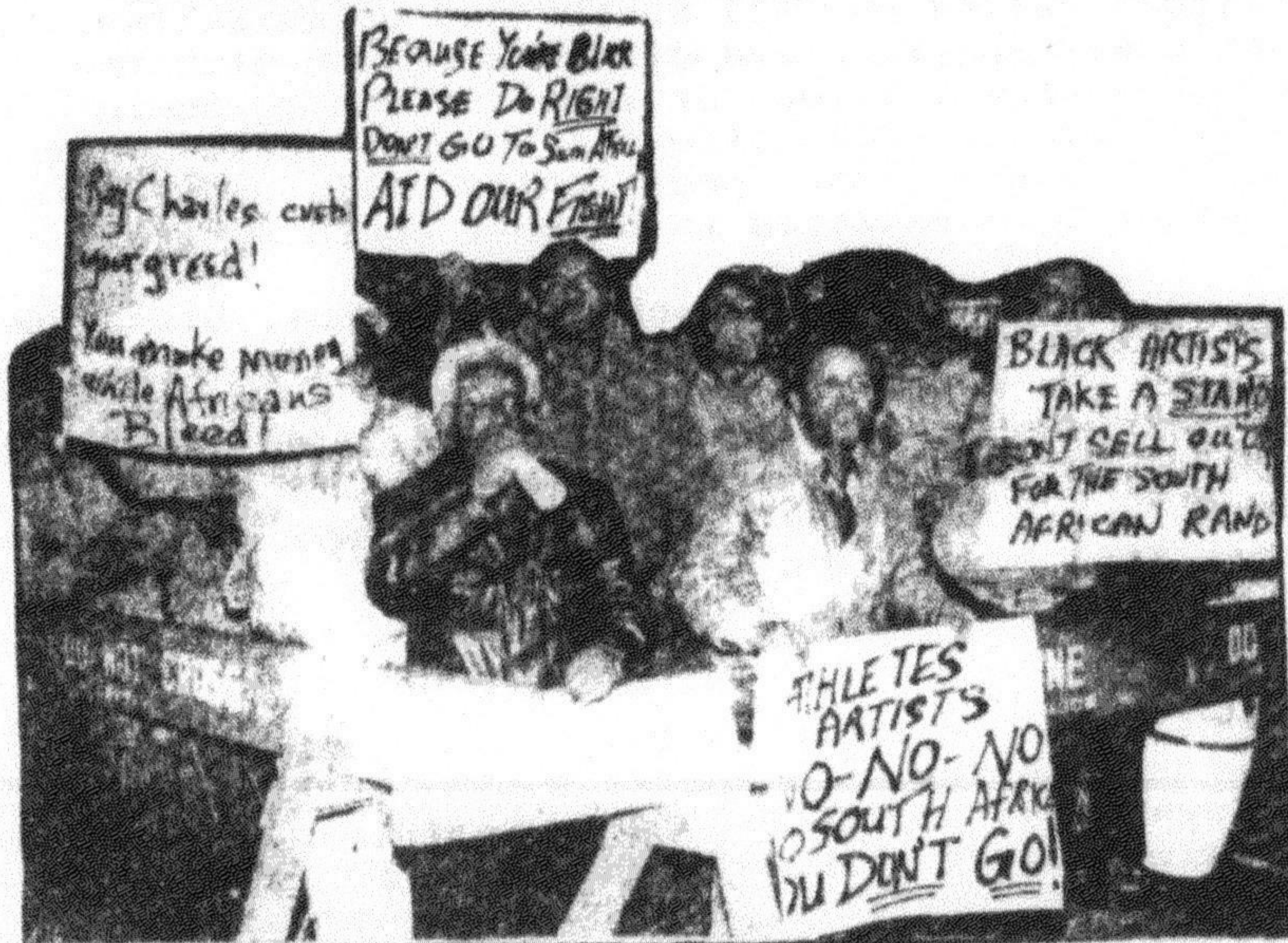
This list is based on a list compiled by two New York City based organizations, the Patrice Lamumba Coalition and AJASS, based on research done by Michael C. Beaubien. Reprinted courtesy of Southern Africa Magazine. It is up to date as of April 83.

For more information, updates, changes call:

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (518) 489-1767

Boycott Entertainers Who Visit South Africa

PROTEST AGAINST ARTISTIC COLLABORATION WITH RACIST SOUTH AFRICA!



Over 200 angry demonstrators turned out in front of the Beacon Theater in New York to protest a recent Ray Charles concert.

WE PROTEST

RAY CHARLES'

VISIT TO

SOUTH AFRICA!

In October of 1980 Ray Charles was stoned by black political protesters in South Africa. Recently he was picketed at performances in New York City. He is scheduled to appear at the Kool Jazz Festival here today. A "walk-back" protest of his portion of the program has been organized. What has this brilliant artist done to attract such attention?

In the fall of 1980 Ray Charles was requested by representatives of the oppressed African masses of South Africa not to make a scheduled concert tour of the racist republic because of a cultural boycott that all artists were asked to respect. Since the Soweto uprising in June of 1976 the apartheid regime has been on a campaign of repression against black activists in South Africa, killing and jailing hundreds while seeking to present an image of progressive reform to those outside the country.

RAY CHARLES SHOULD HAVE JOINED OTHER ENTERTAINERS IN THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA!

Ray Charles, who had suffered in his own youthful years in the U.S. and had struggled to survive and become a world-renowned genius at singing "the Blues", was expected to be compassionate to the plight of his South African brothers and sisters in a society where black people are "born to lose."

In an appeal to foreign artists, the Azanian Peoples Organization (of South Africa) asked for "total support and commitment in our move to have South Africa completely isolated in sports, culture and foreign investments...in order to pressure the racist minority regime into implementing fundamental change inside the country."

"Artists who come to South Africa are insensitive to our feelings and are imbued with capitalistic greed," AZAPO continued. "Granted, many of them are talented and are regarded as heroes by our people, but must they stoop so low by siding with the enemies of humanity?"

Ray Charles tour of South Africa was particularly offensive. Even before he left the U.S., AZAPO tried to persuade Charles not to go. Once he arrived in South Africa, Charles was contacted and urged to cancel his tour. He refused. Even worse, he scheduled a concert in Soweto on October 19th, a day reserved by blacks for anti-apartheid protests. AZAPO and other organizations responded by organizing a boycott of his performance and tour. Only 30 people showed up at the concert and it was cancelled. Later concerts were cancelled as well and his entourage was stoned by black protesters.

THE UNITED NATIONS CALLS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT!

The International Cultural Boycott of South Africa, called for by the United Nations General Assembly, is part of the U.N.'s campaign to impose comprehensive sanctions on the South African apartheid system. The original U.N. resolution (1968) called on "All states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with the racist regime and with other organizations or institutions in South Africa which practice apartheid." Similar resolutions have been passed every year since then. The resolution of 1980 specifically calls on writers, artists, musicians and other personalities to boycott South Africa.

Ray Charles should have consulted Roberta Flack, Tony Bennet, Diana Ross, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Jacksons, Phyllis Hyman or hundreds of other artists from all over the world who have refused to go to South Africa despite the fact that they were offered millions of dollars to do so. Roberta Flack was offered \$2.5 million! In response to an offer, Phyllis Hyman said, "I could not tour South Africa under any circumstance I have a moral commitment that supercedes money."

WHAT SHOULD RAY CHARLES DO NOW?

Besides asking artists not to go to South Africa, boycott organizers have asked artists who have gone there to openly apologize and pledge not to return until the apartheid regime has been overthrown. Those who refuse to meet these simple demands, like Ray Charles, the Beach Boys, Linda Ronstadt, face pickets, boycotts, protests and financial losses. It is against this background that Ray Charles' visit to Saratoga takes place today.

We are asking that artists, musicians and entertainers say NO to blood money, that they take a stand against performing in the most racist society on earth. This is what black South Africans want. We support them.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

WE ARE ASKING YOU TO:

WEAR A BLACK ARMBAND. Wear a black armband in solidarity with the victims of apartheid in South Africa.

WALK-BACK DURING RAY CHARLES' PERFORMANCE. Look for the signal. Join us in an orderly walk-back out of the seat and lawn area. Walk to the gazebo (second stage) area. Stay out during Charles' part of the program. Return after his performance is finished.

TURN YOUR BACK ON RAY CHARLES. WATCH FOR THE SIGNAL. WALK-BACK WITH U

Further logistical information is available from anti-apartheid organizers here at the Jazz Festival. For more information about the sponsor call 489-1767.

SPONSOR: CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

ENDORSERS: ALBANY BRANCH NAACP, SASU, BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL BLACK INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PARTY, ALBANY BRANCH, AMERICAN-SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM.

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM-JUNE 26 '83

Entertainer Ray Charles will be the target of protest next Sunday at Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Charles is slated to perform at the Kool Jazz Festival July 3.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is protesting Charles's appearance in the Capital District because of his violation of the United Nations Resolutions calling for "all states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with the racist regime in South Africa which perpetuates apartheid."

Ray Charles arrogantly ignored pleas of South African liberation groups not to support the racist regime by performing in South Africa. In October of 1980, Charles was stoned by black protesters in South Africa. Even before he left the U.S. he was urged to cancel his tour. He refused and was met in South Africa by protests and boycotts and some concerts were cancelled. Recently Charles's appearances in New York City were picketed.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, which organized the protest at Chick Corea's performance recently in Troy and will be protesting Linda Ronstadt's appearance at SPAC July 17, maintain that South Africa uses performers like Charles, Ronstadt, the Beach Boys, Chick Corea to legitimize its policy of racist apartheid. "They have to be met with protest," said Coalition spokesperson Vera Michelson, "because we and South African liberation groups and the United Nations and international community feel that the cultural boycott of South Africa is one way we have of pressuring the South African government to end its disastrous racist policies."

At the Kool Jazz Festival, Coalition members will hand out informational leaflets and stage a "walk-back" when Charles begins his performance. The Coalition calls upon all members of the audience to join in leaving the hall and the lawn area during Charles's performance. ^{and walking back after} Audience members supporting the protest will be wearing black armbands, as well.

Information: Vera Michelson 489-1767

7/25/83

6,000 tour black arts festival, hear Gregory

By ANNE STUART
Knickerbocker News Reporter

A morning thunderstorm slowed the start of the second annual Black Arts and Culture Festival, but by day's end an estimated 6,000 people had come to the Empire State Plaza in Albany to sample ethnic foods, hear a variety of music and listen to a noted comedian and civil rights activist speak about race relations.



Gregory

A downpour early Sunday sent most festival organizers and exhibitors scurrying for cover in the enclosed concourse level of the Plaza or their cars.

"It poured. We had to cover everything up with plastic," Eileen Kawala, a member of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, said. The organization's display of buttons, brochures and hand-lettered poetry wasn't

damaged by the rain, although signs were smeared.

Early attendance in the daylong celebration was sparse, but hundreds of festival-goers began arriving as the skies cleared. "It's been good since midafternoon," Kawala said.

A large crowd gathered at about 5:30 to hear civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory comment on everything from the troubled social security system to herpes.

But Gregory concentrated on race relations, leaping from jokes about differences in black and white people's diets to exhorting the mostly black crowd to keep working for social change.

Gregory said one symbol of black Americans' progress was the national recognition of February as "Black Month," instead of the single "Black History Week," he said. "To go from a week to a month — that's progress," he said. "But wouldn't they give us a month with all those days missing?"

He also poked fun at the legend of Columbus discovering America. "You know that guy got lost," he said. "And if you can discover a country that's already occupied, I'll go out in the parking lot and discover your car."

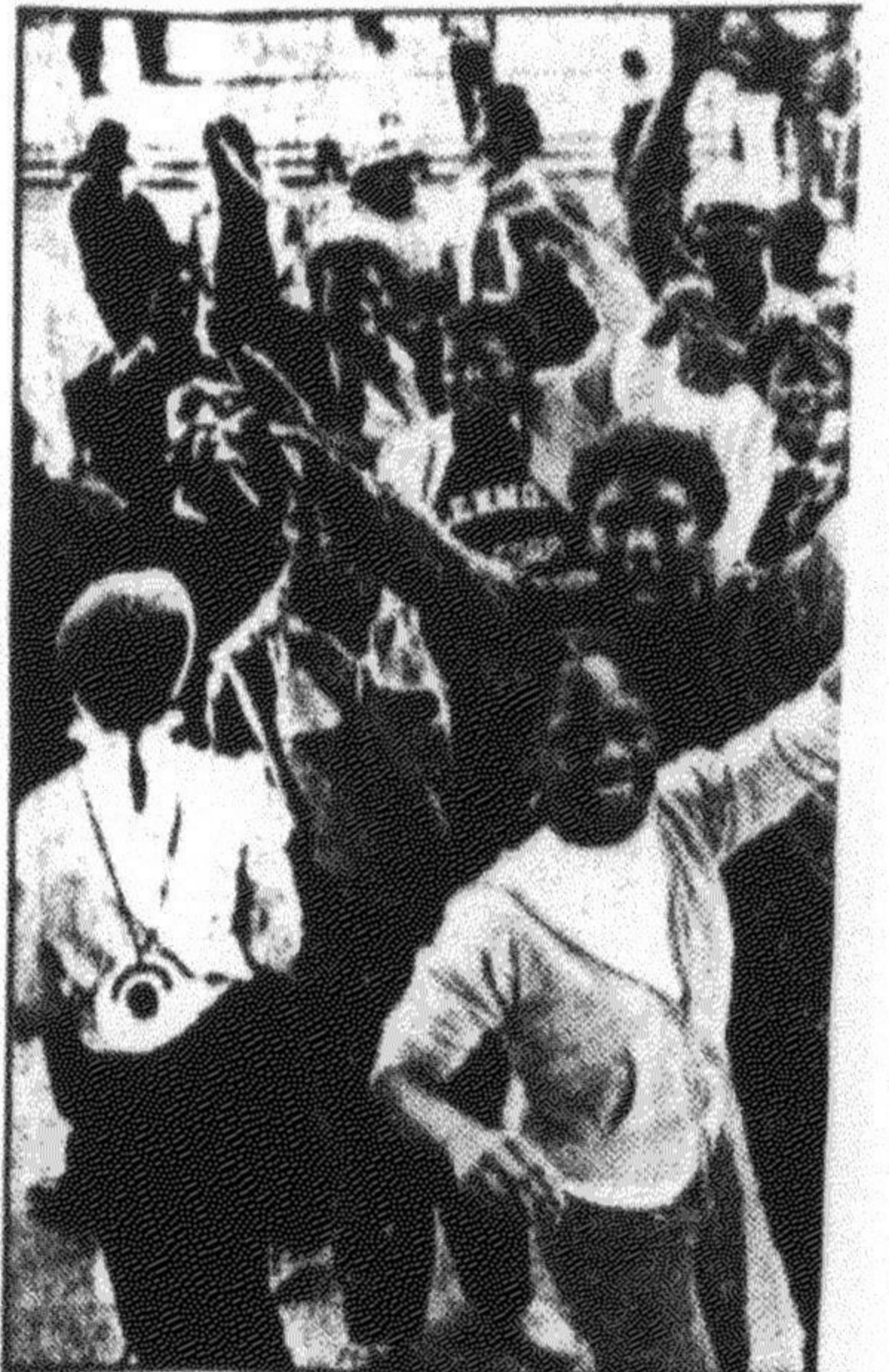
Gregory, a vegetarian who speaks out strongly against the use of drugs, alcohol and cigarettes, gained nationwide attention in 1981 for a water-only fast to end world hunger. He told his audience he might run for president, but warned them to think twice before voting for him. "The day I become president, dope and Dick Gregory will not be in the same country," he said, later adding cigarettes and alcohol to the list.

He cited some grim statistics about 1982 unemployment figures for blacks: 30 percent for adults, 60 percent for youths. Yet, he said, blacks spent \$155 billion in the same year. "If we was a separate nation, we'd be the fifth or sixth most powerful nation in the world," he said.

He asked his listeners to organize for social change. "We have the power to control destiny. We can make the difference. We can turn it around," he said.

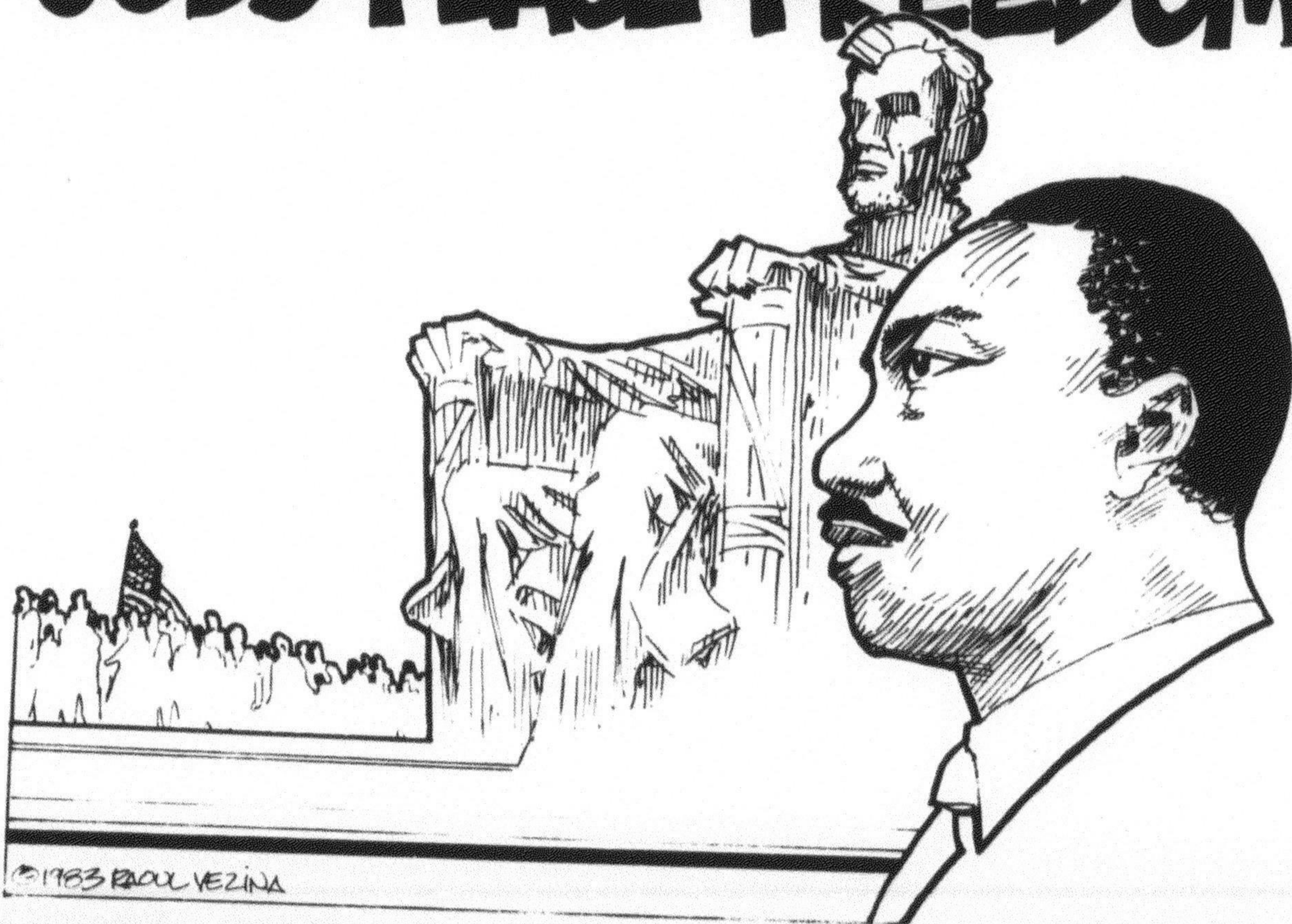
"It's got to start with love and it's got to start in your own house."

But he emphasized it should be peaceful: "If you want to see power, don't go to the Pentagon. Get up early in the morning and watch the sunrise," he said. "It clears out the whole sky without making a sound. That's power."



GOOD TIME — Youths enjoy the bl

MARCH ON WASHINGTON AUGUST 27, 1983 JOBS · PEACE · FREEDOM



WE STILL HAVE A DREAM

BUS TICKETS ARE \$30. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER, CALL:
SOCIAL ACTION CENTER, 434-4037; N. A. A. C. P., 462-1823, MON.-FRI., 9A.M.-1P.M.;
UPSTATE MARCH ON WASHINGTON COMMITTEE, 462-5461.

By Bojana Jordan

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1981, it rained for the entire day in Albany. In spite of the heavy downpour, about 1,500 freedom-loving Albanians, drenched to the skin, marched from the State Capitol and from the uptown State University at Albany campus to Bleeker Stadium where a rugby game was to be played between South African rugby players and an all-star Eastern American team.

Throngs of people were protesting this game because the South African players were considered "ambassadors of apartheid" — representatives of a racist, fascist system of government which has relegated blacks to a sub-human status void of all human rights.

In spite of world condemnation, the South African government has been trying to sugarcoat this system of racist repression and lend legitimacy to the regime by making friends with other countries through the use of sporting events in which South African teams play with teams in other lands.

On that day two years ago, people appeared from all over the Capital District to voice their disapproval of the apartheid-tainted game. Citizens representing all walks of life — labor unions, civic and religious groups, students, professionals and housewives — picketed, often carrying colorful and varied banners or placards which read: "Racist, Go Home," "Don't Play Ball With Racism," and "No To Apartheid."

In the aftermath of the rugby game, Albany was much praised in South Africa and throughout Africa. The publicity and information department of the United Nations had sent a team to report on the game. The following day, September 23, the United Nations Southern Africa Radio Section beamed a two hour report to South Africa in all African languages: Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho, Tswana, and, of course, English and Afrikaans.

The United Nations radio office and the Observer Missions of the Liberations Movements in the United States were flooded with positive letters of thanks and congratulations for what the people of Albany had done "to protest the injustices meted out to us." The South African newspapers carried the protests in their headlines. For instance, the pro-government *South African Citizen* reported the protest at the Albany Airport when the Springboks arrived as "the strongest yet encountered."

I personally received a letter from my nephew who teaches in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, a city of about 3 million people. It said in part, "I do not know how far you are from a place called Albany there. But please, whether it is in California, or Deep South, or near Chicago, Detroit, or New York, tell those people we love them because they care

The writer, who fled South Africa, now lives in Albany and is active in the American-South African People's Friendship Association.

for us. These days whenever people speak of protesting any of the hundreds of apartheid laws, they always say, 'Let us do it the Albany way.' Everybody here feels just so good to learn that there are Americans so far away who are espousing our cause. The radio program about the rugby game on the 23rd was listened to by millions of people because our black leaders had told us something good would come that day 'by way of air' from overseas."

South African blacks now know about Albany and hold it in esteem as one of the cities that hate racism and apartheid.

True enough as Mayor Corning had said, the visit of the South African rugby team brought great awareness and knowledge of apartheid. Very fitting, the fight against apartheid brought home to the people in Albany more than ever before the need to fight racism and its concomitants.

In the two years since the rugby demonstration, there have been very effective and successful local demonstrations against the Ku Klux Klan, against arms shipments to South Africa, and against certain entertainers — such as the Beach Boys and Ray Charles — who have been to South Africa to indirectly patronize apartheid. The whole political tenor in the Capital District has changed from indifference to actual participation in anti-racist matters.

There are well-defined programs of political action by different progressive groups, such as the NAACP and the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. There has been established on Central Avenue in Albany a Social Action Center which brings together diverse progressive groups intent on the coordination of a major drive for social change.

Another organization dedicated to eliciting the help of Americans in eradicating racism and apartheid is the American-South African People's Friendship Association, one of the groups located at the Social Action Center. It is now a national organization, but was born in Albany last year.

Over the summer, Albany sent one of the biggest entourages to Washington, D.C., to mark the 20th anniversary of the late Martin Luther King's March on Washington. Pearl Campbell, a 73-year-old Albany resident, was in the march as she had been in 1963. She marched side by side with 43-year-old Rev. Allan Boesak, a black South African and president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, who said he was marching to "cherish the dream of Martin Luther king and to hold these truths — that all men are created equal — some truisms we black South Africans are prepared to stand by or die for."

The fact that a small city like Albany was represented by about 1,000 people in the March on Washington speaks of the city's political maturity.

Similarly on the national level, many diverse groups are actively organizing and opposing apartheid. The public's

Albany opposition to apartheid is memorable

D.A. 9/18/83

awareness of the atrocities of apartheid has also been shown by the drive to force companies trading with South Africa to divest whatever shares they hold. The Northeast Universities Students Anti-Apartheid Coalition has been having conferences for the last nine months about divestment. Several bills have been introduced in state legislatures and in Congress in regard to opposing apartheid. The strength of the movement is growing.

Unfortunately, at the highest level of American government, in the Reagan administration, compliance with South African apartheid has become more pronounced since the rugby demonstration in Albany. Reagan has publicly supported the racist government of South Africa as "a bulwark against Communism." He has forgotten that today the South African government is literally fighting to *maintain* the deprivation of human rights for blacks in that country.

The U.S. government endorsed the lending of billions of dollars by the International Monetary Fund to South Africa, well knowing this money is going to be used to further oppress the blacks. It also authorized the sale of cattle prods, which are used to subjugate Africans whenever they protest or demonstrate peacefully.

With these negative actions on the national level, it is indeed gratifying to South Africans to see the practical results of the Albany demonstrations against the Springboks manifesting themselves in many anti-apartheid organizations locally and in the Northeast, bent on educating American people about the U.S. involvement in South Africa.

On Thursday, September 22, 1983, we shall remember and salute the gallant people of Albany for the brave and righteous stand they took against apartheid two years ago.

Forum to air issues in

By SUSAN SCHULMAN
Knickerbocker News Reporter

Almost a year after Charles Andrews was jailed after being convicted of slashing the necks of two Albany women, several organizations continue to charge the young black man was "railroaded" by a white legal system.

And as an outgrowth of the Andrews case, several organizations are advocating a review of the jury selection procedure in Albany County courts.

Andrews, 19, was sentenced last Oct. 11 to serve 7½ to 22 years after an all-white jury had convicted him six days earlier in assaults on two Pine Hills women. Andrews was charged with slashing their throats with a razor.

The case is being appealed; however, the appeal hearing has been delayed because of difficulties in getting the trial proceedings transcribed.

Andrews' attorney, public defender James Banagan, said the case was delayed because the court stenographer assigned to the case went on maternity leave shortly after the trial. Because the woman is transcribing the proceedings at her home, the process is taking longer than usual, Banagan said.

Meanwhile, support for Andrews is growing.

A Charles Andrews Legal Defense Fund, initially organized by 17 members of Albany's black community who met at the Albany Urban League headquarters, has reached into other segments of the community, including the Albany Chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Albany office of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Representatives of both organizations will be speaking at 8 tonight at a forum sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

The forum will be held at 23 Central Ave., Albany. A \$2 donation is being requested to defray expenses and support Andrews' defense fund.

NOW Co-President Mary Mercier, who will address the forum, said her organization had become involved because it saw the Charles Andrews case as one of civil rights.

Similarly, Alice Green of the Civil Liberties Union said she would discuss the civil rights issues the case had raised.

Ms. Green added that several organizations, including the ACLU, are planning to look into the jury selection process in Albany County courts.

9/23/83

Albany man's conviction

The issues being addressed tonight are the same ones brought out immediately after Andrews' trial by either the youth's attorney or his supporters.

Among the charges are that:

- Albany County Judge Joseph Harris coerced the jury by keeping them deliberating for five days even though the jurors sent Harris two notes during that time saying they were unable to come to a unanimous decision.

- Harris acted improperly when disclosing a unusually confident pre-sentence report when he sentenced Andrews.

- A black youth cannot receive a fair trial from an all-white jury.

- Albany County District Attorney Sol Greenberg acted improperly after Andrews was sentenced by threatening to file perjury charges against witnesses who had appeared on Andrews' behalf.

Because the case is being appealed, Harris and Greenberg have repeatedly declined to comment on most of the charges.

However, in court, Harris has denied he coerced the jury to a verdict; and several jurors publicly stated they were not coerced.

A week after three newspapers reported Greenberg saying his office was considering filing perjury charges against witnesses who provided Andrews an alibi during their testimony, the district attorney said he was misquoted by the newspaper reporters.

Greenberg has also previously denied charges his office attempts to select all-white juries in cases in which the defendant is black.

Andrews was arrested June 22, 1982, and accused of slashing Erin Reilly, 24, and Gail Walsh, 20, in separate attacks within a 30-minute period around midnight June 2. Ms. Reilly required 100 stitches to close a wound on her face and neck, while Ms. Walsh received 20 stitches to close a 3-inch gash in her neck.

Until his arrest, Andrews had been on parole in connection with a September 1979 assault and robbery of a teen-age girl behind Hackett Middle School in Albany. He was accused of stealing a radio.

Around the time of his arrest in connection with the slashing incidents, Andrews had returned to school at the Albany Street Academy. Two weeks before the arrest, he also began working as a grocery bagger at an Albany supermarket.

9/27/83

9/10/83



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Sat April 16 - 12:00 NOON
(Albany)

No to Apartheid - No to Racism

S. DUSORS - Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
NAACP (Albany Chapter)
~~Anti-Apartheid Committee (AACP)~~
not approved 71

Info-489-1767
465-6974
APRIL 5:00 PM

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM C.A.A.A.R.

→ Meeting - June 8, 1983
Wednesday, 7:30
Neighborhood Resource Center, 340 1st St. Albany

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - BULLETIN - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

Another blow against apartheid - Over the past several weeks, members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (C.A.A.A.R.), members of the Black and Student Alliance (B.L.A.S.) of Union College in Schenectady and students at SUNY New Paltz have been strategizing on how to prevent the South African Vice Consul, Pieterse, from speaking at Union College on May 25th. Pieterse, a racist and propagandist for the South African government was confronted by angry students from SUNY New Paltz when he appeared on campus there in April. Significant pressure by B.L.A.S. students at Union and community organizations which sent letters to the Union administration resulted in the cancellation of the Pieterse visit. **NO TRADE. NO SPORTS. NO CULTURAL TIES. NO DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE. NO INVESTMENTS. TOTAL AND COMPLETE SANCTIONS AGAINST RACIST GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA.**

- PARTIAL AGENDA FOR JUNE 8th MEETING OF C.A.A.A.R. -

Discussion of plans for August 27th bustrip to Washington, D.C.
(Commemoration of 1963 March on Washington)

Picket Ray Charles? Beach Boys? - Cultural boycott

Identification of products in local stores which have been made in South Africa.

Report on cultural boycott progress with S.A.S.U. (Student Associations of State University).

Update - Friends of Odell Winfield

Discussion of Movie Fundraiser

→ We Need Your Help ←

FOR TICKETS
CALL 436-8219 or 463-4566

ON MONDAY NIGHT, JUNE 13, 1983, C.A.A.A.R. is sponsoring a benefit night at the movies. "The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith" will be shown at the 3rd Street Theater.

Tickets are \$3.00 each and our proceeds will be used in the fight against racism and apartheid. We need you to buy a ticket and to help sell tickets. We need you to help us advertise.

SAVE THIS DATE

SAVE THIS DATE

Saturday
October 22, 1983
CONFERENCE - 10:00am. - 5:00pm.
(place to be announced)

RACISM: A NATIONAL Policy?

Tentative Workshops:

1. 1st Amendment Rights of KKK - pro & con speakers
2. Racism: A Foreign Policy
3. Racism: An Economic Policy
4. Rising Racist Violence
5. Strategies for Survival: grassroots organizing
6. Racism and Religion
7. Criminal justice system as a tool of oppression

National speakers invited to participate

Co-sponsored by Albany Branch NAACP and Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. For more information or to assist in planning 489-1767.

Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Next meeting: Wednesday: September 14, 1983

7:30 P.M.

340 First Street
Albany, New York

All invited

Racism conference planned Nov. 19

11/19/82 J 41

The Albany Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid will sponsor a day conference on "Racism: A National Policy?" on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Wilborn Temple, 121 Jay St., Albany.

The conference will feature an address by Michael Amon-Ra, a leader of the National Black United Front, and a series of workshops on a variety of topics related to racism.

Pre-registration is recommended. Interested persons can register at the Social Action Center, 221 Central Ave., or the NAACP office, 93 Livingston Ave., Albany. Registration fee will be \$2.

Lunch will be available to pre-registrants at a nominal cost.

For further information, call the NAACP office at 462-1823 mornings, or Michael Dollard, 436-8008, evenings.

11/19/82
Washington Park

NAACP, anti-apartheid unit slate joint session

11/15/82

The Albany NAACP and the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism are sponsoring a conference entitled "Racism: A National Policy" Saturday Nov. 19 at Wilborn Temple, 121 Jay St. in Albany.

The conference will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is open to the public.

Scheduled speakers include: Robert Chrisman, editor and publisher of *The Black Scholar*; Michael Amon-Ra, chairman of the New York City Black United Front, and Damu Smith, community activist and author.

Chrisman is the editor and publisher of *The Black Scholar*, a leading journal of Black cultural and political commentary in the United States. A poet and essayist,

his most recent book of poetry, *Children of Empire*, has received wide critical acclaim.

Amon-Ra is a widely known community activist in New York City where he is chairman of the Black United Front.

The conference will also feature a series of concurrent workshops on topics related to racism, including the criminal justice system, electoral politics, national economic and foreign policy and first amendment issues.

Reservations for the conference may be made through the Albany NAACP office at 462-1823 or the Social Action Center at 434-4037.

CONFERENCE REPORT
OF
RACISM: A NATIONAL POLICY?

November 19, 1983
Albany, New York

Sponsored By:

Capital District
Coalition Against
Apartheid And Racism
Box 3002
Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY, 12203
Tel. No. (518) 489-1767

NAACP
Albany Branch
93 Livingston Ave
Albany, NY, 12207
Tel. No. (518) 462-1823
(518) 465-6974

January 1, 1984

Dear Conference Participants and Endorsers

Much has happened over the last few years in the struggle for social justice. We in the Capital District have done a lot we can be proud of.

In September 1981 when the South African Springbok Rugby team came to play in Albany, the whole Capital District community joined together to protest their presence here. The Social Action Center at 221 Central Avenue, Albany, has been formed by a wide range of activist groups as a place to meet and exchange information. The black community defeated a gerrymandering attempt by the city administration during the last re-drawing of election districts. The election of Sandra Temple was another sign that the black community was no longer doing business as usual.

When the Klan rallied in Vermont many people went from Albany to protest. Young people concerned about "justice" from the criminal justice system have organized the Charles Andrews Defense Committee. Community and labor activists demonstrated to support the Greyhound strikers locally by not riding scab buses, walking the line with the strikers, and participating in two militant rallies. In June 1982, hundreds of us boarded buses bound for New York city to join in

the biggest anti-nuke rally ever. On August 27, 1983, hundreds again boarded buses, this time bound for Washington D.C. where we joined our brothers and sisters to demand Jobs, Peace and Freedom.

Our concern about racism abroad shows up in many different ways. We have been loud and strong in our protests of entertainers who have performed in South Africa - Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt and Chick Corea being some of the targets of our protests.

On October 22, 1983, many of us were part of a world wide protest against the deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles. Our opposition to US intervention in Central America is vividly displayed by the large billboard at the corner of Clinton and Ontario streets. And when the US invaded Grenada many many people showed up for an evening demonstration in front of the Albany Armory to express their outrage. These are but a few examples...there are many more.

As we look back at all of our accomplishments, we must also look ahead to the future. We all know there is much to be done.

The NAACP and the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism felt very strongly that the issue of institutional racism needed to be brought to the forefront in our struggles and that it why this Conference, "Racism: A National Policy?" was conceived. Our goals were fairly ambitious:

1. We wanted to study the links between the movement against institutional racism and other social justice movements.
2. We wanted to provide a forum for deeper political analysis than is other available in our day to day political activities.
3. We wanted to encourage discussions among people who do not usually work together.
4. We also wanted to show, by giving a local and a national perspective to the workshops, that we are all part of a larger movement.
5. Finally, we wanted to provide a way for participants to become educated about these issues so that we could all better participate in the movement for social

justice.

Judging from your evaluations and comments we reached our goals.

At least 120 people attended the conference and 14 organizations endorsed the conference. We urge you now to read this report and use it in any way you think is valuable. Share it with friends, bring it to your organization's attention. Also, we encourage you to participate in this movement by attending future meeting of the Coalition or the NAACP or any other organization that is dealing with these issues.

Coalition Against
Apartheid And Racism
Wednesday, January 11
7.30 p.m.
340 1st St.
Neighborhood Resource Center
Downstairs

NAACP
Tuesday, January 17
7.30 p.m.
Urban League
Corner Livingston and Ten Broeck
Albany

Looking forward to hearing from you

Conference Committee:

Lillie McLaughlin
Vera "Mike" Michelson
Anita Thayer
Odell Winfield

For More Information: 465-6974 or 489-1767

WORKSHOP REPORTS

1. Rising Racist Violence

Panelists: Michael Amon-Ra and Alice Green

Racist violence must be seen with at two different levels: physical and psychological.

Physical violence is obvious and manifests itself in the schools where corporal punishment affects black children disproportionately, with white vigilante groups (Klan/Nazis), and in the police department. (Amon-Ra spoke about the recent Congressional police brutality hearing in NY city.)

Psychological violence is more subtle and takes place when blacks and the poor are trying to achieve justice in the courts, in the educational system, in employment and when trying to obtain services like health care jobs and housing.

Community response to racist violence was discussed. The community must be vigilant and educate others. We can't allow bureaucratic tactics to stunt the community's ability to monitor racist violence. We must also respond to negative racial images when they are portrayed in the media.

Several suggestions came out of this workshop: (i) Cases of police brutality should be publicized in a way that will help the community see the extent of the problems; (ii) Truly independent Civilian review boards should be established to monitor police behavior (there is state legislation pending); (iii) Community education should be undertaken so that the people know their rights if arrested; (iv) The community and community groups should be educated about the extent of racist violence and institutional racism in general; (v) We should support alternatives to incarceration particularly those which focus on the obligations offenders have towards their victims.

2. Criminal Justice System: A Tool of Oppression

Panelists: Kabili Tyari, N.B.J.P.P. and Vroman Wright, Horizon House

Mr. Tyari set the tone for this workshop by stating "as long as we can remember, poor people, especially in the black and brown communities, have been victims of abusive and sometimes criminal acts committed by the racist criminal justice system."

This workshop focused on how the American government both nationally and locally uses the criminal justice system to oppress Blacks and other racial minorities. The American prison population is about 60% Black and 25% Hispanic. Yet the Court system and police forces nationally have no more than 2-5% minority employees even in minority communities. During the discussion, it was agreed that change could come about if more people became aware of the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on racial minorities.

3. Should The First Amendment Protect The Klan And Nazis?

Panelists: Professor Stephen Wasby, SUNYA and Mark Mishler, Esq., National Lawyers Guild

Professor Wasby argued that for us to call for the exclusion of anyone from the protections of the First Amendment is to hand the government a weapon that will be used against the progressive movement. Wasby said that this principle means we must ever "grit our teeth" and aid and strengthen the rights of the Nazis despite our knowledge that they want to destroy the progressive movements.

Mishler replied that although legal precedent from First Amendment lawsuits brought on behalf of the Nazis may be helpful to the left in some instances, there is no guarantee that our movement's rights are protected. The only definite result of protecting the rights of the Klan and Nazis is that the right is protected. Mishler also pointed out that the Klan and Klan like groups lost their First Amendment protections with the enactment of the post-civil war amendments to the U.S. Constitution which abolished slavery and outlawed discrimination. These amendments state a government policy not to protect racism that is stronger than the first amendment rights of hate groups. Protecting the Klan and Nazis who pose a serious danger to minority people is like protecting the man who falsely yells fire in a crowded theater.

Several workshop participants expressed concern that the movement's disregard of the "civil liberties" view of the First Amendment could alienate activists from middle class allies.

4. Electoral Politics: A Solution or A Problem?

Panelists: Robert Chrisman and Issac Bracey, NAACP

The major focus of this workshop centered around considerations of electoral politics as a possible solution to some of the problems afflicting the black community. A secondary focus was that although electoral politics is crucial to the survival of blacks, blacks must realize and remember that the political power structure will rather respond to perceived than real needs.

Electoral politics, described as a double-edged sword, has value because through participation, blacks can effectively organize, educate, and mobilize the masses. These were cited as lasting and necessary objectives. On the other hand, blacks need alternative political avenues. The traditional parties (both Democrats and Republicans) were cited as instruments for managing and maintaining the status quo. Consequently blacks will always have to choose between the lesser of two evils. Traditional parties cannot cater to black needs without first catering to the needs of the state.

In spite of this, blacks cannot ignore electoral politics because so much of their lives are affected by it, particularly when the greater of the two evils wins as dramatized by the election of Ronald Reagan. The solution then is for blacks (and oppressed others) to make electoral politics practical - both in application and theory. Blacks must forge a consensus as to what politics is, and what it can do for them. Then blacks must work to gain political clout as "power brokers" to insure that they can control the impact of electoral politics

on their community.

5. Racism: A Foreign Policy?

Panelists: Merton Simpson, ASAPFA and Coalition; Maggie Kirwin, Central American Solidarity Alliance; Karen Brammer, Non-Violence Project; Maria Muscarella, Capital District Committee For Palestinian Rights.

Panelists who are activists from local groups presented a brief overview of the US foreign policy in Southern Africa, Central America, the Middle East and on the Arms race. The panelists discussed (1) how the US role has been detrimental to the interests of the majority of the people in these regions and (2) how the US government's attempts to maintain supremacy and control in these regions by supporting unpopular regimes are being challenged by the people there. The panelist on the arms race discussed the alarming nature of stockpiling of nuclear arms. She pointed out that while researching for her presentation, she found out how the policies and regulations of the US government reflected a racist and anti-Third world attitude even on the issues of nuclear power and arms. Concern was expressed over the militaristic posture of the Reagan administration in dealing with international issues. Each of the panelists mentioned the work of his/her group in educating and informing the community about the US role in these regions. During the discussion period, many members of the audience raised concerns about the policies of the Israeli and US governments in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon.

6. Racism: An Economic Policy?

Panelists: Damu Smith and Maria Markovics, United Tenants of Albany

Our economic system of capitalism has a disproportionately negative effect on racial minorities in both bad and good times. Per capita income of blacks is 58% of white per capita income. Black women suffer the most economically especially single heads of households. Black youth unemployment rate is between 65 to 75%. The U.S. Army's 40% black may see the Army as the only solution to unemployment. Urban displacement and stratification also have a greater adverse effect on black and poor residents. Military spending exacerbates employment problems because military spending is not labor intensive.

The workshop concluded that to struggle against economic racism, there must be solidarity between those who are working and the unemployed, the struggle against racism and sexism must be joined, there must be a renewed effort to organize those most effected, and organizations representing tenants, displaced residents, the employed and the unemployed must be built, re-built and strengthened.

DAMU SMITH ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

Damu Smith¹ gave a detailed and comprehensive overview of the history of the US foreign policy. Smith discussed the racism practiced towards Native Americans as their land was being taken away in violation of treaties signed with them, the slavery of Afro-Americans and their uprooting from the African subcontinent, and racial discrimination towards national minorities from the third-world. He then moved to the international scene and discussed how racism that was and is being practiced at home was and is also reflected in the US government's dealings with the people and governments of the third world.

Smith talked about the Vietnam war and discussed the racist attitude of the U.S. policy makers towards Asian life. He discussed in great detail the voting record of the US government at the United Nations on international issues, including the apartheid system in South Africa, anti-colonial and liberation struggles of third world people and Palestinian problem. He mentioned how the US government's repeated allegations that the UN is now controlled by the third world is nothing but outright racism. "The US has boldly demonstrated a racist mentality directed at the majority of the world's people." He unequivocally denounced the US invasion of Grenada and pointed out how the American people were being duped into believing that the invasion was justified even though "for most Americans the history of Grenada began the day the invasion took place." Smith called upon people to investigate and act; he appealed to them to organize and oppose the racist policies of the US government both at home and abroad.

(Note: The Conference Committee hopes to have available tape of this speech in the near future)

Note

Space does not permit us to include an account of the morning address by Michael Amon-Ra, President of NY Chapter National Black United Front (NBUF), and the afternoon address by Robert Chrisman, editor of Black Scholar Magazine.

Excerpts From Build the Movement: A Speech by Lillie McLaughlin, 1st Vice President, Albany NAACP

"Organizations are the backbone of the movements for justice, peace, jobs and freedom... Organizations working on social justice issues...have a challenge and a responsibility...to deepen the work they are doing by making the links (and the connections) to other issues... Taking up this challenge can only strengthen your struggle... Racism can't be 'dialogued away' as Michael Amon-Ra said. Racism can't be solved in a vacuum. The issues of people of color are not just jobs, housing, education and voting rights. Those issues include...supporting the peace movement. They...include opposition to US intervention anywhere in the world."

"If you don't belong to an organization (then) join one...there probably already exists an organization working on whatever you are interested in. Our problems will not be solved by individuals acting alone. It can only be done through

1. Damu Smith is a founding member of Black American Network for Disarmament, Peace and Justice.

collective action...of individuals working with others...(and) organizations working together. It is the responsibility of all of us to help make social change organizations stronger...and to realize that each issue, be it peace, feminism, welfare rights, civil rights, whatever are a piece of a 'vision of the future'. A future without sexism, militarism, capitalism and racism."

"It is our responsibility to struggle, to fight for that future. To be creative in our actions, to be bold in our fight, to be aggressive in our struggle. That future can be ours."

Community Resources Referred to During Workshops

1. NYS Coalition For Criminal Justice, 362 State Street, Albany, 12210
2. Charles Andrew Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1503, Albany, 12201
3. Albany Branch of NAACP, 93 Livingston Ave, Albany, Tel. No. 462-1823
4. United Tenants of Albany, 65 Columbia Street, Albany, Tel. No. 436-899
5. Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, P.O. Box 3002, Albany, 12203, Tel. No. 489-1767
6. Central American Solidarity Alliance, C/O Social Action Center, 221 Central Avenue, Albany, Tel. No. 434-4037
7. Non-Violence Project, C/O Social Action Center, 221 Central Avenue, Albany, Tel. No. 434-4037
8. Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights, Box 9052 Delaware Station, Albany, 12209, Tel. No. 436-8008
9. New York Civil Liberties Union, Alice Green, 90 State Street, Albany, 436-8594
10. Horizon House, 39 Delaware Street, Albany, Tel. No. 449-2297
11. American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association, C/O Social Action Center, 221 Central Ave, Albany, 434-4037

**RACISM:
A
NATIONAL
POLICY ?**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

November 19, 1983

Wilborn Temple

Albany, New York

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 Registration, coffee, tea
- 10:00 Invocation: E.F. Jeffries, Pastor, Wilborn Temple,
United Church in Christ
Greetings: E.J. Josey, President, Albany
Branch, NAACP
Vera "Mike" Michelson, Chair, Capital
District Coalition Against Apartheid
And Racism
- 10:20 Keynote address, Racism: A National Policy?
Michael Amon-Ra, President, N.Y. Chapter,
National Black United Front (NBUF)
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:15 Morning workshops, attend one, A,B,C, or D
- 12:30 Lunch, chicken lunch \$3.00. Available to those
with tickets
- 1:15 Afternoon address, Why Is American Foreign Policy
A Community Issue?, Damu Smith, Founding Member,
Black American Network for Disarmament, Peace,
and Justice
- 2:00 Afternoon workshops, attend one, A,B,E, or F
- 3:15 Coffee break
- 3:25 Address, Black Politics in the 80's, Robert
Chrisman, Editor, Black Scholar, magazine
- 4:00 Workshop reports, Vera "Mike" Michelson
Closing address, Build The Movement!, Lillie
McLaughlin, First Vice President, Albany NAACP
- 6:00 Reception. The Minority Student Alliance of the
Junior College of Albany will host a reception
for all conference participants. Hors d'oeuvres,
cash bar. All welcome. Junior College of
Albany. New Scotland Avenue at Academy Road.
Campus Center, Room 224

A conference report which will include reports and
recommendations of workshops will be prepared and
circulated to all organizational endorsers.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

- A. Rising Racist Violence, Panelists: Michael Amon-Ra, NBUF; Alice Green, N.Y.C.L.U. staff. Forms of racist violence, root causes, police brutality. Moderators: Tony Scott (morning), Carol Hausen (afternoon).
- B. Criminal Justice System: A Tool Of Oppression? Panelists: Kabili Tayori, National Black Independent Political Party; Vroman Wright, Executive Director, Phase-Out Re-Entry. Overview of criminal justice system, disproportional impact on minorities. Moderator: Odell Winfield.
- C. Should The First Amendment Protect the Klan and Nazis? Panelists: Dr. Stephen Wasby, SUNYA Professor and civil liberties scholar; Mark Mishler, Esq., SUNYA Student Legal Services, National Lawyers Guild. Historical background, current issues. Moderator: Anita Thayer.
- D. Electoral Politics: A Solution Or A Problem? Panelists: Robert Chrisman, Editor, Black Scholar; Issac Bracey, Political Action Chair, NAACP. Background, black candidates, black issues, the Presidential race. Moderator: Vanessa Haley.
- E. Racism: A Foreign Policy?, Panelists: Merton Simpson, ASAPFA, Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism; Maggie Kirwin, Central American Solidarity Alliance; Karen Brammer, Non-Violence Project; Maria Muscarella, Capital District Committee For Palestinian Rights. Local activists will review and analyze U.S. foreign policy. Moderator: Depak Kapur.
- F. Racism: An Economic Policy?, Panelists: Rev. Tyrone Pitts, Director, Racial Justice Commission of National Council of Churches; Maria Markovics, United Tenants of Albany; Hughes Williams, I.U.E. Local 301. Moderator: James McCoy.

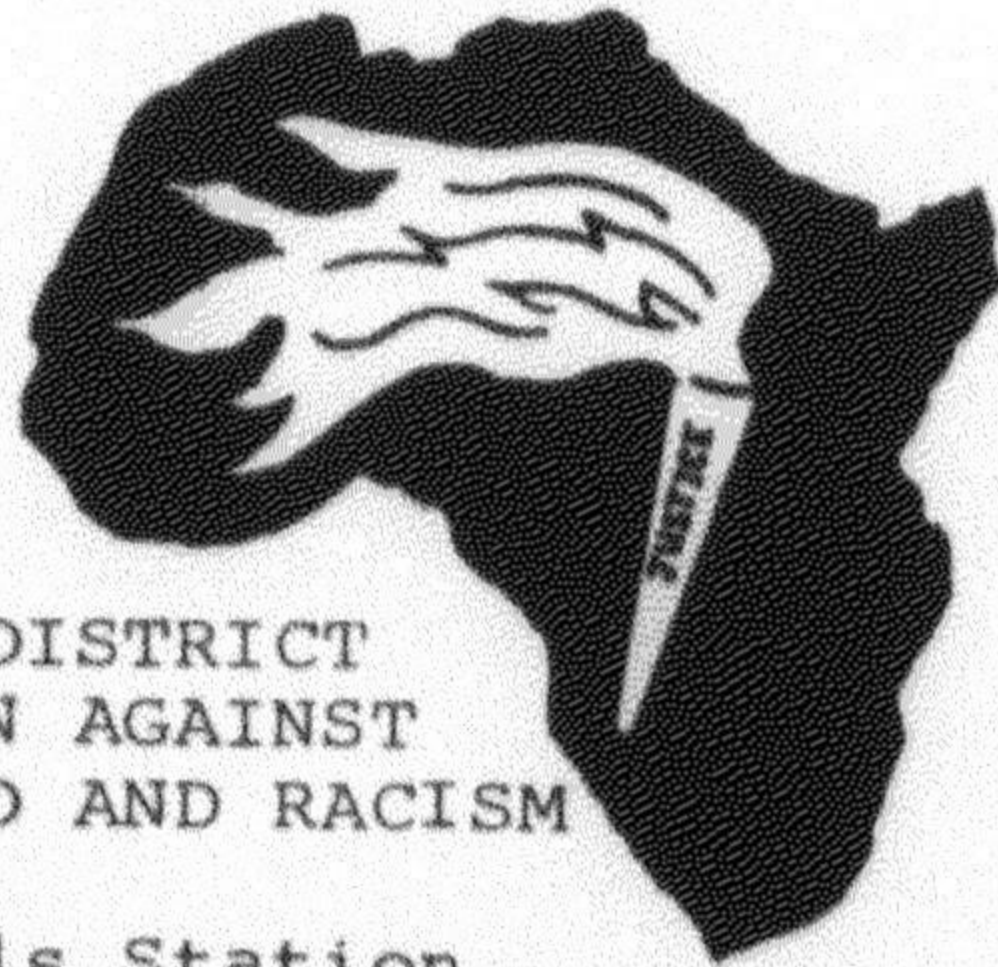
Robert Chrisman's visit to Albany is sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities.

Damu Smith's visit to Albany is sponsored by the Minority Student Alliance of the Junior College of Albany.

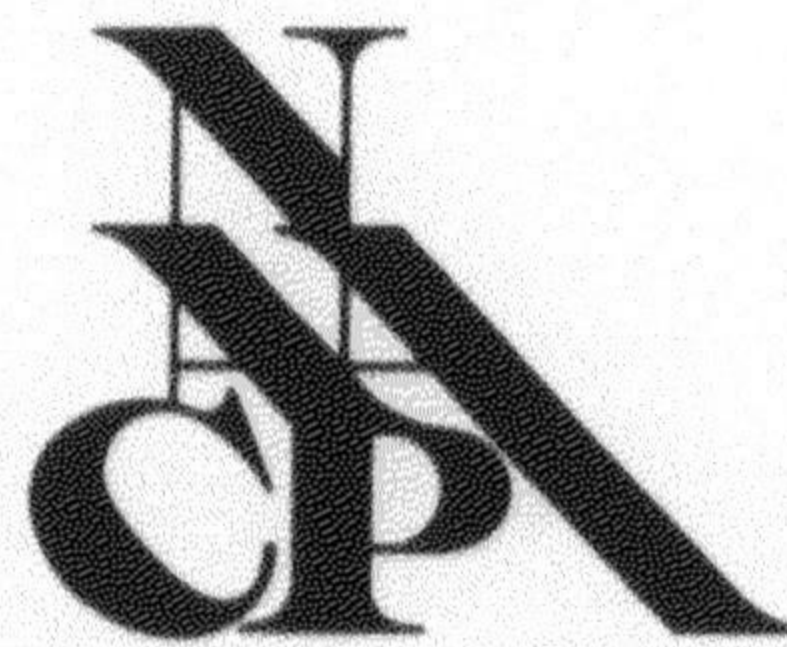
Special thanks to: Harry Hamilton; Mrs. Geneva Conway; Vijay Macwan, Assistant Dean, Junior College of Albany; Rezsine Adams; Barbara Joshi, Minority Rights Commission.

Conference Endorsers: Albany YWCA, American-South African Peoples Friendship Association, Capital District Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, Capital District Committee For Palestinian Rights, Capital District National Lawyers Guild, Committee For A New Korea Policy, Democratic Socialists of America Albany Local, Interdenominational Ministers Conference, New York State Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, Schenectady NAACP, Socialist Workers Party/ Young Socialist Alliance, United Tenants of Albany, Women's International League For Peace And Freedom.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS:



CAPITAL DISTRICT
COALITION AGAINST
APARTHEID AND RACISM
Box 3002
Pine Hills Station
Albany, New York 12203



ALBANY BRANCH
93 LIVINGSTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK
12207

The N.A.A.C.P. Albany, NY

and

*The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
Albany, NY*

present a conference

**RACISM:
A NATIONAL POLICY?**

Saturday, Nov. 19, 1983,
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wilborn Temple
121 Jay St., Albany, NY

For further information and pre-registration, call:
465-6974, 462-1823, 463-4654

the STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"America is deeply racist and its democracy is flawed both economically and socially."

"...the black revolution is much more than a struggle for the rights of Negroes. It is forcing America to face all its inter-related flaws - racism, poverty, militarism and materialism. It is exposing evils that are rooted deeply in the whole of society. It reveals systemic rather than superficial flaws and suggests that radical reconstruction of society itself is the real issue to be faced."

These words were spoken by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. almost twenty years ago. The questions he raised are still with us today. Join us as we talk about how these "interrelated...systemic flaws" affect us nationally and at home in our community.

Conference Sponsors:
N.A.A.C.P., Albany Branch,
Capital District Coalition
Against Apartheid and Racism

"Racism - A National Policy"

Conference Schedule
November 19, 1983

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registration, Coffee, Tea
10:00 - 10:20 Greetings and Invocation
10:20 - 11:00 Opening Address by Manning Marable, Director of Third World Studies at Colgate University and Author of How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America.
11:00 - 11:15 Break
11:15 - 12:30 Workshops*
12:30 - 1:15 Lunch
1:15 - 2:00 Afternoon Address by Damu Smith of the Black American Network for Disarmament, Peace and Justice, Community Organizer and Public Policy Advocate.
2:00 - 3:15 Workshops*
3:15 - 3:30 Break
3:30 - 5:00 Plenary Session and Closing Address by Michael Amon-Ra, Chairman of the New York Chapter, National Black United Front, Founder of UHURU SASA School, Independent Educational System in Brooklyn.

*Workshops

- Criminal Justice System a Tool of Oppression
- Rising Racist Violence
- Electoral Politics: A Solution or a Problem?
- Racism: A Foreign Policy?
- Racism: An Economic Policy?
- Should the First Amendment Protect the Klan/Nazis?

N.A.A.C.P.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was established in 1910 as a permanent interracial organization. From its beginnings, the NAACP has concentrated its efforts on opposing all forms of racial segregation and discrimination. The Albany, N.Y. branch of the NAACP was established in 1948. The office of the Albany branch is located at 93 Livingston Ave., Albany, New York.

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was formed in the summer of 1981 as a coalition of community groups and individuals to protest the appearance of a South African rugby team in Albany, N.Y. Since that time, the Coalition has continued the struggle against the racist apartheid system of South Africa and racism in the United States. Monthly meetings are held at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 340 First Street, Albany, N.Y.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

(Registration Fee \$2.00)

Name.....

Address.....

.....zip.....

Phone.....

Please check your first & second workshop choice:

-Criminal Justice System as a Tool of Racist Oppression
-Rising Racist Violence
-Electoral Politics: A Solution or a Problem?
-Racism: a Foreign Policy?
-Racism: an Economic Policy?
-Should the 1st Amendment Protect the Klan/Nazis?

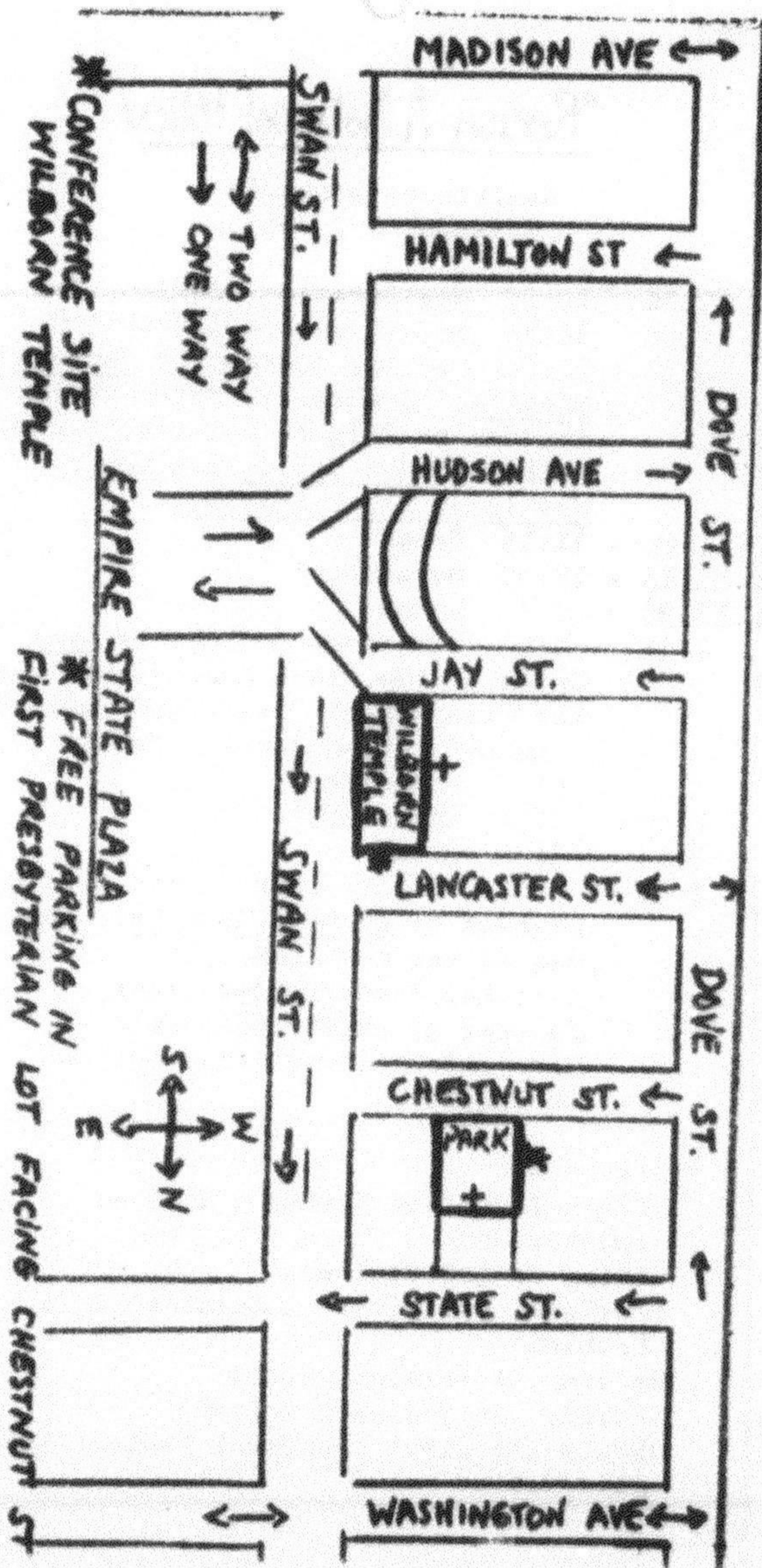
Please check:

-Will bring own lunch
-Will buy lunch(lunch may be purchased--pre-registration guarantees a lunch)

Mail form & payment to:
 NAACP/CDCAAR
 93 Livingston Avenue
 Albany, NY 12207
 (mail by November 11)

Make checks payable to:
 Capital District Coalition
 Against Apartheid & Racism

For more information:
 465-6974
 462-1823
 463-4654



the
N.A.A.C.P.
 ALBANY, N.Y.
 and
 the
CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM
 ALBANY, N.Y.
 PRESENT A CONFERENCE
"RACISM: A NATIONAL POLICY"

NOVEMBER 19, 1983
 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wilborn Temple
 121 Jay St., Albany, N.Y.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
(Registration Fee \$2.00)

Name

Address

..... zip

Phone

Please check your first & second workshop choice:

- ...Criminal Justice System as a Tool of Racist Oppression
- ...Rising Racist Violence
- ...Electoral Politics: A Solution or a Problem?
- ...Racism: a Foreign Policy?
- ...Racism: an Economic Policy?
- ...Should the 1st Amendment Protect the Klan/Nazis?

Please check:

- ...Will bring own lunch
- ...Will buy lunch (lunch may be purchased--pre-registration guarantees a lunch)

Mail form & payment to:

NAACP/CDCAAR
93 Livingston Avenue
Albany, NY 12207

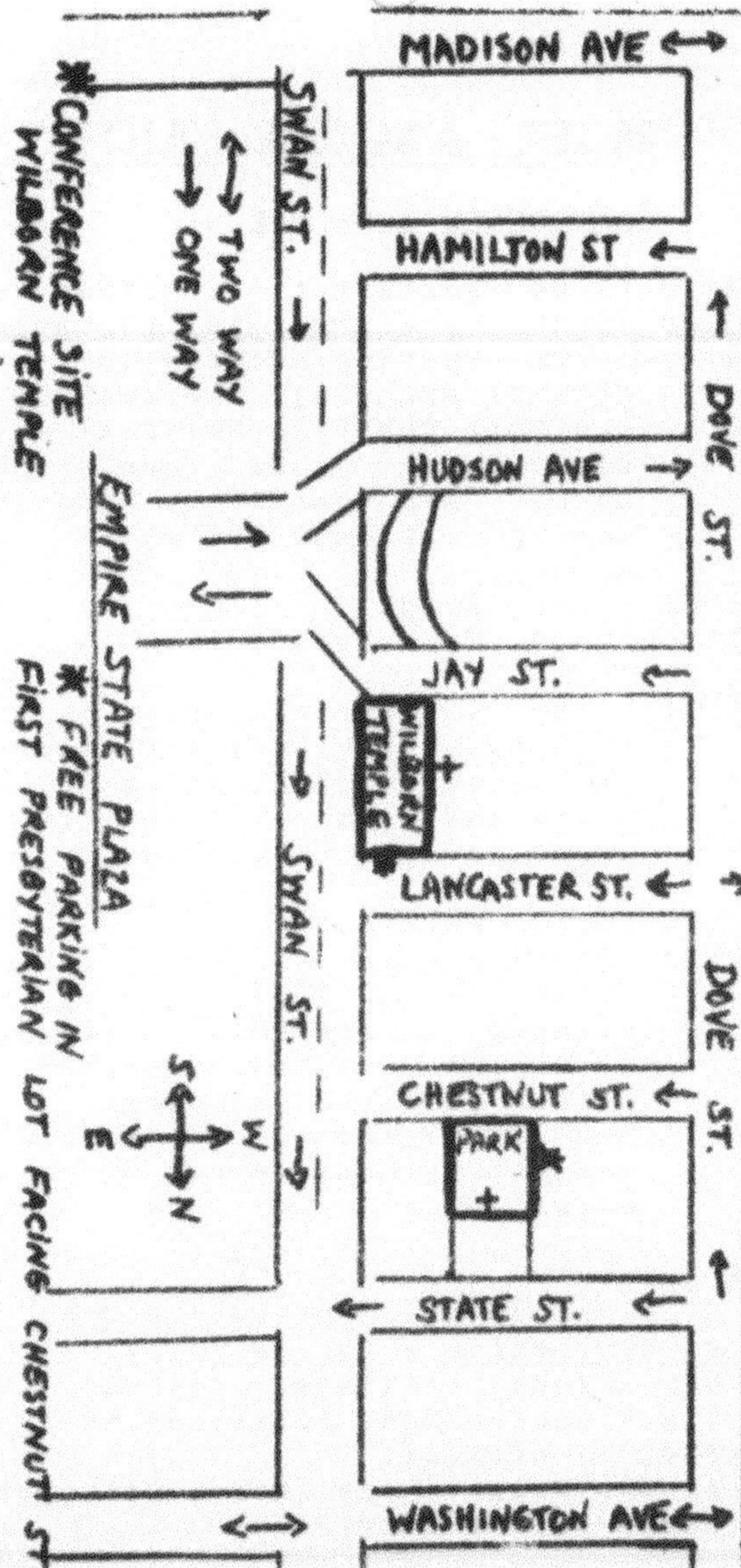
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These words were spoken by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., almost 20 years ago. The questions he raised are still with us today. Join us as we talk about how these "interrelated..systemic flaws" affect us nationally and at home in our community.

NOTE: Chickent lunch available \$3.00 - must reserve in advance. See registration form.

2. Rising Racist Violence Michael Amon Raj, N.B.U.F. and Alice Green N.Y.C.L.U. staff. Many forms of racist violence, root causes, etc.

"RACISM - A NATIONAL POLICY?"

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:00-11:00 Registration, coffee, tea
10:00-10:20 Greetings and Invocation
10:20-11:00 Opening address by Michael Amon-Raj, Chairman of New York Chapter, National Black United Front, Founder of UH URU SASA school, an Independent Educational System in Brooklyn.
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2:00- 3:15 Workshops*
3:15- 3:30 Break
3:30- 5:00 "Black Political Struggle in the 80's". Address by Robert Chrisman, poet and editor-publisher of Black Scholar magazine. Concluding remarks by Conference Organizer

*WORKSHOPS

1. Criminal Justice System - a Tool of Oppression - Kabilil Tayori New Jersey activists, National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) officer.
Vroman Wright - Executive Director Phase-Out Re-Entry.

3 ELECTORAL POLITICS:

A Solution or a Problem?

Robert Christman, Black Scholar Magazine, Issac Bracey, Political Action Chair, NAACP. Background, Black Candidates, "Black" issues, the Presidential race.

RACISM: A FOREIGN POLICY?

Local Activists concerned about Central America, South Africa, Palistinians and the anti-nuclear movement will review & analyze U.S. Foreign Policy around the world.

RACISM: AN ECONOMIC POLICY?

Rev. Tyrone Pitts, Director Racial Justice Commission of the National Council of Churches, and Maria Markovices United Tenants of Albany

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, permanent "underclass", "acceptable" employment, run-away shops gentrification and tenant displacement

Should the first Amendment Protect the Klan Naziis?

Mark Mishler, Esq., SUNYA Student Legal Services and Stephen Wasby, SUNYA Professor and Civil Liberties Scholar

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and current issues, modified debate format will permit reasoned.



Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203

Chairman
M. J. Dollard

Vice-Chairman
E. J. Josey

Lois

It is unfortunate that the summer line-up at SPAC includes 3 performers (groups) who have entertained in South Africa in violation of several U.N. resolutions and the will of black South Africans as expressed by the South African Liberation groups: A.N.C., P.A.C. and others who have been recognized by the U.N. as legitimate representatives of the South African people. Scheduled SPAC appearances are: Beach Boys - June 19, Ray Charles - July 3 Kool Jazz Festival, and Linda Ronstadt - July 17.

The original U.N. resolution (2396 in 1968) called on, "All states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with the racist regime and with other organizations or institutions in South Africa which practice apartheid." Similar resolutions have been passed every year since then. The resolution of 1980 (35/206E) specifically calls on writers, artists, musicians and other personalities to boycott South Africa.

The boycott of American entertainers who have gone to South Africa was intensi-



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fied early in 1982 by Sikhulu Shange, a Harlem record distributor originally from South Africa. It was quickly supported by several organizations. Entertainers who have performed in South Africa face pickets, boycotts and financial losses.

South Africa is a country where 4 million whites control the lives of 25 million blacks who constitute the majority population. Most sensitive and freedom-loving human beings abhor the system of apartheid, a legal system of separation of blacks and whites which, at minimum, requires blacks to carry with them at all times a pass book which describes in detail personal and private information about the person carrying the book. If blacks are found without the pass book or with a mistake in it, they are jailed. Detention, interrogation, beatings and often death are common place for blacks in South Africa; 1000 people are arrested daily for pass book violations alone.

It is imperative that entertainers who negotiate with the apartheid state for



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lucrative fees understand that they are in fact supporting apartheid and that they will be held accountable for their actions.

It is also clear that black South Africans do not welcome American performers in their homeland. In most cases they are incensed that these performers succumb to personal greed.

In 1980, Ray Charles's tour of South Africa evoked the anger of black South Africans when he ignored requests to cancel his tour. Even worse, he scheduled a concert for Oct. 19, a day noted as Black Consciousness Day in South Africa. A botcott was organized and only 30 people showed up for the concert! His entourage was later stoned in the black township of Welkom.

Linda Ronstadt recently returned from South Africa where she completed a series of concerts in the "bantustan" of Bophusthatswana. In shocking arrogance and blatant disregard of the facts, Ronstadt, along with the Beach Boys and "old blue eyes", Frank Sinatra, justify their greed by saying that Sun City, the entertainment complex in Bophutswana, is an example of integrated life in the



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midst of apartheid. No discrimination here, they say! But their justification in Sun City for performing/falls apart upon investigation. A series of laws passed since 1936 laid the foundation for the final goal of apartheid - to totally disenfranchise blacks in their own country by forcibly relocating them to 87% of the land - the most desolate and barren land in South Africa, while the white Africaners remain on the 13% of the land which is the richest and most beautiful. One government method of accomplishing this goal has been to literally bulldoze dozens of black townships in white areas and send blacks off to homelands they have never even seen.

These barren lands or "bantustans" are where displaced blacks are given "homeland" citizenship and are deprived of citizenship and all political rights in the rest of South Africa. Blacks are required to have a permit to return to the white areas. Most Africans call all of South Africa their home and describe the bantustans as "reservations".

The government's claim that these homelands are independent nations is a totally



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false claim. Not one country in the world recognizes these so-called "independent nations" except the Africaaner racist government. In speaking of the need to establish homelands, former South African Prime Minister Dr. H. F. Verwoerd reasoned that "Africans should not be allowed to gaze out on the green pastures that will never be theirs."

The Vegas-like gambling complex (Sun City) where Ronstadt and the Beach Boys appeared is located in the heart of one such bantustan called Bophuthatswana.

Can these entertainers really be searching for the truth about their trip?

Does it interest them to know that within walking distance from their luxurious hotels 50% of the children die under 5 years of age. For whites it is 6 to 8%!

Do they care that most bantustan residents are unemployed? Does it matter that disease and malnutrition are rampant? Do they think that songs about "Good

vibrations", "Georgia" and "When Will I Be Loved" ease the yolk of oppression?

We are at a time in American political history when the Reagan administration has openly declared South Africa a friend. Over 500 American corporations



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do business in South Africa and directly prop up the apartheid regime. Visas were granted to the South African Rugby team. We are seeing an increase of South African products in our stores and markets and South African diplomats are attempting to speak on our college campuses. South Africa is intensifying its propaganda campaign by seeking out American entertainers to perform in South Africa, thereby, creating the illusion of reform.

We applaud entertainers like Tony Bennett, Lena Horne, Phyllis Hyman, Diana Ross, the Jacksons and Elton John who have taken a principled stand by refusing to perform in South Africa. These performers have gained our admiration and respect.

Opportunists like Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt and Chick Corea (recently picketed when he performed in Troy) will be hounded by concerned human beings until they make a public apology and support the struggle against apartheid.

There can be no compromise with the apartheid state. We join the call for



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(7)

complete isolation of South Africa in cultural, sport, economic investment,
trade and weapons exchanges. We support the cultural boycott as a method of
continuing the isolation of South Africa in the international community and
tool to bring about the demise of apartheid.

Vera Michelson

Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

LETTERS: T.U - NOV 1983

The hypocrisy

To the Editor:

I am amazed and appalled at the hypocrisy of *The Times Union*. Always quick to condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as "brutal," "uncivilized," "aggressive," *The Times Union* has supported both on its front page and on its editorial page the equally brutal, uncivilized aggression of the U.S. against the tiny nation of Grenada.

In September we were subjected to day after day of hysteria by *The Times Union* over the downing of the Korean jet by the U.S.S.R. Yet this week the U.S.-financed UNITA movement in Angola took public credit for shooting down an Angolan civilian airliner with 338 lives lost — *The Times Union* reported it as a two-column inch news article on Page 8!

You can't have it both ways. Either you condemn violent aggression whenever it occurs, or don't report it at all!

I have come to the position that I wouldn't believe *The Times Union* if it reported that Albany was the capital of New York state.

Albany

MICHAEL J. DOLLARD

music

Black History Month in February provides an opportunity to examine some individual Black contributions to human development. One of the best recent examples of continuing achievements is provided by popular recording artist Gil Scott-Heron.

For Scott-Heron it all started in Chicago, where he was born 32 years ago. And it didn't really matter whether he was in Jackson, Tenn., New York City or Washington, D.C., because "I was still part of the neighborhood," Scott-Heron has explained.

Being "part of the neighborhood" means being concerned about oppressive conditions around him and in the world, especially in regard to Blacks and other third world people. Scott-Heron traces the roots of that concern back to some advice from his grandmother: "She always used to say 'If you don't stand for something, you'll go for anything.'"

As a result, Scott-Heron has used a neighborhood-style rap not only to create a particular mood for his performances but also to tell about those oppressive conditions. The content of his song-poems draws on the influences of Black writers such as Langston Hughes and Paul Robeson. It is also related to the African griot tradition of storytelling.

"They were the historians," he says of the storytellers. "They've even been referred to sometimes as the 'walking library,' the 'walking encyclopedia' of events and places and people from a given piece of geography." But, more importantly, he believes that Africans in the diaspora have developed this oral tradition.

So if you have listened to Scott-Heron's music and poetry, watched him in concert, on TV, heard him lecturing on Black history

Scott-Heron's extended neighborhood

or seen his recently released movie "Black Wax," you have become involved in his extended neighborhood.

Musically, his influences go back to Tennessee—back to the hours spent listening to the "Randy's Record Shop" blues radio program from Nashville. He was attuned to the likes of John Lee Hooker and Lightnin' Hopkins, and later, in New York, to the prevalent Latin rhythms of Eddie Palmieri and Tito Puente.

"So when I first started working on my own music," he told an interviewer for the Black American, "it was a combination of Latin, avant garde and blues. They used to accuse me of being the tallest Puerto Rican blues singer in the world."

Scott-Heron's writing talent began to flourish at Fieldston High School in the Bronx. He later chose Lincoln University in Pennsylvania "because that's where Langston [Hughes] had gone." But Lincoln didn't hold his attention, so he dropped out a year later to write his first novel, "The Vulture." He soon wrote another novel, "The Nigger Factory," and a book of poetry, "Small Talk at 125th and Lenox."

His first recording, "Small Talk," made it clear that Scott-Heron would not go the way of most popular artists. "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" chronicled a different kind of blues, and it set the tone for the sort of stories that would henceforth bear his identifiable stamp.

Along with Brian Jackson, he formed the Midnight Band, and in 1971 they recorded "Pieces of a Man." The album marked the start of Scott-Heron's distinctive effort to forge a popular blend of art and politics. He tries to achieve this merger by concentrating on the development of the music, creating a

rhythmic context which will lure the listener into the lyrics. And Scott-Heron believes that he and the current Midnight Band are really getting there.

"This is the best band I've ever had," he told the Guardian in a recent interview. "It's more qualified to put across what I've been trying to deal with."

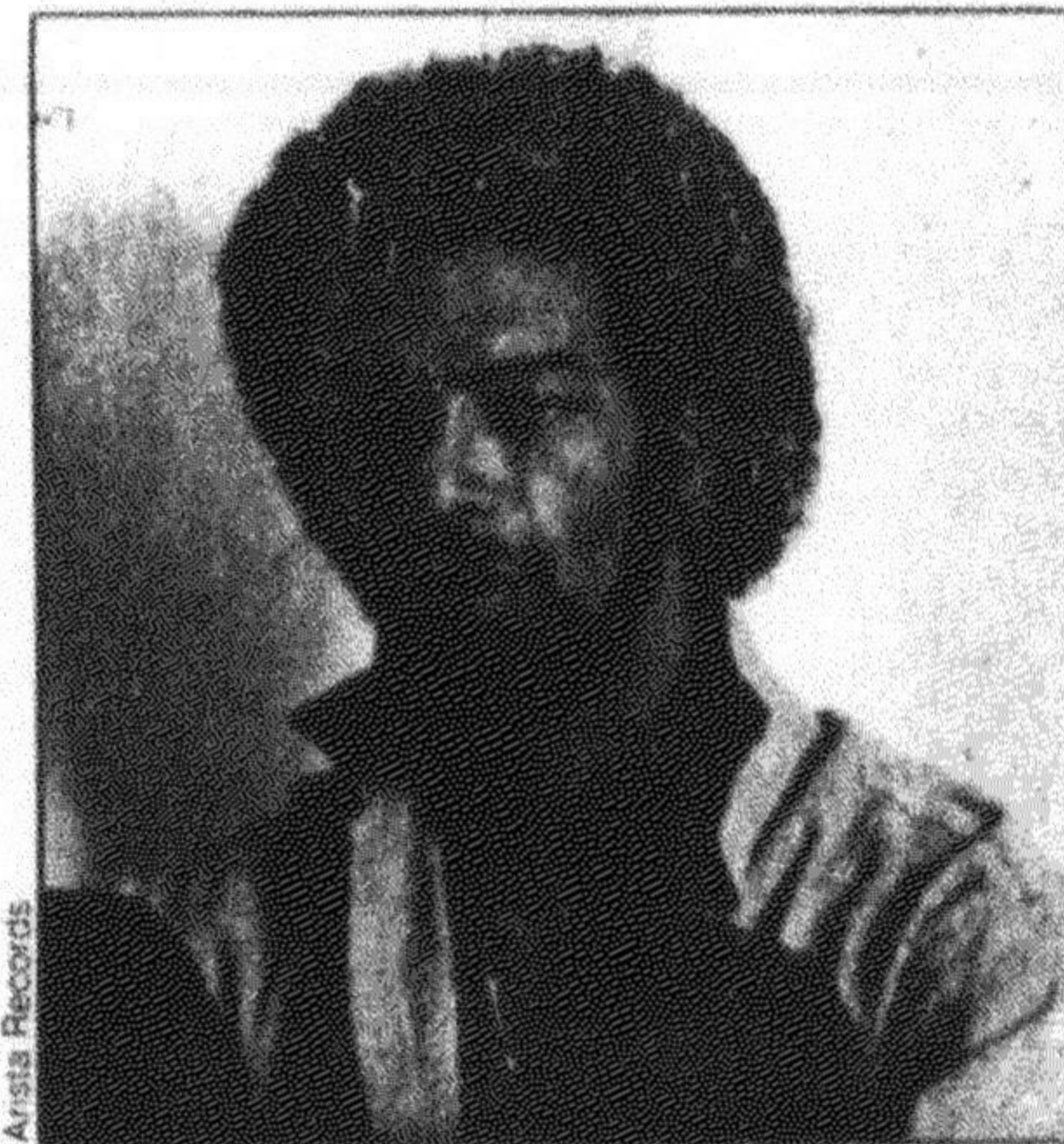
Scott-Heron strives to be the type of artist who is not apart from the political reality of the world. This aspiration is fulfilled in recordings like "Johannesburg," "Angel Dust," "Bicentennial Blues," and the very popular "B-movie."

As an activist, he has contributed his time and talent to benefits for liberation movements like ZAPU—one of the guerrilla groups that freed Zimbabwe from the racist regime of Ian Smith. Scott-Heron says, too, that he is especially eager to contribute to the continuing defense of former Tchula, Miss. Mayor Eddie Carthan.

One former member of the Midnight Band, Bilal Sunni-Ali (William Johnson), was arrested in connection with the October 1981 Brink's robbery. Scott-Heron is concerned that Bilal and his wife Fulani Sunni-Ali have the best possible defense. And despite the grand jury witch hunt in the Black and radical community triggered by the Brink's case, Scott-Heron has made himself available to aid in their defense.

What is on the agenda for Scott-Heron and the Midnight Band in the near future? "I'm preparing right now to do a series of lectures during Black History Month," he says, adding that in April he and the band will go to England where "Black Wax" was shown in the London Film Festival.

This 79-minute filmed portrait of Scott-Heron and the Midnight Band was actually



Gil Scott-Heron.

made for British television by director Bob Muggo. It played last month at the James Agee Room in New York City and a return engagement is scheduled for the spring. "Black Wax" will also play in Philadelphia (March 30, April 8, and 13), Los Angeles (April) and Berkeley (May 6).

The film is extremely well done, and it offers an ideal setting for Scott-Heron's music and poetry. Washington, D.C., serves as a background for Scott-Heron to provide something more than "the 10-cent tours" that visitors are usually given.

Scott-Heron's own tour, with his 3-year-old daughter Gia Louise, takes place along the Potomac River and in the city's ghettos. Scenes of the band in concert are interspersed with an on-the-street portrait of "the real D.C." The intelligent looseness, and the skilled photography and editing allow the audience to appreciate this "bluesologist's" way of seeing the world. The film climaxes in a nightclub called the Wax Museum where wax statues of Presidents Reagan, Carter and Nixon along with that of John Wayne, are used as props for a rendition of "B-Movie."

Like all his work, this latest project is simply another attempt by Scott-Heron to follow his grandmother's advice about the need to "stand for something." A.C.O.

CULTURAL BOYCOTT CONTACTS *letters sent out*

11/10/83

Evelyn Knolls Exec. Dir
Office
19 Clinton Ave
Alb --- I2210 --- 465-3334

Dennis Madden Ex. Dir *11/10/83*
Proctors
P.O. Box 279
Schenectady I2301
382-3884

Alison Connors E. Dir. *11/10/83*
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
33 2nd St
Troy, N.Y.
273-0038

Jane Schermerhorne *11/10/83*
P.O. Box 41 *Coliseum Director*
Alb I2110
785-4179

11/10/83

Vincent Birbiglia J.B. Scott
311 Delaware A.
Alb I2209
465-1400

5/21/83

Mural Drake Dir. Public Affairs
41 St Fl
Corning Tower
Rochester Plaza
Alb. N.Y. 12242

Bruce Maggion 5/21/83
Prog Coord.
ESIP
Emp. Plan
. 12223

10/22/83

Mr. Marvin Friedman - owner
Mr. Donald Wexler - manager
Van Dyke Restaurant
237 Union St.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305

Herb Shessboro
SPAC
9/7/83

April 4, 1955 T U

From the S. Bronx to RPI to a Fla. jail

College rallies to support ex-student

By Jonathan D. Salant

Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — This is a story of a survivor of the South Bronx, who overcame the odds to earn admission to Troy's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

It's also the story of a spurned lover, and of his attempts to rekindle a dying romance.

And it's a story with a tragic ending. Today, the former RPI student, James Ellis, 21, sits in the Palm Beach County jail here, convicted of the slashing attacks of his girlfriend's roommate and her roommate's friend as they slept. Police said Ellis apparently mistook one of the sleeping women for his girlfriend.

He'll learn Dec. 21 whether he'll spend the rest of his life behind bars for the attacks.

Last April 8, Ellis came down to Delray Beach, a city between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, in a futile attempt to win back his girlfriend, RPI student

Leba Austin. Austin promised to see him but never showed up and Ellis said he then took a bus back to Albany.

Shortly before 6 a.m. April 10, Austin's roommate and her roommate's friend were slashed while they were sleeping. Both women survived. A knife, similar to that used in the attack, was found by Austin's diary, opened to the pages where she detailed her intimate encounters with other men.

On April 11, Ellis said, he awoke to find himself on a Fort Lauderdale beach, not knowing how he got there. Shortly thereafter, police arrested Ellis and charged him in the stabbings. On Nov. 11, a six-member jury took slightly more than an hour before convicting him of two counts of aggravated assault and one case of armed burglary.

The conviction carries a possible life sentence. RPI Dean of Students Eddie Knowles said friends and associates are being urged to write letters on Ellis'

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Sunday, Dec. 4, 1983

Spurned love, memory lapse and future on the line

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behalf to the judge who presided over the weeklong trial, Jack Cook. Efforts also are under way on campus to set up a James Ellis Defense Fund, Knowles said.

"He's a young man who has so much to offer to society," Knowles said. "He's the kind of individual who's really committed to working with people."

But prosecuting attorney Susan Needham thought otherwise. James Ellis, she said, was a jealous lover gone berserk.

"He was angry, he felt rejected and, most importantly, he felt jealous," Needham said during the trial. "He leaves a threat to Leba on the diary. There is no other construction that can be placed on that."

Ellis, though, says it wasn't he who left a knife on the diary or slashed the women. His lawyer, Michael Salnick, said he would petition Dec. 19 for a new trial, two days before the sentencing date.

"I think the person who committed this crime is still running around Palm Beach County," Salnick said. "The victims have a false sense of security thinking that the man who did it has been caught. The guy who did this crime is still out there."

The story, culled from court depositions, accounts of the trial and other court records, begins in the South Bronx ghetto where Ellis grew up in a neighborhood of desolation that evolved into a national symbol of urban decay.

"If I was a murderer," Ellis said at one point, alluding to his background, "I'd done it a long time ago."

He attended a private high school, and was selected to attend RPI's summer program in mathematics and science for high school students. There, he came to the attention of RPI officials, and was admitted for the Fall 1979 semester. He was scheduled to graduate, with a degree in physics, in 1984.

At RPI, he hosted a weekly program on the college radio station, served a term as president of the Black Student Alliance, tutored students in physics, and spent his summers as a tutor-counselor for minority students.

"James has been a very active student in extra-curricular affairs," Knowles said. "He served as a leader for minority student issues on campus."

For the past year, Ellis also began studying

African percussion with Knowles, a professional musician.

Ellis also dated Austin. They had gone out for two years until she got an internship with IBM in Boca Raton earlier this year. She took the job and began seeing other men, detailing her relationships in the diary she kept.

In March, like thousands of other college students, Ellis went to South Florida for

'He's a young man who has so much to offer to society... He's the kind of individual who's really committed to working with people.'

— Eddie Knowles,
RPI dean of students

vacation. But Austin wouldn't let him stay with her; instead, she put him up at a motel. She was seeing two other men at the time.

He refused to be easily discouraged. Back at his home on Livingston Street in Albany, Ellis frequently called Austin. Sometimes, Austin wasn't there. Other times, at her request, her roommate, Lori White, told Ellis that Austin was out.

In April, Ellis went to Florida to try again to reclaim Austin's affections. Upon his arrival in Delray Beach, he called Austin, who agreed to meet him at the townhouse she was sharing with White. Austin never showed up; instead, she went out with her new boyfriend, an IBM engineer named Milton Latimer.

Recalled Latimer, "She didn't want to speak to the guy."

When it became evident that Austin wasn't going to keep the date with him, Ellis departed, leaving behind a half-dozen roses and his satchel containing some personal belongings, including his college ID.

Ellis said he went back to Albany by bus. But

Latimer testified that Austin didn't believe he really left.

"Because his school ID and driver's license was there, she assumed if he went back to New York, he would have took it," Latimer said.

On that Friday, Austin did return to her townhouse, but simply to change clothes after work before going out with Latimer. The couple left for Latimer's home in Fort Lauderdale, where they spent the night.

Austin's roommate, White, also had plans for Friday. After leaving her secretarial job, she went to a local bar with a high school friend, Marguerite Walsh, a waitress. After a few drinks, the two women first went to Walsh's home and then to White's so they could change out of their work clothes before setting out for another bar. After some more dancing and drinking, they arrived at the townhouse at 4 a.m., and Walsh decided to stay over with her friend rather than drive home.

About two hours later, while they slept, both women repeatedly were stabbed. White would testify later that she could not identify her attacker, but that she was convinced it was Ellis.

"Do you know if it was James Ellis, who stabbed you?" she was asked.

"Yes."

"How do you know?"

"I just don't have any tangible, anything tangible. I just know he did it."

Shortly after the attack occurred, a taxi driver picked up a man near the townhouse and drove him to Fort Lauderdale. From a series of five photos, the driver later identified his passenger as Ellis.

But Ellis said he wasn't there. He had taken a bus back to Albany after Austin stood him up, he said. However, he said, he can't remember anything between then and Sunday afternoon, when he awoke, with a headache, on a Fort Lauderdale beach.

Ellis called his friend, RPI graduate student Raymond Parker, and later talked to Knowles.

"I don't understand it," Knowles quoted Ellis as saying. "I don't understand how I got here."

Knowles, who had been told by RPI campus security that Ellis was wanted for questioning with regard to the stabbings, told Ellis to stay put. Police arrived, and Ellis went with them. Once at headquarters, Ellis voluntarily gave

police his fingerprints. When they matched his prints with those found on a phone at Austin's townhouse, Ellis was arrested and charged with the crime.

But Salmick said the investigation was woefully incomplete. Police didn't test blood samples left on the walls of the townhouse to see if they matched Ellis' or that of the victims', he said.

'He was angry, he felt rejected and, most importantly, he felt jealous.'

— Susan Needham, prosecuting attorney

And police discovered that other fingerprints lifted off the phone were not Ellis' they never checked to see whose prints they were, he said.

"The prosecutor's entire case was based on speculation," Salmick said. "The police did such an insufficient investigation. It was very easy to fit James Ellis to this. They took the easy way out."

Knowles said he was surprised at the jury verdict.

"I can't fathom that James would have committed the crimes he was charged with," Knowles said. "As I reviewed the case and acknowledged all of the circumstantial evidence, it seems to me he was the victim of circumstance."

But Delray Beach Sgt. Robert Brand, a detective who handled the investigation said the evidence was conclusive.

"I don't think the fingerprints are circumstantial evidence," Brand said. "Sure we don't have a witness to the crime, but we do have a witness who identified him 200 or 250 yards away from the house."

12/15/83

NAAACP honoring area firebrand who is fueled by outrage

By ELLIS HENICAN
Knickerbocker News Reporter

On those causes he backs with his considerable energy, Irving Landa can be a formidable ally. Not in the ordinary sense of wielding heavy political clout or packing a fat wallet. Instead Landa offers something else to a flock of liberal organizations — his sense of outrage, his smarts as an infighter and his seemingly inexhaustible stamina.

Free-lance social activist, local firebrand and rabble-rouser Irving Landa will receive the Outstanding Community Service Award tonight from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

“Everyone is supposed to get justice and liberty.”

— Irving Landa

“The fundamental issue isn't that complicated,” Landa explains. “Everyone is supposed to get justice and liberty.”

The wiry man, with dark, greying hair speaks in clipped, rapid-fire tones. When he talks about political issues, he darts from topic to topic and back again.

Sitting among lunching state workers in a cafeteria at the Empire State Plaza recently, Landa turned reflective about his role in the politics of Albany.

As a Jewish boy in the largely Irish-and-Italian Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn, Landa said he learned the meaning of ethnic prejudice.

“There were boys there who would beat me up on my way to or home from school. They react like that to anyone different. It used to anger my mother so much that she would have it out with the other boys' mothers. One time she actually got into a fistfight with one of the mothers,” Landa recalled.

Landa credits his mother with fostering his passion for social justice. He worked in a shirtwaist factory and was an ardent unionist. Some of the

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Knickerbocker News photo

CONFRONTATION — Irv Landa, right, showed his anger with late Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd as the mayor left a federal court hearing on whether to allow a South African rugby team's appearance in Albany in 1977.

NAACP honoring area firebrand...

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proudest moments in her life were her union-organizing efforts," he said. "She was a pretty woman, and the sort of sexual harassment she faced from the bosses on the job makes the stuff we talk about now seem like nothing."

Landa, who will turn 63 this weekend, lives in Cropseyville with his wife, Hazel, and her 13-year-old son. He has three grown children by a previous marriage. Besides heavy commitments to social action, Landa, trained as a social worker, is employed in the Bureau of Standards Development of the state Health Department.

The current focus of Landa's energy is affirmative action for blacks. As chairman of the NAACP's affirmative-action committee, Landa has led the group's fight against what members say is a pattern of shutting out blacks from government jobs and government-controlled contracts.

"You have to give people a chance to compete in society equally and make up in a small way for the errors of the past," Landa said.

After two meetings between Albany Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III and a coalition he led, Landa had praise for the mayor for being at least willing to listen to the group's concerns.

Albany County Executive James Coyne "has been less forthcoming," Landa said.

During a recent meeting, Coyne pointed out the proportion of minority members on the county job rolls topped the proportion in the local population.

"But they are just a lot of scut jobs," Landa

objected. He said no county supervisory positions were held by blacks. "And, you know, a lot of blacks have been going to college."

Along with his affirmative-action work, Landa has worn many other hats as a social activist.

He has led the Capital District chapter of the Gray Panthers, who agitate for the rights of the elderly. When the Springboks, the national soccer team from racially segregated South Africa, was scheduled for a match at Albany's Blecker Stadium in 1981, Landa stood at the front of the opposition.

A photograph, which appeared in *The Knickerbocker News* during the Springboks controversy, is a vivid depiction of Landa in action. It showed Landa approaching the late Albany Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd outside the Federal Courthouse in Albany. Corning was arriving to defend the right of the Springboks to play in Albany. Landa was pointing at Corning with a rigid index finger, his face a portrait of righteous indignation.

In his own union, the Public Employees Federation, Landa sometimes makes life difficult for the union leadership by leading the membership's Progressive Caucus.

"Irv knows how the game is played," said James McCoy, a program director at Hudson Valley Community College who serves with Landa on the NAACP's affirmative-action committee. "He knows where the pressure points are and when to apply them."

The targets can be public officials, businessmen and the media.

Landa has placed himself in perhaps an unusual position: He's a white acting as the

most prominent spokesman in the Capital District for affirmative action, an item which looms large on blacks' political agenda.

Landa sees nothing unusual there.

"The NAACP has always had its share of white leaders," Landa said. "I've paid my dues."

E.J. Josey, chairman of the group's Albany branch, agreed. "Irv has the trust of the people here," he said.

To Landa, the only problem his race has caused is with fellow whites. "I get hate mail. People accuse me of selling out the white race."

But Landa said he was undeterred. His committee is gearing up for another possible battle with Albany County. The group wants to insure minority jobs in any plan to revitalize county-owned housing in the Arbor Hill neighborhood, which has a substantial black population.

Developer Mark Simmons announced this week that his Vulcan Development & Management Corp. hoped to renovate at least 87 county-owned buildings on Arbor Hill's main street, Clinton Avenue.

"We would like to see a substantial minority participation in whatever happens up there," Landa said.

Despite his obvious energy, Landa said he had mellowed in recent years.

"I was angry and shy as a young man. Now I am bold, but better organized. I don't want to confront people personally; I want to talk about issues. If you represent an organization, you can't alienate everyone before you've even opened your mouth."

Leadership a key Arbor Hill center issue 12/14/83

By ROBERT WARD

Knickerbocker News Reporter

The role of the Arbor Hill Community Center board of directors has become the most controversial issue in the continuing fight to save the financially beleaguered center.

A new coalition of community leaders is pushing for the board of directors to be replaced, as only two of the 13 board members actually live in Arbor Hill.

The community representatives say the board is responsible for the center's financial crisis, but board members say they inherited the problems from earlier boards and have done their best to find solutions.

The board of directors is up for election in April, and disagreements about how many directors there are and who will hold the posts seem likely to continue for much of the time between now and then.

The controversy came to a head Monday night, after the board of directors had met with two representatives of Albany Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III to discuss the city's role in trying to keep the 50 N. Lark St. facility open.

United Way of Northeastern New York Inc., which provides about half the center's budget this year, plans to stop that funding as of Jan. 1 because most of its money has gone toward

operating costs such as utility bills and staff salaries rather than programs.

Albany Alderman Nebraska Brace, Albany County Legislator-elect Sandra Rose Temple, leaders of two local neighborhood associations and several other residents wanted to sit in during the meeting, but were not allowed.

"We were there to lend whatever help and support that we could, but we were locked out," Ms. Temple said of the meeting in an interview Tuesday.

"Since the center was first constructed in 1970 with a \$1.5 million grant from HUD (the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development), it has consistently declined in the level of viable programs, sound management, community participation on board of directors and building maintenance," states a position paper on the community center released earlier this week by the Coalition to Save Arbor Hill, a new group Ms. Temple is spearheading.

With heavy rain this week, buckets are placed at various locations in the building to catch water leaking through the roof. Unofficial estimates place the cost of needed repairs, including the roof, at several hundred thousand dollars.

But board members interviewed Tuesday said the center's problems were not their fault.

"The center's problems are attributable to problems that are almost national in scope," said board member Bruce Venter, business administrator for the Albany City School District.

With federal aid for local social programs cut back, the Arbor Hill center and other agencies have to cover the same administrative expenses with a smaller overall budget, he said.

The center's budget of about \$230,000 this year is less than half of what it was several years ago.

The board has decreased from the approximately 25 members several years ago, and fewer members means the board can do less work, said Harriet Gibbons, a board member who is also director of equal opportunity for the city of Albany.

"Everything, no matter what we discuss and how we discuss it, it all boils down to finance," said member Barry Sparks, owner of Rite Cleaners on Second Street.

Johnson — who became center president in April after having served in that capacity in 1974 and 1975 — said the deficit stood at about \$17,000, which he said was down from \$70,000 or so at the beginning of 1983.

Venter said the financial problems had existed at least since he joined the board in 1978.

"We've moved over the last six years to better financial control," he said.

However, not all the present financial problems are that old.

The state Department of Taxation and Finance has an outstanding warrant against the Albany Inter-Racial Council Inc., which owns the center, for \$17,109, department spokeswoman Karen Townsend said Tuesday.

The warrant, filed in August 1982, reflects income tax withheld from employees' paychecks from January 1980 through May 1981 but not forwarded to the state, along with interest and penalties, Ms. Townsend said. The warrant's remaining on file indicates it has not been fully satisfied, although the center may have made partial payments on it, she said.

Besides defending their own work, board members say the support from the community has been less than what is needed.

Johnson invited those concerned about the future of the center to become members, at \$15 a year for adult members or as much as \$100 for a patron member. Members have the right to vote on the board of directors, among other things.

Although most of the news about the center in recent months has been bad, the number of members has risen. Johnson said there are now 45-50 members, most of those persons who have joined this year.