



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

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

January 1992

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are in a battle and we need your money and your commitment to struggle. The battle is against the twin evils of apartheid and racism; it is a battle for real social change in this country and a change in our government's policy of supporting apartheid in Southern Africa and racism at home.

Some are confused. We are not confused. We need your money! Some in this country have been fooled by the media and by the South African and American governments into thinking that apartheid is over. But, although Nelson Mandela has been out of jail for over a year, South Africa is still under the control of the most racist regime on earth. Government sponsored repression and violence against the majority of South African people continues. The countries of Southern Africa - Namibia, Angola, Mozambique - are still struggling against the effects of South Africa's vicious destabilization campaigns. In other words, apartheid "ain't over 'til it's over."

In the United States, homelessness, unemployment, drugs and Aids increasingly devastate our communities. Racism remains an American fact of life. Incidents of bias related violence are on the increase.

1991 marked the ten year anniversary of CD CAAR. As we enter our second decade, we need your continued support. Each year we ask for yearly dues of \$5.00 (of course, larger amounts are most welcome!) This membership campaign is one of our most important fundraising efforts. Your dues go to pay for the cost of the printing and postage of the monthly newsletter. Additional funds we raise help pay for other organizing expenses. A 1992 membership card will be sent upon receipt of your dues. Thanks for your continued support.

A luta continua - the struggle continues.

In solidarity,

Eileen Kawola  
Newsletter Editor



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

April 1992

**How do you like our new computer printer?!!!**

**Important Note:** Our regular monthly meetings take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Albany Public Library. However, this month there is a change - there will not be a meeting at the Library on the 23rd of April.

CD-CAAR's April meeting will be a public forum on Haiti:

**Haiti - Deny it no more**

**Wednesday, April 29, 1992 - 7:00 p.m.**

**College of St. Rose**

**Campus Center Lounge, Western Ave., Albany, N.Y**

(SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR DETAILS - PLEASE POST)

**"Stop the Violence" in South Africa - video shown at CD-CAAR**

**March meeting,** followed by a discussion about the violence. This video stresses that it is not so called "Black on Black violence, but rather, the violence is being perpetrated by right wing racists, South African Defence Forces' hardliners, government supported Inkatha and Gatsha Buthelezi, and also includes RENAMO forces from Mozambique (see informational piece in this newsletter on Mozambique). Time was given for those present at the meeting to write letters to George Bush, and to Congressmen urging them to stop all funding for Inkatha and to pressure the DeKlerk government to continue with the democratic process and also to do all in its power to stop the violence.

**The Referendum - a victory for who?** In this newsletter we have reprinted a letter by Jennifer Davis of the American Committee on Africa about the recent whites only referendum. Please read it - it gives a very clear analysis of what that vote was all about. It also makes it clear that we can't think apartheid is over. Americans are ready to forget about South Africa. We can't let that happen until there is a non-racial democratic government running that country.

## LABOR VICTORY...SOUTH AFRICA

In the fall of 1991, the Crown Cork and Seal Co., Inc. in South Africa arbitrarily fired 196 people who had not come to work on one day because of violence around the plant. The South African Nation Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) demonstrated against the company and launched a boycott of Crown Cork in South Africa. On a recent trip to the United States, a regional secretary of NUMSA, Bethuel Maserumule, met with union leaders here in a campaign of solidarity against Crown Cork. The International Association of Machinists and the United Steel Workers of America, the unions that represent workers in Crown Cork plants in the U.S., spearheaded a campaign to pressure the company to rehire the South African workers. The solidarity campaign also included protests by the United Auto Workers and local labor committees in Philadelphia, Chicago, the Bay Area and New York.

Local note: The Africa Fund of ACOA, with assistance from Bill Ritchie, a member of CD-CAAB and a member of the Albany Public School Teachers Association and the New York State United Teachers, contacted the NYSUT representatives to the New York State Teachers Retirement Fund. After being informed of the situation, the NYSUT representatives then lodged a protest against the firings. On March 24, 1992, the company caved in and agreed in principle to rehire all 196 workers, immediately rehiring 100 workers which will be followed by preferential recall of the remaining 96. The agreement was accepted by NUMSA. The Africa Fund has suspended direct action against Crown Cork pending a final settlement of the dispute. Letters to the company are needed to be sure it carries through with the settlement: William J. Avery, CEO, Crown Cork and Seal Co., Inc., 9300 Ashtown Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19136. (Fax # 215-698-7050) (Phone # 215-698-5100). \*15th largest shareholder in Crown Cork.



## POLITICAL STRUGGLE...ALBANY

In 1991, The Albany Branch NAACP filed a federal law suit which is forcing the Albany County Legislature to make a new redistricting plan for the county. In order to be in compliance with the U.S. Voting Rights Act, there should be three County legislative districts with Black and Hispanic populations of at least 63%. As part of the Court decree, a Redistricting Commission was set up to recommend a plan to the County Legislature. The NAACP proposed a plan to that Commission for three minority majority districts that meet the population thresholds of the Court decree and that include Albany's Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

CD-CAAR is asking the readers of this newsletter to contact their County Legislators to let them know that we expect them to vote for a new redistricting plan that includes the NAACP proposal. Let them know that it is not going to be "politics as usual" this time around. Let them know that Albany's Black and Hispanic community are not going to be ignored this time around.

Congratulations to the Albany Branch NAACP, led by President Anne Pope, for the determination and perseverance with which they are fighting for fair representation.

## White Referendum in South Africa

### A Victory for Who?

#### or...it ain't over 'til it's over

On the following pages we have reprinted a letter from Jennifer Davis, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa/Africa Fund. We strongly encourage you to read this piece about South Africa. The American media and government is telling us that de Klerk is a hero, that sanctions should be lifted, that the struggle is over. The truth is that the struggle is far from over - more than ever we need to be aware of what is really happening in South Africa. **We need you to stay with the anti-apartheid movement until apartheid is really ended, until there is a free, non racial, democratic society,**

March 19, 1992

To: Africa Fund Key Contacts

From: Jennifer Davis

Re: White Referendum in South Africa



Highly recommended reading...

In casting an overwhelming YES vote in President de Klerk's referendum, the white electorate in South Africa re-affirmed support for the man they first chose as President three years ago and provided him with a mandate for continued negotiation on ending apartheid. "Today we have closed the book on apartheid," declared de Klerk after the results were announced.

For the majority of South Africans, who once again saw themselves excluded from the process of decision making because of the color of their skins, the book of apartheid is not closed.

How much has changed when the 3.26 million whites eligible to vote still decide the shape of the future for the 26 million blacks who still have no vote?

De Klerk was forced to abandon the old order by the persistent courage and resistance of the oppressed majority, supported by the added pressure of international sanctions.

But F.W. de Klerk is now taking the results of this referendum as a mandate not for change, but for pursuing a white veto over South Africa's future. He campaigned on a specific platform that spelled out sharp limits in the powers of any new government and the South African President is already arguing in negotiations with the ANC that he cannot compromise very far on key elements on the National Party proposals.

If de Klerk has his way the 13% white minority will be constitutionally empowered to block affirmative action programs that remedy the deprivation and poverty caused by apartheid. The old economic order will actually be entrenched in the new constitution.

Black people would even be denied the powerful symbolism of electing Nelson Mandela as the first president of a free South Africa. Instead de Klerk proposes a "shared" presidency among the most important leaders. His proposals stress the need to avoid "domination by the majority" and resound with plans for regional rather than strong central government.

De Klerk has developed a sophisticated two pronged strategy to achieve his goals. He talks change and negotiation at the same time as he seeks to undermine his opponents, so that the final agreement will be written on his terms.

Thus at the same time that his government and his party negotiate with Nelson Mandela and the ANC in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, CODESA, his government is pressing a deadly assault designed to cripple the ANC and the democratic movement. There is now overwhelming and published evidence that the government is behind the escalating violence which has claimed tens of thousands of victims - some killed, some maimed, others burned out of their houses. (Africa Fund Trustee Peter Weiss has just returned from South Africa with new evidence of the government's role in the violence.)

If de Klerk has no blood on his own hands, he must certainly know who is guilty. The South African military and police have been directly responsible for some of the worst attacks and the government is also responsible for the vicious attacks carried out by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party and his KwaZulu police.

The threat to a democratic transition to majority rule is unlikely to disappear now, even though de Klerk has won his referendum. As the meetings of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa proceed there may well be more harrowing violence, as the state plays out its forked strategy, hoping to force a weakened opposition to settle for de Klerk's version of the new South Africa. This would mean giving Black people apparent representation in a new parliament while white power and economic domination remain essentially unchanged.

over .....

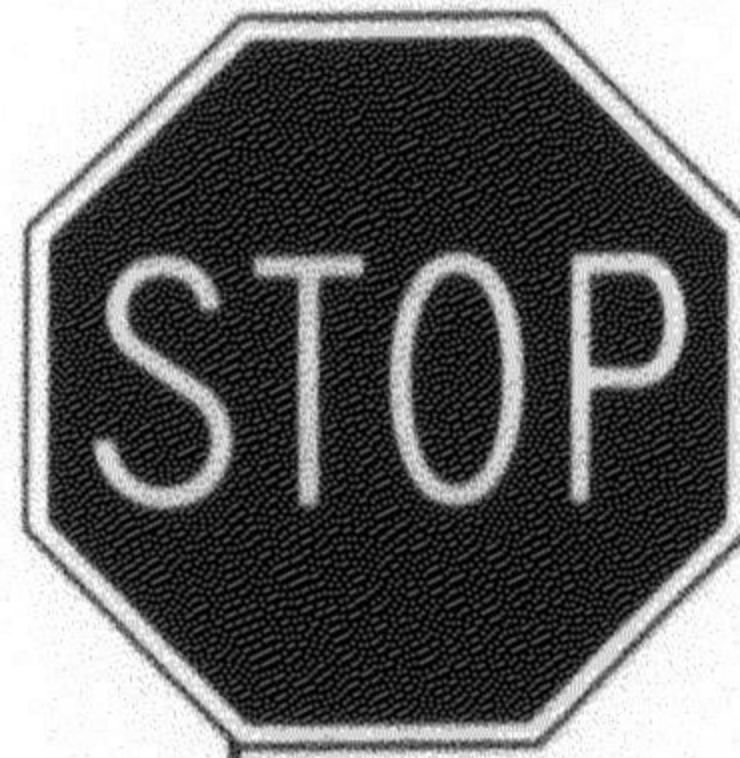
As the referendum results were announced both the ANC and the South African Council of Churches issued statements urging the international community to maintain its vital support of the democratic movement. The ANC urged the retention of all economic sanctions until the establishment of a fully representative interim government. The South African Council of Churches recalled that "many have died, and are still dying in the struggle for justice, peace and freedom" and called for vigilance on their behalf.

This is a useful moment to recall the role that the pressure of international sanctions played in bringing de Klerk to the negotiating table.

It is also a vital moment for the international community to maintain its pressures, urging President de Klerk to move swiftly in completing the process of democratization. He must now act forcefully to end the violence unleashed on the people, accept the rapid establishment of a representative Interim Government and implement the principle of a democratically elected Constituent Assembly to put in place a democratic constitution for a free South Africa.

198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • (212) 962-1210

Tilden J. LeMelle, *Chairman*  
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*



The Africa Fund has initiated a "STOP THE VIOLENCE" campaign. There is a video and a question and answer sheet available which detail what is really behind the violence in South Africa. (Our February newsletter carried a reprint of this information sheet.) CD-CAAR has a copy of the video and copies of the information sheet. If you belong to a group - student, church, community - that would be interested in promoting this campaign or if you would like more information, call CD-CAAR at 436-0562 or the Africa Fund at 212-962-1210.

**Note:** The Albany Central Labor Federation and the Solidarity Committee have endorsed the "STOP THE VIOLENCE" campaign.

## Back to slavery?

To the Editor:

One could argue that prison inmates in New York state's correction system are its exclusive responsibility; and that since the inmates, for all intents and purposes, are there because of dysfunctional behavior of their "choosing," they must accept the consequences of such behavior and the decision of the state judiciary that put them there.

Yet at the same time, one could equally argue that the state correction commissioner's recent remarks about the "loan of inmate laborers to towns" sound like ideas from a bygone era when New York was heavily involved in the trading of black people as slaves. Commissioner Thomas Coughlin's choice of words in getting his



THE TIMES UNION "

Albany, N.Y., Thursday, March 5, 1992

message across was tasteless, insensitive to the human element in inmates, and too entrepreneurial. His statement: "I think we have to make every locality aware that this 'resource' is available to them and let them 'pick' and 'choose' how they would like to use the inmates," is right out of a textbook on slavery in New York City where prospective buyers, at the slave market on lower Wall Street and along the East River, are depicted feverishly picking and choosing black slaves. The negative responses the commissioner's remarks elicited from labor organizations and other interest groups about the use of inmates mirror similar reactions in that bygone era when free labor (wage labor) felt threatened by the use of slave labor in the workplace.

Given the fact that 70 percent or more of New York state's correctional facilities are filled with African-Americans and Latinos, and that the majority of personnel in the facilities and in Albany are white, I would caution the commissioner, and the governor's office, in this kind of flagrant, unwarranted show of correction's policies. Such a position with loaded, coded statements paints a convoluted picture of what state corrections "should be" in terms of behavior modification.

A. J. WILLIAMS-MYERS  
Associate Professor  
Black Studies Department  
The College at New Paltz

## DEATH PENALTY FACTS

Currently 38 states have enacted the death penalty.

There are 2,547 people on death row in the U.S.

Some 39 percent of the people on death row are Black, which is out of proportion to their numbers (14 percent) in the general population.

Note:

On April 11, 1992, the Center of Law and Justice, Inc. of Albany held its second annual Community Conference, "Separate and Unequal: Racial Bias in Policing and the Courts." In our May newsletter we will print a report of the conference and of the decisions made for community action.

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 509  
Albany, NY

Vera Michelson  
13 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Albany, NY 12206

### Important Notice:

The April meeting of CD-CAAR will NOT take place on the fourth Thursday of April at the Albany Public Library. Instead, CD-CAAR is sponsoring a public forum on Haiti on Wednesday, April 29th at the College of St. Rose.

It is never too late to send in  
your membership dues -  
\$5.00 a year

### MOZAMBIQUE

In this newsletter you will find an informational flyer on Mozambique. We urge you to read it carefully and become familiar with the situation in Mozambique. The Mozambique Support Committee of CD-CAAR is asking all our readers to do several things:

- 1. Write a letter to your Congressional representatives about Mozambique. The issues that need to be addressed in letters are discussed in the flyer - under the question "what can we do about Mozambique?" You may say "why bother writing to those guys anyway?" Well, if they do not hear from anyone about Mozambique (or other Africa issues) when we do approach them and ask why there is no legislation on Africa, their response is that they didn't know about the issue or that anyone cared about what was happening. When you write letters about Southern Africa, you will add your voice to many others who are calling for peace, social justice and an end to hunger and misery in that region.
- 2. We are planning on launching a material aid campaign for the children of Mozambique. To do this we plan on talking to religious groups, labor unions, politicians, community organizations and individuals. If you have any contacts with any particular constituency which you think might be open to doing work around Mozambique or for more information about the Committee, call Eileen Kawola, 438-0309.
- 3. We are planning on lobbying New York State legislators to introduce legislation on Mozambique. If you are interested in the lobbying aspect of Mozambique work or have contacts in the Legislature, please get in touch with us.

CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE, INC.

Pine West Plaza Building 2  
Washington Avenue Extension  
Albany, New York 12205  
(518) 427-8361

ALICE GREEN, Ph.D.

April 20, 1992

Vera Michelson  
13 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Vera:

Just a personal note to thank you for so much during the past few months. What a relief having you in charge of tracking down Don Jackson; negotiating with Herkimer (a fine arrangement you worked out); coordinating the reception; making useful comments and suggestions; providing needed moral support; and then to be presented with my very own ode. What more could one ask for?

You did a lot more than the litany above. But, the important thing I want to say is that everything was greatly appreciated not only from you, but that marvelous group of people who make CD CAAR so special.

Thanks again for sharing so much as we continue in the struggle.

Regards,

*Alice*

Alice



**Capital District Coalition  
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Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
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April 23, 1992

Mr. Benjamin Dupuy  
Ambassador at Large  
Haiti Progres  
1398 Flatbush Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Dear Ambassador Dupuy,

We are looking forward to your visit to Albany on April 29. This will be the first area public examination of events in Haiti and the committee is working very hard to insure its' success.

As you know we are asking the Black and Hispanic Legislative Caucus to sponsor a press conference earlier in the day, approximately 2:00 pm, in which they would declare, in your presence, their support for the unconditional return of constitutional democracy in Haiti and the return of President Jean Bertrand Aristide. Details of this press conference have not been finalized but I will up-date you as we get closer to the date. I have not yet confirmed your travel arrangements with Jill.

You will be staying overnight at my house where you can be assured of a private room and rest as needed. Please let me know if there are any other details which need attending to.

In anticipation of your arrival

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson  
Co-chair





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12202  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

May 16, 1992

Anne Fuller, Associate Director  
National Coalition for Haitian Refugees  
16 East 42nd Street 3rd Floor  
N.Y. New York 10017

Dear Anne,

Just a brief note to thank you for participating in our program on Haiti. Your presentation was quite helpful and several people have commented on how startling your figures are etc. If you are able to send me any of the information, we might be able to include it in our news letter.

By the way, we have put you on our mailing list so that you might keep up with activities in Albany.

Once more, thanks for everything. We appreciate all that you are doing.

Yours in struggle,

Vera Michelson  
Co-Chair



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May 19, 1992

Pastor Carl Ware  
Capital District Seventh Day Adventist Church  
2 South Lake Ave.  
Albany, N.Y. 12203

Dear Pastor Ware,

Just a brief note to confirm our meeting at 6:00 p.m. on  
Wednesday, June 3 at your church.

We are looking forward to meeting with you and reviewing  
some of our projects in the hope that we might work together in  
the future.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson

cc Deb Maxwell  
Merton Simpson  
Eileen Kawola  
Tina Oyarekhua  
Anju Kapur

May 26, 1992

Howard Healy  
Letters To The Editor  
Times Union  
P.O. Box 15000  
Albany, N. Y. 12212

Dear Editor,

Some of the recent statements made by Albany's Mayor and Chief of Police and the Rodney King incident were provocative and irresponsible. Shortly after the verdicts were announced, they flatly stated that it could never happen here.

Mayor Whalen went so far as to say that "During my administration, no citizen of this city will be subject to the type of human and civil rights violations which has troubled us all." (Times Union 5/2/92)

Approximately one month ago James White, an African American male who is disabled, was attacked by the police as he walked out of his apartment door. Police officers threw him up against the wall, down on the floor and then stepped on and broke his back brace. Next he was taken into another apartment where a drug raid was going on, thrown over a sink and finally tightly handcuffed.

Mr White was involved in no crime, he was not charged with a crime and he is not a criminal. As a result of this brutal act, Mr. White has been in excruciating pain for which he has been receiving treatment. He has also had to deal with the recurring nightmare of the attack.

**Cannot happen here? Has not happened here?** The only difference between here and there is...no video. It is easy for the mayor to make pronouncements about an incident 3,000 miles away. His past history on these issues has proven that these utterances mean nothing.

Let the mayor show that he wants to address the issue of police abuse in Albany by doing something meaningful. A police civilian review board with investigative powers would mean more than his hypocritical words of indignation.

Sincerely,

*Vera Michelson*

Vera Michelson  
Capital District Coalition Against  
Apartheid and Racism

370-7366 D

June 1, 1992

Lyndall Shope Mafole  
47 Park Leigh Court House  
Wolmarens St.  
Joubert Park  
20001  
South Africa

Dear Lyndall,

It was so exciting to talk to you just a few minutes ago, I decided to write immediately. Congratulations on the baby! I'm not sure how you do everything you do but I'm sure it has something to do with your unyielding energy. I only hope you have recovered from your stroke after the phone call

I have enclosed the itinerary as you can see. There are a few changes I made and they are sending me an official update but I wanted to get this off to you.

Allow me to review what we discussed on the phone. Eileen Kawola and I will be in Jo'burg on July 3, Fri. for a layover from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. when the plane takes off for Maputo. On Wed. July 8, we will be in Jo'burg for another layover..plane arriving at 8:55 a.m and leaving that night for for Namibia at 5:00 p.m.(Prexy Nesbitt will probably be with us during this layover).

On Fri. July 17 Eileen and I will arrive in Jo'burg at 4:10 p.m. If it is all right with you we would like to go directly to a hotel for the night to get some anticipated well needed rest. We would then be available for the following two days, July 18th and the 19th when we leave for Durban at 5:00 p.m.

Lyndall, we really appreciate your offer of transportation from the airport during the layovers and during our brief stay in Johannesburg. Also thank you for offering to make our hotel arrangements. Of course we will be pleased with any opportunity we

will have to talk to people and see things. We know that every one is extremely busy so please don't think that you have to disrupt schedules etc to care for us. It's just going to be an incredible experience to finally see what we have been trying to get others to see for over a decade.

As I mentioned on the phone, we are bringing \$1,000 in traveller's checks to donate to the struggle. The idea of the Communications Center sounds fine. We only want to be able to clearly explain what the money is being used for. We also would like to take a photo while we are making the presentation.

Our friend Yolande Chirwa will be calling you when she arrives home after July 12th.

Lyndal, I am very happy to be seeing you after all these time.....so much to catch up on...politics, gossip, etc etc. (Great to see the children and great to see Dan (who we never see when he's only three hours away.)

Can you believe it's actually happening? See you in July.

*Lyndal*

## No Rodney King here?

To the Editor:

Some of the recent statements made by Albany's mayor and chief of police in the Rodney King incident were provocative and irresponsible. Shortly after the verdicts were announced, they flatly stated that it could never happen here.

Mayor Whalen went so far as to say that "During my administration, no citizen of this city will be subject to the type of human and civil rights violations which has troubled us all." (*The Times Union*, May 2)

According to an official complaint, approximately one month ago James White, an African-American male who is disabled, was attacked by the police as he walked out of his apartment door. Police officers threw him up against the wall, down on the floor and then stepped on and broke his back brace. Next he was taken into another apartment where a drug raid was going on, thrown over a sink and finally tightly handcuffed.

Mr. White was involved in no crime, he was not charged with a crime and he is not a criminal. As a result of this brutal act, Mr. White has been in excruciating pain for which he has been receiving treatment. He has also had to deal with the recurring nightmare of the attack.

Cannot happen here? Has not happened here? It is easy for the mayor to make pronouncements about an incident 3,000 miles away. His past history on these issues has proven that these utterances mean nothing.

Let the mayor show that he wants to address the issue of police abuse in Albany by doing something meaningful. A police civilian review board with investigative powers would mean more than his hypocritical words of indignation.

VERA MICHELSON  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism

## Thanks for being there

To the Editor:

I'd just like to thank you in behalf of our church ministry, and I'm sure for literally thousands of Christians in our Capital District. Why? Because you were the only media source at our March for Jesus in

4/3/92 - 54

Letters to the Editor  
The Times Union  
Box 15000  
Albany, N.Y. 12212

Letters are subject to editing for length, taste and accuracy. Include daytime phone number. Only letters written exclusively to The Times Union will be used — and only if the writer's name can also be published.

## How about 50 cents?

To the Editor:

Marv Cermak's article (Sunday, May 17) exemplified society's school taxes personality disorder syndrome. This affliction has several distinct symptoms: total loss of perspective, shortsightedness, severely reduced mental functioning and a distorted value system.

His statement that a \$1 per week school tax increase during each of the past four years, "... snatches a pretty good chunk out of a weeks' take-home pay for the average worker ..." is ludicrous, unless of course you earn \$10 or less each week. One dollar buys half-a-pack of cigarettes, or one cup of coffee, including tip, in a diner. Shame, Mr. Cermak. What an outrageous statement. His arithmetical deficiency is compounded by a severe case of tunnel vision. Let's try to gain some perspective:

How wonderful if the price of an automobile increased only \$50 each year, or if apartment rental fees went up just \$4 per month. Dinner out and a movie costs more than the entire year's increase in educational expense. One pair of Nike Air sneakers, a Chicago Bulls jacket and a Game Boy would pay for at least five years of school tax increases. What does this say about our value system, our real concern for educational excellence for our children, our priorities? Hundreds, thousands, to satisfy material wants, for electronic games, designer clothes, but not one penny more for education.

Since you're so concerned about your \$1 per week, Mr. Cermak, let me offer you a modest proposal...



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June 17, 1992

Anne Pope  
NAACP  
143 Second Ave.  
Albany, N.Y. 12202

Dear Anne,

On July 1, Eileen Kawola and I will be travelling through Southern Africa with a small fact finding delegation. When we arrive in Mozambique we will meet Prexy Nesbitt, Senior Consultant for the Mozambique Government, who will be with us for most of the trip. After four days in Mozambique we will proceed to Namibia, Zimbabwe and finally South Africa. I have enclosed a copy of Prexy's bio for your review.

We will be gone for almost one month. During this time we expect to get a deeper understanding of the problems, not only in South Africa but also in those countries surrounding South Africa which have suffered greatly at the hands of the apartheid regime.

When we return we plan to organize a slide show which will be informative and up to date. We would very much like to make a presentation to the NAACP board and share our experiences with you, sometime in the fall.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson



We also saw an empty lot where people had put up a few squatter shacks. People sell charcoal on many street corners. Prexy told us that many homeless people have made their way into the city.

After Prexy and Lorraine arrived we again toured the museum. After the museum, we drove back to the guest house for supper.

July 6, 1992

The next day, Monday, we drove with Prexy (Maelinda had joined us again) to the school for deslocadas (displaced by war) in bairro de Liberdade. On the way we saw several large trucks layered with bags and people sitting on top of the bags. Several trucks would form a convoy and head outside of Maputo accompanied by soldiers. Soldiers also ride on each truck. Leaving the city for a day or longer to visit families outside the city is very dangerous because Renamo forces often attack these trucks. They leave fairly early and if they are going to return, they do so before dark. Once the night comes people are not safe on the road.

Before we got to the school, we stopped to meet Mr. Manhica because he had arranged to be our contact. We then drove a little further along the road and stopped. The path into the school was about a quarter of a mile walk along a dirt path. Along both sides of the path we saw people planting and tending crops. Women were carrying buckets of water on their heads to water the plants. There was a narrow ribbon of water running along about half way in on our walk and we walked over a little foot bridge. We asked how long it had been since there had been rain. Mr. Manisse said this area was luckier than the north where there is a terrible drought. In this area there had been a little rain in March.

All along the way we were walking with children. We also met children coming in the other direction. We later learned that there are three sessions of the school so we were encountering the children coming from the first session. The children were fairly fascinated at seeing visitors and walked along with us. We asked if we could take some pictures so they posed.

As we approached the school we saw a large assembly standing outside of a stone building in neat rows. Most of the children were not well dressed and many were barefoot. Some carried a small bag with a book and many had no books. Mr. Manhica told us that a large number of these children had run away from the war and many were staying with families who gave them a place to sleep and food to eat but couldn't afford clothes or school supplies for them.

When we got closer we could see that the stone building was a school building but it was half destroyed. The name of the school is Escola Primaria de Mocatini. (Mocatini is the name of the area.) Inside there was one blackboard on a wall, about a half dozen chairs and that was all. We stood outside the building on a ledge and addressed the children. We told them we were honored to be able to visit with them and we were happy that they were able to be going to school. The students were very polite. They asked a few questions. They sang a song for us about the revolution. The school headmaster, Rafael Feliciano Timene, spoke to the children and told them we were very interested in them. Mr. Manhica told them we had brought pencils, pens, paper and soccer balls. We presented the soccer balls at that time and Mr. Manhica told them he would be getting the other things to them.

The students were dismissed to go to their classes - under the trees. We then met with the teachers for a short time. They told us that they were also displaced by the war and needed help. They especially needed housing as they now were living a long way from the school and spend a long time getting there each day. There was a total of 11 teachers. Sometimes they teach all day without eating. There are 900 students at the school and classes are held in three shifts - 6:30 to 9:45, 10:00 to 1:00 and 1:30 to 4:45. The same teachers work with the students all day. In addition to help for themselves, the teachers told us they were working with no supplies. The main request they made was for portable blackboards that they could use outside. We took up a collection among ourselves and gave the money to the teacher as a gesture of solidarity. Prexy talked to them frankly and told them we understood their needs but our first concern was with the students. We committed to trying to raise funds for blackboards and we told the teachers that Mr. Manhica will continue to serve as our contact.

After leaving the school we drove back into the city and then went to the Bureau of Information (BIP) where we bought some materials - books, note cards, maps. It was interesting to see what books were available. We met a woman working there named Polly Gaster, British I think, who has been in Mozambique since before independence. I bought a few books that I can use with the kids at Street Academy. We left there to go to a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Culture, Salomae Mojana, but she was at a meeting and unable to make the appointment. Before the meeting we went in a grocery store the Ministry and bought a few things. It was startling to see that a kilo of plain white rice was about the equivalent of 80 American cents. Even if the prices were very high, this price in a country where the people make 10 or 20 dollars a month is exorbitant.

When we left the Ministry we drove to a cafe on one of the main streets of the city. Almost as soon as we got out of the car we were approached by a group of young boys selling batiks. We spent some time bargaining outside the cafe and bought several. They are really beautiful and if I can recall what we spent for them - 4 or 5 dollars, 10 dollars for the largest one - we got real treasures. We then went inside and had some tea. When we got back to the car and as we were driving away a young boy came up to the window where I was sitting and offered to sell me a toy truck he had made. The kids make incredible toys out of scrap metal and rubber. I didn't buy but now I wish I had. We then went back to the guest house to get ready for dinner with the Minister of Culture, Machuba. A summary of what he told us follows at the end of this section on Mozambique

July 7, 1992

This day will remain always. Ruth Minter came and picked us up and we climbed into the back of a pick up truck. We again drove out of Maputo. One sight that we saw each time we left the city in the direction of Liberdade was a large corner lot which has been turned into a market. More than a hundred people set up things to sell. There were people with small piles of charcoal or wood, oranges and other foods. The women are dressed in traditional cloths and head wraps.

On the way to Ricatla, an interdenominational seminary, we picked up three young seminarians who Ruth teaches. One of them was to serve as our interpreter for the morning. Our plan was to visit families in the countryside who had been affected by Renamo violence.

The first man we visited was Emilio Chacufa Mafuma. He was an important man in the Ricatla zone. He has a house and eucalyptus trees. The war made it necessary for him to sell off his cattle at low prices. Because of several Renamo attacks on his house and outbuildings he now goes into the city each night to sleep and comes back out to the house in the daytime. He invited us into his house and showed us where the bandits had taken out lighting and bath fixtures. They left a bathtub which is now used for a toilet. The outbuildings behind his house has had roofs removed. The bandits take anything they can use or sell.

He told a long rambling story. His father had owned the land, 600 cashew trees, 10,000 pineapple plants and 40 cattle. During the Portuguese colonial administration everything had been taken away and for many years the government offered no compensation for what they had taken. Finally he was given some land in compensation and developed this land which is now his. He was able to build a house by selling milk.

His story mainly centered around soccer. He was an avid player and supporter of soccer in that area. He gave us stationary of the F. Clube Ricatla, the organization he started. The teams from the country were usually considered inferior but they had won two championships in 1975 and 1983 and it was his dream to build a soccer stadium and a sports complex. He started building shortly after the revolution. From a corner of the room he took out two dusty championship trophies that had been won by the Ricatla teams in national competition. He set them on the table and polished them off with the town tee shirt he was wearing. He was barefoot and wearing torn pants. His was oblivious to his appearance as he lost himself in the stories he told with such pride and showed us the trophies and some hand made signs that had been used at the games. He was lost in the past and rambled on and on about remembered victories. He then told us he wanted to show us the sports complex. We went along expecting to see an overgrown

field. It was a most surreal experience to walk upon an immense stone soccer stadium one quarter completed. Work on it had stopped in 1984 when he ran out of money and it was being overgrown by weeds and grass. But even in that condition it was a most ambitious, impressive sight. He climbed to the top into the small stone booth and sat on the ledge with the two trophies and the sign for us to take his picture. Past the soccer stadium, two other outdoor arenas had been begun - one for basketball and one for theater performances. He said the war had made many things impossible but still kept the dream that someday he might finish the project. It was a very strange encounter but another piece of what the people and country are about. We gave him a tee shirt and a soccer ball that Sharon had bought and left him waving to us in the front of his house.

The seminarian explained after we left that this man had been "a good boy" meaning he had cooperated with the Portuguese. He was probably not an assimilado. Assimilado was the official term used by the Portuguese for those Mozambicans who assimilated the Portuguese ways. They would speak the language, convert to Catholicism and leave their parents and traditions and live in designated areas. About three percent of Mozambicans were awarded this "privilege." The man we had been with had worked as a house "boy" in the city for a white man so he had picked up some of the assimilado characteristics but was never really one of them. But he had earned money once the government had compensated him for this father's lost land and he had given money for students to study in school. He never explained how all of this fit in with the socialist society that was set up after 1975 but he spoke with pride of the revolution and its slogans.

On the way to see the stadium we passed a woman in a field that was very dry. It was his wife. Little pieces of some kind of scrub were growing and she was harvesting them into an apron tied to her wrap. Ruth said that the scrub is boiled into some kind of soup.

We climbed back into the truck and drove to the home of another couple who had been affected by Renamo. This old couple were respected in the area. They were part of Ricatla leadership. The seminarian told us that the whole area was still controlled by Renamo at night. We got out of the truck and walked a short distance to a house made of bricks with half a thatched roof intact. Out in back of the house two young boys were playing in a pile of dirt. An old man emerged from the house and greeted us. He went back in and brought out two rickety wooden chairs; he was followed by an old woman wearing a cloth wrap as a skirt, a tee shirt and a head wrap. They were both barefoot. She was his wife. He offered us the chairs but we insisted they sit in them. He sat in a chair and she sat on the ground but he urged her to sit in a chair. The young boys, their grandsons, came over and stood next to them. The young seminarian interpreted Ruth's Portuguese into Rondo, the language of the couple. He explained to them that we were activists from the United States and wanted to know about how the war affected people's lives.

Their house is right in the path Renamo takes through that area. The bandits would pass through, take baths in their back yard, steal their ducks, clothes, food, anything. The wife and her daughter were kidnapped by the bandits while they were up getting water one morning. They were forced to carry things into the bush that Renamo had stolen. After they went a distance they stopped so the bandits could put on the clothes they had stolen. While they were with Renamo their daughter was lucky. Usually young women are taken for sex but she was given the job of taking care of the commander's children. After a week the mother got away and a week later the daughter got away. The daughter now lives in Maputo. The old couple stays. They have no place to go.

In the late afternoon they and the boys go quite a distance from the house to a place they have cleared out in the bush. It sounded as if they had fashioned a sort of cave and cover it with brush and leaves. They sleep there even though it is not good for their health and the mosquitoes are bad. The seminarian told us that if he was captured by the bandits he would be killed because he is too old to be trained. The grandsons, he said, were the perfect ages at five and nine years old. The boys were small for their ages and we thought they were much younger than that.

Because of Renamo stealing everything, and now the drought, the couple no longer can grow any food. They pick some of the brush we saw the other woman picking. Some days they have one meal, some days they have nothing to eat. The only way they get any money to buy food

is to make charcoal or cut some wood to sell in Maputo. This means a long walk to the road and then a long ride in a truck into town.

The telling of their story was very emotional. They were very matter of fact and very dignified as they told this horror story. Mike broke some of the tension at the end when she asked how they had met. The couple both smiled. The woman said they had met in the church nearby where her father had been a church elder.

Ruth had brought a small bag of food for them. We asked if it would be appropriate to give them some money and Ruth said yes so we gave them about fifteen dollars in metacais which is probably a month's worth of food. They thanked us with such deep gratitude and said they never imagined that visitors from the United States would want to know about them. We walked away crying. Maelinda said to me that a world that can let this happen should go to hell.

We again climbed into the pickup truck and drove along through eucalyptus groves. Some of this area was government land - land that had been appropriated by the government for communal farms after the revolution. People were forced to leave their farms and live in villages. Frelimo has since recognized that this was a mistake done. Where people had once subsistence farming, now trees for industry are grown. Ruth said eucalyptus makes a very hot fire.

He also explained to us how people make charcoal. They cut a tree down to about four or five feet. The inside is hollowed out and stuffed with sand and then set on fire. The fire smoulders for a long time as it burns the tree and the charred wood that is left when the fire goes out is charcoal. Sometimes these fires get out of control and large areas are burned. The making of charcoal and the cutting of wood - both sources of cooking fuel - are causing widespread desertification of the land. The land is already turned to sand as a result of the drought.

We drove back to the seminary, stopped to see a few boys along the road playing with the toys they had made from scrap. We then drove to Ruth's house for some lunch and then back to Maputo.

We weren't back more than an hour when we were informed that the government soldiers were bringing some captured boy bandits for us to interview. We were expecting two boys since that was what Prexy had said was arranged with George Rubello, the former Secretary of Frelimo. We went into the the guest house living room and six boys and two military men came in. The boys were very dirty, wearing clothes that were virtually rags, barefoot. They looked very young, very scared. The soldier who brought them explained that they all had been kidnapped by Renamo and served with the Renamo forces for various periods of time ranging from two weeks to eight years. The oldest boy was 15, the youngest was 10. They all sat on two sofas, more or less huddled together. One of the boys had the saddest face on a child imaginable. The soldier also explained that they had either captured them or they had escaped and they were now staying at a government army installation until they could be reunited with their families or some other living arrangements could be found. None of them had yet seen their families. He said we could ask any questions and take pictures. Ruth served as interpreter.

There are pictures of these boys. Four sat on one sofa and two on another. From left to right they were Joshua, Sergio, Bernardo, Lazuru, Zamito, Chaztigu.

Zamito was the obvious leader. He was the oldest at fifteen and had been 8 years with Renamo. He had been at many bases and in the last year he had been at a chemical weapons base. He had been the personal guard for a commander and was very familiar with all kinds of weapons. One base he was at was near the South African border, near where Samora Machel's plane went down. Prexy asked him questions about the South Africans. He said there was a white car at the base that belonged to the South Africans. They would come and go with supplies. When a group of boys or adults had been captured and were ready to be trained the South Africans would be sent for. They had different tattoos that showed what kind of a unit they served in. They had their own uniforms which were different. They were white men and he heard them being referred to as Boers.

Zamito had been captured along with his family. When they left they left him there. He suffered a lot, there was never enough to eat. When there was meat the boys were given only the

skin to eat. They would gather and carry firewood, clean fish, carry 100 pound bags of rice. There were girls also in the camps, usually older than the boys. They did the cooking and the washing of clothes. They were the women of the soldiers. Zamito had been given a fourteen year old girl.

Probably the most chilling story of the day came from this boy bandit, Zamito. When asked what he was afraid of he said he was afraid of nothing. They had been immunized against fear. When asked what that meant he said they cut their legs with a razor blade and put powder in the open cut. When it scarred over, they would prick it with a pin if they felt fear and the fear - or the cold, or the hunger - would go away. They also smoked marijuana to do away with fear.

Bernardo said the only thing he was afraid of was snakes. He is ten years old. His job was to do reconnaissance and to carry weapons - heavier than himself. He didn't know how long he had been with Renamo but knew it had been a long time.

Sergio, who was thirteen years old, had only been with Renamo for ten days before he was captured by the government forces. He said he also had been given a girl.

Lazaru had the saddest face of all the boys. Even when the others smiled he never did. He had been with Renamo for two years as a foot soldier. He had trained with explosives and had killed someone with a knife. He is ten years old.

Joshua is twelve or thirteen years old. He was with Renamo for five years. He had turned his own family in and his mother was raped by the bandits. The family would not take him along when they left because of what he had done.

Chaztigu is thirteen years old. He cared for cattle with Renamo for three years. He also trained with chemical weapons. He just wants to go back and take care of the cattle in his village.

Most of the boys said they would like to go home to their families and go to school.

The interview lasted less than an hour. There were many more questions we would have liked to ask, many questions we didn't think to ask. It was probably just as well for everyone that our time was limited. The experience of seeing these boys and talking to them made it so clear just how brutal this war that South Africa has been waging against the people of Mozambique has been. It is estimated that forty percent of Renamo may be children. What happens to them now and what happens to a country where the children were forced to commit acts of unspeakable brutality or suffered from those acts.

We did ask the soldiers where the boys would go now. They said they inform the government when they have the children. They feed them and give them a place to sleep. It is not the job of the army to set up homes for them. The Red Cross is informed and they try to locate families. It is just one more of the insurmountable problems facing the country.

As soon as the boys left, we left for an interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pascal Manuel Mocumbi. A summary of Mocumbi's talk is at the end of the section on Mozambique.

After leaving the Foreign Ministry we went for a meeting with Graca Machel, the widow of Mozambique's first president, Samora Machel. She lives in a very beautiful house in a guarded enclave along the sea. She was gracious and welcomed us warmly. She had just finished an hour meeting with Prexy and was having another meeting in about an hour. Her daughter served us tea and juices and cookies. During one period of time she had been the Minister of Education. Now she is working with the Foundation for Community Development. Sounded like the ideas behind the Latin American base communities. The people study, talk, plan what is best for their own community and work to develop what they need. Education and health care are two critical areas to be developed. She said once a community builds a school, the government would then provide teachers, once they build a health clinic, health care workers would be provided. It is a plan for development from the bottom up - empowerment. We told her of our meeting with the boy bandits and she said that was another hope of the foundation - that the people in communities would find ways to assimilate the boys back into community life.

The Foreign Minister also addressed this problem when we brought it up. He said the government did not want to ghettoize these children by establishing special homes for the. The

government hoped to find ways to reunite them with their families and communities.

We told her of our plan to try to get Matilda Cuomo involved in a Mozambique project and she said she would write a letter of support to Mrs. Cuomo once we let her know what we want to do/say. Mike gave her two tapes - Gospel music and Patti LaBelle.

One of the things she said during the course of our conversation which needs to be understood is how much Mozambique has suffered because of South Africa. to be on the verge of Her comment was that more Mozambicans than South Africans have actually died in combat because of apartheid.

Afterward, when we discussed our meeting with the Foreign Minister and Graca Machel with Prexy, he commented that Mozambique was too noble an experiment with too much of a chance of becoming a model for South Africa to let it be.

We returned back to the Guest House after that to have dinner with Ruth and her son on our last night in Mozambique. During the interview with the banditos, two men from the teachers union of Mozambique had come to talk with me. Prexy had gotten in touch with them and given them the letters of greeting that I had from the Albany unions. I made arrangements for them to return that night and they did and we had a brief meeting. Their names are Alexandre Mate and Paulo Fernando Chunguane. Their organization is the Organizactio Nacional dos Professores (ONP) ( National Organization of Teachers - in English). It has a membership of 15,000 out of a total of 35,000 teachers in the country. Like the teachers at the school, they told us that their greatest need is for housing(building supplies), clothing and food for dislocated teachers. It is not officially a union but it functions like a union. It was founded in 1981 and is open to all teachers. It can offer very little because it has no money but it does give support during strikes. Most strikes are over money. Teachers salaries range from 48 to 98 thousand metacais (2,500 metacais to a dollar) for elementary school teachers to 200,000 to 400,000 thousand metacais for secondary school teachers. Elementary school teachers are qualified to teach if they have completed secondary school. The norman class size is at least 60 and many schools have no classrooms and are taught in a few hour shifts to accomodate all the students.

One of their greatest difficulties in functioning as a union is communication with the members. They have some resources they received from Canada, Quebec, and Sweden. They are in the process of setting up a Resource Center. I told them I would bring their messages of Solidarity back to the teachers in Albany.

After dinner Mike and I spent time with the people who worked in the kitchen at the guest house. They had been very nice to us. We gave each of them a small gift and they sang a special song for us and we all danced together. That night we also gave Ruth the remainder of the material aid we had brought so that she could distribute it. On the way back from visiting the families we had passed a health clinic that was being built in that area. When it is finished they will need to get staffing from the Ministry of Health. Perhaps the small amount of medical supplies we brought she will give there. Since we've returned home I spoke with Prexy about how we could best arrange medical material aid and he said the Methodist Church and Reva Manhica would be the best connection. Figuring out how to directly give material aid is a problem but it seems we have made the connections we need for direct links.

July 8, 1992

We left Maputo on an early morning flight for Johannesburg. The most intense part of our trip was over.



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

*Monica-*

*July 8 } LV. Johannesburg on "air Namibia" - Fr. # 731 - 5:00 P.M.  
          } Arr. Windhoek 6:45 P.M.*

*LV. WINDHOEK - July 14 May 14, 1992*

Niilo Taapopi  
Minister Counsellor  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia  
135 East 36th St.  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Minister Taapopi,

I am writing, happily, to inform you that I and two other comrades, Eileen Kowala and Prexy Nesbitt will be travelling to Southern Africa in July.

Eileen and I have been active in the antiapartheid movement for more than a decade and have never visited the region. Through our organization, The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, we worked diligently to support Namibia's efforts for independence. We have never been to Namibia. Needless to say we are very excited about the prospect of this trip. Prexy, as you probably know, is the Senior Consultant to the Mozambique government and we are honored to be travelling with him.

My purpose in writing to you is to request that you inform our friends Monica Nashandi and Helmut Angula that we are coming and to inquire as to whether or not they can secure lodging for us.

We are scheduled to arrive in Windhoek on July 8 and scheduled to leave Windhoek for Harare on July 14.

The primary purpose of the trip is educational in that we expect to gain a greater understanding of the region. But the opportunity to meet again with old friends takes on a value of almost equal importance as we plan our trip.

I am hopeful that you will be able to assist us in this effort.

Sincerely,

*Vera Michelson*  
Vera Michelson  
Co-Chair

P.S. Do you know how to get a hold  
OF LOIDE SHINAUENE?

Excited to see you —  
and Helmut!





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

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

August 11, 1992

Stephen Leon  
Metroland  
P.O. Box 6370  
Albany, N.Y. 12206

Dear Steve,

As I mentioned to you on the phone, Eileen and I recently returned from a month long fact finding delegation to Southern Africa. We were in Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

We were able to spend time with government officials and ordinary people and gained valuable insight into the current situation in Southern Africa.

Contrary to most public opinion, apartheid is far from dead or even close to dead. The apartheid government in South Africa is hanging on for dear life. While apartheid laws may have been erased from a legal standpoint, apartheid remains in tact. We visited townships and squatter camps in South Africa near Durban, Capetown and in Soweto. We saw homes damaged by Inkhata violence. We visited schools where teachers lacked basic materials to work with.

In Mozambique we interviewed children who had been recruited by the South African backed Renamo to commit atrocities against other Mozambicans.

In Namibia we came to the painful conclusion that even though South Africa was forced to end its' illegal occupation of that country in 1990, the apartheid created township of Katatura, the entrenched civil service system which benefits primarily whites, and the extreme poverty juxtaposed to stolen wealth is not going to disappear in the near future.

In addition Southern Africa faces the worst drought in recent history.

Recent events in Europe continue to overshadow any consistent news from Southern Africa even though the crises and the destabilization continues to wreck havoc on the southern region of Africa.

We are hopeful that Metroland will consider interviewing us so that we might be able to give a first hand report on just how "alive" apartheid is.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson  
Cochair

h- 434 0502

w 370-7346



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
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Sincerely,

Vera Michelson  
Cochair

h. 434 0502

W 370-7366



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**  
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

August 31, 1992

Minister Helmut Angula  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
M & Z Building  
Independence Avenue  
Private Bag 13355  
Windhoek, Namibia

Dear Helmut,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Prexy Nesbitt, Eileen Kawola and myself. Since our return to the U.S. we have been organizing our thoughts, our photos, and our reports...no easy task to be sure. The trip to Namibia affected us in many ways, too many to try and capture in a single letter so I'll try for the highlights.

To begin with we want to tell you how much we enjoyed your hospitality and warmth. It is truly amazing how struggle has linked so many of us in so many ways. Who would have imagined that we would have ended up at a wedding in Ovamboland way up north in Namibia, close to the Angolan border? How lucky for us that your cousin was getting married while we were in Namibia!

We will long remember how you spoke to the bride and groom advising them about their future together. We remember how you spoke about the courageous role of that particular church in Namibia's struggle against South African occupation. We also remember how you embarrassed us with your lengthy description of our role in the solidarity movement.

This legacy was really brought home as we went around Windhoek, your capital city. German colonization even brought a Bell Clock smack in the middle of town, restaurants with German food and a book store that sold mostly German books.

As we travelled around Windhoek we soon began to grasp how entrenched the "legacy of apartheid" is. We learned that despite the achievements of the new government, progress is very slow and the peoples' expectations are very high. Reconciliation has meant that apartheid holdouts have maintained their civil service positions until they die or retire. It is not difficult then for them to block development or sabotage programs and initiatives.

We saw the Black township of Katutura just on the border of Windhoek. It looks as destitute as any township we would see in South Africa. We understood that it will not soon disappear.

We spoke to many who reminded us of the paltry \$500,000 the United States offered Namibia at independence. We were told that while the U.S. has increased its' assistance level it pales in comparison to the assistance being provided to Europe.

What struck us the hardest was the realization that we, along with most of the U.S. solidarity movement did the inexcusable. When Namibia got its' independence we rejoiced, we celebrated and then we turned our attention to other matters. If Namibia is not getting enough international support to insure its' development than surely we must take some responsibility.

The lesson we must learn from this is that South African apartheid must be seen in its' regional context. To continue to support South African liberation as though it exists only within the borders of South Africa limits our scope of understanding and our arena of struggle. Hopefully we will be able to apply what we have learned as we continue to campaign for a free South Africa.

But let me not end on a serious note. The most sentimental part of our stay in Namibia was seeing Loide Shinavene and her husband and children in their home in Windhoek. Loide had been in Albany in 1989 as part of an ANC/Swapo Women's tour. She had been separated from her husband for many years and life in exile had been difficult for both of them. After independence in 1990, they were reunited in Namibia. It was truly wonderful to see the whole family together in their home. We took many photos as you can well imagine.

There are many other things we will remember about our stay in Namibia. For example, at one point you told us that you would not be able to travel from the bride's house to the groom's house with us and that you would catch up with us later. In time we learned that you had been called to a spontaneous meeting of residents of the area who were angry about the drought and lack of water. They wanted to know what the government was going to do about it.

When we got to the groom's house we met Cubans who are in Namibia on a construction and agricultural brigade. Have you ever met a Cuban who did not inspire you with his or her spirit? Their presence was an instant reminder of the long and enduring friendship between Namibia and Cuba.

The eight hour trip to the North afforded us the opportunity to better grasp the expansiveness of Namibia, the dryness of the land and the conditions under which the people in the rural areas have been forced to live under apartheid. We saw the many Kraals and huts people live in. We saw the water holes that are drying up and we saw people walking for miles looking for water and tending cattle. We sometimes saw people having to get water from the same water hole the cattle were drinking from.

As we drove back to Windhoek from the North we were able to see the various checkpoints where the South African Defense Force controlled the movements of Namibians under occupation. We got a visual understanding of how the repressive dusk to dawn curfew must have affected the lives of the people. We also tried to imagine how difficult it was for SWAPO to organize with no electricity, no telephones and no transportation systems. We were told how messages were passed from hut to hut and house to house. It was against this backdrop that we began to understand the enormity of the tasks the new government has begun, tasks like electrifying the North, establishing preventive health programs, and educating Namibia's children.

Along the way we saw "white" oases of wealth like the city of Tsumeb. In the middle of all that dry barren land there are little towns that have beautiful homes for white people and shacks for black people. We went into some of the stores and heard Afrikaans spoken everywhere. Sometimes we shook our heads in amazement. Where on earth were we? Reminiscent of a Grade "B" movie only this was real life. This was the "vestiges of the apartheid legacy".

In closing we ask you to give our fondest greetings to Monica. It was so wonderful to see her. Also, if you see Vickie, tell her how much we appreciated everything she and Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo did for us. And let's try to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Vera Michelson

cc: Dr. Tunguru Huarakua, Ambassador  
Minister Counselor Niilo Taapopi



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism**

Box 2003 Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

October 1, 1992

Dear Friend,

In July of this year two CD-CAAR members, Eileen Kawola and Vera Michelson, visited Southern Africa as members of a small fact finding delegation led by Prexy Nesbitt of the Mozambique Solidarity Office in Chicago. They spoke with people in government and people "on the ground" in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

About a year ago, CD-CAAR established the Mozambique Support Committee. The goals of the Mozambique committee are to educate people in the United States about what is happening in Mozambique, to influence U.S. government policy in regard to Southern Africa legislation, and to raise funds for material aid for Mozambique. Eileen and Vera are anxious to work with this committee and share their experiences in Southern Africa with people here in our community.

The delegation attended a Methodist Church service in Liberdade, a suburb of Maputo. Rev. Jamisse Uilson Taumo is the pastor of the congregation which currently holds services in a Catholic Church that loans them space. Pastor Jamisse, as the people call him, took the group to the site of a church/community center that they are trying to build. It will contain a room for services, a community room, a classroom, a kitchen and a library. It is about one quarter built, with all the money being donated by the congregation, but they have no more money to continue building. He explained that they are building such a large facility in order to serve many needs of the people, especially the children. (Rev. Taumo is also a coordinator of the Southern Africa Institute of Contextual Theology.) If your church is interested in learning more about Mozambique, an/or in helping to raise funds for this church, members of the CD-CAAR Mozambique Committee will be happy to talk with you, present a slide show or facilitate in any way possible.

The sixteen year war waged against the people of Mozambique by RENAMO, and backed by the apartheid government of South Africa, has killed over one million, displaced some 2.4 million, created 250,000 orphans, and destroyed the majority of schools and health clinics. Roads, bridges, railroads and other infrastructure has been destroyed. The war has greatly disrupted farming and now Mozambique is suffering the worst drought of the century and over 3 million are at risk of starvation. It is literally a whole country at risk.

We are asking for your assistance in telling the story. In addition, if you would like to make a personal contribution to the Liberdade Church project you can make a check payable to CD-CAAR and noted Rev. Taumo. Any amount will help. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you. To make arrangements for a CD-CAAR speaker and slide show, please call Debbie Maxwell at 393-4002 or Eileen Kawola at 438-0309.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Maxwell*  
*Eileen Kawola*

(Enclosed you will find a letter written to Ruth Minter. While in Mozambique, the delegation met with Ruth who works in Mozambique as a teacher of theology in an interdenominational seminary and who served as an interpreter for the delegation many times. The letter, a thank you to Ruth, also gives a good account of some of their experiences there.)

A letter to the teachers of the Albany Public Schools,

In July of this year I had the opportunity to visit Southern Africa. I spent five days in Mozambique as part of a small delegation led by Prexy Nesbitt of the U.S. Mozambique Solidarity Network. He arranged several visits for us, including a visit with the former Minister of Education, Graca Machel (widow of Mozambique's first President, Samora Machel). We also were able to meet with two representatives of the teacher's union of Mozambique and with nine teachers who work at a school in the bush for children who have been dislocated by the war.

Mozambique has been at war for the past 16 years. White regimes, first from Rhodesia and then from South Africa have backed a guerilla war against the people of Mozambique. The Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), also known as RENAMO, targets civilians, schools, hospitals, rural infrastructure, agriculture, food convoys, railroads and ports. Children and schools have been special targets. The objective of RENAMO has been to destabilize economic and social development in Mozambique.

When Mozambique first gained independence from Portugal in 1975, the new FRELIMO government set out to redress the iniquities of a brutal colonial legacy. Universal education and health care became primary goals. Between 1975 and 1980, primary school enrollment increased from 600,000 to 1,600,000 and the illiteracy rate was slashed from 92 percent to 70 percent. But since 1981, when RENAMO no longer targeted its attacks at Rhodesia (which had become a Black majority ruled Zimbabwe) these gains have all been lost as RENAMO stepped up its war against Mozambique. Since 1981 RENAMO has either destroyed or forced the closure of 2,629 primary schools, one half of the country's total. Forty percent of all educational facilities have been destroyed. Thousands of teachers have been kidnapped and killed. One particularly grotesque form of terror inflicted on teachers is mutilation - teachers lips have been cut off.

A whole generation of children have been scarred by the counter development strategy of South Africa which has been implemented by RENAMO. The statistics cannot really begin to explain the magnitude of the Mozambican tragedy. Over a million people have died from the war and half of that number is children. More than 250,000 children have been abandoned, orphaned or otherwise separated from their families. An estimated 300,000 to 500,000 children are suffering from severe physical and psychological trauma as a result of their experiences. Children have witnessed and have been forced to commit atrocities. They have been kidnapped by RENAMO and trained to be child killers. Children have been mutilated or have lost limbs from anti-personnel mines. Malnutrition and lack of basic health services affect virtually the entire population.

And now, as a treaty between RENAMO and the FRELIMO government may finally bring Mozambique some peace, the country is facing the worst drought of the century. The spectre of Somalia hangs over Mozambique.

And yet the people we talked to, including students and teachers, hold on to hope. They hope for peace and for rain. The teachers look forward to teaching and the students are enthusiastic about learning. We visited an area called Mocatini where there is a school in the bush. There is no school building - classes are held in the dirt, under trees. There are 900 students and 9 teachers. The teachers work 10 hour days for about 25 dollars a month. These teachers asked for portable blackboards and chalk for themselves, paper and pencils for the students. One of the most chilling experiences of our visit was a meeting with young boys who have been forced to serve in the RENAMO army. They told the most horrible stories of what they had been forced to do. And yet when we asked what they would like to do now that they have gotten away from RENAMO, five out of six said they would really like to be able to go to school (one boy said he just wanted to go back to his village and tend cattle).

It becomes overwhelming when one thinks about all the people and places in the world that need help. However, the Mozambique resolution which was introduced at the national AFT convention by APSTA member Bill Ritchie and adopted in August of 1992, offers some possibility that we, as teachers, can offer some real support to teachers and students in Mozambique. On a local level also there is also an opportunity to do something. If you would like more information for your classes or would like to help your students set up fund raising projects, please contact me at 438-0309. If you would like to contribute to a fund for buying blackboards and school supplies, you can make a check payable to the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Box 3002 Pine Hills Station, Albany, N.Y. 12203, noted Mocatini School Project (all funds will go directly to the school).

*Eileen C. Kauola*

*Bill Ritchie for APSTA newsletter*

**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism**  
Box 2003 Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

October 3, 1992

Ambassador Hipolito Patricio  
Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique  
1990 M Street, N.W. Suite 570  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ambassador,

As you know, Vera Michelson and I had the opportunity to visit Mozambique this past July with Prexy Nesbitt. It is difficult to convey how profound an experience this was for us.

Shortly before your visit to Albany last November, we had formed a Mozambique Support Committee. That committee made the arrangements for you and Prexy to speak in Albany. Since then we did an informational piece with the Mozambique Solidarity Office - the one entitled "Mozambique: End the Violence - Support the Peace." Then, before leaving for Mozambique we were able to raise about three hundred dollars to buy some school supplies that we brought with us as material aid. Now, partly as a result of our trip, we are planning to do more educational and material aid work for Mozambique.

While in Mozambique we were able to meet with people in a school and in a church and set up plans for two material aid projects. I have included a copy of the two letters we are using locally to encourage people to get involved in those projects. It is our hope that by getting people involved in material aid work they will learn more about the conditions in Mozambique and become encouraged to also advocate for U.S. support for increased aid.

While in Mozambique, Prexy also arranged for us to meet with Graca Machel. She told us of the National Organization of Children of Mozambique and of their goals for working with children who have faced devastating effects from the war. She also told us if there is some way she can assist in our material aid projects, that she will be happy to do so.

Another area where we might be able to make some connections between Mozambique and the U.S. is with the teacher unions. While in Mozambique, we met with teachers and with members of the National Organization of Teachers and we have established a correspondence between our local union in Albany and that union. On a more important level, one of our members, Bill Ritchie, was able to get a resolution in support of Mozambique passed at the American Federation of Teachers conference this past summer. This resolution may be helpful in getting that organization to support education and teachers in Mozambique. (I believe that Prexy has sent you a copy of the resolution.)

I have included a copy of a letter I wrote to Ruth Minter, a theology teacher working at Ricatla Seminary who served as our interpreter. We are using this letter as an informational piece since it is an attempt to recount some of our experiences. It is only an attempt, however, because to put into words the sadness, the happiness, the futility, and the hope that we encountered and that we felt seems an impossible task. Let me just say that we remain even more committed to continuing Mozambique support work.

Sincerely and in solidarity,

*Eileen C. Kaula*



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

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

November 3, 1992

Mr. Bernard Magubane  
379 Middle Turnpike  
Storrs, Conn. 06268

Dear Ben,

Thank you for agreeing to come to Albany to participate in our November 10th Forum - "South Africa Stop the Violence: Promote the Peace: Mozambique".

As we discussed on the phone we would like you to focus on the violence in South Africa, the causes, the perpetrators, the deliberateness, the portrayal of the violence as Black on Black or tribal violence and of course the effects of the violence.

Both you and Prexy will have approximately 20 minutes each to make a presentation and then we hope to have a more extended, free flowing question and answer period.

We have recently formed a Stop Apartheid Violence Sub-committee. The sub-committee is currently "studying for action". We have finished one study session and have planned two more. When we have concluded our studying, the sub-committee will formulate a program of action. It may interest you to know that there are several young people on our committee who seem very eager to participate.

Prexy will be leaving New Haven by 2:30 pm (latest) to meet you at whatever location you arrange.

Directions to Albany are fairly simple from Connecticut.

Go to the Massachusetts (Mass Turnpike). Take Mass Turnpike until turns into New York State Thruway. Take NYS Thruway until exit 21 (says Albany Hudson). Get off at this exit. Go towards Albany after the toll - you will drive approximately 1/2 hour on this highway. The highway will eventually go straight into

Albany on an arterial (787). Take 90 W toward Buffalo - very soon you will take exit 6 (Northern Blvd. - Arbor Hill) - go up ramp and you will see a Stewarts ahead of you to the left. I will meet you at the Stewarts at 7:00 pm the latest (I'll be there by approximately 6:30 pm. You can then follow me to the campus.

We are looking forward to your visit and we hope your presence will inspire many to become active in the Campaign to Stop Apartheid Violence.

Sincerely,

*Vera*

Vera Michelson, Co-chair

cc: Prexy Nesbitt  
Mel Campos

General Board of  
**Global Ministries**

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1580 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12205



Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department  
518/869-5479

December 14, 1992

Ms. Eileen Kawola  
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
Box 2003, Pine Hills Station  
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Eileen:

I am enclosing a copy of the article that appeared in The Troy Conference News & Notes in November. It was cut some due to space constraints but the editor did not know ahead that I was sending it so I am grateful that he got some of it in!

I am also sending a copy of an article that I wrote for my newsletter that goes to persons in the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United States. It includes that states of the northeast from Maine to West Virginia. Those giving as a result of my newsletter will give through The Advance which is our second-mile giving program but it will still help Liberdade build their church/community building.

Thanks for your efforts on behalf of the people of Mozambique!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice".

Alice M. Trost

AMT:sah



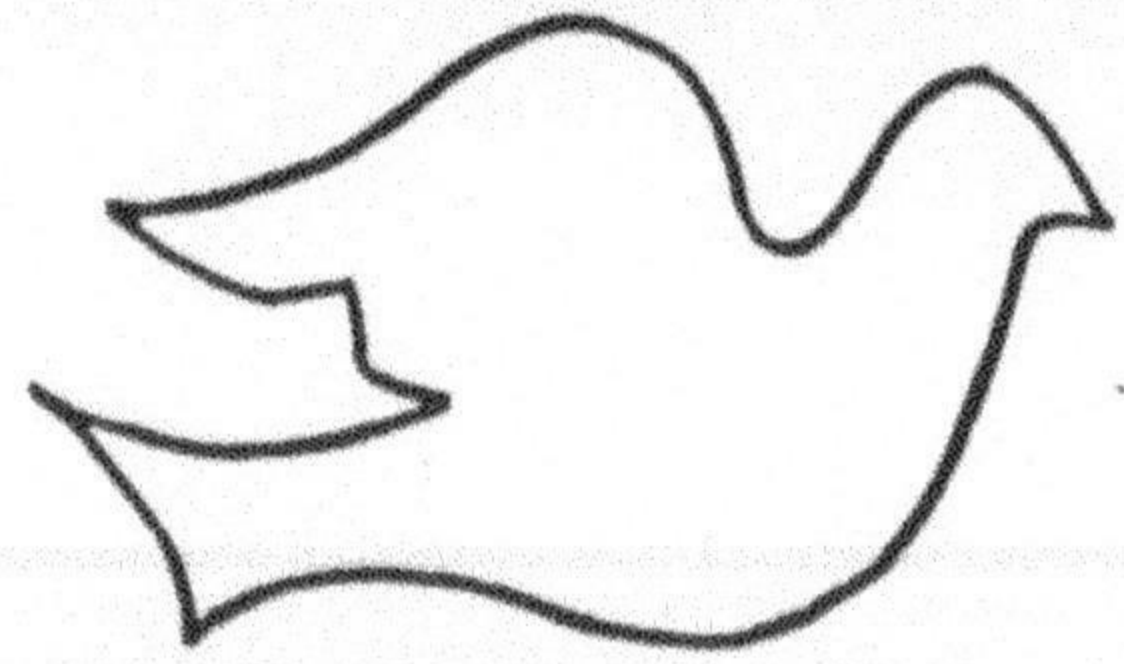
**ADVANCE**

## Mission News

Northeastern Jurisdiction Newsletter

January/February 1993

### Mission Intern Program



One of the exciting mission options for young adults (ages 22-30) is the Mission Intern Program. This is a three-year program that includes orientation, at least a year of overseas work/study, a similar amount of time in a U.S. mission placement, and a regrouping time between the overseas and U.S. experience.

The Mission Intern Program and its participants aim to:

- Build an intentional mission community of young people bound together by their Christian faith and involved in mission situations abroad and (on return) in the United States.
- Encourage young adults to take seriously a commitment to global community, a common search for justice and peace, intentional sharing and a subsistence lifestyle.
- Work with and learn from Christian communities around the world as they struggle to understand their tasks in their context.
- Respond to the challenge by Christians of the Two-Thirds World to change people and structures that adversely impact their lives and the lives of the people in the United States.
- Encourage interaction between groups abroad and in the United States regarding issues of Christian obedience, justice, and global solidarity.
- Bring to bear with United States churches and communities experiences and insights learned from persons and groups in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific.
- Provide resources for ecumenical study themes, especially in United Methodist Women's Schools of Christian Mission and in

local churches in the United States.

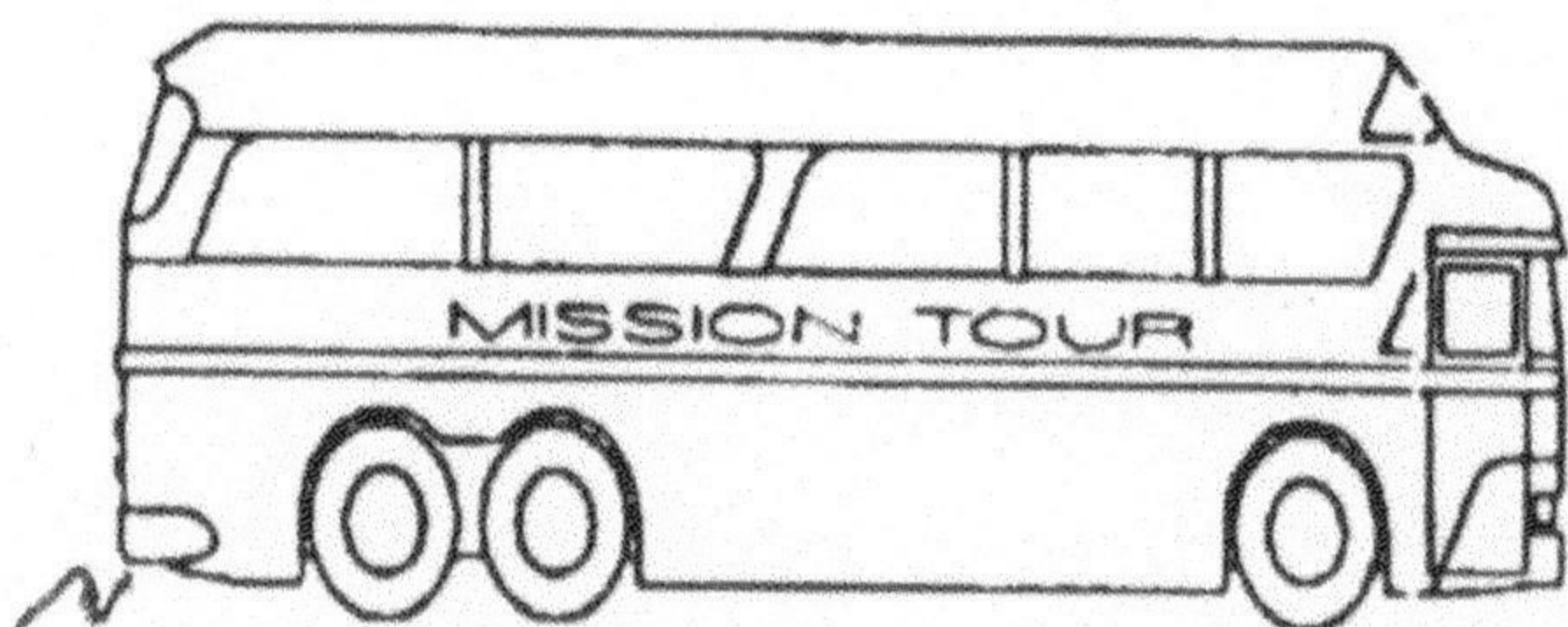
- Develop leadership among Christian young adult for church and society.
- Build an international mission community of young people bound together by their Christian faith, commitment to global community, intentional sharing and a subsistence life style.

Currently one of the Mission Interns is serving his U.S. assignment in the Frankfort Group Ministry in Philadelphia. Lonnie Chafin comes from Christianburg, Virginia where he was very active in the United Methodist Church. In college he majored in architecture and American studies. His out-of-country assignment was to the Hungarian Ecumenical Aid Society where he worked with Romanians, Bulgarians and the Yugoslavs who were fleeing their homeland's civil war. Lonnie saw about 500 refugees a day, helping them with housing, food and clothing needs.

Lonnie's U.S. assignment with the Frankfort Group Ministry has been with adjudicated youth assigned to the ministry by the courts. He works with an assistant in after school groups to help these young people stay out of trouble, handle peer pressure and family difficulties and prepare for further education or job training.

Another group of interns will be sent to their out-of-U.S. assignment in 1994. Perhaps there is a young person in your church that might be interested in this program or another form of mission involvement. For more information contact: Mission Personnel and Resources Program Department, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1470, New York, NY 10115. ■

Mission News is published by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Office of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Send correspondence to: 1501 St. Paul Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202. Phone: (410) 548-4470.



*The Post - Global  
Gathering '93  
Mission Tour*

*An opportunity for visiting and learning  
about mission work in the U.S.A.*

Plan to participate in this great opportunity to visit 10 United Methodist mission projects in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee and to hear about 12 other mission projects - PLUS - meet many persons in mission.

**Dates:** March 28, 1993 (3:30 p.m. following the close of Global Gathering), through April 3, 1993 (returning to Indianapolis that afternoon).

**Cost:** \$440.00 or, if a single room is required, \$540.00. The price of the trip will cover five nights of lodging - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and all the meals with the exception of one breakfast and two lunches.

For more information and registration materials please contact:

**Ms. Lucy Gist**  
General Board of Global Ministries  
The United Methodist Church  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1307  
New York, NY 10115

Register early - registration will close when bus seating is full! ■

## SUPPORT FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE

In July of this year two persons from the Albany Area Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism were a part of a fact finding trip to South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. While in Mozambique they attended a United Methodist Church service in Liberdade, a suburb of Maputo. They were very enthusiastic about the service and the church and currently they are trying to raise money to help the congregation build their church. Following are a couple of paragraphs from materials they have sent out to various interested people:

On our one Sunday in Mozambique we had the opportunity to go to a wonderful church service. Holding services in a borrowed Catholic Church, while they try to raise funds to build a church of their own, a Methodist congregation comes together. The pastor reminded the people that when Moses heard the word of God, he had hope. "The man who tills the soil always has hope. The land may be dry but one day it will produce something; we live in liberty and we must give thanks for what we have. We must reach out to those who have less." Hearing this message in rural, impoverished Mozambique is another of our unforgettable, and humbling, memories.

The Rev. Jamisse Uilson Taumo is the pastor of the Liberdade Church which is in the process of building a church/community center. It will contain a room for service, a community room, a classroom, a kitchen and a library. It is about one quarter built, with all the money being donated by the congregation, but they have no more money to continue. The pastor explained that they are building a large facility in order to serve many needs of the people, especially the children.

Maybe this church touches you as it touched those who visited it in July. If you would like to give to the building project, it is an Advance--Liberdade United Methodist Church, #011669-6AN. In a country with devastating civil strife and now experiencing what is considered to be the worst drought of the century, hope often comes from unexpected sources. ■

### Two leaflets come with this newsletter:

"Youth Ask 25 Questions About Mission" answers some of the most frequently asked questions that youth have about the mission of the church and their possible involvement in it. Some of these questions are also asked by others in the church so it is a good piece to provide sometime as a bulletin insert to reach members of the congregation.

"Person to Person" is a piece that tells about mission interpretation--who are the possible interpreters, what are some of the appropriate settings for an interpreter and how can your church, district and area be reached by a person-to-person mission experience.