



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

JANUARY, 1988

NEWSLETTER

**NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1988 at 7:30 p. m.**  
Urban League, corner of Livingston and Ten Broeck, Albany, New York

**TOPIC: Racial violence ... critical update**

- Cases of Racial Violence - Tawana Brawley, Jimmy Lee Bruce & others
- The need for a statewide special prosecutor - Cuomo's position
- The Coalition petition campaign - Albany policewoman Von Dollen Burke

Jeff Jones and Vicki Smith will lead discussion

**For Barbara Winters - December, 1988**

(The following statement was made to Barbara Winters upon her resignation as Director of the Albany Urban League and her return to Connecticut)

These words were not difficult to put together. They are a collation of the reactions of the members of the Coalition who we talked to about your leaving.

The reaction became predictable. Barbara, never has there been a time, that any of us can remember, that anyone has come into our community and made such an impact in such a short time.

Your work has been insightful and steady. You are most skilled at working with all sectors of the community. You are deliberate, open, honest and caring. You live by the saying, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." This ideal has led you forward, taking others along with you.

Your contributions and initiatives in the community are endless. While others talk, you act. Sometimes they talked while you were acting, and they are still talking! Your involvement in the Coalition and your role on the steering committee have been invaluable.

Barbara, within a very short time, you said to us: "This is where I want to be!" You understood that our politics is a maze of diversity and you instinctively understood the difficult task ahead. You put on no airs and you were willing to learn and grow with us. In your work you became a symbol of the link between fighting racism here and fighting apartheid in South Africa.

Know that you have been a true sister in struggle. **A luta continua!**

**The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, N.Y.**



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

#### NEWS NOTES

**STUDY GROUPS** - The Coalition has been running monthly study sessions on what is happening in Southern Africa. In October, South African students, Sean Lewis and Shobhna Golpa, discussed their experiences as students within the country. In November, Vicki Erenstein of the National Lawyers Guild told of a conference she recently attended in Harare, Zimbabwe and the moves by the apartheid regime to destabilize and terrorize all of Southern Africa. In December, Mojaki Thulo of the ANC led a discussion of the meaning and importance of the Freedom Charter. Also in December, two members of the Coalition, Barbara Winters and Naomi Jaffe, presented information on the situation in Namibia. **Scheduled next: a discussion of Mozambique in January and one on Angola in March.** If you would like to join these study sessions, call 436-0562.

**A. PHILIP RANDOLPH INSTITUTE** The next meeting of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Albany Chapter, will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 4, 1988, in the offices of Service Employees Local 200 D, 16 Russell Road, Albany (Westgate Building, adjacent to the Westgate Shopping Center). All who are interested in working with the Black community, through the labor movement, are invited to attend. (APRI is part of the AFL-CIO)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER - Peace Offerings**, the craft and gift store of the Social Justice Center of Albany, raised \$3,000 for the Center during the recent holiday season. These funds provide critical help to the Center which is struggling to raise money to meet operating costs. Besides raising money, another of the store's goals is to provide multi-cultural and political education. The store will be kept open the rest of the year with shortened hours. Call 434-4037 for details.

**Bowl-a-thon** - On Saturday, February 27, 1987, the Social Justice Center will sponsor the second annual Bowl-a-thon as a fundraiser. If you like to bowl and could be part of a Coalition team, call 438-0309.

**Volunteers needed** by the Center. Each member group (the Coalition is a member group) has been asked to find volunteers to work at various jobs a few hours or days each month. Help is needed in the following areas: office work, floor and window displays, publicity, physical work on the building, fundraising. Call 438-0309 or 434-4037 if you can help out.

The Social Justice Center, made up of several organizations working on issues of peace and social justice, is an invaluable community resource. Please give your support.

#### NEWS NOTES CONTINUED

**CRITICAL BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE** - On Saturday, February 6, 1988, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the New York State Museum at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Guided community discussions will focus on several major issues including economics, politics, education, cultural and social awareness and leadership. For more information on the conference, call (518) 885-1683 (eves.)

**In this newsletter you will find a flyer with particulars of this event - please read and post where others can read it.**

**BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS WEEKEND** - This year's weekend is planned for February 13-15. Remember the dates.

**WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA** - provides very comprehensive and valuable legislative updates on Southern Africa, including the latest regarding sanctions bills. If you would like more information, call 436-0562.

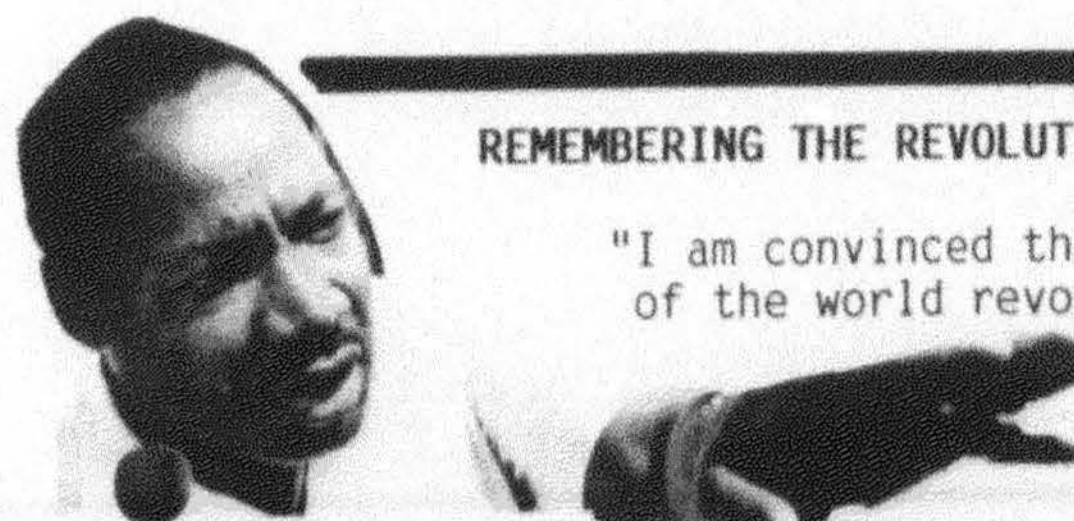
**LATIN NIGHT** - On Friday, January 22nd from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., there will be a Latin Night at the Imperial Room of the Thruway House on Washington Avenue in Albany. For more information, call Tony 465-1827.

**CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE - UNITY AND DIVERSITY SERIES** sponsored by Women and Minority Studies, Peace Studies and the Reinhold Niebuhr Institute of Siena College will present two lectures in February.

**"Where do we go from here - chaos or community?"** by James Lawson, Pres. of the Los Angeles chapter of the SCLC and former Martin Luther King colleague and co-worker - on February 1st at 8:00 p.m.

**"African International Ethos"** slide show and lecture by Marta Moreno Vega - on February 15th at 8:00 p.m.

Both programs will take place in Room 202, Roger Bacon Hall, Siena College, Route 9, Loudenville.



#### **REMEMBERING THE REVOLUTIONARY VALUES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING**

"I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must begin the shift from a "thing oriented" society to a person oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of **racism, materialism and militarism** are incapable of being conquered." M.L. King



## INTERNATIONAL APARTHEID CONFERENCE



Damu Smith, Director of the Washington Office on Africa, Vera Michelson, Co-chair of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, New York and Art Kamel of WESTPAC at international conference in Tanzania.

### ANC Present for First Time

More than 500 delegates from all over the world, travelled to Arusha, Tanzania, to attend an Anti-Apartheid conference called by the African National Congress, the vanguard of the liberation movement in South Africa.

Vera Michelson, of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, was part of the 14-member US delegation to the conference, which consisted of representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, solidarity organizations, national liberation movements of several countries and the South African democratic movement inside the country. The conference was entitled, "PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AGAINST APARTHEID FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA."

The following is a conversation with Vera Michelson.

**Q:** Anti-Apartheid conferences are being held all the time. What was special, or different or significant about this one?

**A:** This was the first time in the history of the liberation movement that the ANC has been able to sit down with the international community to discuss strategies to more effectively isolate South Africa. The actual work of the conference was done in four commissions:

- 1) Pretoria's policy of aggression against the frontline states.
- 2) Mobilization of people's sanctions.
- 3) The international isolation of the Apartheid regime.
- 4) New perspectives on international solidarity.

It was in the commissions that strategies were hammered out to set an agenda for the international movement, which will push the struggle forward to keep up with the escalating resistance inside South Africa.

**Q:** How does the African National Congress fit into the internal or external struggle?

**A:** The time has come for the world to understand that the South African regime is absolutely illegitimate. The people's movement in South Africa is fully behind the ANC. Freedom fighters from inside the country who spoke under strict security measures repeatedly told of the vanguard role of the ANC. One unnamed representative of COSATU (the largest and most powerful trade union federation in South Africa) said: "The ANC lives among our people, it is within our people...they are instruments of liberation."

**Q:** Why should the ANC receive full support from the international community?

**A:** It is the will of the mass democratic movement inside the country. That same COSATU representative said: "We want to inform the Conference and the international community that we don't see the need for any other national liberation movement, except the ANC. The ANC is an organ of unity. It was founded on the principle of broad unity amongst our people. In its policies and constitution there is room, and a home for all kinds of belief, for all men and women who are serious and true compatriots. The struggle is not playing games. Men, women and children are daily imprisoned, tortured and killed. We don't want to encourage the existence of the Savimbis and the Renamos'. Thus we appeal to the international community to help us against it. Only the fascist, racist white minority and Reagan will encourage the existence of a third force."

You see, the issue is critical now, because the South African government and its Western allies, are trying to promote puppets like Gatscha Buthelezi and his Inkatha movement. These people are not legitimate and do not represent the people. They are being promoted by the SA government in a desperate attempt to divide the forces of democracy and freedom and to sow confusion.

The mass democratic movement inside the country, organizations like COSATU, the UDF (the largest political grouping in the country), the youth, student, women's organizations, etc., not only support the program of the ANC, which enshrines non-racialism and democracy but also support the ANC as the nucleus of the government in exile.

**Q:** What do people in the US have to do with all this?

**A:** Simply being Anti-Apartheid is not enough. The liberation movement needs our concrete support. There is no middle ground. We are either supporting the ANC, or the regime. In his address to the conference, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania said: "...the task of the ANC is to continue the struggle and the task of non-racialists everywhere is to support them."

**Q:** How does the solidarity/anti-apartheid movement in the United States compare with movements in other countries?

**A:** Britain and the Scandinavian countries have strong movements which are not fragmented. The Socialist countries and most of the African nations support

the liberation movement. Even Japan now has a growing Anti-Apartheid movement which is working to prevent Japanese companies from moving into South Africa to replace disinvesting companies. In the US we tend to go in spurts and jogs. We have a tendency to support an issue if it is fashionable. I sometimes think we have very short attention spans.

**Q:** How does the conference see the role of the US in the future?

**A:** We have to build on the important victories that we have won in this country. Our task here is to advance the effort to win real and complete sanctions against Pretoria. We also have to educate people about the atrocities SA is committing in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique in particular. Our work is cut out for us.

**Q:** What are the future plans of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism? Will the conference affect your work?

**A:** The conference will help us to focus our work in the solidarity movement. We are already holding teach-ins so that our members can become more knowledgeable about SA's role in creating chaos, death and starvation in the whole of Southern Africa. We will be working on the sanctions bill and perhaps a material aid campaign to give concrete financial assistance to Liberation movement.

We can also never forget that our country's foreign policy is just a reflection of its domestic policy. It is for this reason that it is just as necessary to fight against racism in the US. We are therefore conducting a petition campaign to have action taken against police officer, Valerie Van Dollen Burke, for twice violating the civil rights of Black citizens in Albany.

We invite anyone who believes racism inside or outside the US is a crime against humanity, to join us in our fight against this crime.

Call 436-0562 to get involved.



(The above article is a reprint from The Scene, January, 1988)



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

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**IMPORTANT MEETING—**

**JAN.28**

**FOCUS: RACIAL VIOLENCE**



On November 28, 1987, *15-year-old* Tawana Brawley was found alive in a plastic bag on a roadside in Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County. She had been *kidnapped* and held for three days by *6 white men* who identified themselves as Police Officers (showing badges). She had been raped and sodomized. "K.K.K." had been written across her chest, and "NIGGER" written in excrement across her stomach.

In nearby Orange County, Black and Hispanic men right now resist a *KKK/prison guard* reign of terror in the County jail. This is the County where *Jimmy Lee Bruce* was strangled to death a year ago by Orange County Police Officers.





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Albany, NY 12203

1/28/88

**CASES OF RACIAL VIOLENCE  
IN NEW YORK STATE**

**December 25, 1987**  
**New York City, NY**

Two black men were set upon and beaten by a local group of white youths as they were collecting cans in a Brooklyn neighborhood.

**December 19, 1987**  
**Binghamton, New York**

Ms. Shirley Harris-Smith, a 32 two year old mother of 5 and five months pregnant, was arrested following a confrontation with another woman in front of a local bar at 1:44 am. Between 4-4:30 am, she was discovered dead - standing upright in her cell. No effort was made to save her child.

An organization called, Concerned Citizens for Equal Justice, prepared a report detailing many inconsistencies and contradictions by the local police department and City Hall. The group has asked Governor Cuomo to appoint a special prosecutor.

**December 4, 1987**  
**New York City**

Ms. Yvonne Smallwood, a hospital worker, trade unionist and mother of four, was viciously attacked by two police officers on 231st and Broadway. She was left bleeding on the sidewalk for more than an hour. She later died for injuries sustained from the attack.

*parking ticket*

**November 25-28, 1987**  
**Wappingers Falls, NY**

Tawana Brawley, a 15 year old high school student was found alive in a plastic bag on a roadside in Wappingers Falls. She had been kidnapped and held for 3 days by 6 white men who identified themselves as police officers (showing badges). She had been raped and sodomized. KKK and nigger had been written in excrement on her body.



Page 2

**November 25, 1987**  
**Bronx, New York**

Kenroy Burke, a Jamaican born father of 5, was shot down in front of his home by a KKK cop named, Richard Holsgrove. This incident was witnessed by several onlookers. Kenroy Burke was unarmed. No charges have been brought against the police officer.

**Transit Authority Arrests**  
**New York City, New York**

In a recent false arrest, Mr. Okhiria, a mirco-biologist, was arrested and ridiculed by a group of Transit Authority cops anxious for promotions. The TA cops could not spell Mr. Okhiria's place of birth, Nigeria. One officer suggested to other that he spell the word nigger and add i and a.

**November 22, 1987**  
**Goshen, New York**

Nine Black and Latino men, inmates at the Orange County Jail, were hosed down with high pressure fire hoses, cursed at, and beaten with nightsticks by prison guards dressed in Klan-like garb as a result of asking for the sweltering heat to be turned down. Several inmates were injured; one was injured seriously enough to warrant medical attention. The injured inmate did not receive medical attention until some 15 days after the incident. These inmates now face criminal charges.

**November 21, 1987**  
**Peekskill, New York**

A gang of white youths attacked Alfonso Smith, a young Black man, at a Peekskill gas station. Haywood Burns, Dean of the Law School at CUNY, happened upon the attack as he stopped for gas following a NAACP awards dinner that evening. He was able to rescue Alfonso Smith from further harm.

An article appeared in a Westchester County paper about this incident in which Alfonso Smith's name and address was printed. On Thanksgiving November 26th, Smith's home was set afire. Police do not believe the two envents are related.



Page 3

**December 13, 1986**  
**Walkill, New York**

Jimmy Lee Bruce, Jr., a 20 year old Black man, died in a parking lot of a Walkill movie theatre after an extended choke hold had been placed on him by an off-duty, plain clothes, police officer. An Orange County Grand Jury found this officer and others present to have acted justly in the strangling death of this young man.

**December 1986**  
**Howard Beach, NY**

Michael Griffith was chased to his death on the Belt Parkway in Queens by a mob of white teenagers. The same youths also beat up Cedric Sandiford and Tim Grimes who had been with Michael when their car broke down in this neighborhood.

**Albany, NY**

Officer Von Dollen Burke was found liable in 1987 by a federal court judge for violating the civil rights of the McKeever family by conducting an illegal search of their home in Arbor Hill.

**1985**  
**New York City, NY**

Ms. Eleanor Bumpers, an elderly black woman, was being evicted from her apartment by police officers for failing to pay her rent. The police felt she was going to lunge at them with the knife she is said to have had in her hand. The officers shot twice and she died as a result. A physician did report that the first shot would have been enough to disable Ms. Bumpers; and therefore, there was no need for the second shot. No indictments were made.

**1984**  
**New York City, NY**

Michael Stewart was killed by Transit Authority police at Union Square.



Page 4

Summer 1984  
Albany, NY

Jesse Davis, a thirty-five year old Black man, with some history of psychiatric hospitalizations, was shot and killed in his home by Albany police. Police apparently violated departmental rules in the handling of residents with a history of psychological difficulties. A law suit is pending.

Albany, NY

In 1984, Federal Judge Miner found Officer Von Dollen liable for assaulting, with a five cell flashlight, a 51 year old, 4'11" Black woman. The judge awarded \$ 5,000 against the officer to her victim, Mary Keyes. The judge state that the "physical force used was unprovoked, unnecessary, and clearly excessive. In fact, there was no need for the application of any force whatsoever..."

NOTES

Information compiled by Vickie Smith  
and Jeff Jones





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Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

**MARCH, 1988  
NEWSLETTER**

**NEXT GENERAL COALITION MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1988, 7:30 p. m.  
ALBANY URBAN LEAGUE, LIVINGSTON AND TEN BROECK**

**TOPICS:**

- the campaign to have disciplinary action taken against Valerie VonDollen Burke, Albany police officer - update on petition drive
- the bannings of 17 anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa  
discussion of what this means and what action we can take  
(see analysis inside this newsletter)
- racial violence in New York State  
planning for a forum: and follow up on the Brawley case  
and
- Aaron Carter, a Schenectady resident and member of the Refreshing Springs Church of God, who was arrested and abused by Schenectady police on Feb. 21, will discuss his case with the members of the Coalition.

**EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO FIGHT RACISM AND APARTHEID WELCOME...**

Note of thanks - again - to Michael Dollard, without whose help this newsletter would not be possible.

Please remember if you pledged money to Coalition members who bowled in the Social Justice Center Bowlathon, they will be collected at the March meeting.

**IN DECEMBER AND AGAIN LAST MONTH WE MADE AN URGENT APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL HELP. TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED - THANK YOU! IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE YET TO RESPOND, PLEASE TRY TO DO SO - THE WORK IS GREAT AND OUR RESOURCES ARE VERY LIMITED. SEND TO BOX 3002, PINE HILLS STATION, ALBANY, N.Y. 12203.**



# Fascists and hypocrites

With a clean sweep of the legislative guillotine, the neo-fascist South African government has launched a desperate attempt at the total annihilation of the liberation movement inside South Africa. They have now, on Feb. 24, 1988, banned 17 major national political organizations and groupings. These include the 650,000 member-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the largest political grouping in the country, the non-racial United Democratic Front.

1985 was the first year since 1960 that the South African government had thought it necessary to declare a State of Emergency. This State of Emergency is still in place now, three years later, but its nature has changed. Throughout the three years the neo-fascist government of P.W. Botha has introduced more and more legislation to give greater and more sweeping powers to the police and to the Minister of Law and Order. These have included bans on the press, bans on gatherings, summary and arbitrary arrest and detention for indefinite periods, with detainees having no recourse to the law, censorship of what is taught in classrooms, preached in churches, violations of moslem places of worship, and the list continues.

1988 is the year in which the racist Apartheid government is trying to crush the backbone of the movement for democracy and justice in the same way that it repressed it with the banning of the ANC and other organizations in 1961. Hence the banning of the 17 organizations.

This is ostensibly done in an attempt to clear the field for the reactionary forces consisting of the traitors to the struggle for liberation of the oppressed and exploited black masses in South Africa. These traitors and self-seeking, avaricious political opportunists include Gatsha Buthelezi and his reactionary impis in Inkatha (the US favorite), which has been steadily losing support to the UDF and COSATU, even in areas which have been Inkatha's traditional strongholds, few and small though they may be. They also include the puppet parties of Alan Hendrickse and Amichand Rajbansi, who for financial and material remuneration, were prepared to give token participation in the farcical tri-cameral parliament. I call it token participation because they have no power to effect change or even to stimulate a discussion about change. Also, less than four percent of those eligible to vote in the tri-cameral elections of 1984, voted for these quislings; an indication of the massive popular rejection of any racist, oppressive, and exploitative compromise

from this illegitimate government. P.W. Botha's National Party is also trying to stem the steady flow of white Nazis from his party in preparation for the elections scheduled for 1989.

The United States has made enough excuses. The excuse of "Constructive Engagement", which was designed to give the South African government enough room in which to maneuver and give incentive for reform, resulted in the assassination by the South African police of Matthews Goniwe, a teacher and community leader in Cradock, South Africa. It led to the infamous Langa massacres where people, peacefully on their way to a funeral, were mowed down by the police, who afterwards planted sticks and stones next to their bodies and claimed that these people had made threatening gestures at them in their armored cars, which have been built to withstand grenade attacks. "Constructive Engagement" led to the massacres of children in 1985, 1986, 1987, to the mass detention and torture of people, aged from eight to 80. "Constructive Engagement" was a license for the South African government to wage a brutal war on an unarmed and initially peaceful protesting people.

The South African people demanded sanctions. The Front-Line states demanded sanctions. Yet, for a long time, the US government stalled and listened to the voice of P.W. Botha, which sounds remarkably like Adolf Hitler's, but then again, so did Somoza's voice in Nicaragua.

When the Anti-Apartheid movement in the United States battered down the conservative double-talk of a White House tarnished with the blood of South Africans, Namibians, Angolans, and Mozambicans, the conservative conspiracy managed to soften the sanctions bill, which had been spearheaded by progressive representatives, making it absolutely toothless. Excuses abound. They say that sanctions are no way to bring about peaceful change, but there was no hesitation in imposing sanctions on Poland, Lybia, Nicaragua, and Brazil.

The Dellums-Cranston bill is before Congress, which, if passed, will impose total sanctions on South Africa. The South African masses are calling for total sanctions. The Front-Line states are calling for total sanctions. South Africa must be isolated economically, politically, in sport, tourism, entertainment — everything. The excuses of the US government do not conceal the hypocrisy of vested interests. The US government has only one moral, democratic, and just direction it can take:

- [1] Impose total sanctions on South Africa.
- [2] Demand the total withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia.
- [3] Withdraw all overt and covert aid to the contras of Angola, namely Jonas Savimbi's UNITA.
- [4] Support the South African liberation movement financially and materially through support for the ANC, SWAPO, the MPLA government of Angola and the FRELIMO government of Mozambique.

Ordinary people have the moral responsibility to write to their legislators, like D'Amato and Stratten, demanding that they support the sanctions bill. Write or call Senator Daniel P. Moynihan and demand that he take leadership with the Dellums-Cranston bill.

The United States has been complicit in much death, devastation, and injustice. Let's make a concerted effort to end the death, devastation and injustice in Southern Africa.

and  
after the bannings  
... more repression

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — The government Tuesday proposed a bill to outlaw foreign funding of political activity, which could cripple anti-apartheid groups and churches thus far spared from the new crackdown on opposition.

No court challenge of the restrictions would be allowed.

Last week, the government banned 18 predominantly black organizations from political activity, including the largest anti-apartheid coalition and largest labor federation.

The new legislation, called "The Promotion of Orderly Politics Bill," would prohibit all organizations from receiving money from abroad for political purposes and would empower the justice minister to seize foreign funds received by certain groups. His powers would be indefinitely retroactive.

MARCH 2, 1988 - ALBANY TIMES UNION

## CALL TO ACTION...

The heightened crisis in South Africa makes it crucial for the Coalition to heighten our work around the issue of sanctions. The apartheid regime must be isolated. We are planning to develop strategies with churches and labor unions to press for action from the U.S. government. **WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO WORK ON THIS IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN.** Call 436-0562 to volunteer.



*"The South African government to make the white supreme has had to reach into the past and revive the nightmarish ideology and practices of nazism. We are witnessing a recrudescence of the barbarism which murdered more humans than any war in history."*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



RONALD V. DELLUMS  
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHAIRPERSON  
COMMITTEE ON THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSON  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS  
AND FACILITIES



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

February 23, 1988

ANY REPLY TO THIS LETTER  
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO  
OFFICE CHECKED

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BERKELEY CA 94703  
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3732 MT. DIABLO BLVD. SUITE 160  
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(415) 283-8125

Dear Friend:

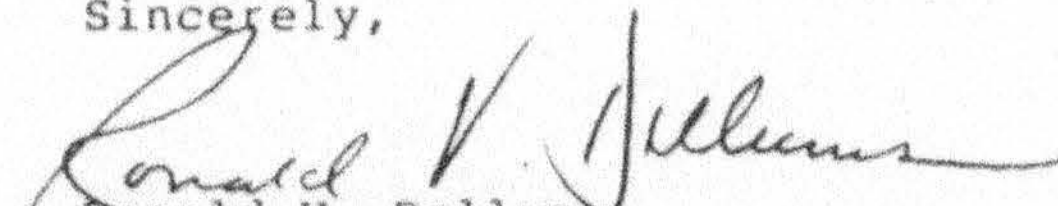
...

As you know, Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and I have introduced H.R. 1580/S. 556, a bill to impose a virtually total ban on South Africa. This legislation would also require U.S. corporations to withdraw from South Africa within six months of enactment. H.R. 1580/S. 556 is similar to H.R. 997, the comprehensive sanctions bill I introduced in 1986. H.R. 997 passed the House of Representatives by voice vote and helped provide the momentum for pressuring the Senate, and ultimately the entire Congress, to pass a lesser sanctions package against South Africa over President Reagan's veto.

The Reagan Administration has undermined the current sanctions law with weak regulations and loose interpretation of the letter of the law. Since the Administration is not willing to enforce even the limited sanctions presently in effect, it is up to the Congress to enact stronger, truly comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid government. Black South African organizations such as the National Union of Mineworkers, COSATU, NACTU, and leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African Council of Churches President Rev. Frank Chikane, and the Rev. Beyers Naude continue to call for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Pretoria. As Americans, the very least we can do is to heed their call for international pressure against apartheid. Together the churches, trade unions, anti-apartheid, civil rights and other organizations of this country can mobilize the kind of grassroots pressure needed to force Congress to pass strong, comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime.

...

Sincerely,

  
Ronald V. Dellums  
Member of Congress



# FREEDOM NOW!



JOIN  
THE STRUGGLE

DEMAND  
TOTAL  
SANCTIONS  
AGAINST APARTHEID

Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism  
Box 3002 - Pine Hill Station  
Albany, NY 12203  
A Project of the Social Justice Center

On February 24, 1988, the racist South African government banned 17 major national political organizations. These include the largest political grouping in the country, the non-racial United Democratic Front with over 3 million members and the 650,000 member Congress of South African Trade Unions. This is another move by the apartheid government in Pretoria to crush the movement for democracy and justice. Black South Africa are asking the international community for complete and real sanctions against South Africa. As Americans we have a real responsibility to respond to this call. Our government is supporting apartheid with its continued trade and investments in South Africa. The time for debate is over. We must show our legislators that we want a real change in our policy towards Southern Africa.

On the other side of this page you will find an excerpt from a letter by U.S. Congressman Ronald V. Dellums with details about legislation he and Sen. Alan Cranston have introduced in Congress which would isolate the pariah state by imposing a virtually total ban on South Africa. We are asking you to take the time to write the following letter (or another letter in your own words) to New York Senator Daniel Moynihan. This is an urgent appeal - the crisis in South Africa deepens.

After you have written a letter, please post this information or pass it on.

March, 1988

Senator Daniel P. Moynihan  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Room #464  
Washington D.C. 10501

Dear Senator Moynihan,

I am very concerned about the fact that you have not signed on as a cosponsor to Sanctions Bill #S 556.

I am sure you know that things have never been worse in South Africa. The fact that we no longer see the horrors of apartheid on the nightly news does not mean that it is not happening. The recent bannings of 17 organizations committed to peaceful change shows that the government is committed to maintaining white supremacist rule in that tortured country. And we are continuing to support that racist government and its heinous crimes against the majority of the South African people by our continued trade and investments there.

Every major anti-apartheid organization, trade union and youth organization is calling for complete sanctions. What are you waiting for?

Senator Moynihan, I am sincerely hoping that you will join the courageous leadership of Senator Cranston and Congressman Dellums in cosponsoring this bill. #S 556 responds directly to the call of those who have the most to gain, the Black majority in South Africa. We do not need any other legislation...such a move would only serve to add confusion to this most urgent issue. For once, let us be on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

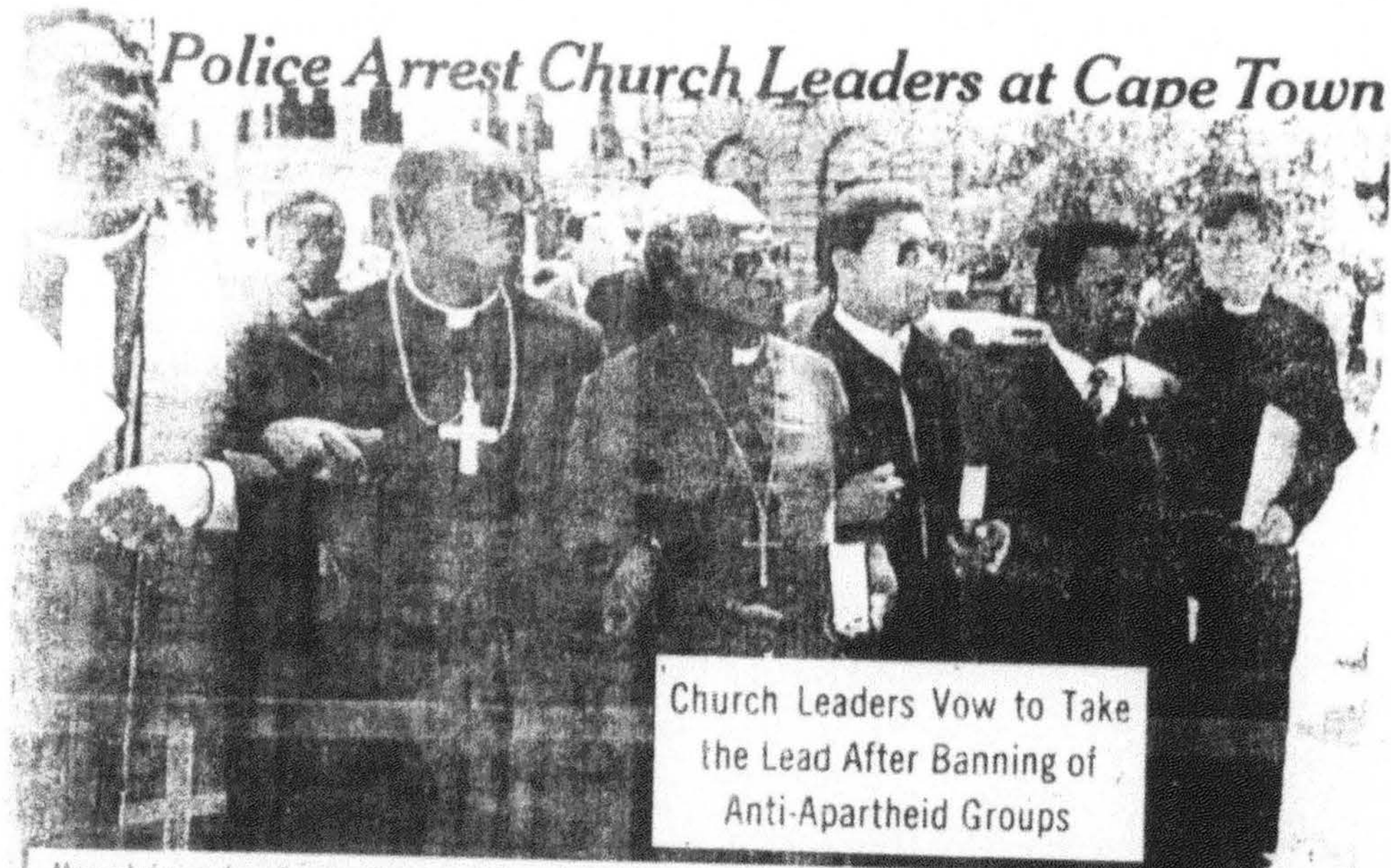


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Marching in Cape Town. From left: the Rev. Khosa Mgoja, Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, Bishop Desmond F. Tutu, the Rev. Allan A. Boesak, the Frank Chikane, the Rev. Syd Lockett.

Victory to ANC of South Africa

Victory to SWAPO of Namibia



More International News

ANC Present for First Time

Michelson Among International Reps at Apartheid Conference

More than 500 delegates from all over the world, travelled to Arusha, Tanzania, to attend an Anti-Apartheid conference called by the African National Congress, the vanguard of the liberation movement in South Africa.

Vera Michelson, of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, was part of the 14-member US delegation to the conference, which consisted of representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, solidarity organizations, national liberation movements of several countries and the South African democratic movement inside the country. The conference was entitled, "PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AGAINST APARTHEID FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA."

The following is a conversation with Vera Michelson.

Q: Anti-Apartheid conferences are being held all the time. What was special, or different or significant about this one?

A: This was the first time in the history



Vera Michelson, of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, is surrounded by Damu Smith, left, director of the Washington Office on Africa, and Art Kamel, of WESTPAC, during a recent conference in Tanzania.

of the liberation movement that the ANC has been able to sit down with the international community to discuss strategies to more effectively isolate South Africa. The actual work of the conference was done in four commissions:

- 1) Pretoria's policy of aggression against the frontline states.
- 2) Mobilization of people's sanctions.
- 3) The international isolation of the Apartheid regime.
- 4) New perspectives on international solidarity.

Zimbabwean Tragedy

must take this fact into account. This is the case relative to the situation in question to Zimbabwe. The actual controversy between the Pentecostal missionaries and the local African residents was land and not the Bible.

Understandably, Westerners tend to believe that private ownership of land is a condition of human life that has always been obtained except for such aberrations as the Socialist revolutions of Russia and China. This is simply not so in the rest of the world. In pre-colonial Africa, land tenure was tribal and plots were shared among members according to need. Land was, and is still regarded as the provider of spiritual and physical sustenance.

It is a strong symbol of belonging and forms an integral system of religious beliefs. It, therefore, cannot be bought or sold. In this vein, a Blackfoot Indian Chief once explained to a white North American: "Our land is more valuable than your money. It will last forever. It will not perish by flames of fire. As long as the sun shines and the waters flow, this land will be there to give life to men and animals, therefore, we cannot sell this land. It was put here for us by the great spirit and we cannot sell it because it does not belong to us."

The Zimbabwean rank and file are hard put to understand how a 20 year revolution was waged so Africans could determine their own destiny and reclaim their land and yet still be told that they are on their lands illegally because those who had taken it from them, to begin with, own it. In time of drought, African reservations that are smaller in size and more barren than white farms are subject to severe and sudden deterioration. The sheer numbers of African residents dictate that they find more land areas to graze their livestock, to fetch water, to gather wood and to hunt. One would expect that their land laden white brethren would be willing to share. Survival being such a dominant instinct in human beings, if you cannot obtain help by asking, taking might be the only option left especially when you consider the item at issue as yours.

Clearly, it is the responsibility of the Zimbabwean government to hasten the new order whereby Africans will be relieved of the burden of economic

exploitation which caused them to pick up arms. Such governmental role is bound to minimize bilateral clashes the like of which occurred at the missionary farms.

Developing nations need genuine reform that results in a radical and integrated commitment to social equity. Western property speculation, privatization of public housing, growing homelessness and developing chasm between rich and poor is the wrong direction to go. Thus, the message to those in power must be made as clear as the one shared by Nicolas Guillen, the Afro-Cuban poet, with landowners.

Yesterday I sent you a letter,  
Written in my blood,  
To tell you that I want back  
The mountains and the plains  
And the rivers you stole from me  
The ones that run between the trees  
Swaying in the wind  
full of birds  
and my life  
which is nobody's but mine.  
Lord, you'll have to reckon with me,  
from the sugar cane to the rose bush,  
and from the rose bush to the sugar cane,  
you've staked you claim and  
you'll have to reckon with me  
Lord, how you're going to reckon with me.

The following typical story from Zimbabwe is no cause for celebration. Baba Muzwa, 50, is in ill health. He works for white farmer, Peter. He starts work at 6 a.m. and finishes at 5:30 p.m. with half an hour for lunch. On Saturday, it is 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. He cannot talk, whistle or sing on the job. He works without masks, gloves or shoes. He never knows what to expect for wages at the end of the month—sometimes 15 minutes lateness for work spells a \$5 deduction. The most he can expect a month is \$70 which is \$15 below the stipulated minimum wage for farmer workers and \$40 below that for industrial workers. He lives in a workers' compound which is a row of asbestos-roofed brick cubicles that are falling and overgrown with weeds. There are no toilet facilities no tap or warm water, no windows, no chairs, beds or mattresses.

In 1979 Baba Muzwa's story would not have read differently.

It was in the commissions that strategies were hammered out to set an agenda for the international movement, which will push the struggle forward to keep up with the escalating resistance inside South Africa.

Q: How does the African National Congress fit into the internal or external struggle?

A: The time has come for the world to understand that the South African regime is absolutely illegitimate. The people's movement in South Africa is fully behind the ANC. Freedom fighters from inside the country who spoke under strict security measures repeatedly told of the vanguard role of the ANC. One un-named representative of COSATU (the largest and most powerful trade union federation in South Africa) said: "The ANC lives among our people, it is within our people, they are instruments of liberation."

Q: Why should the ANC receive full support from the international community?

A: It is the will of the mass democratic movement inside the country. That same COSATU representative said: "We want to inform the Conference and the international community that we don't see the need for any other national liberation movement, except the ANC. The ANC is an organ of unity. It was founded on the principle of broad unity amongst our people. In its policies and constitution there is room, and a home for all kinds of belief, for all men and women who are serious and true patriots. The struggle is not playing games. Men, women and children are daily imprisoned, tortured and killed. We don't want to encourage the existence of the Savimbi's and the Renamios. Thus we appeal to the international community to help us avoid it. Only the fascist, racist white minority and Reagan will encourage the existence of a third force."

You see, the issue is critical now, because the South African government and its Western allies, are trying to promote puppets like Gataha Buthelezi and his Inkatha movement. These people are not legitimate and do not represent the people. They are being promoted by the SA government in a desperate attempt to divide the forces of democracy and freedom and to sow confusion.

The mass democratic movement inside the country, organizations like COSATU, the UDF (the largest political grouping in the country), the youth, student, women's organizations, etc., not only support the program of the ANC, which enshrines non-racialism and democracy but also support the ANC as the nucleus of the government in exile.

Q: What do people in the US have to do with all this?

A: Simply being Anti-Apartheid is not enough. The liberation movement needs our concrete support. There is no middle ground. We are either supporting the

ANC, or the regime. In his address to the conference, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania said: "the task of the ANC is to continue the struggle and the task of non-racialists everywhere is to support them."

Q: How does the solidarity anti-apartheid movement in the United States compare with movements in other countries?

A: Britain and the Scandinavian countries have strong movements which are not fragmented. The Socialist countries and most of the African nations support the liberation movement. Even Japan now has a growing Anti-Apartheid movement which is working to prevent Japanese companies from moving into South Africa to replace disinvesting companies. In the US we tend to go in spurts and jogs. We have a tendency to support an issue if it is fashionable. I sometimes think we have very short attention spans.

Q: How does the conference see the role of the US in the future?

A: We have to build on the important victories that we have won in this country. Our task here is to advance the effort to win real and complete sanctions against Pretoria. We also have to educate people about the atrocities SA is committing in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique in particular. Our work is cut out for us.

Q: What are the future plans of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism? Will the conference affect your work?

A: The conference will help us to focus our work in the solidarity movement. We are already holding teach-ins so that our members can become more knowledgeable about SA's role in creating chaos, death and starvation in the whole of Southern Africa. We will be working on the sanctions bill and perhaps a material aid campaign to give concrete financial assistance to Liberation movement.

We can also never forget that our country's foreign policy is just a reflection of its domestic policy. It is for this reason that it is just as necessary to fight against racism in the US. We are therefore conducting a petition campaign to have action taken against police officer, Valerie Van Dollen Burke, for twice violating the civil rights of Black citizens in Albany.

We invite anyone who believes racism inside or outside the US is a crime against humanity, to join us in our fight against this crime.

Call 436-0562 to get involved.

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## Cuomo Urges Renewed Opposition To Racism as State Honors King

By ROBERT BELLAFFIORE

ALBANY (AP) — Communities across New York state celebrated the anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday yesterday, with Gov. Mario Cuomo challenging New Yorkers to do more to fight racism.

\* \* \*

"We've made progress but we've not made enough progress and that's the story of the day," Cuomo said after a tribute to the slain civil rights leader at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

"There are more people, more blacks, getting good jobs, more blacks getting good education, more blacks moving up, fewer of them being made the victims of racial violence," Cuomo said.

"At the same time, there are too many blacks being made the victims of racial violence, there are too many who are undereducated, too many who are deprived," Cuomo said.

About 2,200 people filled the Convention Center for the often rousing celebration on what would have been King's 59th birthday. The two-hour tribute, marking the 20th anniversary of King's assassination, was capped by an emotional rendition of "We Shall Overcome" sung by Gretchen Reed and Pete Seeger as the audience joined in, locking hands and swaying back and forth. The celebration also included other gospel

songs and inspirational poetry readings by school children. Cuomo, singer Harry Belafonte, Lt. Gov. Stan Lundine, other state government officials and local religious leaders.

Belafonte, who New York Democrats tried to get to run for U.S. Senate in 1986, is chairman of the state's Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.

The tribute was dedicated to King and deceased black activist Bayard Rustin and black writer James Baldwin. Both Rustin and Baldwin died in 1987.

Most of those at the indoor celebration marched in a short parade through the morning rain downtown. The parade began at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, the city's oldest Catholic church, and ended at the state Capitol.

"What was important there was the white people, the non-black people, who enjoyed it so much, who felt so natural, who felt so uplifted by it," Cuomo said.

\* \* \*

As the state celebrated King's birthday with a holiday, race relations in much of New York were as tense as they have been in years. Much of the focus is still on the Howard Beach trial and other alleged racial incidents in the New York City area.

In Syracuse, dozens of people marched outside the Onondaga County Civic Center to protest the county's refusal to designate

the day an official county holiday. Workers were given the day off only with permission of their supervisors.

"It should be a holiday," said Democratic County Legislator Clarence Dunham.

The protest included local members of the NAACP, the Syracuse Black Leadership Conference, the Ministerial Alliance and groups of county and state workers. Both the state and federal governments have designated King's birthday an official holiday.

In Buffalo, the local Red Cross collected blood at eight sites in King's memory for the second consecutive year. Donors there signed a scroll that was to be sent to King's widow, Coretta Scott King.

\* \* \*

Protesters for all sorts of causes used the Albany celebration to make their point. A group marched into the Convention Center urging Cuomo to push harder for legislation cracking down on racial violence. The group chanted, "Cuomo, Cuomo, you can't hide. We want New York on our side."

And right behind that group was another parade of demonstrators urging the United States to stop aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

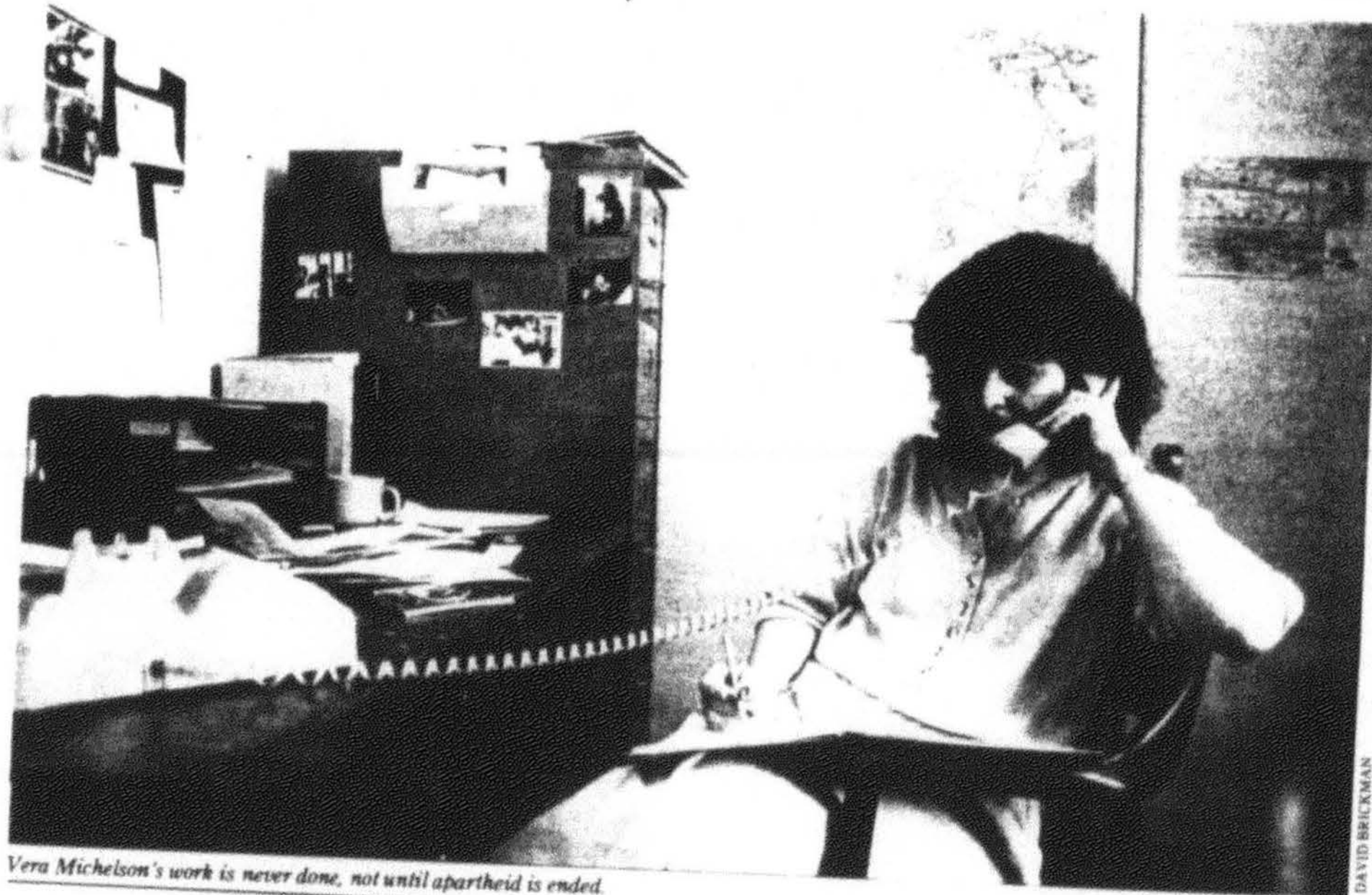
Inside, one man held a sign urging people to boycott Coors beer. An organized nationwide boycott of the beer, begun amid charges that the brewery's owner was trying to break unions, was called off months ago.



**PROTESTING PREJUDICE** — Members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid protest at Empire State Plaza yesterday. The group was protesting racially-

motivated incidents including the December 1986 death of a black man who was chased onto a highway by a group of white youths in the Howard Beach section of Queens.





Vera Michelson's work is never done, not until apartheid is ended.

civil-rights movement in the Capital Region, has taken on the struggle for black dignity and equality in South Africa without allowing herself to get bogged down in pessimism and despair. There's just too much to be done.

The job has no set boundaries. It's leafletting one day, letter-writing the next, holding support meetings or dealing with the press in between. Michelson was one of only 14 Americans to go to Arusha, Tanzania, last December to attend the international conference of the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's banned liberation movement, which is widely regarded as the future government of an independent South Africa.

The conference, held to discuss global strategies to isolate South Africa, drew more than 500 delegates from 50 countries, including some government representatives and members of church, labor, and solidarity groups. Michelson said it was the first time the ANC had met formally with the international anti-apartheid community.

Michelson returned from the Arusha conference with the impression that anti-apartheid movements in other countries, such as the Scandinavian nations and England, are far more cohesive than those in the United States.

"Here, for geographic, regional or other reasons, we are more fragmented," she says. "We can't speak at this point in terms of one anti-apartheid movement."

Michelson would like to see Americans take a more consistent interest in South Africa, rather than reacting in spurts of activity prompted by fleeting indignation at a particular atrocity.

"Americans tend to have short fuses in terms of their ability to sustain an interest," she says. "When Americans were seeing the brutality and violence of the apartheid regime on TV almost nightly, it became an effective tool to mobilize people. Since the South African news whitewash, they don't get the same information."

In light of the government's recent banning of the United Democratic Front (an umbrella organization of various independence movements), the trade-union federation called COSATU and 15 other groups, Michelson says it is especially imperative for people here to push Congress to pass a total set of sanctions against South Africa. The federal divestment and sanctions bill against apartheid passed in 1986 is rife with problems, she says. For example, while prohibiting new corporate investment in South Africa, it allows for reinvestment of profits there; while banning new bank loans to the South African regime, it allows loans to the private sector, and it doesn't cut off the sale of South African oil. She urges people to write to New York Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, who sits on the House subcommittee on Africa, asking him to co-sponsor the Cranston-Dellums sanctions legislation.

Michelson also is eager to educate Americans about the crimes of the South African government outside South Africa, such as in neighboring Namibia, which also practices apartheid, and even in progressive African nations like Angola and Mozambique, which Michelson says are plagued by South African agents.

"The task is to educate people not only about the heinous brutality [apartheid] inflicts on black people but also the chaos, death and destruction South Africa is inflicting on the region, on Angola, Mozambique and other frontline states, and the U.S. role in that chaos," says Michelson, who took part in a panel on that subject at the ANC conference. "We need to point out to the American people that South Africa is funding contras in the

## THE GOOD FIGHT

Local activist Vera Michelson's role in the struggle for inevitable change in South Africa

By Rekha Basu

What makes Vera Michelson so compelling on the subject of the anti-apartheid movement is the way she peppers her conversation with references to "after the revolution" and "after victory"—leaving no room for doubt that there will be victory someday. "I'm not ever going to attempt to put a time frame on it, but what we do know is

the movement is at a point where there's no turning back," says Michelson, who co-chairs the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

It's not always easy to be optimistic in the face of a white minority government that practices the world's most brutal system of racial segregation, relegating black people to shanty towns, jobs and schools shunned

by whites; that carries out killings, torture and jailings, even of children, for political opposition and enforces a total ban against news reporting on any of these atrocities; and that bans 17 trade-union, student, labor and civic organizations advocating non-violent change.

But Michelson, a Jewish American from Northampton, Mass., and a veteran of the

## LOCAL COLLEGES AND DIVESTMENT

SEVERAL AREA COLLEGES STILL have holdings in companies that do business in South Africa, and recently, the issue of divestment has been heated up on two area campuses, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.

Skidmore has not yet divested, but serious action has been taken toward that end with the college's formation of the Social Responsibility of Investing Advisory Committee. Comprising three trustees, two faculty members, one administrative staff member and one student, the committee exists, among other things, to advise the Board of Trustees on the issue of divestment.

"This group has studied divestment, held various open discussions," says college spokeswoman Andrea Wise, "and after a thorough review of the situation will recommend that the college divest all securities from companies doing business in Africa."

The Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet with the Board of Trustees in early May. "The Board of Trustees still has to act," Wise says, "and with the Board's approval divestment will be

effective within 18 months of the decision."

Although there has been pressure for divestment at RPI—campus demonstrations were held on January 23 and March 19 to voice campus opinion supporting divestment—it appears that the school has no immediate plans to divest. RPI officials defend this choice by characterizing divestment as "symbolic," short-term action of questionable effectiveness, compared to "substantive," long-term action.

"RPI feels that there is more influence with substantive action," says Susan Shea, director of news and communications at the college. "If ownership [of investments] is maintained, proxy votes can be initiated and RPI can play an active role to abolish apartheid." According to Shea, if RPI were to divest, the school would have no influence in deciding South Africa's future.

"The idea is to decide which has a chance of [affecting] better change," she says. "It's more powerful to stay and be active in proxy action and shareholder action." Regarding student unrest incited by the divestment issue, Shea

added that dialogue will be kept open between the students and the Board of Trustees.

Steve Brady, a member of the RPI Student Committee on South Africa, disagrees. "The investments in South Africa are marginal, and [proxy] voting wouldn't make much of a difference," Brady says. "Proxy voting is symbolic while divestment is substantive." Brady does feel that RPI's position is evolving, but notes that the school has not made any proposals to get out of South Africa.

Russell Sage College in Troy, Junior College of Albany and Union College in Schenectady have not divested, but limit their investments in South Africa to companies who have formally agreed to the Sullivan Principles—a code of ethics established for American businesses in South Africa.

Maria College in Albany and Schenectady County Community College have never had investments in South Africa, while Albany Law School, the College of Saint Rose in Albany, the State University of New York and Siena College in Loudonville all have divested.

—Angela Pender



region that are just as terrible as the contras in Nicaragua."

Those "contras" are people like Jonas Savimbi, a rebel leader from the U.S.-backed UNITA organization that is fighting the leftist Angola government, and the organization called Renamo in Mozambique, which functions as an agent of the South African government to keep that independent nation economically tied to South Africa.

"They attack at the very guts of the country," Michelson says, "against transport lines, hospital workers, children and women." She says last year Renamo members massacred 400 people, including a number of sick people in their hospital beds.

"The U.S. government can talk about being against apartheid but we're funding apartheid through corporations and we're funding destabilization in the region through UNITA."

Namibia (formerly called South West Africa), which has 100,000 South African troops stationed inside its borders, also is buoyed by American corporate investments, according to Michelson.

Americans interested in working against apartheid can support product boycotts, divestments, academic and cultural boycotts; educate others about the region and what the ANC and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the 20-year Namibian liberation movement, are doing; and contribute money to the ANC and SWAPO for medical supplies, legal fees and educational materials, Michelson says.

Michelson prides the Capital Region on having contributed disproportionately to the anti-apartheid movement, beginning with the boycott of the South African rugby team, the Springboks, in Albany in 1981. Area activists also have launched

## SANCTIONS SUNDAY

**THIS SUNDAY (APRIL 24) WILL BE Sanctions Sunday in the Capital Region. The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, in collaboration with the Interdenominational Ministers Conference and the Capital Area Baptist Ministers Conference, will issue a renewed call for the U.S. government to help isolate the South African regime internationally.**

South African students from around the Northeast will team up with

Coalition members, to address the congregations of various area churches on the situation in South Africa and the need for sanctions. Sample letters to New York Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, a member of the House Subcommittee on Africa, will be distributed, asking him to show leadership in the sanctions effort, and church members will be asked to write or sign. The churches are picking up the cost of the mailings. ■

successful boycotts and walkouts of musicians who performed in South Africa in defiance of the cultural boycott. Both Chick Corea and the Temptations renounced their South African appearances and vowed never to perform there again as a result of such actions by Michelson's coalition.

In addition, Albany saw the successful movement for divestment of SUNY funds

from companies doing business in South Africa.

As its name suggests, Michelson's coalition, formed in 1981 to plan strategies against the Springboks, also is active in the fight against racism domestically.

"We believe the foreign policy of the U.S. is symptomatic of its domestic policy of institutional racism," Michelson says. Among the local issues the coalition has

tackled are police brutality and racial violence.

Michelson came to the area 20 years ago to attend Russell Sage College, later earning a masters degree at SUNYA. She works as an affirmative-action officer at the O.D. Heck Developmental Center in Schenectady.

Her commitment to working against apartheid has incorporated itself into the very fabric of her day-to-day existence. In her Albany home, family members compete with black South African leaders and friends for space on her walls, and her community of friends includes more than a few South African exiles.

During her trip to Tanzania last year, Michelson was especially touched by a visit to a refugee camp for South African exiles a few hours from Dar-Es-Salaam. Known by the acronym SOMAFCO, the self-contained community run by the ANC includes a pre-kindergarten-through-high school that trains its students for higher education abroad in professional and skilled fields like medicine, law, farm and factory management and even high-technology work. It already has graduated 1,000 people and placed them abroad.

The children in SOMAFCO have endured a world of suffering difficult to imagine. Most are there without parents or siblings. Many were the victims of torture. But rather than waste their energy on self-pity, they are there to get educated, be disciplined and productive—"so that," explains Michelson, re-affirming her optimism in the ultimate victory against apartheid, "after the revolution they will be able to help the society in growth and development." ■

To learn more about the work of the coalition or to become a member, call Michelson at 436-0562.

*"The U.S. government can talk about being against apartheid but we're funding apartheid through corporations and we're funding destabilization in the region through UNITA."*

— Vera Michelson



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# *DON'T LET THE DREAM BECOME A NIGHTMARE*

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## SPEAKERS

**ELOMBE BRATH:** writer; lecturer; activist in African and international affairs; organiser of protests against racist violence; member of Dec 12 Coalition, Eleanor Bumpers Justice Committee and activist around human rights issues generally.

**COLIN MOORE:** activist attorney from NY city; represented the families of Denise Groce and Timothy Howell, victims in police brutality cases; member of the Eleanor Bumpers and Michael Stewart Justice Committees and of the Dec 12 Coalition.

**LILLIE HOWARD:** community activist; organiser of Dec 12 Newburgh rally to support justice for Tawana Brawley and the inmates of Orange County Jail, Goshen.

**ROGER GREEN:** Assemblyman in the 57th Assembly District, Brooklyn; Chairperson of the Black and Hispanic Caucus and Human Rights Activist.

**ZOILO TORRES:** President of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights ( a Puerto Rican civil rights organisation); veteran community/Latin organiser.

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## BEYOND BRAWLEY

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### "WE NEED TO HEAR ABOUT

Lawana Brawley, but we also need to hear about what is going on with black people in the United States and around New York state," said Lillie Howard last Saturday night at Albany's Wilborne Temple. Howard, a civil rights activist from Newburgh, was one of five speakers at a community forum on racist violence organized by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. The Albany-based group planned the event to address questions raised by the controversy surrounding last November's abduction and sexual assault on Brawley, a black Wappingers Falls teenager. Her refusal to cooperate with the official state investigation into the allegations and the controversial tactics of her lawyers and advisors have become the central issues in the case.

"We feel that a community discussion on racial violence is very timely," said Vicki

Smith, chairperson of the Coalition's Committee Against Racist Violence. "This event is a tool to help us better respond," she told the gathering of nearly 150 people. Also in the panel were Assemblyman Roger Green, chairman of the New York State Legislature's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, activist lawyer Colin Moore, Zoilo Torres, president of the National Congress

of Puerto Rican Rights and writer Elombe Brath.

Moore, a black New York City attorney who has represented the victims of racially motivated violence, said that he was unable to see a fundamental difference "between apartheid in South Africa and racism in New York state." He noted that in New York City, with a population now 50 percent black and Hispanic, 78 percent of the police force is still white. "Someone who has never enjoyed power in his own society, is given life and death power over blacks," Moore said of the average white officer. He also noted that because 98 percent of the city's judges are white, the actions of prejudiced police officers on the street are reinforced within the criminal justice system.

Howard, whose son was incarcerated and beaten at the Orange County Jail during a disturbance there just days before the Brawley incident, complained that the lower Hudson Valley has become a penal colony. "Prisons are a terrible way for communities to earn their money," she said, explaining that seven prisons employ more than 3,000 workers in her area.

Assemblyman Green said that he supported the strategy of the lawyers representing Brawley, but disagreed with their tactics. Green was one of the first black elected leaders to publicly criticize the Rev. Al Sharpton, a controversial Brawley advisor. Green favors building a coalition of blacks and whites against racially motivated violence and for economic justice, as Jesse Jackson has done. The target is institutionalized racism, he said.

The assemblyman is an author of legislation creating a permanent statewide special prosecutor to investigate bias-related crimes and to increase the penalties for those found guilty. He expects Assembly consideration of the proposal within the next week. Gov. Cuomo is opposed to the creation of a permanent special prosecutor and has instead proposed reorganizing the State Attorney General's office to create a bias-crimes unit.

Green called for community support of his plan. "We need to mobilize at the grassroots," the assemblyman said. Otherwise, the legislation has no chance of passing the Republican-controlled state Senate.

—Jeff Jones



## Cuomo Urges Renewed Opposition To Racism as State Honors King

By ROBERT BELLAFFIORE  
 ALBANY (AP) — Communities across New York state celebrated the anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday yesterday, with Gov. Mario Cuomo challenging New Yorkers to do more to fight racism.

"We've made progress but we've not made enough progress and that's the story of the day," Cuomo said after a tribute to the slain civil rights leader at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

"There are more people, more blacks, getting good jobs, more blacks getting good education, more blacks moving up, fewer of them being made the victims of racial violence," Cuomo said.

"At the same time, there are too many blacks being made the victims of racial violence, there are too many who are undereducated, too many who are deprived," Cuomo said.

About 2,200 people filled the Convention Center for the often rousing celebration on what would have been King's 59th birthday. The two-hour tribute, marking the 20th anniversary of King's assassination, was capped by an emotional rendition of "We Shall Overcome" sung by Gretchen Reed and Pete Seeger as the audience joined in, locking hands and swaying back and forth. The celebration also included other gospel

songs and inspirational poetry readings by school children, Cuomo, singer Harry Belafonte, Lt. Gov. Stan Luedine, other state government officials and local religious leaders.

Belafonte, who New York Democrats tried to get to run for U.S. Senate in 1986, is chairman of the state's Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.

The tribute was dedicated to King and deceased black activist Bayard Rustin and black writer James Baldwin. Both Rustin and Baldwin died in 1987.

Most of those at the indoor celebration marched in a short parade through the morning rain downtown. The parade began at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, the city's oldest Catholic church, and ended at the state Capitol.

"What was important there was the white people, the non-black people, who enjoyed it so much, who felt so natural, who felt so uplifted by it," Cuomo said.

As the state celebrated King's birthday with a holiday, race relations in much of New York were as tense as they have been in years. Much of the focus is still on the Howard Beach trial and other alleged racial incidents in the New York City area.

In Syracuse, dozens of people marched outside the Onondaga County Civic Center to protest the county's refusal to designate

the day an official county holiday. Workers were given the day off only with permission of their supervisors.

"It should be a holiday," said Democratic County Legislator Clarence Dunham.

The protest included local members of the NAACP, the Syracuse Black Leadership Conference, the Ministerial Alliance and groups of county and state workers. Both the state and federal governments have designated King's birthday an official holiday.

In Buffalo, the local Red Cross collected blood at eight sites in King's memory for the second consecutive year. Donors there signed a scroll that was to be sent to King's widow, Coretta Scott King.

Protesters for all sorts of causes used the Albany celebration to make their point. A group marched into the Convention Center urging Cuomo to push harder for legislation cracking down on racial violence. The group chanted, "Cuomo, Cuomo, you can't hide. We want New York on our side."

And right behind that group was another parade of demonstrators urging the United States to stop aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Inside, one man held a sign urging people to boycott Coors beer. An organized nationwide boycott of the beer, begun amid charges that the brewery's owner was trying to break unions, was called off months ago.

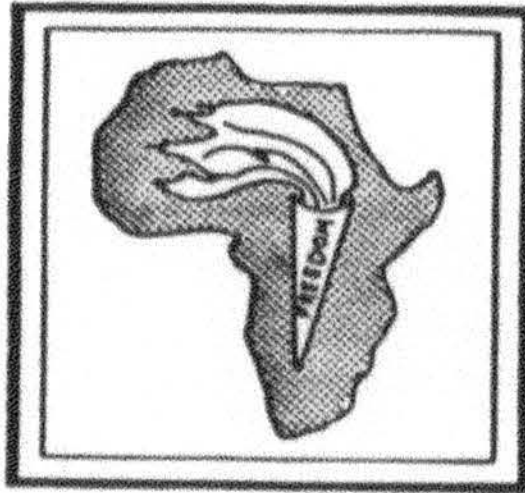
*Elmer*  
*Jan 19*



**PROTESTING PREJUDICE** — Members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid protest at Empire State Plaza yesterday. The group was protesting racially-

motivated incidents including the December 1986 death of a black man who was chased onto a highway by a group of white youths in the Howard Beach section of Queens.





## Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

April 27, 1988

AN EVENING WITH RON WILKENS

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 7:30 P.M.

414 THIRD ST.

ALBANY

436-0562

### Unity in Action's Ron Wilkins, An Anti-Apartheid Point Man

**R**on Wilkins has been an activist walking point for controversial issues since the 1960s. And as much as anyone in Southern California, he is responsible for increasing public awareness of apartheid and the United Nations' cultural boycott of South Africa.

As West Coast chairman of Unity in Action, Wilkins organized a picket line around Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's home after Bradley presented the South African consul a key to the city in 1982.

He has pressured local National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People branches to cease honoring entertainers who have performed in South Africa, and his organization has convinced several celebrities to refuse engagements in the stridently racist country.

His style ranges from vociferous confrontation to thoughtful discussion, from publicly embarrassing a target to discreet confidential meetings.

"We believe in holding black elected officials accountable for their actions," said Wilkins, 41. "And actions such as Bradley giving the key to the city to the South African consul, and the NAACP giving a lifetime achievement award to Frank Sinatra are clearly unacceptable."

Wilkins noted that since Unity in Action picketed the NAACP event honoring Sinatra last year, the singer has signed a pledge that he will no longer perform in South Africa.

Organizing is a way of challenging existing power arrangements, and such challenges have been a persistent theme in Wilkins' life.

After the United Nations imposed its cultural boycott on the Republic of South Africa in 1982, Unity in Action, a coalition of several activist groups, was formed to bring public pressure on individuals who ignored the ban on performing there.

Unity in Action has also organized protests against the United States' 1983 invasion of Grenada, and it was instrumental in getting the Beverly Hills City Council to ask the State Department to remove the South African consulate

from that city.

The group was also among the key players who convinced the City of West

Hollywood to adopt the most stringent ban on purchasing goods from South Africa or from companies doing business there.

The organization's primary reason for being, however, remains enforcing the UN cultural boycott. The UN provides Unity in Action with lists of performers who have accepted engagements in South Africa.

Wilkins said his organization contacts those artists and "lets them know we consider their performing in South Africa the same as collaboration with the racist regime."

"We ask them to sign statements of apology to the people of South Africa and to sign pledges not to return to perform there until apartheid is ended and there is majority rule."

Since Los Angeles is the entertainment capital of the world, the West Coast chapter of Unity in Action has been able to obtain "the largest number of pledges" of any anti-apartheid organization in the country, Wilkins said.

One artist who has been picketed but

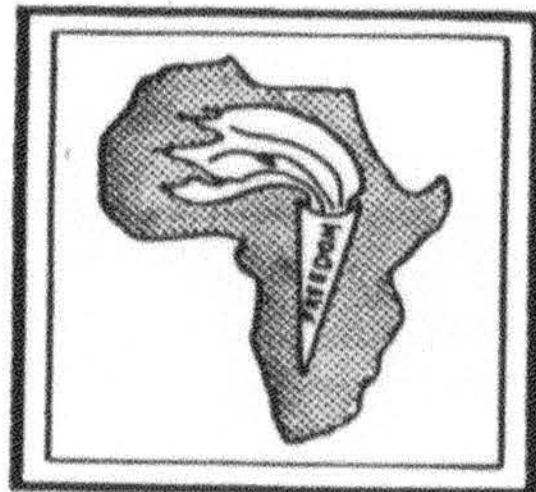
steadfastly refuses to sign a pledge is singer Ray Charles, Wilkins said. He added that he has met with Charles' personal representative, but he has been unsuccessful in getting a pledge from the singer.

In a sense, Wilkins could be considered the militants' militant—a committed crusader with uncompromising convictions. He is also a talented photographer who shows his work at Los Angeles area galleries, and he is the host of *Continents to Continents*, a political commentary and African issues show heard the first and third Wednesday of each month on KPFK-FM (90.7) at 8 p.m.



(TURN  
OVER)





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(TURN  
OVER)



Ron is a leading activist with the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and the Unity in Action Network..West Coast, Los Angeles. He is a professional photographer who has done extensive political travel and taken photographs in Ghana, Guinea, Nicaragua, Cuba, Lybia and Grenada.

Part of the history of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has been a successful six year coast to coast, phone to phone collaboration with Ron around anti-apartheid work in general and cultural boycott work in particular..

We are delighted that Ron has agreed to visit with us during his trip East.

The focus of the discussion for the evening will be:

- an update of the cultural boycott status
- discussion of culture as a weapon
- a look at African nations and people who are in the front line of the struggle against Western domination.

Looking forward to seeing you for this most interesting discussion.

Forwards,

"Ornike"

Vera Michelson





Capital District Coalition  
Against  
Apartheid and Racism

Presents

An Evening on Southern Africa

"Apartheid Becomes Unworkable  
South Africa Becomes Ungovernable"

Wednesday  
November 13, 1985  
7:00 P.M.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
441 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York

Host: Pastor Reverend William Roland



Invocation  
Reverend Roland

Selections from Mt. Olive Baptist Choir

Welcome  
Vera "Mike" Michelson, Chairperson

Offering  
Reverend Roland

Introductions  
Merton Simpson, Vice-Chairperson

Quest Speakers  
Neo Mnumzana and Hinyangerwa Asheeke

Questions and Answers will Follow

Benediction

Please remain seated during the benediction

Please stop at the tables in the back and sign up if  
you can assist in the struggle against apartheid.  
We cannot continue the struggle without your help.

For more information call 436-0562

What is the ANC

The African National Congress (ANC), notwithstanding its banishment by the racist white regime for the last 25 years, has become synonymous with the mighty revolutionary aspirations of the people it represents and fights for- the great masses who are the majority of the country. The birth of the historic Freedom Charter on June 25-26, 1955, reflects what a free South Africa will mean. The demands of the Charter are:

- The people shall govern.
- All national groups shall have equal rights.
- The people shall share in the country's wealth.
- The land shall be shared among those who work it.
- All shall be equal before the law.
- All shall enjoy equal human rights.
- There shall be work and security.
- The doors of learning and culture shall be opened.
- There shall be houses, security, and comfort.
- There shall be peace and friendship.

What is SWAPO

The South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) also banned by the racist regime, was formed to fight the brutal occupation and violent repression by the Pretoria regime. Namibia, formerly known as South West Africa, was a colony of Germany from 1884 until the end of WWI. The German imperialist occupation, accompanied with genocidal policies, resulted in the extermination of more the 3 million of the indigenous Herero tribe. The illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African apartheid regime has been condemned by the U.N. every year since 1966. The U.S. formulated its so-called policy of "constructive engagement" with the Pretoria gov't under the excuse of helping to get South Africa to withdraw from Namibia. Not only has it never budged from Namibia, it continues to use it as a base of attack against Angola. The combatants of SWAPO are fighting a war of national liberation and need the political, moral, and material support of the international community.



Endorsers:

NAACP- Albany Branch, Capital District Labor & Religious Coalition, Blacks in Government, NAACP Youth Council, Interdenominational Minister's Conference, S.A. of SUNYA, African Student Association SUNYA, NYPIRG, Prisa, Albany Urban League, YSA, Malcolm X Study Network, DSA, Peace & Justice Committee of the Capital Area Council of Churches, Capital District Black Social Workers, Central America Solidarity Alliance, Capital District Chapter National Lawyers Guild Capital District, Albany County Central Federation of Labor, Capital District Builders of Educational Achievement, Albany State University Black Alliance (ASUBA), Capital District Achievers

Acknowledgements:

ViJay Macwan for being there, Georgia Urban for her valued assistance, Lisa Garcia, Michael Dollard, Anne Frazier for their tireless behind the scenes efforts, everyone in the Capital District who did not attend the Ray Charles concert and ~~the~~ 150 who were on the picket line.

DIVEST NEW YORK- 1986!!

Labor Donated



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**DON'T LET THE DREAM  
BECOME A NIGHTMARE**

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**STOP RACIST VIOLENCE**

**A COMMUNITY FORUM**

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

7.30 PM

(doors open at 7.00 pm)

WILBORNE TEMPLE

121 JAY STREET, DOWNSTAIRS  
(near Empire State Plaza)



sponsors: CAP, DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID & RACISM



DON'T LET THE DREAM BECOME A NIGHTMARE  
STOP RACIST VIOLENCE

A Community Forum

GREETINGS Vera Michaelson  
Coalition Co-Chair

INVOCATION Rev. Leonard Comithier  
Pastor, Macedonia Baptist

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE Vickie Smith  
Forum Coordinator

INTRODUCTION OF PANEL Vickie Smith

Colin Moore, Activist Attorney, New York City  
Lillie Howard, Organizer, December Rally/Newburgh in  
behalf of Tawana Brawley  
Zolito Torres, President, Nat'l Congress of Puerto Rican  
Rights  
Roger Green, Assemblyman, 57th Assembly District,  
Brooklyn, Chair, NYS Black and Puerto Rican Caucus  
Eloabe Brath, Activist in U. S., African and  
international affairs, Writer/Lecturer

QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WRAP-UP

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was formed in 1981 to organize opposition to the appearance of the South African Springbok Rugby Team's visit to Albany. Since that time, the Coalition has worked to end U. S. support of the apartheid regime. We therefore stand in solidarity with the ANC and SWAPO (national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia).

We have also been active in issues concerning racism in the U. S. and the Capital District. For example, we have worked since the police shooting of Jesse Davis in 1984 to create a Civilian Police Review Board in Albany. While we do currently participate in the Community Police Relations Board, a board with very limited powers, we still believe a true review board is necessary.

Because we feel firmly that the struggle here is closely linked to the struggle in South Africa, we believe it is necessary to fight racism at home and apartheid in South Africa.

We urge you to join in the work of the Coalition by signing up at our table or by calling (518) 436-0562.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 24  
Coalition members and Southern African students will visit several Capital District churches to discuss recent events in South Africa and need for sanctions' legislation

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 9:30A.M.  
Civil rights trial brought by former SUNY student against Albany Police Department (District Court, Post Office Building, Broadway, Albany)

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 5:30P.M.  
Meeting: Community Relations Board, City Hall, Albany

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 7P.M.  
Meeting/Discussion Topic: "Client and Lawyer Relations." Sponsored by Albany Branch NAACP, Legal Redress Committee

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 9A.M.-9P.M.  
Convention Center, Meeting Room 6. Testimony to be given on racial bias experienced and perceived in the U. S. Court System

THURSDAY, APRIL 28  
No monthly meeting for Coalition this month. Will resume fourth Thursday in May

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 7P.M.  
Meeting/Discussion Topic: "Sentencing and Incarceration-Females, Males and Prison Facilities." Sponsored by Albany Branch NAACP, Legal Redress Committee

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1P.M.  
Trial begins - People vs Aaron Carter, Police Municipal Building, Schenectady

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 8:30-9:30P.M.  
Meeting/Topic: "Remembering Malcolm X," Arbor Hill Community Center

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 7P.M.  
Follow-up Meeting/Discussion Topic: "Black Youth and the Criminal Justice System." Sponsored by the Critical Black Issues Conference

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 6:30P.M.  
Annual Tribute to Women, sponsored by YWCA. Coalition Newsletter Editor, Eileen Kawola, is one of ten 1988 honorees



FRIDAY, MAY 20, 6:30P.M. Cocktails/7:30p.m. Dinner  
First Annual Awards Banquet sponsored by THE SCENE  
NEWSPAPER. Speaker: Wilburt A. Tatum, publisher, AMSTERDAM  
NEWS, New York City. For information, 434-4669

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 9:30A.M.-4P.M.  
Workshop: "Aids and Your Family: What You Need To  
Know." Arbor Hill Community Center, 50 N. Lark Street,  
Albany

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 7:30P.M.  
Meeting: Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, 93  
Livingston Avenue, Urban League Conference Room

**DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Meeting: Coalition Committee on Racist Violence  
If interested in participating, sign up at Coalition table  
or call (518) 436-0562

Statewide demonstration in Albany to call for  
legislation to outlaw racist and biased-motivated laws.  
Sponsored by New Yorkers for Racial and Economic Justice

++++

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

Albany Branch NAACP  
Schenectady Branch NAACP  
Blacks in Government  
Central American Solidarity Alliance  
Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism  
Malcolm X Study Network  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Albany County Labor Federation  
Urban League of Albany  
YWCA of Albany  
A. Philip Randolph Institute  
Student Association of the State University at Albany  
Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press  
Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights  
Black Social Workers, Albany Chapter  
A Universal Being, Inc.  
National Lawyers Guild of Albany



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# DON'T LET THE DREAM BECOME A NIGHTMARE

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STOP RACIST VIOLENCE

*A COMMUNITY FORUM*

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

7.30 PM

1988

(doors open at 7.00 pm)

WILBORNE TEMPLE

121 JAY STREET, DOWNSTAIRS

(near Empire State Plaza)



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## SPEAKERS

**ELOMBE BRATH:** writer; lecturer; activist in African and international affairs; organiser of protests against racist violence; member of Dec 12 Coalition, Eleanor Bumpers Justice Committee and activist around human rights issues generally.

**COLIN MOORE:** activist attorney from NY city; represented the families of Denise Groce and Timothy Howell, victims in police brutality cases; member of the Eleanor Bumpers and Michael Stewart Justice Committees and of the Dec 12 Coalition.

**LILLIE HOWARD:** community activist; organiser of Dec 12 Newburgh rally to support justice for Tawana Brawley and the inmates of Orange County Jail, Goshen.

**ROGER GREEN:** Assemblyman in the 57th Assembly District, Brooklyn; Chairperson of the Black and Hispanic Caucus and Human Rights Activist.

**ZOILO TORRES:** President of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights ( a Puerto Rican civil rights organisation); veteran community/Latin organiser.

sponsor: **CAP. DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID & RACISM**

P.O Box 3002, Albany, NY 12206

project of: The Social Justice  
Centre Inc.

phone: (518) 436-0562

information, book and crafts tables



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

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**Note:** There will not be a regular monthly meeting in April. There will be **A COMMUNITY FORUM** on Saturday, April 23, 1988. See inside for details of this very important event focused on the issue of racist violence.

**IN MEMORIAM**



Dulcie September, the African National Congress representative for France, Switzerland and Luxembourg, was shot in the face and killed in Paris on March 29, 1988 while entering her office. At ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, spokesman Tom Sebina called the killing "part of a deliberate South African campaign to assassinate ANC members and ANC leaders." Miss September has worked for the ANC in Lusaka before going to Paris in 1983 and she has been described as one of the ANC's most vigorous activists. Her death is another grim reminder of the determination of the apartheid regime in Pretoria to wage total war on the Black majority in South Africa. **Victory to ANC - Victory to SWAPO**

**SANCTIONS  
CAMPAIGN**

The Coalition is launching a full scale campaign calling for complete and total sanctions against South Africa. The campaign has called for letter writing to legislators with Senator Daniel Moynihan's agreement to sign on to the Dellums Cranston Bill being a major goal.

On Sunday, April 24, 1988, members of the Coalition will address the congregations of several churches in the Albany area. This campaign is part of a joint effort between the Coalition and the local clergy who have taken a leadership role in the effort. Next month's newsletter will give a report of the success of "Sanctions Sunday" and an assessment of the next steps we have to take to pressure our government to end all support for the racist regime in South Africa.

**YWCA HONORS  
COALITION  
MEMBER**

The Tribute to Women program of the Albany Y.W.C.A. has included in its honorees this year Eileen Kawola, a member of the Coalition steering committee and editor of the newsletter. Eileen has been recognized for her work for racial justice. A dinner and program will be held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center on May 20th. If you are interested in attending, call the Y.W.C.A. at 438-6608 by May 6th. We congratulate Eileen and agree with the Y.W.C.A. that she has shown dedication and commitment to the struggle for peace and justice, freedom and dignity for all people.

SEE INSIDE FLYER FOR DETAILS OF VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNITY FORUM ON RACIST VIOLENCE ...  
SET ASIDE THE DATE, PASS ALONG OR POST THE FLYER - YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS CRITICAL.





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

MAY 1988  
NEWSLETTER

**NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 26, 7.30 PM  
URBAN LEAGUE, C/O LIVINGSTON AND TEN BROECK, ALBANY, NY.**

**\* RACIAL VIOLENCE UPDATE**

- Review of the April 23 forum on racist violence.
- The mayor's response to the CDCAAR demands for disciplinary action policewoman, Valerie von Dollen-Burke.
- The historic decision holding the police department responsible for the violation of the civil rights and assault of 1 Black and 3 Hispanic former students.
- The case of the police assault of Greg Baity, who is Black and homeless.

**\* SOUTH AFRICA**

- June 16/Soweto Day Commemoration in collaboration with the Critical Black Issues Conference.
- Sanctions Sunday update.

## **NEWS NOTES**

**UNITED NATIONS** - On May 5, the Rev. Alan Boesak and Bishop Desmond Tutu gave testimony before the UN and stressed the need for a total isolation of the apartheid regime through immediate and mandatory sanctions on South Africa. This occurred on the occasion of the 25th year celebration of the formation of the **Special Committee against Apartheid**. CDCAAR members in attendance were Janice Mwapaga, Arlena Adams and Vera Michelson.

*continued on back page*



## THE PATTERN OF POLICE INJUSTICE

Albany Mayor Thomas Whalen III must be the blindest person living in the Capital District. Anybody with eyes and a brain could see that there is a problem when Jesse Davis was shot by the police in 1984. Anybody with eyes and a brain could see that there is a problem when police officer, Valerie von Dollen-Burke is twice found guilty of violating the civil rights of Albany citizens, and the tax-paying citizens foot the bill for the damages brought against her and the police department.

Anybody with eyes and a brain could see that there is a problem when police officers, James Turley and Peter Krasher were very recently found guilty of violating the civil rights of three Hispanic and one African-American former SUNY students. Incidentally, Mark Mishler an executive member of the CDCAAR, was one of the two attorneys who represented the former students.

Yet, our distinguished mayor, Thomas M. Whalen III, says, "I think it's

hard to pick a case that's six years old and say that it shows a pattern on the part of the police that demonstrates insensitivity. I don't see any patterns that would be disturbing to me or the leadership in the police department."

This, despite the fact that this is the second conviction of officer Peter Krasher. This, despite the fact that jury forewoman, Christine Tate, said that the jury decision was designed to 'send out signals' to the city. This, despite the recent abuse charges brought against the Albany police by Greg Baity, who, according to Ann Pope of the NAACP, was abused because he was a homeless black man. This case is now before the community /police relations board and is the first time that a complaint which is channeled through the community / police relations board, on which Vicki Smith represents the CDCAAR, will result in charges against one or more police officers.

The mayor does not see a problem. Maybe there is truth in the saying, "... There is none so blind as those who will not see."

## FORUM AGAINST RACIST VIOLENCE

The forum against racial violence served to emphasise the dire need that exists in our communities to organise. The conditions have been created in this country for racism to continue to ferment under a veneer of bogus respect for human rights, human dignity and human freedom. This message was echoed by each of the speakers at the forum held at the Wilborne Temple on Saturday, 23 April. These speakers included Elombe Brath, Colin Moore, Roger Green, Zoilo Torres and Lillie Howard.

While civil rights lawyer, Colin Moore, forcefully made the point that racism is part of the very fabric of this society, Lillie Howard was emphasising the need for the oppressed to correctly define the attacks on their lives and living standards.

Zoilo Torres, from the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, made a clear call for us to build and strengthen our organisations as a sharp tool in the struggle for human rights and justice.

*cont on back page.*

## SANCTIONS SUNDAY

On Sunday, 24 April, South African students from as far afield as Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City, Poughkeepsie and Utica came together in Albany to assist the CDCAAR in its campaign, called **Sanctions Sunday**. This campaign was organised in collaboration with the Baptist Minister's Convention and the International Minister's Breakfast Fellowship.

On that day, one South African student and one Coalition member visited a total of 12 churches with just one message. The apartheid regime must be isolated completely. Total, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions is the strategy demanded by the South African liberation movement and the Front-line states and is the only moral choice for the USA.

An estimated 900 letters were written or signed and sent to Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, to voice our displeasure at his not yet having co-sponsored the Cranston-Dellums bill, calling for total sanctions.



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**FORUM (continued)**

In conclusion then, we salute all those who participated in making this forum the success that it was. A special nod is given to all the speakers, and to the CDCAAR committee on racist violence, headed by Vicki Smith, that organised the forum.

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**NEWS NOTES (continued)**

**A SALUTE** - to Janice Mwapaga for playing such a key role in liaising with the churches, which contributed to making **Sanctions Sunday** such an important and effective campaign.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** - Are you happy with the quality of education in public schools? Do you feel that the schools meet your children's needs? Do you know how the board of education meetings are run?

If your answer to any of those questions is **NO!** Come to the next **Board meeting on Tuesday, June , School 24.** Demand the answers to your questions and express your opinion.

**SAASM** - An organisation of South African students, SAASM, has established a branch in Albany to organise South African students in the area and to give assistance to the anti-apartheid movement here.



**THE SCENE**

**Promotions Group, Inc.**

**PRESENTS**

**THE**

**FIRST ANNUAL**

**"ON THE SCENE"**

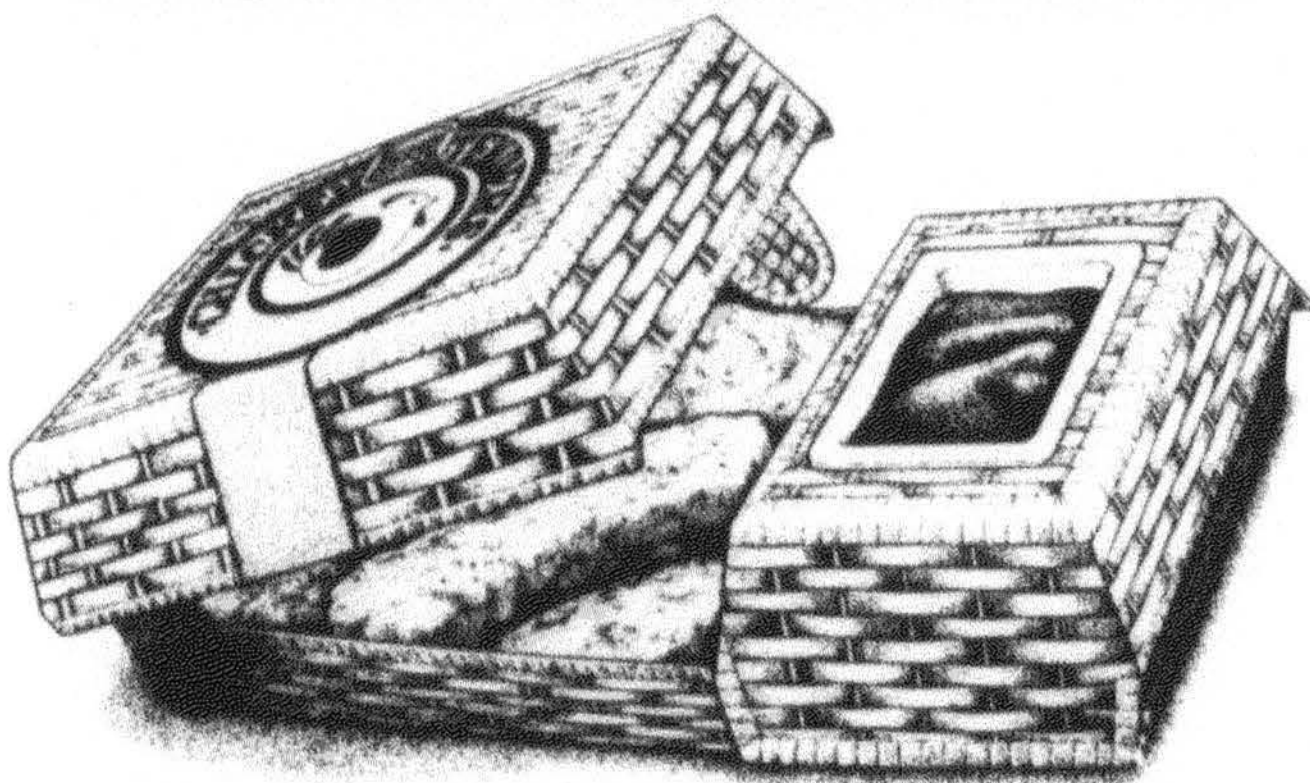
**AWARDS BANQUET**

**MAY 20, 1988**





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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Friends and Supporters of the SCENE:

It gives me great pleasure to greet you on behalf of the Board and staff of the SCENE Newspaper on the occasion of the SCENE's First Annual Awards Banquet. Your support of this event, which will become the SCENE's major fundraising activity in the years ahead, means a lot to the SCENE at this moment in its evolution.

The SCENE Newspaper has become a major institution in the Capital Region over the past eleven years. When it was first established by Trinity Institution in the mid-70's, its primary purpose was to provide residents in Albany's South End with information on vital human services available to the community. At the time, it was known as the South End Scene. Over time, it began to grow in popularity and scope, spreading into neighborhoods beyond the South End, and eventually spilling out into sections of Schenectady and Troy.

At present, the SCENE enjoys a readership of over 30,000 people, cutting across all ethnic groups, age groups and socio-economic groups. This readership continues to grow as the SCENE continues to broaden the scope of material covered in each of its monthly issues. With a focus tailored primarily to the interests of inner-city readers, it continues to seek out informative material, touching not just on local issues, but on State, National, and international issues as well.

In addition, the SCENE has begun to recognize that it has a vital role to play in relation to the economic infrastructure of the inner-city neighborhoods of the Capital Region. With a monthly readership of over 30,000 people, it has begun to recognize its ability to effect an important consumer market. It has begun to recognize its ability to effect the flow of consumer dollars; its ability to direct consumers to inner-city businesses and elsewhere. Moreover, it has begun to recognize that its role as a business entity is just as important to life in the inner-city as its role as a public service institution.

With this focus clearly in view, the SCENE embarked on an ambitious new course in 1987. It set out to become financially independent. A strategic five-year plan was developed under the leadership of the President of the Board, and a new Business Officer was added to the SCENE's staff. Since then, the SCENE's revenue base has increased significantly and it has, in fact, been operating financially independently since February 1988 -- although not entirely in the black. We are still several years removed from the full goal.

With some help from the community we are convinced that we can reach our goals within the next two years. Our aim is to place increasing emphasis on job creation and training as we attempt to expand the role of the SCENE Newspaper as a business institution and as a key player within the economic infrastructure of the Capital Region's inner-city communities.

Without community support, however, the SCENE will not survive and prosper. The SCENE belongs to the community. Its sole purpose is to serve the community, to enhance the quality of life in our communities. When you support the SCENE, you support your community. Be assured that your support makes a vital difference.

Thanks for caring and sharing this occasion with us.

Reginald K. Knox



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Pastor, Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church

TOASTMASTER  
REV ERNEST E. DRAKE  
Pastor, Metropolitan N.T. Baptist Church

PRAYER OF INVOCATION  
REV LEONARD COMITHIER  
Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church

GREETINGS  
MR. ISAAC BRACEY  
Banquet, Co-Chairman

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE  
MS BARBARA ALLEN  
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Director of Music, Bethel Baptist Church

DINNER

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MUSICAL SELECTION  
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First Lady, Mt Olivet Baptist Church

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
MR. WILBUR TATUM  
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REV ROBERT W. DIXON  
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4

#### GUEST SPEAKER

##### BIOGRAPHY

Wilbert Arnold Tatum

January 23, 1933

Durham, North Carolina

34 East 3rd Street, New York 10003

Hillside High School, Durham, North Carolina, Diploma.  
Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, B.S. Sociology.

Drill Instructor School, United States Marine Corps, Parris Island, South Carolina, Diploma.

National Urban Fellowship - sponsored by the National League Of Cities-U.S. Conference Of Mayors, Attended summer session at Yale University, Certificate.  
Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, B.A. Urban Studies.

Amsterdam News, Chairman Of The Board, C.E.O., and Editor-In-Chief  
2340 Frederick Douglass Blvd.  
New York, New York 10027

Health Insurance Plan Of Greater New York, Senior Vice President;  
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Deputy President, Borough Of Manhattan, City Of New York.  
Director Of Urban Renewal, Milbank-Frawley Urban Renewal Area, (Central Harlem) City Of New York.

Chairman Of The Board, Tatum/Kohn Associates, Inc.  
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Member, Malcolm/King College.  
Co-Founder, Black/Jewish Coalition.  
Vice-Chairman, Educational Alliance.  
Member, Wildcat Service Corp.  
Council On Adoptable Children.  
Boys Brotherhood Republic.

Wife: Susan  
Daughter: Elly (16)

5



##### Employed:

##### Other Positions Held:

##### Business Relationships:

##### Voluntary Relationships:

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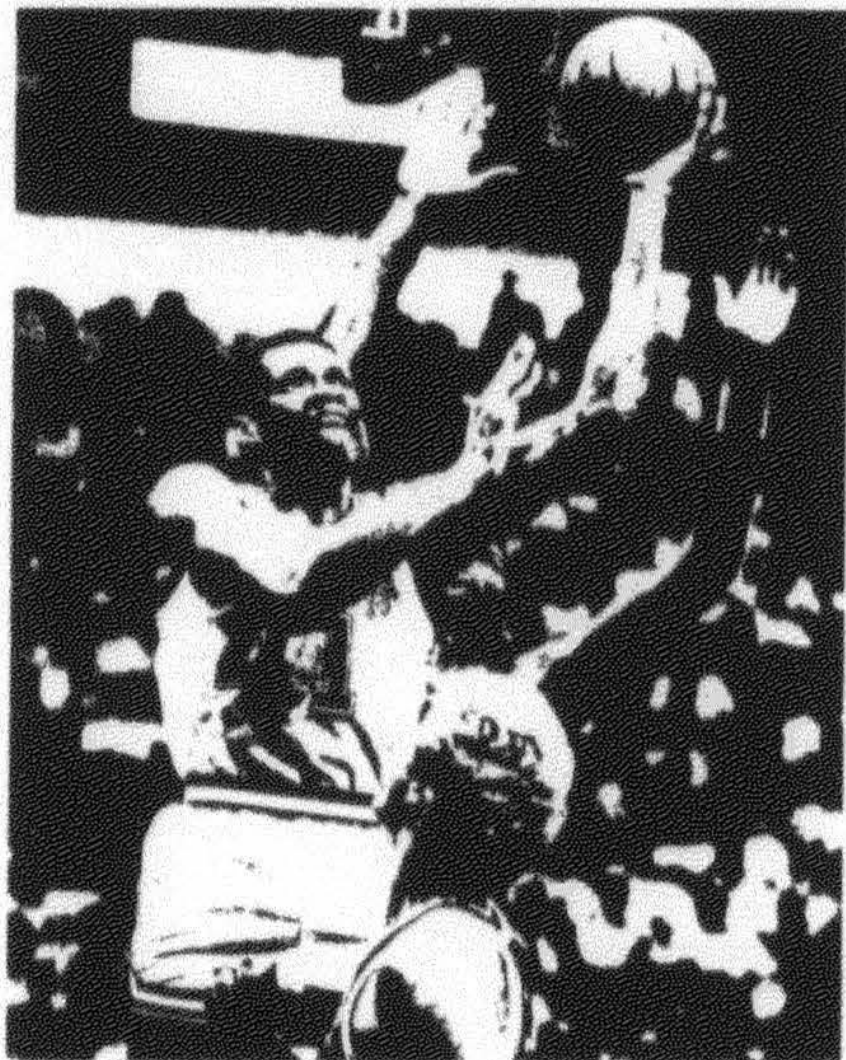




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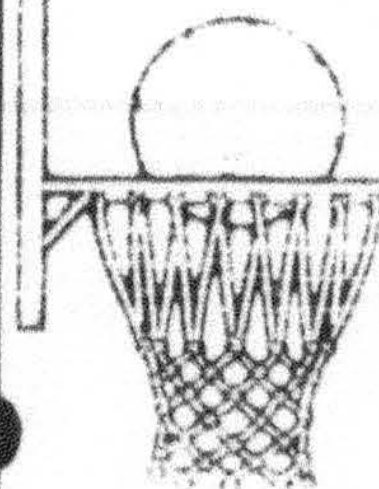
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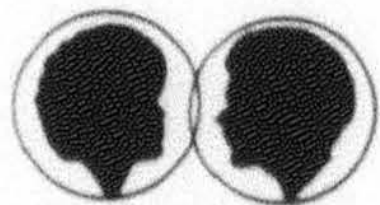
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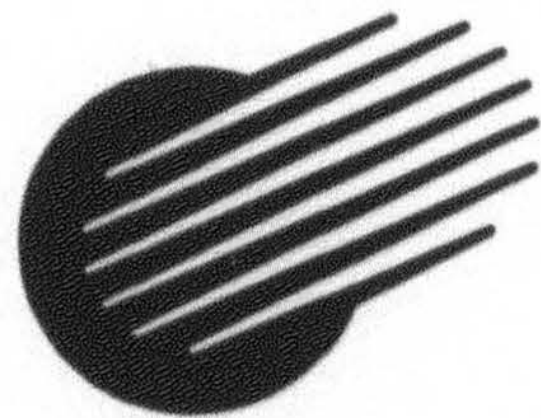
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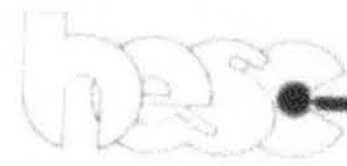
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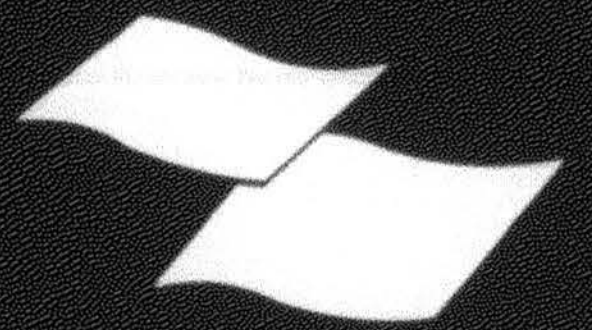


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## Local News

## Community forum hits racist violence

By Jeff Jones

"We feel that a community discussion on racial violence is very timely, and this event is a tool to help us better respond," Vicki Smith said as she introduced a forum at the Wilborne Temple.

The meeting, held April 23, was organized by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, and was attended by 150 people. Smith, who represents the Coalition on Albany's Community Police Relations Board, is also chairwoman of the group's Committee Against Racial Violence.

The Albany-based Coalition planned the event to address questions raised by the controversy surrounding last November's alleged abduction and sexual assault of Tawana Brawley, a Black Wappingers Falls teenager. The controversial tactics of her lawyers and advisors, and her refusal to cooperate with the official state investigation into her allegations, have become the central issues in the case. Some activists fear that larger questions of racist violence are being lost in the furor created by the Brawley case.

The evening began with a spirited cultural performance by South African students studying at area schools. Their enthusiasm permeated the hall, setting the tone for the discussion that followed.

Speaking on the panel were Assemblyman Roger Green, Chairman of the New York State Legislature's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, Colin Moore, a lawyer who represents victims of police abuse in New York City, Lillian Howard, a civil rights leader from Newburgh, Zoilo

Torres, President of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights and writer Elombe Brath. Audience responses followed the presentations.

"We need to hear about Tawana Brawley, but we also need to hear about what is going on with Black people in the United States and around New York State," said Lillian Howard. Her son Timothy was incarcerated and beaten at the Orange County Jail during a disturbance just days before the Brawley incident. This particular Hudson Valley jail has been the scene of several incidents where Black and Latin inmates have allegedly been abused by white guards. Howard complained that the lower Hudson Valley has become a penal colony. "Prisons are a terrible way for communities to earn their money," she said, explaining that seven prisons in her area employ more than 3000 workers.

Admiring the courage of the South African students, Colin Moore said he was unable to see any fundamental difference "between Apartheid in South Africa and racism in New York State, except in degree." He noted, in New York City, with a population now 50 percent Black and Hispanic, 78 percent of the police force is still white. "Someone who has never enjoyed power in his own society, is given life and death power over Blacks," Moore said of the average white officer. He also noted that because 98 percent of the City's judges are white, the actions of prejudiced police officers on the street are reinforced within the criminal justice system.

Green was one of the first Black elected



South Africa students perform recently at start of a Community Reform on Racist Violence. Sponsored by Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism at Wilbourne Temple. (Photo by Jeff Jones)

leaders to publicly criticize the Rev. Al Sharpton, a controversial Brawley advisor. Green told the forum he supports the strategy of the young woman's lawyers, but disagrees with their tactics as unnecessarily divisive. Comparing his plan to Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign, Green said he favored building a coalition of Blacks and whites against racist violence and for economic justice. The target, said Green, is institutionalized racism.

The Assemblyman is co-author of legislation under consideration that would create a permanent statewide special

prosecutor to investigate bias-related crimes and would increase the penalties for those found guilty. New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo is opposed to the creation of a permanent special prosecutor and has instead proposed reorganizing the State Attorney General's office to create a bias-crimes unit.

Green called for community support of his plan. "We need to mobilize at the grassroots," the Assemblyman said. Otherwise, the legislation has no chance of passing the Republican-controlled State Senate.

## Whitney Young appoints



# THE SUNDAY RECORD

TROY, N.Y.

APRIL 24, 1988

## Activists rally against racism

By DOREEN ERCOLANO  
Record Reporter

Stomping their feet in a vigilant chant of "Hey, hey, ho, ho, apartheid has got to go," members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism gathered Saturday to rally support against racially motivated violence.

Their discussion focused not only on racial attacks in South Africa and that country's apartheid regime, but on similar prejudices in this country, specifically in New York State.

"I fail to find any distinction between apartheid in South Africa and the racism that exists in this state," said Colin Moore, an activist attorney from New York City. "It is only a difference of degree or emphasis."

Moore and other guest speakers, who included Blacks, Whites and Hispanics, called for state leaders to recognize and fight racial injustices.

Moore berated Gov. Mario Cuomo for failing to appoint a special prosecutor in "obvious racial attack cases" such as the Tawana Brawley incident.

"We have a president who has dismantled virtually every affirmative action program this country has had and

Continued on Page A-3



"APARTHEID MEANS APART-HATE": Members of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism lead a chant during their rally against racially motivated violence in New York State and abroad. (Record photo by J.S. Carroll)

## Apartheid...

Continued from Page A-1  
a governor who refuses to recognize racism," said Moore. "Racism in this country is not legalized as it is in South Africa, but it is supported, sanctioned and encouraged in every state of the nation."

Anti-racism and anti-apartheid movements are limited "when we allow others to refrain from calling these incidents what they are — racism," said Lillie Howard, an organizer of a Dec. 12 rally in Newburgh on behalf of Brawley.

"We must be strong enough to label it what it is. If we don't start facing the fact that this state suffers from racial violence we will never go beyond where we are today," said Howard, whose son was incarcerated in the Orange County Jail last November during an inmate uprising against racism.

"We need to hear each of these incidents as loudly and as clearly as we heard Tawana Brawley's and we need to stop letting people dictate to us how far our movement can go," urged Howard.

The coalition was formed in 1981 to organize opposition to the appearance of a South African Springbok Rugby team's visit to Albany. Since then, the group has been active in the Community Police Relations Board and is working to form a civilian police review board as well.

"We feel firmly that the struggle here is closely linked to the struggle in South Africa," said Vera Michaelson, the coalition's co-chair. "It is necessary to fight racism at home as well as abroad."





Vera Michelson's work is never done, not until apartheid is ended.

## THE GOOD FIGHT

Local activist Vera Michelson's role in the struggle for inevitable change in South Africa

By Rekha Basu

What makes Vera Michelson so compelling on the subject of the anti-apartheid movement is the way she peppers her conversation with references to "after the revolution" and "after victory"—leaving no room for doubt that there *will* be victory someday.

"I'm not ever going to attempt to put a time frame on it, but what we do know is

the movement is at a point where there's no turning back," says Michelson, who co-chairs the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

It's not always easy to be optimistic in the face of a white minority government that practices the world's most brutal system of racial segregation, relegating black people to shanty towns, jobs and schools shunned

by whites; that carries out killings, torture and jailings, even of children, for political opposition and enforces a total ban against news reporting on any of these atrocities; and that bans 17 trade-union, student, labor and civic organizations advocating non-violent change.

But Michelson, a Jewish American from Northampton, Mass., and a veteran of the

civil-rights movement in the Capital Region, has taken on the struggle for black dignity and equality in South Africa without allowing herself to get bogged down in pessimism and despair. There's just too much to be done.

The job has no set boundaries. It's leafletting one day, letter-writing the next, holding support meetings or dealing with the press in between. Michelson was one of only 14 Americans to go to Arusha, Tanzania, last December to attend the international conference of the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's banned liberation movement, which is widely regarded as the future government of an independent South Africa.

The conference, held to discuss global strategies to isolate South Africa, drew more than 500 delegates from 50 countries, including some government representatives and members of church, labor, and solidarity groups. Michelson said it was the first time the ANC had met formally with the international anti-apartheid community.

Michelson returned from the Arusha conference with the impression that anti-apartheid movements in other countries, such as the Scandinavian nations and England, are far more cohesive than those in the United States.

"Here, for geographic, regional or other reasons, we are more fragmented," she says. "We can't speak at this point in terms of one anti-apartheid movement."

Michelson would like to see Americans take a more consistent interest in South Africa, rather than reacting in spurts of activity prompted by fleeting indignation at a particular atrocity.

"Americans tend to have short fuses in terms of their ability to sustain an interest," she says. "When Americans were seeing the brutality and violence of the apartheid regime on TV almost nightly, it became an effective tool to mobilize people. Since the South African news whiteout, they don't get the same information."

In light of the government's recent banning of the United Democratic Front (an umbrella organization of various independence movements), the trade-union federation called COSATU and 15 other groups, Michelson says it is especially imperative for people here to push Congress to pass a total set of sanctions against South Africa. The federal divestment and sanctions bill against apartheid passed in 1986 is rife with problems, she says. For example, while prohibiting new corporate investment in South Africa, it allows for reinvestment of profits there; while banning new bank loans to the private sector, it doesn't cut off the sale of South African oil. She urges people to write to New York Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, who sits on the House subcommittee on Africa, asking him to co-sponsor the Cranston-Dellums sanctions legislation.

Michelson also is eager to educate Americans about the crimes of the South African government outside South Africa, such as in neighboring Namibia, which also practices apartheid, and even in progressive African nations like Angola and Mozambique, which Michelson says are plagued by South African agents.

"The task is to educate people not only about the heinous brutality [apartheid] inflicts on black people but also the chaos, death and destruction South Africa is inflicting on the region, on Angola, Mozambique and other frontline states, and the U.S. role in that chaos," says Michelson, who took part in a panel on that subject at the ANC conference. "We need to point out to the American people that South Africa is funding contras in the

## LOCAL COLLEGES AND DIVESTMENT

SEVERAL AREA COLLEGES STILL have holdings in companies that do business in South Africa, and recently, the issue of divestment has been heated up on two area campuses, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.

Skidmore has not yet divested, but serious action has been taken toward that end with the college's formation of the Social Responsibility of Investing Advisory Committee. Comprising three trustees, two faculty members, one administrative staff member and one student, the committee exists, among other things, to advise the Board of Trustees on the issue of divestment.

"This group has studied divestment, held various open discussions," says college spokeswoman Andrea Wise, "and recommend that the college divest all securities from companies doing business in South Africa."

The Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet with the Board of Trustees in early May. "The Board of Trustees still has to act," Wise says, "and with the Board's approval divestment will be

effective within 18 months of the decision."

Although there has been pressure for divestment at RPI—campus demonstrations were held on January 23 and March 19 to voice campus opinion supporting divestment—it appears that the school has no immediate plans to divest. RPI officials defend this choice by characterizing divestment as "symbolic," short-term action of questionable effectiveness, compared to "substantive," long-term action.

"RPI feels that there is more influence with substantive action," says Susan Shea, director of news and communications at the college. "If ownership [of investments] is maintained, proxy votes can be initiated and RPI can play an active role to abolish apartheid." According to Shea, if RPI were to divest, the school would have no influence in deciding South Africa's future.

"The idea is to decide which has a chance of [affecting] better change," she says. "It's more powerful to stay and be active in proxy action and shareholder action." Regarding student unrest incited by the divestment issue, Shea

added that dialogue will be kept open between the students and the Board of Trustees.

Steve Brady, a member of the RPI Student Committee on South Africa, disagrees. "The investments in South Africa are marginal, and [proxy] voting wouldn't make much of a difference," Brady says. "Proxy voting is symbolic while divestment is substantive." Brady does feel that RPI's position is evolving, but notes that the school has not made any proposals to get out of South Africa.

Russell Sage College in Troy, Junior College of Albany and Union College in Schenectady have not divested, but limit their investments in South Africa to companies who have formally agreed to the Sullivan Principles—a code of ethics established for American businesses in South Africa.

Maria College in Albany and Schenectady County Community College have never had investments in South Africa, while Albany Law School, the College of Saint Rose in Albany, the State University of New York and Siena College in Loudonville all have divested.

—Angela Pender



region that are just as terrible as the contras in Nicaragua."

Those "contras" are people like Jonas Savimbi, a rebel leader from the U.S.-backed UNITA organization that is fighting the leftist Angola government, and the organization called Renamo in Mozambique, which functions as an agent of the South African government to keep that independent nation economically tied to South Africa.

"They attack at the very guts of the country," Michelson says, "against transport lines, hospital workers, children and women." She says last year Renamo members massacred 400 people, including a number of sick people in their hospital beds.

"The U.S. government can talk about being against apartheid but we're funding apartheid through corporations and we're funding destabilization in the region through UNITA."

Namibia (formerly called South West Africa), which has 100,000 South African troops stationed inside its borders, also is buoyed by American corporate investments, according to Michelson.

Americans interested in working against apartheid can support product boycotts, divestments, academic and cultural boycotts; educate others about the region and what the ANC and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the 20-year Namibian liberation movement, are doing; and contribute money to the ANC and SWAPO for medical supplies, legal fees and educational materials, Michelson says.

Michelson prides the Capital Region on having contributed disproportionately to the anti-apartheid movement, beginning with the boycott of the South African rugby team, the Springboks, in Albany in 1981. Area activists also have launched

## SANCTIONS SUNDAY

**THIS SUNDAY (APRIL 24) WILL BE Sanctions Sunday in the Capital Region. The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, in collaboration with the Interdenominational Ministers Conference and the Capital Area Baptist Ministers Conference, will issue a renewed call for the U.S. government to help isolate the South African regime internationally.**

**South African students from around the Northeast will team up with**

**Coalition members, to address the congregations of various area churches on the situation in South Africa and the need for sanctions. Sample letters to New York Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, a member of the House Subcommittee on Africa, will be distributed, asking him to show leadership in the sanctions effort, and church members will be asked to write or sign. The churches are picking up the cost of the mailings. ■**

successful boycotts and walkouts of musicians who performed in South Africa in defiance of the cultural boycott. Both Chick Corea and the Temptations renounced their South African appearances and vowed never to perform there again as a result of such actions by Michelson's coalition.

In addition, Albany saw the successful movement for divestment of SUNY funds

from companies doing business in South Africa.

As its name suggests, Michelson's coalition, formed in 1981 to plan strategies against the Springboks, also is active in the fight against racism domestically.

"We believe the foreign policy of the U.S. is symptomatic of its domestic policy of institutional racism," Michelson says. Among the local issues the coalition has

tackled are police brutality and racial violence.

Michelson came to the area 20 years ago to attend Russell Sage College, later earning a masters degree at SUNYA. She works as an affirmative-action officer at the O.D. Heck Developmental Center in Schenectady.

Her commitment to working against apartheid has incorporated itself into the very fabric of her day-to-day existence. In her Albany home, family members compete with black South African leaders and friends for space on her walls, and her community of friends includes more than a few South African exiles.

During her trip to Tanzania last year, Michelson was especially touched by a visit to a refugee camp for South African exiles a few hours from Dar-Es-Salaam. Known by the acronym SOMAFCO, the self-contained community run by the ANC includes a pre-kindergarten-through-high school that trains its students for higher education abroad in professional and skilled fields like medicine, law, farm and factory management and even high-technology work. It already has graduated 1,000 people and placed them abroad.

The children in SOMAFCO have endured a world of suffering difficult to imagine. Most are there without parents or siblings. Many were the victims of torture. But rather than waste their energy on self-pity, they are there to get educated, be disciplined and productive—"so that," explains Michelson, re-affirming her optimism in the ultimate victory against apartheid, "after the revolution they will be able to help the society in growth and development." ■

To learn more about the work of the coalition or to become a member, call Michelson at 436-0562

*"The U.S. government can talk about being against apartheid but we're funding apartheid through corporations and we're funding destabilization in the region through UNITA."*  
—Vera Michelson

*UNITA*



# Service Award

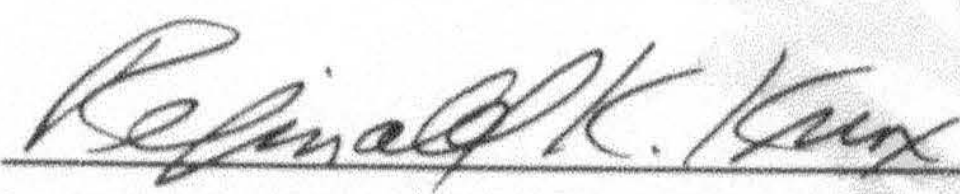
This certifies that


VERA MICHELSON

is awarded this certificate  
for outstanding service rendered to

THE ALBANY COMMUNITY

Given at THRUWAY HOUSE this 20TH day of MAY 19 88

  
PUBLISHER, SCENE NEWSPAPER

  
EDITOR, SCENE NEWSPAPER





Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

1988 Black Arts and Cultural Festival  
Celebrates 70th Birthday of Nelson Mandela

In tribute to the 70th Birthday of Nelson Mandela, the Black Arts and Cultural Festival will feature "Sechaba," the cultural performance group of the African National Congress. These internationally recognized artists will perform songs and chants of South Africa. Their performances entertain, educate and inspire.

Budget

Cost for van rental, gas, tolls and miscellaneous expenses	\$300.00
Honorarium for six Sechaba performers	<u>600.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$900.00

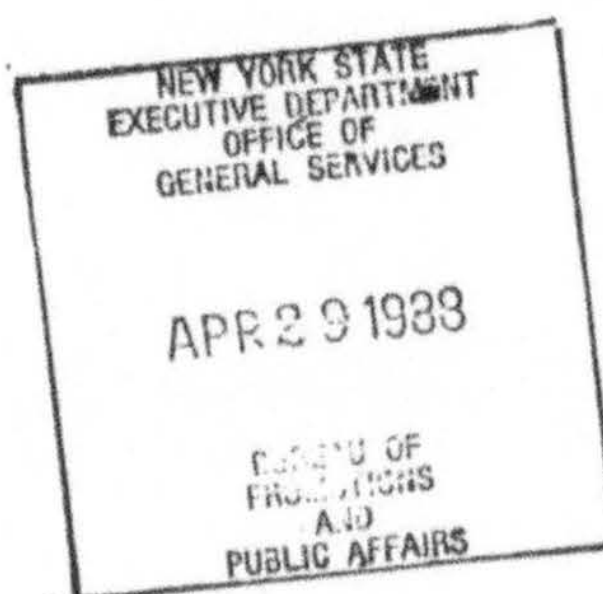
Submitted by

*Merton Simpson*

Merton Simpson  
Co-Chairman  
Capital District Coalition Against  
Apartheid and Racism



*Black Arts and Cultural Festival*



April 26, 1988

KODAK MEMO

TO: J. M. Barr  
R. E. Miller  
FROM: M. J. Donnelly  
SUBJECT: Trip Report, Albany, N.Y., April 22, 1988

PURPOSE: Meeting with representatives of General Services Department (GSA), State of New York, regarding State's Black Arts and Cultural Festival, July 24, 1988, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y.

ATTENDEES: Michael J. Donnelly, EKC  
Judith H. Burgess, GSA  
Deborah J. Mardigan, GSA  
Lois Jackson, The Black Arts & Cultural Committee  
Ruth Carter,

RESULTS: EKC will be part of the 1988 Black Arts and Cultural Festival. Basically, the festival is a one-day event with attendance in excess of 50-60,000. It is a celebration of cultural diversity of people involving arts, photography, crafts and three sites for entertainment.

EKC participation will be as follows:

- o The "Art of Jazz" exhibit to be displayed from July 19- until late August, 1988 on the main floor of the Mayor Erastus Corning Tower Office Complex. Exhibit will open with a noontime media event July 19, 1988. GSA will develop a brochure and news releases outlining aspects of the exhibit. GSA will provide staffing of the exhibit on the Festival Day, July 24.
- o Photo Information area to be established near the "children's" area of the Empire Plaza.
- o Camera loaner program.
- o Four Disney characters to pose for photos against picture-taking background. Characters to be available to pose 12:30 - 5:30 p.m. on festival date. Two characters alternating every 30 minutes.



- o Co-sponsorship by EKC with festival's evening concert featuring jazz artist, Dakota Satan. Other co-sponsor is Sterling Drug, Inc. of Rensselaer, N.Y.

GSA support will involve the following:

- o Responsible for all printed materials involving EKC and Sterling involvement. All copy and layouts to be approved by EKC prior to distribution.
- o Responsible for coordination of media event July 19, 1988 introducing "Art of Jazz" exhibit.
- o Responsible for securing a jazz musical group to be part of July 19 event as well as music supporting exhibit on festival day, July 24.
- o Provide transportation of Disney characters from Albany, N.Y. airport to downtown Hilton, transport to Empire State Plaza and transport to airport morning of July 25.
- o Provide security (6 persons) for Disney picture-taking area adjacent to photo information area.
- o Provide "French" barricades to be utilized with picture-taking background.
- o Responsible for liaison with Walter Foust, Industrial Relations Manager, Sterling Drug, Inc. regarding concert co-sponsorship.
- o Responsible for liaison with festival committee's chairpersons, Ruth Carter and Lois Jackson. Serve as interface regarding promotion-publicity, etc. Ms. Carter and Ms. Jackson represent The Black Arts and Cultural Committee, an organization based on community involvement and commitment.
- o Provide inkind services for the festival day totaling approximately \$16,000.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Mr. Donnelly to brief UniWorld Group, Inc. in regard to EKC participation.
- o Mr. Donnelly to discuss use of Disney characters with the Walt Disney World Co.





**Empire State Black Arts & Cultural Festival**

7  
POST OFFICE BOX 221  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12201

7

**COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

ACTING PRESIDENT

Alvania Hill

TREASURER

Florence Frazier

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Vanessa Haley

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Louris Jackson

May 31, 1988

Mr. Merton Simpson  
Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid & Racism  
439-A Livingston Avenue - 2A  
Albany, New York 12206

Dear ESBACF Member:

This letter is to inform you that the next Empire State Black Arts & Cultural Festival meeting will take place on June 2, 1988 at 5:30pm in the OGS Conference Room, 29th Floor Tower Building.

We would appreciate your attendance at this meeting as we will try to finalize our plans for the upcoming Fundraiser and Festival in the month of July.

Please try to attend.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rhonda B. Nwakalor  
Corresponding Secretary

RN/



EMPIRE STATE BLACK ARTS & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Minutes

Office of General Services  
Conference Room - 29th Floor

May 26, 1988

A regular meeting of the Empire State Black Arts & Cultural Festival, was held on Thursday, May 26, 1988. The meeting was called to order by Ruth Carter, Vice President, at 5:30 p.m. in the Office of General Services Conference Room on the 29th floor of the Corning Tower.

PRESENT

Shirley Bryant, Ruth Carter, Gwendolyn Churchill, Michael Dygert, Florence Frazier, Alvania Hill, Louris Jackson, Vallencia Lloyd, Sue Miller, Dynese Norwood, Rhonda Nwakalor, Diana Ritter, Meredith Rouse, Merton Simpson and Lloyd Simmons. These members constitute a quorum.

MINUTES  
APPROVED

There were no Minutes taken at the May 19, 1988 meeting.

The meeting opened with discussion from Judy Burgess and Kurt Vincent regarding the ESBACF changing the annual festival into an International Festival, with the ESBACF overseeing the activities of the event.

Eastman Kodak Corporation, along with Winthrop Sterling will be funding the Entertainment for the 1988 Festival. Exhibits will be displayed of the "Art of Jazz" from July 19 to late August on the main floor of the Mayor Erastus Corning Tower. Dakota Statton will be the featured jazz artist.

Judy Burgess asked if members of the ESBACF would serve as host(ess) for the play at the EGG for a play on Sunday, July 24 after the Festival. *General*

APPOINTMENTS

Lloyd Simmons and Diana Ritter were appointed as Treasurer and Chairperson of the Youth Committee respectively. Motion was made and approved.

Rhonda Nwakalor was appointed as Corresponding Secretary, with a salary of \$350.00 for ten (10) months. Motion was made and approved.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FUNDRAISING Shirley Bryant:

The Fundraiser for the ESBACF will be held on the Observation Deck of the Corning Tower on Friday, July 22, 1988. Chancellor Thomas Law will be the guest speaker for the evening.

The menu for the fundraiser will be Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The tickets will be sold at \$20.00 per person. There were objections to the amount of the tickets.

Two hundred numbered tickets and 400 announcements will be made up. The tickets will be distributed among the members of the ESBACF and the announcements will be distributed around the Capital District area. There will be a DeeJay to play music.

ENTERTAINMENT Louris Jackson:

Entertainment groups that were suggested were:  
\*Sechaba, a dance group, Temujin, the Storyteller.

Musical groups suggested were: Stacy Latisaw, Ray, Goodman & Brown, Force MD, Mikki Howard.

A "Did You Know" booth by Dr. Zwana;  
Merton Simpson will coordinate the booth for Dr. Zwana.

Merton will also send a proposal on the group Sechaba by Thursday, June 2. The group will need transportation fees from New York City.

YOUTH Diana Ritter:

Diana was appointed as Chairperson of this committee on May 26, 1988. Vallencia Lloyd and Louris Jackson will serve on this committee.

Diana was given information concerning the Walt Disney characters for Youth entertainment

TREASURER Lloyd Simmons:

Lloyd was appointed as Treasurer on May 26, 1988. He has requested that the information concerning the treasury be given to him to be brought up-to-date.



**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Runyon v. McCrary**

**PLEASE RETURN IMMEDIATELY**

TO: Marge Greenberg  
Toward a More Perfect Union  
666 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
212/614-6464  
Capital District Coalition Against  
FROM: Apartheid & Racism (name of organization)  
RE: Runyon Amicus Brief

1. Our organization has agreed to sign on to the amicus brief described in the enclosed cover letter.  X   NO   
YES

if yes,

a. our name should appear as follows:

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND  
RACISM (Albany, New York)

b. our statement of interest is attached (see enclosed samples)

c. the contacts for our organization for this brief are:

name: Anita Thayer or Mark S. Mishler (518) phone: 462-6753

address: WALTER, THAYER, LONG & MISHLER

1 Columbia Place  
Albany, NY 12207

if no,

a. we are considering signing, but need more time. We can make a decision by \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

b. The following person from our organization will be responsible for coordination:

name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

c. We need more information; the person listed above will contact you.



AMICUS STATEMENT OF INTEREST

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM (Albany, New York) was formed in 1981 to organize opposition to a planned visit to Albany, New York of a rugby team from the Republic of South Africa. The COALITION consists of representatives of more than a dozen organizations, including local affiliates of the NAACP, the National Lawyers Guild, Black Social Workers, YWCA and several local organizations. The COALITION is an activist grass roots organization dedicated to ending United States complicity with the apartheid government of South Africa, supporting the liberation movement in South Africa and Namibia, and eradicating racism in the United States. Towards these ends, the COALITION has presented educational forums, has lobbied in the New York State Legislature and the United States Congress and has organized demonstrations and petition campaigns. Since May, 1986 the COALITION has also participated as a member organization of the City of Albany's Community/Police Relations Board.

The COALITION believes that progress towards eradicating racism depends, in part, on the existence of a clear mandate from the United States Supreme Court that civil rights of minorities are protected and that victims of racism have effective legal avenues of redress. The COALITION is concerned that if the Court's decision in *Runyan v. McCrary*, 427 U.S. 160 (1976), is overturned, it will create substantial obstacles for



victims of discrimination and will provide an impetus to those who would like to see a return to the blatant and pervasive racism of the period before this Court's unanimous and historic decision in Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), which signaled the end of the legal system's complicity in racial discrimination. We urge this Court to re-affirm the holding of Runyan v. McCrary, 427 U.S. 160 (1976)



RESOLUTION FROM THE ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, 42 U.S.C. Section 1981 and other post-Civil War Civil Rights statutes have provided minorities an important legal tool for combatting private racial discrimination and racial violence; and,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's rulings in Jones v. Alfred Mayer and Runyan v. McCrary properly established that these Civil Rights statutes were passed pursuant to Congress's ability under the Thirteenth Amendment to determine and eradicate the badges and indicia of slavery; and,

WHEREAS, the current Supreme Court on its own motion, by a 5 - 4 vote indicated its intention to reconsider its holding in Runyan v. McCrary that 42 U.S.C. 1981 applies to private discrimination as part of its ruling in the racial harassment case of Patterson v. McLean Credit Union; and,

WHEREAS, it appears that the current majority of the Court, by refusing to grant any extensions in briefing and argument is attempting to reach a decision before mass opposition to the Court's action may be mobilized; and,

WHEREAS, since Runyan the illegality of private racial discrimination has been unquestioned and has become part of the fabric of our society; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of the current Supreme Court's desire to reconsider Runyan on a very fast schedule is a clear signal that the Court wants to reverse its prior ruling; and,

WHEREAS, a reversal of Runyan would not only greatly hinder Civil



Rights enforcement, but virtually nullify the effect of the Civil War Amendments in much the same way that the ruling Civil Rights Cases of 1983 buried these amendments until Jones v. Alfred Mayer.


BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Lawyers Guild do whatever it can to prevent the Court from reversing its prior ruling in Runyon v. McCrary through at least the following actions:

1. Filing an amicus brief, along with the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the National Rainbow Coalition and other organizations, opposing reversal and soliciting other organizations to join our brief;
2. Increasing our own awareness of the threat the reversal holds through having workshops at all the Regional Meetings and articles in national, regional and local papers;
3. Working on a local and national basis with other organizations and media to promote general awareness of these issues and to increase opposition to reversal of Runyon including working with organizations that comprised the anti-Bork network nationally and locally;
4. Sponsoring and organizing public conferences and forums, in conjunction with progressive minority and women's organizations at law schools throughout the country to address the issues in the Court's decision to review Runyon; and,
5. Working with all groups to support mass action and mass protest aimed at preventing the Court from reversing its decision in Runyon.




IMPLEMENTATION: NEC and Anti-Racism Committee and the Law Students in Action (LSIA) are charged with responsibility to implement this resolution.





## Letters to the Editor



### Oust S. Africans From Tennis Tourney



Editor, Gazette:

We are writing as a follow-up to resolution 87-164 adopted unanimously by City Council members and approved by Mayor Karen Johnson on July 14, 1987. That resolution stated that the Mayor and the Council of the City of Schenectady would:

Make every effort to communicate to the sponsors, Nabisco, OTB, the Men's

International Professional Tennis Council, and the Women's Tennis Association the outrage which this community feels about the system of apartheid and the violence which is done daily to the black majority in South Africa, with the goal of stopping South African participation in future tournaments."

To date, we have not received any communications indicating that the mayor made or attempted to make con-

tact with any of the three aforementioned parties. If she has contacted any, we are anxious to hear their response to the city's expression of our outrage toward apartheid and our goal of stopping South African participation in future tournaments.


The state of emergency is still in effect in South Africa. In fact, since last year, the situation in South Africa has grown considerably worse. The recent closing of newspapers and added press restrictions, as well as the continued repression and murder of its citizens and the recent banning of 17 anti-apartheid organizations, only emphasizes the fact that the South African system of government is inconsistent with democratic values. Accordingly, South Africa must be isolated and denied any normalized relations with America, particularly the Capital District.

We know that if we unite as a community, we can make a difference and contribute to a better world for everyone. We are confident that the mayor and the council will follow up last year's actions and finally remove the shadow that South African participation has cast over the Schenectady OTB/Nabisco Grand Prix Tennis Tournament.

VERA MICHAELSON  
JOSEPH ALLEN

Schenectady  
(Vera Michaelson is with the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. Joseph Allen is with the Schenectady Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.)

...Wants These State Reports





## YWCA to fete 10 area women

By Patrick Kurp

Staff writer

Eileen Kawola looks at the kids she teaches in Arbor Hill and sees them as the brothers and sisters of South Africa's black masses, victimized by apartheid.

Besides skin color and the oppression it inspires, they share a dream of liberation, Kawola believes. But fulfillment is a long way off.

"The system has failed the kids I teach. The streets are becoming much more seductive. I don't feel hopeful, just as people in South Africa don't seem to feel hopeful for a quick solution," said Kawola, one of 10 women to be honored in the Albany YWCA's ninth-annual Tribute to Women.

For 13 years Kawola has taught social studies at the Albany Street Academy, where all the teachers are white and all but one of the students are black. She was outraged in 1981 when a South African rugby team was permitted to play at Bleeker Stadium in Albany.

Out of anger she helped organize the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, and today serves on its steering committee and edits its monthly newsletter.

In honoring Kawola, the YWCA praised her as "adept at reaching students who have not succeeded in a traditional educational structure. She has worked with her students in and out of the classroom, stressing social skills as well as academic learning."

A dinner honoring Kawola and the other women will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the convention center at the Empire State Plaza. At the same time, the Albany YWCA will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

The keynote speaker will be Rita Moniz, vice president of the national YWCA. Call 438-6608 for information.

The other honorees are:

- Eleanor Billmyer, member of the Albany County Legislature since 1980.

- Sandra Camacho, affirmative action officer for the state Energy Office and Energy Research and

- Development Authority, and former Centro Civico Hispanoamerican board member.

- Sister Noel M. Cronin, retired professor at the College of Saint Rose, who taught mathematics for 44 years; founded Growth and Progress, a summer arts program for inner-city children, in 1967.

- Milagro "Millie" Delgado, admissions officer for the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center.

- Dorothy Roberta S. Haith, a cosmetologist who teaches at the Capital District Educational Center. She helped organize the Ebony Professional Barbers and Beauticians Association of the Tri-Cities.

- Thea Hoeth, charter member and former president of the Capital District chapter of the Women's Bar Association of New York State. She also is a former board member of Albany Area Housing Opportunities.

- Lorna McBarnette, executive deputy commissioner of the state Department of Health and and president of the Center for Women in Government.

- Delia M. Pitkin, board member and former president of the Albany YWCA, and a member of the Equinox Community Service Agency board.

- Lutricia "Trish" Thomas, a certified nurse midwife at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, and a registered nurse and family nurse practitioner.

### Masons observing 125th anniversary

The Fultonville Lodge No. 531 Free and Accepted Masons will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its charter Wednesday. Roswell T. Switts, grand master of Masons for the state, will celebrate with area masons.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Lodge rooms. Area lodge secretaries are asked to let co-chairman Faulkner or Moran know how many will attend from their lodges.

All correspondence should be directed to the Lodge, Main Street, Fultonville, N.Y. 12072.



Billmyer

Camacho



Cronin

Delgado



Haith

Hoeth



Kawola

McBarnette



Pitkin

Thomas

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(Gazette Photo - Stu Brown)

5/31/67

# SCHENECTADY GAZETTE

Owned and Published by The Daily Gazette Co.  
332 State Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12301

Orazio Ottaviano  
Managing Editor

John E.N. Hume III  
Editor

Arthur Clayman  
Editorial Page Editor

## An Unbiased Tournament

The campaign to end apartheid in South Africa has a potent weapon in publicity. Especially at a time when the government in Pretoria systematically inhibits news coverage, it is essential that the anti-apartheid movement keep the issue before the American public. For that reason, protests of South African tennis players at Schenectady's OTB Open tournament serve a valuable purpose. However, protesters must conduct themselves according to the principles of equality they espouse, or forfeit the moral high ground.

The Capital District Coalition Against Racism and Apartheid wants South African players banned from the tournament. Although they failed to persuade tournament organizers last year, they did talk the City Council into supporting their position. They are renewing their effort again this year.

A ban on players of any nationality — because of their nationality — is discrimination. Americans are right to revile the official discrimination of apartheid, but if their tactics are discriminatory, who are

they to lecture? The people of the Capital District can set an example of tolerance by demonstrating that any individual is free to pursue his dreams here and participate on an equal footing with all others. Ability is the criterion for determining who is eligible to play.

During last year's tournament, protesters used the appearance of South African players as a rallying point. The anti-apartheid movement benefited from the peaceful demonstrations conducted during the tournament and from the news coverage that brought their case to a broad audience.

The tournament takes place in a public park and protesters have a right to rally there in a nondisruptive way during the tournament. Such a demonstration, provided that it's peaceful, provided that it doesn't interfere with the equal rights of players or spectators, is appropriate. Discrimination on the basis of nationality, is not. It should not be considered by the tournament nor advocated by anyone who values freedom.





## The View From Here

By Carl Strock

5/27/61

**SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS PLAYERS** will be able to compete again this year in the OTB Open tennis tournament in Schenectady's Central Park, despite the protests of anti-apartheid activists.

Davis Etkin, chairman and president of the Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp., the chief sponsor of the event, says OTB would lose its Nabisco franchise for the tournament if it barred players because of their country of origin.

The OTB tournament is one of 78 sanctioned by the Nabisco Grand Prix Franchise Committee around the world each year. If the tournament were not part of such a network, it would not exist.

Last year a collection of civil rights groups protested the participation of a South African player in the tournament and demanded that South African players be barred in the future. They prevailed on the City Council to pass a resolution decrying the racial policies of South Africa and urging that players from that country be barred in the future. The council, which is the legislative body for the city, has no power to block any players itself.

Two of the activists — Vera Michaelson and Joseph Allen — recently demanded to know if the mayor or the City Council has followed up on the pledge to express suitable outrage to the sponsors of the tournament. It hardly matters. Outrage or no, the tournament will go on and tennis players will compete, regardless of the politics of their home countries. Not only does the sanctioning organization require this openness, Etkin also approves of it. He says of the demand to exclude South African players: "Personally I think it's totally unfair and unreasonable, and I think it's discriminatory on the part of those who are trying to exclude individual contestants because of their national origin. These individuals are not part of the government, and they don't represent the government. They're individual athletes. They don't represent their country. I'd hate to think that because someone was born in Israel or France or Italy, because we disagree with that country's policies, we could exclude them. It's contrary to everything we stand for in this country."

To which I say, Hear, hear! Let's stop this nonsense of believing that we're doing anything but assuaging our own consciences when we make these token, symbolic protests against tennis or rugby players, which, as a practical matter, amount only to harassing individuals and do nothing to change South Africa's policies. It might make someone feel good to hoist a banner or wear an armband in protest of apartheid when a South African tennis player shows up in Schenectady, but does anyone believe it has any effect at all on the South African government? I doubt if anyone believes that; it just feels good to make a public statement against racism.

Go ahead and make these statements, I suggest. Carry placards, wear armbands, chant slogans. But don't try to bar South African players from sports tournaments in a country where the phrase "regardless of race, creed or national origin" is nearly a verbal totem. It's unnecessary to stop an athlete from competing in his sport because of his national origin. It is, in Mr. Etkin's words, contrary to everything we stand for in this country. If you want to fight evil, find some way to do it besides harassing young athletes.

Surely the optometrists' position is based on the hard economic fact that they will lose money if glasses are sold in department stores.

Dorman, again: "Economically it's not an issue for us. All state workers have eyeglass insurance. We're not going to lose that business. Most big employers, like GE and Niagara Mohawk, pay for glasses. Medicaid pays for the poor to have their eyes examined."

Our concern is that the only people who are at risk are the near-poor, the working poor, who do not qualify for Medicaid and may not have a vision-care plan. They may put down \$15 for glasses and not have their eyes examined.

On balance it doesn't seem to me a compelling argument, but there is always something to be said on the other side.

16-24 July

City Council meeting  
on Monday Night





# USA - SOUTH AFRICA

1976 - 1988

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

**SOWETO DAY**  
**- JUNE 16 -**

WE MOURN FOR THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR FREEDOM  
WE CELEBRATE THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN  
SOUTH AFRICA & THE USA

**THURS JUNE 16 · 7.00 PM**

**ARBOR HILL COMMUNITY CENTER**

This program will start on time - doors will open at 6.30 pm

**PROGRAM**

- MUSIC OF RESISTANCE
- POETRY OF STRUGGLE
- DANCE OF DEFIANCE
- SPEAKER : A SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT

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## Announcing : **SOWETO DAY**

**JUNE 16, 1988**

**SEE OTHER SIDE FOR DETAILS**

On June 16, 1988 at the Arbor Hill Community Center in Albany, N.Y., there will be a very special program remembering Soweto. This program is part of the follow-up series of the Critical Black Issues Conference held in Feb., '88.

### **IMPORTANT SUMMER PLANNING MEETING**

Thursday, June 23, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. at the Urban League  
corner of Livingston and Ten Broeck, Albany, N.Y.

**SPORTS BOYCOTT** - The OTB Tennis Tournament is returning to Schenectady in July. Last year we protested the appearance of South African players on the tour - this year we plan to work with the Schenectady NAACP again to make clear that we cannot tolerate sports boycott violators in our community. Strategy and planning will be discussed.

**CULTURAL BOYCOTT** - **HERE COMES RAY AGAIN** - In August, Ray Charles, the most flagrant cultural boycott violator, will return to this area. We need to let him know that there is no respect for those who collaborate with the racist regime. When he appears at SPAC, we need to sing loudly and clearly: "hit the road Ray!"

**FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON RACIAL VIOLENCE AND POLICE ABUSE** - update on current campaigns.



**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
And Racism**



## International News

# Local Soweto observance planned

By Sean Lewis

On June 16, 1976, in Soweto, a township in South Africa, the dam broke. All the tension that had been building up for months and even years before that, just erupted. Kids poured out of their classrooms and out of their schools in their hundreds of thousands, proclaiming the school to be the tool of the oppressor, and proclaiming their right as humans to make their lives, and their schooling meaningful to themselves.

It was that day in South Africa, that thirteen year-old Hector Petersen was fatally shot in the back by the South African police. Then, for the world, the 1976 unrest started. For South Africans, it was not unrest, it was a revolt, and it had started a long time before.

For months, even years before that fateful date "it" had been discussed openly, in classrooms where open discussion was allowed, in playgrounds, school toilets, in homes, buses, everywhere. And, where such open discussion was not allowed, "it" was discussed secretly, always aware of the danger of being overheard and punished.

This "it" was a growing dissatisfaction that came to be felt, especially by high school children throughout the country. There was this feeling that what we were being dished out in the schools was inferior, was trash, worthy of no respect and deserving only the treatment of being discarded in the downtrodden gutters, home of all waste matter. This resulted in the adoption of the term, "Gutter Education", to describe the slop they were dishing out to students in the schools. Along with this was also a rapidly and intensely growing resentment of "White Only" signs and parks and beaches, cinemas and restaurants, trains and buses, etc. A generation of Black students who had been taught to respect, defer to avoid whites, began to hate whites and wish for their destruction. They seemed to benefit wherever and whenever Blacks suffered.

This crystallized in the students in South Western Townships in Johannesburg, or Soweto, as it is commonly called, rejecting the Africans' language as a medium of instruction in the schools. Not only was it often a language that the students did not know or want to know, it was also a symbol of the Afrikaners, the most hateful and oppressive sector of the white population. And it was rejected for these reasons. Students in Soweto, peacefully decided to boycott classes. They went to their schools each day, but refused to attend classes, held meetings at their schools, and joint meetings with other schools around. Their demands were simple and clear - they were no longer accepting Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in the schools.

However, their meetings and joint meetings were very productive. Students started articulating dissatisfaction at the education system as a whole, and ultimately at the entire system of Apartheid - of racist oppression and exploitation. And this articulation of demands spread although at the stage the boycott had not.

Then, in usual fascist fashion, the South African police shot Hector Petersen in the back, and killed him.

For students throughout the country, that was the last straw. Black schools all over the country came out on boycott in solidarity with the struggle of the Soweto students. This solidarity boycott was transformed into a national boycott of

"gutter decision."

The police responded in usual fascist fashion: ramming peacefully demonstrating students with armoured trucks, baton charges and tear gas, bullets and death and detention. The students refused to sit back passively, and many fought back with sticks and stones and later, petrol bombs, against trained riot policeman with guns in armoured trucks.

The students were bitter, and many died in the months of revolt that ensued. Parents were being confronted by their kids, asking them why they had not fought before and were not fighting then, and many were determined to see the struggle through to its bitter end. Victory or death.

Many still are that determined. They have however learned through the struggles of 1976 and 1977, of 1980 right up to the present, that students cannot achieve victory on their own.

In the period between 1977 and 1980, young people established youth organizations, joined or established civic organizations, created forums where they could address the issues of their parents, the workers, and relate them to their issues.

Thus, the 1980 revolt saw an organized and united front of students, teachers, parents, workers taking on the might of the South African police, the South African Defence Force, the South African government backed by western, especially U.S. imperialists. The 1980's saw a defenceless but united front building and strengthening a liberation, until in 1988, there existed such liberatory giants as the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the United Democratic Front (UDF), the South African National Students Congress (SANSCO), the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) and many others.

The liberation movement refused to be crushed despite living under virtual martial law for three years, the townships having been occupied by the South African Defence Force (SADF). The SADF was now waging a terrorist campaign against the ANC which operated from outside the country, as well as against the non-violent liberation movement inside the country. The movement refused to be crushed. The movement grew stronger, and the ties between the external and internal struggle grew stronger.

This desperate situation, for the illegitimate South African government, that is, led to the banning of seventeen organizations of March 24.

June 16, 1976 is thus an important day in the struggle for democracy, in South Africa, as well as the rest of the world, because the struggle for democracy, anywhere, in an international struggle. That is why we must commemorate June 16 - Soweto Day. We mourn the deaths of those who have fallen in the struggle for liberation from oppression and exploitation and we celebrate those who live and fight against seemingly hopeless odds for an inevitable victory, because victory is certain.

Let us hasten the arrival of that day of victory. Let us isolate and undermine the Apartheid South African government totally. The Cranston-Dellums sanctions bill is to go before congress and the senate within June. Let us expedite the passage of that bill by applying pressure on our congressmen and senators to pass it, and even remove the weakening amendments. And let us materially support the internal and external liberation movement, and in

our work be guided by the wishes of the South African people and not by the machinations of abstract academic minds.

The most fitting commemoration of June 16 - Soweto Day, is the advancement of the liberation struggle of Black South Africans.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, in conjunction with the Critical Black Issues Conference, is inviting the community to attend a

commemoration of Soweto Day on Thursday, June 16, 1988 at 7:30 pm., at Arbor Hill Community Center.

It will include an evening of South African culture - music of resistance, poetry of struggle, and dance of defiance. A South African student will also speak about the continuing struggle in Southern African and in the United States.

For more information, please call 463-0562.

## Cabinet ministers fired from Trinidad's government

By Godfrey Smith

Less than two years ago the people of Trinidad and Tobago voted for a new coalition party called the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) to administer the government.

At the time the coalition which consisted of four political parties appeared to be a true presentation of the country's multi-ethnic society. It had Black, white, and East Indian members, and also great ideas on how to attack Trinidad's problems of a declining economy, racial indifference, declining oil revenue, and a slow growth tourist industry.

Trinidadians felt that after years of unbroken People's National Movement (PNM) rule it was time for a change of government. However, things have not worked out as planned. Since the beginning of this year the party has been plagued by inefficiency, and blatant cold silent treatment among cabinet members.

Last month Black Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson with the approval of the party council was forced to fire and suspend five dissident members. All five are either East Indians or white and that has fueled charges of racism and corruption. Former deputy party leader Basdeo Panday was in New York last month pleading for support from Trinidadians nationalists to help oust Prime Minister Robinson from power. The audience of mostly East Indians and very few Blacks listened with much concern about the dismal state of affairs in their native country.


While all this is happening new opposition leader Patrick Manning of the PNM is having a field day trying to drum up support from old party faithfuls at home and abroad. Manning is hoping that the NAR problems will help to return his PNM party to power. The next election is scheduled for 1990 or possibly sooner. The opposition leader figures he stands

a good chance to be Trinidad's next Prime Minister if he can successfully implement his massive restructuring goals for the party. The NAR had won the last election by a landslide and left the 1981-86 PNM cabinet without seats in Parliament.

The late Dr. Eric Williams, father of Trinidad and Tobago independence, and the man who brought racial unity, economic prosperity, and political stability to that country must be "turning in his grave." Up to two years ago Trinidad and Tobago was the most credit worthy country in Latin America and the Caribbean. The twin-island republic which had the highest credit rating the Hemisphere has now fallen into second place behind Columbia. That information, according to Institutional Investor, an organization that provides international credit ratings on countries, and is based on ratings provided by international banks.

At the time of writing both political factions are hoping for some kind of reconciliation in the interest of Trinidad's national unity. The growing complaints about A.N.R. Robinson's style of leadership will also have to be addressed. The eventual reinstatement of Basdeo Panday to the Cabinet might be necessary to truly reflect the political realities and expectations of the country. Some political analysts are however predicting a possible breakaway of at least one arm of the NAR party grouping for the next election.

Trinidad's current political situation does highlight some of the problems that could occur when a coalition formed from parties with strong leadership personalities decide not to agree on policies. Certainly, a very unique and interesting political situation that is uncommon in Caribbean island politics.

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## AFROCENTRIC PHILOSOPHY

Afrocentric cosmology - African/Black worldview that is the foundation for our thinking, beliefs, perceptions and values.

Afrocentric Axiology - a value system that serves as the foundation for what we believe and are willing to struggle for.

Afrocentric Ontology - emphasizes our collective identity, collective struggle and collective destiny.

Afrocentric Epistemology - stresses the importance of understanding our history, heritage and culture to acquire the knowledge we need to develop our fullest potential as a people and achieve liberation.

WEUSI - a theory for the development of a collective Black mind.

### Recommended Books

*Afrocentricity: Theory of Social Change:*  
Molefi Asante

*Introduction to Black Studies:* Maulana Karenga

*Kwanza: Origin, Concepts, Practice:*  
Maulana Karenga

*From Plan to Planet:* Haki Madubuti

*Redemption of Africa and Black Religion:*  
St. Clair Drake

*Destruction of Black Civilization:*  
Chancellor Williams

*Black Women in Antiquity,:*  
Ivan Van Sertima

Vera Michelson  
414 Third Street  
Albany NY, 12206

COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
901A Madison Avenue  
Albany, New York 12208

## Fifth Annual Conference on Critical Black Issues

"Securing the Future"



Follow-up Session  
Thursday, JUNE 16 1988  
7:00 p.m.

Arbor Hill Community Center  
50 North Lark Street  
Albany, New York  
463-1516

For details call: 463-4654

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""We come together with an understanding that Afrocentricity liberates us not only from the bondage of Eurocentric ideology, but that it liberates us to be in touch with our 'ultimate reality, to work for the unity of our community by reigniting the victorious consciousness of our ancestors.' We come together with the recognition that the progress of the African American community depends on the strength and vitality of each one of us. Individual progress is empty unless it helps the entire community move forward. We come together with the recognition that our ultimate progress depends on how adequately each member of a household/organization in every one of our communities and how each community examines and exercises options for significant and purposeful change. We come together with the understanding that it is not enough to share data, it is not enough to point to problems or progress, unless these lead us to active involvement in building solutions, unless they direct us to learning experiences, unless they challenge our leadership potential, unless they lead us to a pro-active agenda, unless they tap our many strengths."

**SPONSORS**  
 New York African American Institute  
 Council of Community Services  
 Malcolm X Study Network  
 SABOSA  
 Coalition Against Apartheid  
 Albany NAACP  
 Blacks in Government  
 Black Social Workers' Association  
 Black Power Committee

Topic: Youth -- The Instruments of Change;  
 The Conscience of a Nation

Format: presentation and discussion

June 16, or Soweto Day, as it is more commonly known in the United States of America, is not just a day of mourning for those shot and killed by the police in the student revolt in South Africa in 1976. It also symbolizes the awakening of an entire generation of young militants to the stark realities of a vicious system of racist oppression and exploitation. It symbolizes the young militants' total rejection of that system, and even more importantly, their part of the responsibility to actively change the system.

This responsibility, since 1976, has never been passive. It has manifested itself in the building of organizations, the support of labor struggles, community struggles, etc. In fact striking workers of 1986 said: "We are the youth of the 1976!" For this reason, Soweto Day, should be a model for youth all over the world whose experience of life is one of oppression and exploitation.

READ:

Marable, Manning: 'African and Caribbean Politics'  
 Mandela, Winnie: 'Part of my soul went with him'  
 Nergue, Dumba: 'Run for your life'  
 Munslow, Barry (Ed.): 'Samora Machel -- An African Revolutionary'

\*\*\*\*\*  
 JOIN A STUDY CIRCLE -- CALL 463-4654

- \* Afrocentricity
- \* Ancient Civilizations
- \* Rites of Passage

**NGUZO SABA**

Value	Meaning
Umoja	Unity
Kujichaulia	Self-determination
Ujima	Collective work and responsibility
Ujamaa	Cooperative economics
Nia	Purpose
Kuumba	Creativity
Imani	Faith

" You cannot reorder one mind without a plan: you cannot take a block without a plan: you cannot reshape a school system without a plan: and to nationalize, organize, and mobilize a people you need - a plan."

- Haki Madhubuti

"Our history did not begin in chains and it will not end in chains."

- Malcolm X

"History is self-compliment ... it cannot be left to others to write."

- Molefi Asante



*Dance of rage*



**Times Union photo by Tom LaPoint**  
Fisiwe Zwana of East Greenbush performs an interpretive dance commemorating the 1976 rioting at Soweto in South Africa Thursday night in the Arbor Hill Community Center in Albany, where the Capital District Coalition against Apartheid and Racism observed the riots' 12th anniversary.





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

JULY, 1988  
NEWSLETTER

**NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:**  
Thursday, July 28, 1988 at 7:30 p.m.  
Urban League, corner of Livingston  
and Ten Broeck, Albany, New York

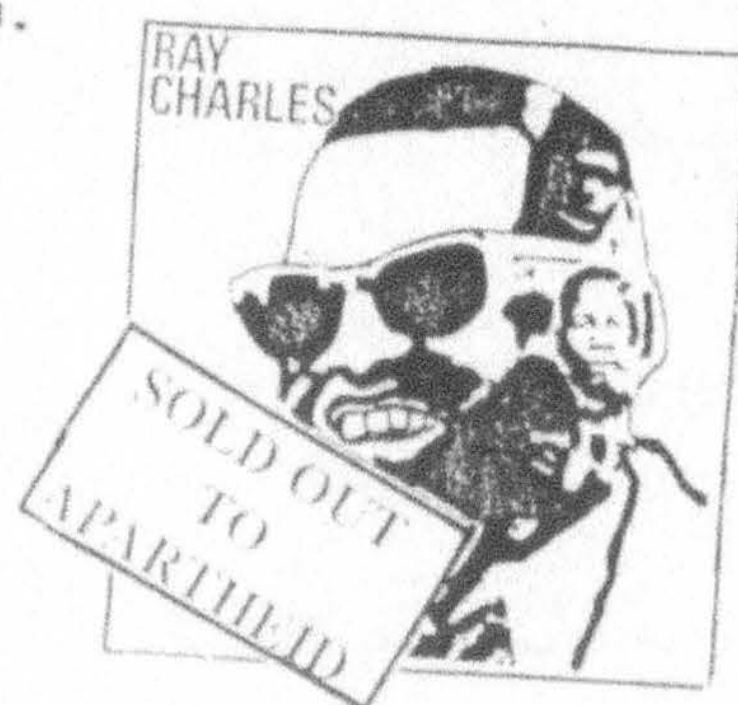
**PLANNING MEETING FOR:**

**RAY CHARLES**

**PROTEST**

**AUGUST 21, 1988**

also, Updates on sanctions and the  
Community Police Reactions Board.



**OTB TENNIS PROTEST PLANNED**

As this newsletter goes to press, plans are being made by the Coalition and the Schenectady NAACP to protest the appearance in Schenectady of South African tennis players in the OTB tournament at Central Park. The tournament begins the weekend of July 24. For more information on the activities planned, please call 436-0562.

**CHABA AT BLACK ARTS FEST**

The Black Arts Festival will take place at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on Sunday, July 24, 1988. The cultural group, Sechaba, of the African National Congress will be featured on the program - see inside for more details.



### COALITION NEWS NOTES

Several Coalition members are to be congratulated:

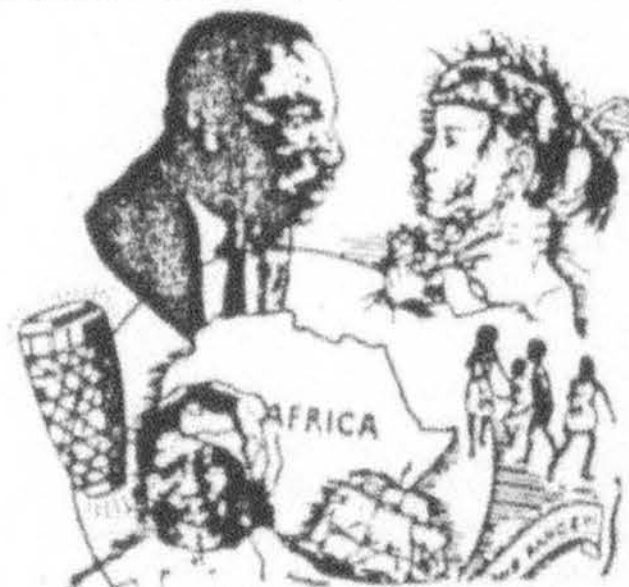
**Anita Thayer** has been elected President of the Women's Bar Association of Albany.

**Janice Mwapaga** has been appointed Coordinator of the Dreamers Project - the scholarship program set up to guarantee a college education at SUNY for all students in this year's 6th grade class at Arbor Hill Elementary School.

**Joe Walker** has been named Executive Assistant to the President of SEIU, Local 444, New York City.

**Ann Matei and Frank Lownes** are the new parents of a beautiful baby boy, Zachary.

Announcing: **AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY DAY**  
Sept. 20 - 24  
Arbor Hill Softball Field  
Albany, New York  
sponsored by A Universal Being  
(more details in next newsletter)



Mark the dates on your calendar for this important community celebration

**SANCTIONS BILL** - The bill in Congress calling for comprehensive sanctions against the South African apartheid regime is now going by the name Dellums/Kennedy. It is S-2378. Vera Michelson went to Washington, D.C. on June 16th to be part of a nationwide lobby day to push senators to sign on to this bill. We will keep you updated on the progress of the bill. Also, read your newspapers and be aware of any movement on the legislation.

Thank you to Michael Dollard and Ann Frazier without whose help it would be impossible to put out a monthly newsletter.  
The Editor

## COME TO...

# THE PARTY

After the **BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL** - a fundraiser for...  
THE CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

We celebrate

and

We honour



Winnie and Nelson on their wedding day. 14 June 1958

## Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

70 years old on July 18 ... 25 years in detention

**PAGE THREE**

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**SUNDAY 7/24**

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Well-known area DJ, Bill Pendleton  
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Proceeds to the Capital District  
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## Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

On July 18, 1988 Nelson Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress and a symbol of the revolutionary democratic struggle of millions of oppressed South Africans against the white regime, will celebrate his 70th birthday. He has spent the last 25 years of his life in South African jails - first at Robben Island and for the last several years at Pollsmoor convicted on charges of sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the white minority government.

In 1964 Mandela answered the charges: "All lawful ways of expressing opposition to apartheid had been closed by laws and we were placed in a position in which we had either to accept a lifetime of inferiority or to defy the government...During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

In February, 1985 the white minority government of South Africa offered Mandela conditional freedom. Despite the fact that he has been denied freedom for almost a third of his lifetime, he refused to accept any conditions and made it clear that he will not renounce the African National Congress or its policies. "Only free men can negotiate...I cannot and will not give up any undertaking at a time when I, and you the people are not free."

### the BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

Around the world people are honoring Nelson Mandela by commemorating his birthday. In Albany, the Black Arts Festival will present Sechaba, the cultural/musical group of the African National Congress. Singing songs of struggle and liberation throughout the U.S. and Canada, their appearance at the Festival on Sunday, July 24, 1988 is a wonderful birthday tribute to Nelson Mandela. The Festival will take place at the Empire State Plaza beginning at noon. Check programs for the time of Sechaba's appearance.

After the Black Arts Festival, the Coalition is sponsoring a fundraising birthday commemoration in honor of Nelson Mandela (see flyer on other side)



**SECHABA** — Musical group of the African National Congress (ANC), composed of South African exiles.

## Come to court...

The events of the summer and fall of 1981, which led to the founding of the CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM, will be the focus of a civil rights lawsuit scheduled for trial starting August 1, 1988 in Albany, N.Y. This lawsuit was brought by plaintiffs Vera "Mike" Michelson, Aaron Estis and the Coalition to challenge a September 21, 1981 raid on "Mike's" apartment the evening before a scheduled national demonstration against the South African Springbok Rugby Team at Albany's Bleekcer Stadium.

The broad attack of the original lawsuit has been narrowed by several restrictive pre-trial rulings of the Federal District Court. Claims against the F.B.I. and the Albany County District Attorney for their participation in the planning and execution of the raid on the Michelson apartment were dismissed.

Furthermore, plaintiffs' attorneys have been denied the right to depose a confidential informant who falsely reported that there was an "arsenal of weapons" stored at the Michelson apartment. It was this report that was the pretext for the raid.

During the raid, Michelson, house guest Estis, and another house guest were all arrested. The only contraband reported was some ancient Canadian firecrackers and ~~micro~~ <sup>micro</sup> amounts of marijuana. Michelson and Estis were illegally held without bail on these "violation" charges. Michelson was in jail for 3 days; Estis for 6 days. Both were denied the opportunity to participate in the demonstration.

During the raid, the various law enforcement agencies seized numerous non-contraband items including Michelson's personal address book and long distance telephone bills as well as political documents belonging to Michelson and the Coalition, detailing names of activists, demonstration plans, etc.

COALITION members who are available during the day are invited to attend court to show support for the lawsuit. For more information, call "Mike" at 436-0562 or attorney Anita Thayer at 462-6753. Plaintiff Estis is represented by the law office of Oliver and Oliver. Plaintiffs Michelson and the Coalition are represented by Walter, Thayer, Long and Mishler.

### COALITION LAWSUIT TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

FEDERAL COURT POST OFFICE ALBANY 4TH FLOOR

COURT WATCHERS NECESSARY



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Against Apartheid  
and Racism  
A Project of the Social Justice Center  
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IMPORTANT REMINDER:  
NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - JULY 28, 1988

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**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Vera Michelson, co-chair	Bill Ritchie
Merton Simpson, co-chair	Yvette Scarlett
Shobhna Gopal	Vicki Smith, representative to
Eileen Kawola, newsletter editor	Community Police Relations
Mark Mishler	Board
Roli Varma, treasurer	Anita Thayer

We are a Coalition of several community organizations and of individual members. We are supported by our members - you! We have no paid staff or overhead expenses so all funds go directly to lobbying efforts, education, printing and postage. **The struggle cannot continue without your support.** For more information, or to join the Coalition, call 518-436-0562. We desperately need contributions to the Coalition - send whatever you can afford today to:

**CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM**  
**BOX 3002 PINE HILLS STATION, ALBANY, N.Y. 12203**

Victory to ANC of South Africa

Victory to SWAPO of Namibia



Responsive  
and  
Responsible

SECON

## Apartheid Foes To Picket City Tennis Match

By DOMINIC TOM  
Gazette Reporter

An anti-apartheid group will protest South African participation in a tennis tournament in Central Park despite a Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. attempt to head off the picketing.

OTB President Davis M. Etkin says he's merely trying to avoid the disruption professional tennis players endured during last year's protest by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Vera Michaelson, coalition co-chairman, said Etkin's offer came after her group applied for a permit to participate in Sunday's "Carnivale Night," in which OTB invited community groups to set up a booth and raise funds.

"Our intentions were very clear," Michaelson said. "We wanted to set up a booth to distribute material on the boycott of South African sports people. We want to sell balloons and other items, such as buttons, that are related to our anti-apartheid work."

Apartheid is the policy of strict racial segregation and discrimination against the native Negroes and other colored peoples in South Africa.

Michaelson maintains OTB officials purposely made it difficult for her to get a permit, though the group complied with all requirements.

Earlier this week, Michaelson said, she talked with Etkin to find out why a permit hasn't been issued.

"He [Etkin] proposed that if we wanted to get our message out [through a booth], that they could bend the rules," Michaelson said. "But he said there would then be no need to pick-

Michaelson says she's puzzled by Etkin's offer.

"What does that mean, bending the rules?" she asked. "The OTB promotional material says the booths are a great way to raise some money for an organization... There's nothing on the agreement form that says we can't have any written information." Michaelson wonders if charitable groups were also told they can't distribute printed material.

"All of this seems very bizarre," Michaelson said. "He's trying to cut a deal and we're not going to make a deal... Mr. Etkin says he's against apartheid but, obviously, this is a move to try to stop us from getting the word out."

Michaelson vowed leafletting and picketing will take place Sunday, though the time and location haven't been finalized. The coalition will be joined by the Schenectady Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Etkin said "Carnivale Night" is designed to help charitable organizations raise money through the playing of games.

"Fun night is fun night," Etkin said. "Other than that, the groups are not to solicit or hand out literature. She [Michaelson] wants to hand out literature, but that isn't the purpose of the evening."

Etkin says he suggested the coalition operate a booth and disseminate its material but, in return, not picket the tournament.

"I thought I was doing something in good faith," he said. "I'm in sympathy with the anti-apartheid movement and I thought this would accomplish the purpose for both of us. We were willing to let them hand out their literature and whatever else so they can get across their message instead of being disruptive to the tournament, as they were last year."

"They didn't keep their word last year not to disrupt the matches. They chanted and made a lot of noise during the tournament."

Etkin said he believes the coalition's message would be more effective through distribution of literature rather than picketing.

"But she didn't like that because it wasn't confrontational," Etkin said. "When she called my offer a deal, then I told her she better go through her original plan rather than my suggestion... They're trying to create a disruptive situation, so naturally they wouldn't accept my proposal."

Etkin noted two native South Africans are in this year's tournament, which begins tomorrow and runs through July 24. They are Michael Robertson, who now lives in Linwood, N.J., and Lise Gregory, a resident of Miami, Fla.

"If their country pays them to gain their athletic strength, then South Africa isn't getting its money's worth because they don't mention South Africa at all while they're here," Etkin said. "They enter as individuals, not as representatives of South Africa. Their origin of birth should not be the deciding factor. I don't think that's the Democratic way."



**Sports**

**DOUBLE FAULT**

By Susan Mehalick

SMALL CLUSTERS OF ANTI-apartheid activists positioned themselves at the entrances to the OTB Open tennis tournament in Schenectady's Central Park last Sunday to protest the presence of South African players in the annual event, and to hand out informational leaflets about apartheid and the international effort to boycott any formal contact with South Africans. Most people graciously accepted the flyers, and without reading them, folded them up in their hands or crumpled them into their pockets and continued on their way.

"It's not that they're ignorant," said Sean Lewis, a South African who's currently studying at SUNYA, "they just don't care."

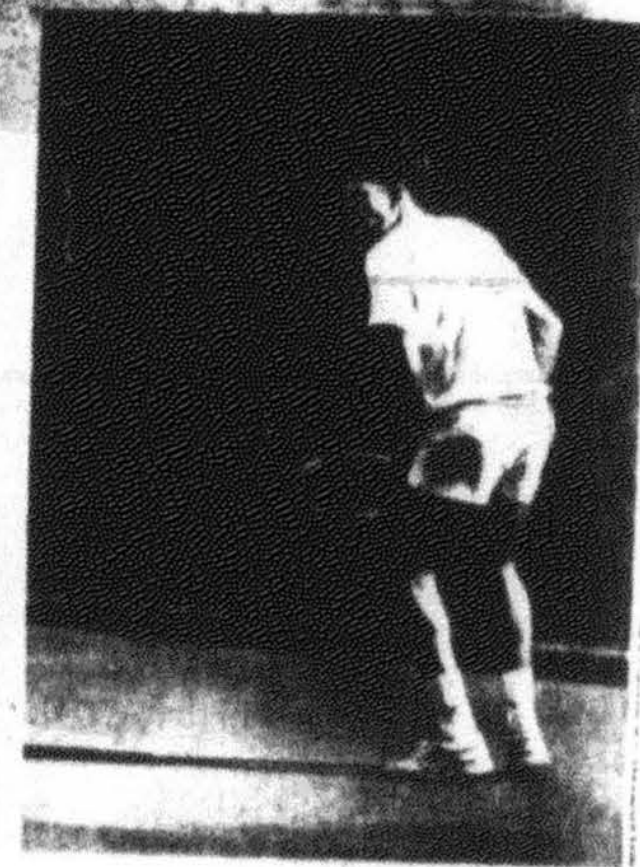
"The white middle class just doesn't care" chimed in Vickie Smith, an activist from Albany. "It's just an issue that doesn't affect them. Things have to hit the middle class before they take notice."

This year, as in years past, players from South Africa have been allowed to participate in the OTB Open (which concludes this weekend) despite a 1968 resolution from the United Nations General Assembly calling for "all states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with South Africa" and a similar call from groups within South Africa for sports and cultural boycotts. The intent of the resolution and the boycotts is to totally isolate South Africa from the international community for its continuation of apartheid—a system of governing by which the country's ruling white minority population brutally discriminates against the country's black majority.

To no avail, again this year, area supporters of the U.N. resolution and the sports boycott from the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, the Schenectady National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Schenectady Peace and Justice Center/Clergy and Laity Concerned requested that the Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corporation (OTB), the tournament's major area sponsor, bar South Africans and former South Africans from participation. The players in question for this tournament, who are not competing for South Africa but rather as individuals are Michael Robertson (seeded 7th), who lives in Linwood, N.J.; Lise Gregory, who now lives in Miami, Fla.; and Johan Kriek



Michael Trantham, an area activist, protests at the OTB Open.



South African tennis player Michael Robertson

(seeded 3rd), a former South African and now U.S. citizen who lives in Naples, Fla.

The response from OTB is that politics and sports don't mix. "I don't think an individual should be prohibited from playing in a tournament because he was born in a particular country," said Davis Etkin, president of OTB. "They come into these tournaments as individuals; they're recognized by Nabisco as individuals... I think it's very undemocratic, what the anti-apartheid people are doing... it's reverse discrimination."

Area activists view the situation differently. "These people are not individuals; they are ingrained in the South African system of government," said Doug Williams, vice president of the Schenectady NAACP. "They've benefited from apartheid and continue to do so."

"There's a dichotomy in South African sports. There's the white sports group and the black sports group. All-white groups are allowed to leave the country and play internationally, while groups open to all races are not allowed to leave the country, have little if any access to proper facilities, and receive very limited funding from the government."

Williams noted that the United Nations, in an effort to further boycotts against South Africa, maintains a list of sports contacts with South Africa naming individuals who continue to have contact with that country, either as members of all-white sports organizations or by participating in sporting events sanctioned by South Africa. South Africans can have their names removed from this list by joining non-racial sports organizations and boycotting events sponsored by South

Africa, and similarly, those not from South Africa can keep their names off the list by refusing to participate in events sponsored by South Africa. Incidentally, both Kriek and Robertson have played in the South African Open on a regular basis.

Rising from its more humble beginnings in 1982 as \$3,500 tournament, the OTB Open has grown to become, as of last year, a stop on the men's Nabisco Grand Prix Circuit and, beginning this year, the women's Virginia Slims Circuit, with a combined purse of \$173,400 (\$123,400 goes to the men's champion, \$50,000 to the women's). This year's big-name competitor is Tim Mayotte, ranked 10th in the world. And another almost-household name who virtually began his professional career in the OTB Open, is up-and-coming U.S. tennis sensation Andre Agassi, who was unable to compete in Schenectady this year because of a conflict with the U.S. Davis Cup schedule.

Due to the stature of this tournament—it's the second biggest in New York state, behind the U.S. Open—it would set a strong precedent if OTB, Nabisco and Virginia Slims together with the city of Schenectady could come to an agreement to uphold the sports boycott against South Africans. But instead, Williams said, "they foster an environment where these athletes can participate in sporting events in this country in violation of the boycotts... last year, the city of Schenectady did adopt a resolution recommending that the sponsors not refer South Africans to the tournament, but it was a non-binding resolution."

So in the meantime, public facilities continue to be used and private corporations continue to unwittingly

undermine the broad international effort to affect change in South Africa through strict boycotts, which are, as Sean Lewis noted, "the only peaceful alternative to achieving liberation in South Africa."

If there's really any question as to whether sports and politics are related, it should be noted that in South Africa last Saturday two track events, scheduled in honor of jailed black South African activist Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday, were banned by the South African government.

**Sportsweek**

**BASEBALL**

A-C Yankees: Sunday vs. Reading; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday vs. Williamsport. Heritage Park, Colonie. 7:30 PM. \$4.75-\$3.75, adults; \$2.75 for seniors and children under 16. 869-9236.

**SKATEBOARDING**

Skateboarding Competition: Saturday, Washington Park, Albany. 11 AM. Free.

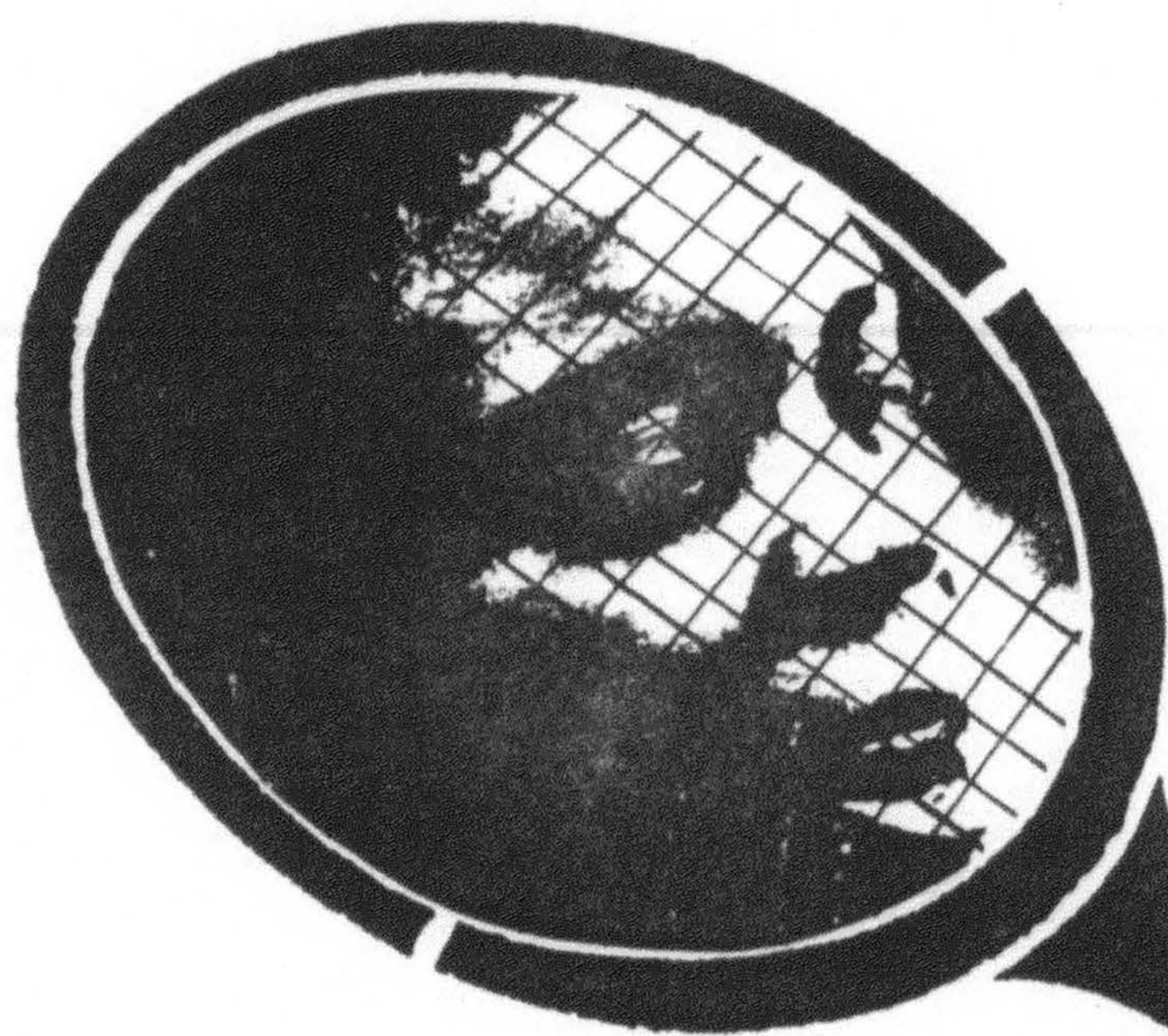
**SOCCER**

Albany Capitals: Sunday vs. Tampa Bay Rowdies. Bleecker Stadium, Albany. 2 PM. \$7, adults; \$4, students and seniors. 456-1015.

**TENNIS**

OTB Open: Through Sunday, Central Park, Schenectady. Competition begins daily at 9:30 AM. Player schedules are posted daily. Free. 370-5151.





## **APARTHEID IS NO GAME**

**PROTEST OTB TENNIS TOURNAMENT  
SUNDAY, JULY 17**

**PROTEST SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS  
PLAYERS: KEEP THE CAPITAL  
DISTRICT FREE FROM  
COLLABORATION WITH  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
RACISM**

**Write to Mayor Karen Johnson.**

City Hall  
Schenectady, NY

The city and the sponsors should keep  
apartheid's ambassadors out!

Informational leafletting sponsored by

Schenectady NAACP

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism



## **FIGHT APARTHEID SUPPORT THE SPORTS BOYCOTT**

### ***WHY A SPORTS BOYCOTT?***

Apartheid is a brutal system of racial domination in South Africa and Namibia. It has been called a crime against humanity by the United Nations. In a study conducted by UNICEF in 1987, it was determined that between 1985 and 1988, there was one person detained every 12 minutes in South Africa, 40% of these detainees being children under 16.

The campaign to isolate the apartheid state of South Africa in the international community is not a new one. In 1968, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling "all states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with South Africa." The call for sanctions against South Africa is a part of the call for the complete and total isolation of the racist South African regime.

### ***WHO HAS CALLED FOR THE SPORTS BOYCOTT?***

The call for the sports boycott comes from Black South Africans inside the country, their liberation movement and sporting organizations, including the African National Congress, the South African Council of Sport and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee. Also, the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

### ***WHO ARE TARGETS OF THE SPORTS BOYCOTT?***

The targets of the sports boycott include South African teams, individual South African athletes, and all athletes who compete in South Africa. Also those individuals, corporations and institutions who sponsor events and allow South African to participate. For this event they are OTB, Nabisco and Virginia Slims.

### ***WHY PROTEST INDIVIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES?***

Individual South African athletes are the targets of protest because they undercut the movement to isolate South Africa. Although these athletes may be entered in competitions as individuals, they are the products of the apartheid system. In 1983, it was reported that the South African government was spending 240 times as much furthering sports participation for each white child as it was for each Black child. Nearly all South African athletes competing abroad are members of government-recognized sports organizations and are listed in the United Nations register of sports boycott violators. Members of non-racial sports organizations are routinely denied travel documents.

South Africa is now trying to increase its presence in international sports by encouraging its athletes to acquire "passports of convenience." Most notorious is South African runner, Zola Budd, who secured British citizenship in 1984 but continues to live in South Africa.

### ***WHAT CAN INDIVIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES DO?***

It is a camouflage to denounce apartheid on one hand and continue to participate in and promote apartheid sport on the other, which is exactly what Gary Muller, Barry Moir and Michael Robertson and others who played in Schenectady last year are doing. They masquerade as US residents and citizens yet they continue to play in the South African Open and other apartheid tennis events which are held in South Africa, are sponsored by the racist South African Tennis Board, and supported and promoted by the apartheid government and media and touted as a victory over internal and international challenges to apartheid.

It is a camouflage to acquire citizenship or residency in some foreign country as a protest against the injustices of South Africa, when you are a beneficiary of that injustice and your action serves to undermine the only peaceful methods of struggle of the majority of the people from your country to redress the injustice.

It is disgusting to complain about being denied international tennis competition when your black fellow-countrymen are being denied education, employment, housing, justice, ... even life.

Individual South African athletes should join the non-racial sporting organizations in their country and through these organizations fight for the right of all South Africans to all that the country has to offer in terms of promoting sports for all individuals at all levels. That means: accept SACOS' decision not to play abroad and not to participate in apartheid tennis tournaments, until all people in South Africa are free to enjoy and develop their sport.

**THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES  
FREE SOUTH AFRICA! FREE NAMIBIA!  
VICTORY TO ANC! VICTORY TO SWAPO!**



## Trial scheduled in civil-rights case from 1981 protest

By John Caher

Staff writer

ALBANY — A Reagan administration official and an activist are taking the city of Albany and several police officers to court, claiming officials conspired to prevent them from protesting the 1981 Springboks rugby game.

In a federal civil rights suit scheduled to be heard Aug. 1 before U.S. District Judge Neal P. McCurn, Aaron Estis of Maryland, Vera Michelson of Albany and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism allege law enforcement officials engaged in an illegal conspiracy to prevent them from protesting the game at Bleeker Stadium involving the Springboks, a rugby team from South Africa.

Estis, then a Harvard University student and now an official in the Reagan administration's Office of Management and Budget, had traveled to the Capital District to participate in a peaceful protest against the Springboks, which competed against a Schenectady-based Eastern Rugby Union team, said his attorney, Lewis B. Oliver Jr. of Albany.

Michelson, Estis and others active in the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism planned to protest the game in opposition to South Africa's policy of racial segregation.

However, during the early morning hours of Sept. 22, 1981 — hours before the night game — a contingent of 10 to 20 local, state and federal law enforcement officers broke through the door at Michelson's 400 Central Ave. apartment, Oliver said.

Michelson, Estis and a third protester, Michael Young, were arrested. Marijuana and fireworks possession charges against Michelson and Estis were later dismissed while Young and another protester arrested earlier, John Spearman, were acquitted of weapons possession charges at a trial before then Albany County Judge John J. Clyne, said Oliver.

Oliver and Lanny E. Walter, an

attorney representing Michelson and the coalition, contend the arrests were orchestrated solely to prevent a peaceful protest of the rugby game. That night, 1,200 people demonstrated in Albany with no serious incidents marred the game.

"Political activists and protesters were to be removed from the streets of Albany at all costs prior to the Springboks game and plaintiff (Estis) was an innocent and peaceful protester who fell victim to such a policy," Oliver said in a complaint filed with the court.

However, police claim the arrests stemmed from information gleaned from a confidential informant, Clara Satterfield of the Albany branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who allegedly reported that some of the protesters were members of the Communist Workers Party and planned a violent disruption of the game. Law enforcement officials said in court records that Satterfield had feared for her life and requested police protection.

Spearman was arrested Sept. 21, 1981, while driving Young's car. Police alleged that they found night sticks in the trunk.

Michelson's seventh-floor apartment, which overlooks Bleeker Stadium, was raided because authorities believed the residence was being used as a base for Spearman and other protesters, according to court records. A search warrant application indicated authorities expected to find "smoke bombs, sticks, knives, rifles, shotguns, handguns" and other weapons and contraband in Michelson's apartment.

Attorney Walter has denied weapons were found in the dwelling.

McCurn in September dismissed civil rights suits against the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Albany County but let stand a lawsuit against the city of Albany. Police Chief John F. Reid, former Chief Thomas Burke, Capt. William Murray and Detective John Tanchak.

The continuing suit seeks \$9 million in damages.



**COME TO...**

**THE PARTY**

After the **BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL** - a fundraiser for...  
THE CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

We celebrate

and

We honour



*Winnie and Nelson on their wedding day, 14 June 1958*

**Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**

70 years old on July 18 ... 25 years in detention

**PAGE THREE**

N. Pearl Street  
Albany, NY

**SUNDAY 7/24**

7 - Until...

**\$5.00 Admission**

Well-known area DJ, Bill Pendleton  
spinning the records.

Proceeds to the Capital District  
Coalition Against Apartheid &  
Racism.



## Black culture fills state plaza

### Festival caps 3-day celebration of roots

By Michael McKeon

Staff writer

ALBANY — The Empire State Black Arts and Culture Festival on Sunday was the culmination of a three-day celebration that highlighted the summer social scene for many Capital District residents, organizers say.

"It's like homecoming for black people," said Alvania Hill, who coordinated the different booths that lined the plaza. "Many black families come for this day — and it's not just today, it's all weekend."

That kind of community support — there are no other black cultural festivals for Capital District residents — has saved the event from the fate that has befallen other ethnic celebrations at the plaza this year.

The state Office of General Services has scaled back the number of ethnic festivals because of escalating costs and sparse attendance. The Italian, Irish, Hispanic and German festivals at the plaza are being consolidated into an expanded International Bazaar for the first time this September.

Judith Burgess, director of promotion and public affairs for OGS, said the consolidation is the result of the limited financial and volunteer resources available to the state and non-profit groups that participate in the events.

She said similar festivals in other parts of the Capital District have stretched the resources to the point where consolidation on the plaza events was needed.

The seventh annual Black Arts and Cultural Festival — sponsored by Eastman Kodak Co. and Sterling Drugs Inc. as well as the OGS — with its ethnic foods such as collard greens and black-eyed peas, music ranging from rap to

South African to gospel and literature on religion and civil rights, attracted a predominantly black audience with a healthy minority of other races.

There were chants of "Free Mandela," a reference to jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, a vigorous voter-registration drive that netted 150 people in about two hours, and for the youngsters, a show featuring Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and several other Disney characters.

The threat of rain, which almost forced the event inside the plaza, may have accounted for the sparse early crowds, though the numbers swelled as the day wore on.

"I feel the black arts festival lets us have a sense of where our true roots are from, and gives us a chance to get together and celebrate the good feelings of our culture," said 17-year-old Dana Parker of Troy, who has never missed the event. "We come to all get together and feel a sense of pride."

Haywood Taylor of Albany, who led an entourage of 13, brought his family in hopes that his children could learn about their culture and other people.

"They went to see the police and talked to them," he said. "They can see that the police are nice and not all bad like on television."

For Joseph Mehalick of New Hampshire, who brought his wife and two children to see the state Capitol and just stumbled upon the festival, the event provided an opportunity for his son and daughter "to see different ideas."

Asked what he hoped his children would take from the festival, Mehalick said: "The thought that our way of doing things is not necessarily the only way of doing things."



Times Union photo by Tom LaPointe

**SOUL** — Jazz singer Dakota Staton performs with the Bross Townsend trio Sunday at the Black Arts and Culture Festival at the Empire State Plaza.

MINING

they could work together on behalf of town. One group is arguing over



8/25/81

## Classical

### RAY'S WAY

By B.A. Nilsson

**Philadelphia Orchestra**  
Directed by Dennis Russell Davies; special guest Ray Charles  
Saratoga Performing Arts Center,  
Aug. 20

HE BEGAN WITH A SLOW, LUSH, little-heard verse to Gershwin's "They Can't Take That Away From Me," and turned up the heat with the refrain. Ray Charles, seated in the vee between piano and synthesizer, spent about 40 minutes with the Philadelphia Orchestra (he brought in his own rhythm section as well as conductor Sid Feller) in a varied medley of songs from every decade since the 1930s.

But every song he performs becomes a Ray Charles song as he comments upon lyrics and rearranges rhythm and harmony to suit his style of entertainment. Thus a straightforward ballad like "If You Go Away" can nestle on the same bill with the bluesy rocker "It Hurts To Be in Love" and the incredibly sappy "Being Green."

Amphitheater and lawn were crowded with Charles-worshippers for whom he could do no wrong; by the time he got to "America the Beautiful," a sappy song under any circumstance, our heritage of freedom and fairness had been soundly reinforced.

Opening for Charles was the Philadelphia Orchestra, this time conducted by Dennis Russell Davies, who led a birthday tribute to Leonard Bernstein with the suite from the ballet *Fancy Free* and the *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* for clarinet and jazz band. The orchestra shone in both, but the combo of clarinetist Ronald Reuben (and orchestra regular on bass clarinet) and the jazz crew was spectacular. Unlike the many self-conscious attempts to weasel jazz into a classical setting, this one is never pretentious and lots of fun, requiring mighty chops and a sense of humor. The Philadelphians obviously have both.

*Editor's note: METROLAND supports the cultural boycott of South Africa and, by extension, the boycott of Ray Charles, who performed in that country in 1980 and has continued to refuse to support the cultural boycott. While we declined to review Charles' performance at SPAC Aug. 21, we did not feel it was necessary to withhold the above review. It is printed here in the interest of providing news and letting our readers make up their own minds, and should not be viewed as an endorsement of Charles.*

36 • METROLAND • Aug. 18-24, 1988

**SPAC**  
1988 Season

**RAY CHARLES**

THE RAELETTES

And the

Ray Charles Orchestra

With Special Guest  
Comedian  
Bill Thomas



Sunday, August 21 at 8:15 PM

Tickets \$17.00 and Lawn \$12.00

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SPAC Box Office, all Ticketrons  
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General Information: 587-3330

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Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



ended

## Pickets at SPAC greet Ray Charles

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Ray Charles fans were greeted Sunday night at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center by demonstrators asking them to boycott the singer over a 1980 concert in South Africa.

No one appeared to change their plans because of the demonstration, held by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. Some, annoyed at flyers saying Charles "sold out to apartheid," crumpled them and chided the 10 protesters.

"What the hell difference does his politics have to do with his music?" Ray Eaba of Scotia asked. "You can't just go and enjoy yourself without somebody laying something on you," another fan grumbled.

The protest, Merle Simpson, co-chairman of the coalition, said, was targeted at a tour by Charles in South Africa in 1980.

"I cannot apologize for having performed in South Africa and having had thousands of black people with tears in their eyes, express their thanks to me for doing so," Charles wrote in a 1986 letter to another anti-apartheid group, Unity in Action in Los Angeles.

In the letter, provided Sunday night by Simpson, Charles expressed "total disdain" for South Africa's apartheid policies.

8/22/88  
Dina Wilson



"Naturally I got hurt by this," Solomos oes on, "because a lot of people still think his restaurant is closed and, in fact, it was never closed at all [by the health department]. Did it hurt me? Yes, it did."

—Jo Page

## PROTEST PLANNED

RAY CHARLES IS PERFORMING ON Sunday at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is asking area residents to join them outside the concert. The group plans to protest the Charles' appearance because he toured apartheid South Africa in 1980, in violation of the United Nations-backed call for all entertainers to refuse to perform in that country until there is black majority rule.

"It is unfortunate that we have to demonstrate against Ray Charles but, while he is a genius at soul music, he is not very astute at political science or social science," said Merton Simpson, an organizer of the protest. "In fact, brother Ray's commitment to the struggles of black people has seriously come into question."

Ray Charles decided to accept the invitation of the South African government nearly seven years ago, and the controversy has followed him ever since. What anti-apartheid activists found particularly upsetting was that Charles rebuffed numerous requests that he not go. Then, while in South Africa, he was contacted by the African National Congress, the country's leading anti-apartheid organization, and urged to cancel the rest of his tour. He refused, then further angered the activists when he scheduled a concert in the black Soweto township on Oct. 19, a day of particular importance to the anti-apartheid struggle. On that day four years earlier, the South African government banned 18 anti-apartheid organizations and jailed more than 50 leading activists.

► 8

## PROTEST ◀ 7

The Soweto concert was canceled when only 30 people showed up and other concerts on the tour were marred by violence. Since returning from the 1980 tour, Charles has repeatedly refused to pledge to support the cultural boycott.

Locally, the Coalition has protested Charles on several previous occasions. In 1983, at the Newport Jazz Festival-Saratoga, the organization led a walkout of some 400 people. In 1986, demonstrations limited the size of the audience at a Palace Theatre performance to about 300. Last year, a protest at Charles' scheduled Coliseum performance in Latham was canceled when that theater closed.

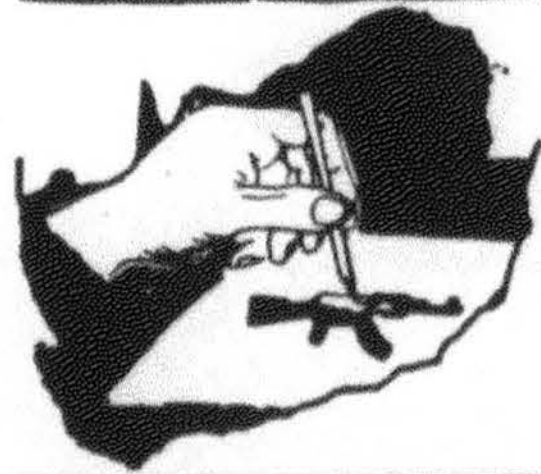
This weekend's protest is planned for 7 PM on Sunday at the SPAC entrance.

—Jeff Jones

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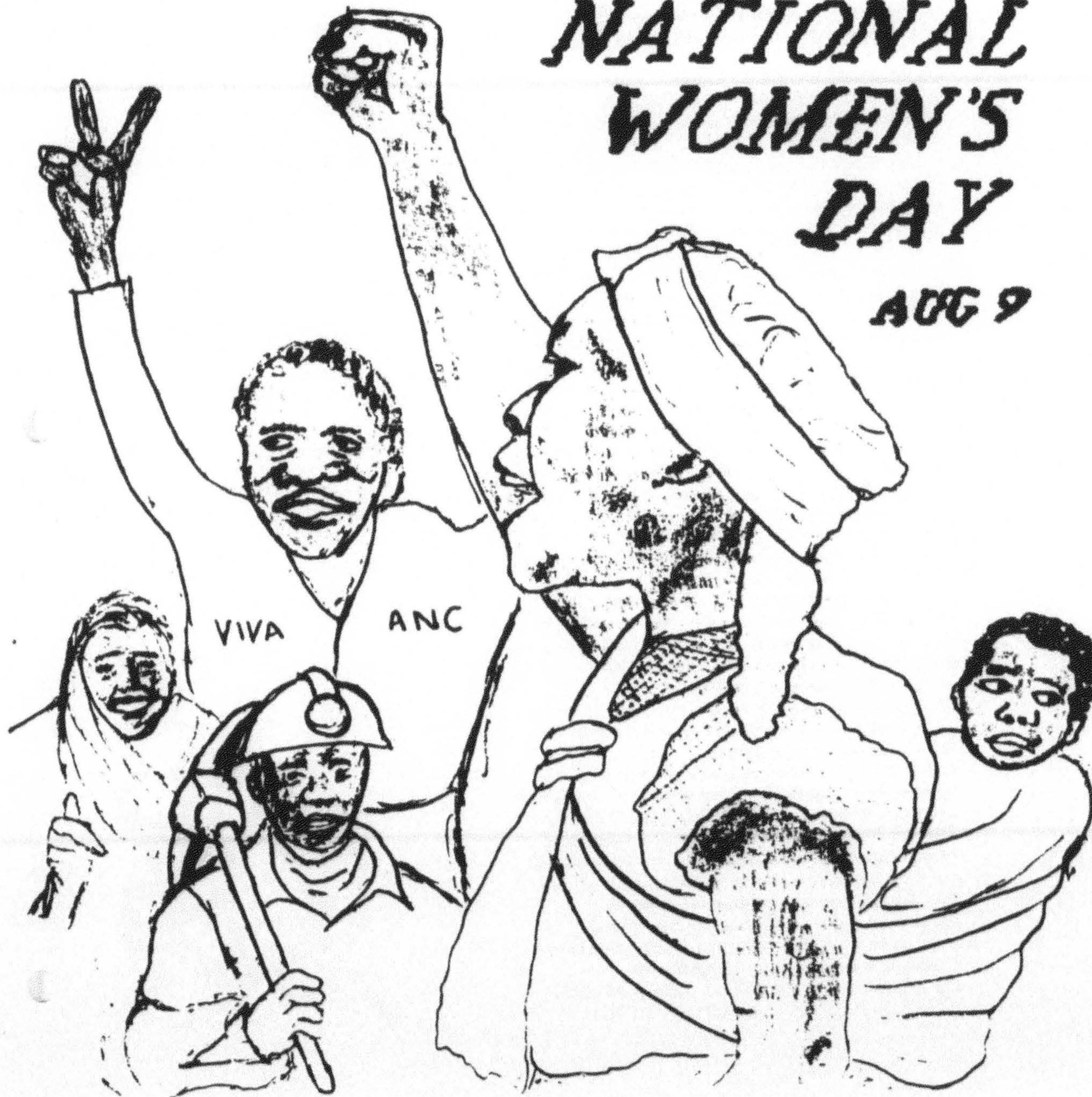
# EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION

AN SRC NEWSLETTER

JULY 1988

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

AUG 9





### EDITORIAL COMMENT

*I wonder how many of us have heard the song by Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson entitled "This girl is mine". For those of you who do, do you remember Michael Jackson's classic line 'Paul; I'm a lover not a fighter.'*

*This seems to be the attitude of students towards this newsletter; except it would be rephrased slightly; "I'm a student; not a writer." The contradiction in that statement is apparent. Unfortunately; while composing rhymes and pointing out contradictions is a lot of fun the problem is more serious than this.*

*The newsletter; which is the heartbeat of our existence as organised students in the US; is being grossly neglected and consequently undermined by you the students yourselves. It is not as though there is nothing to write about. Aug 9 is National Woman's Day and while a few articles on the struggle of women were promised; none were received. Nelson Mandela celebrated his 70th birthday in Pollsmoor prison and while people back home were making this event a rallying point and a mobilising force; not a word was submitted in the form of an article, letter or comment. Students back home were revolting on a level comparable with 1985 in some areas back home, yet not a word reached our editorial ears. Issues abound: Namibia; Jonas Savimbi visiting the USA, encouraging blacks to vote Republican; South Africa tentatively agreed to pull out of Namibia; killings in Palestine and Ireland escalated; the Nicaraguan government kicked the foreign agitators (US ambassador and staff) out of the country; Iran agreed to the UN peace agreement.*

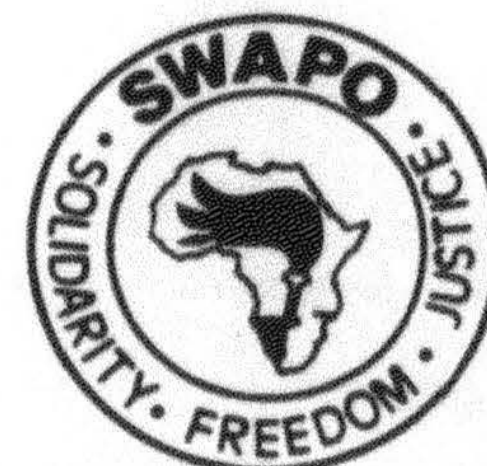
*Our stay here in the US also deserves some attention. Academic problems, financial problems, social problems, substance abuse problems, problems of loneliness all interweave to make the stay of some people especially difficult. Some of us can help because we have been able to deal with some of these problems more effectively and could give advice and assistance in a non-threatening manner.*

*We also have happy times and successful times. It does us as a community good to hear from each other, to share in each other's joys and pains.*

*I hope that my message hits home this time. I am especially angry at the fact that I received no articles on women for this issue which I have dedicated to the National Women's Day. However, the struggle of women and our struggle as a whole is a continuous and protracted one and it will not be too late to submit items for the next and other future newsletters.*

*The next newsletter is scheduled for late September, so it will greatly facilitate my typing, layout and editing if items were to reach me by September 20.*

*My address is 414 Third Street, Albany, NY 12206 and my computer address is SPL744@ALBANY1VX"*



### CONTENTS

1. Winnie Mandela refuses a visit to Nelson Mandela
2. Is the MPLA winning in Angola?
3. South Africa and the US - partners in the exploitation of Namibia.
4. Support for SWAPO of Namibia.
5. A Namibian Story.
6. News Briefs.
7. Letter.
8. Poetry.





## WIFE REJECTS OFFER TO VISIT JAILED MANDELA

(from Times Union, Sunday, July 17)

Johannesburg, South Africa - Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, on Friday rejected a government offer to have a six-hour visit with her husband on his 70th birthday.

The family's attorney, Ismail Ayob, said Mrs. Mandela decided to forego Monday's visit to focus attention on other prisoners held for anti-apartheid activities.

The visit would have been the longest reunion with Mandela since he was jailed in 1962 for leaving South Africa illegally and inciting unrest. While serving a five-year term, Mandela was sentenced to life in prison in 1964 for sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the government.

Winnie Mandela "will spend the day quietly at home, as she has on (her husband's) birthday for the past 26 years," Ayob said. "She has taken this decision as both she and Mr. Mandela have never sought any special privileges for themselves."

The government confirmed the cancellation.

Ayob said the Mandelas' decision was meant to "focus attention on the tens of thousands of mothers, sisters and daughters and on the fathers, brothers and sons who have never had the privilege of spending the day with their loved ones who remain in incarceration for their opposition to apartheid."

Monday's planned reunion at Cape Town's Pollsmoor prison was also to include 11 of Mandela's relatives.

Activists in Cape Town said 11 blacks organising a sports festival to commemorate Mandela's birthday were detained on Friday, raising to about 25 the number of people detained in the area in connection with the planned birthday celebrations.

The government has banned a huge charity concert planned for Sunday near Soweto, Johannesburg's main black township. The action was denounced as "silly, vindictive and spiteful" by Helen Suzman, a parliament member of the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party.



Winnie and Nelson on their wedding day, 14 June 1958

Organisers in Cape Town said they would go ahead with a concert on Sunday, planned for an indoor venue to avoid restrictions on outdoor gatherings. But an indoor concert planned in Durban was banned by the police. Sports events are not covered by the restrictions. The Cape Town activists say they do not know why police had detained the organisers of a sports festival scheduled Saturday in Guguletu, a black township.

The Western Cape Teachers Union said its posters promoting a Mandela tribute Friday night had been covered by stickers saying "Cancelled." Hundreds of anonymous pamphlets criticising Mandela appeared overnight in the mixed-race township of Athlone.

Under security regulations, organisers of all outdoor events except sports activities and funerals must obtain permission from the authorities.

Huge celebrations are also being planned for London and Amsterdam to commemorate Mandela's birthday.



### SOUTH AFRICA AND THE US - PARTNERS IN THE EXPLOITATION OF NAMIBIA

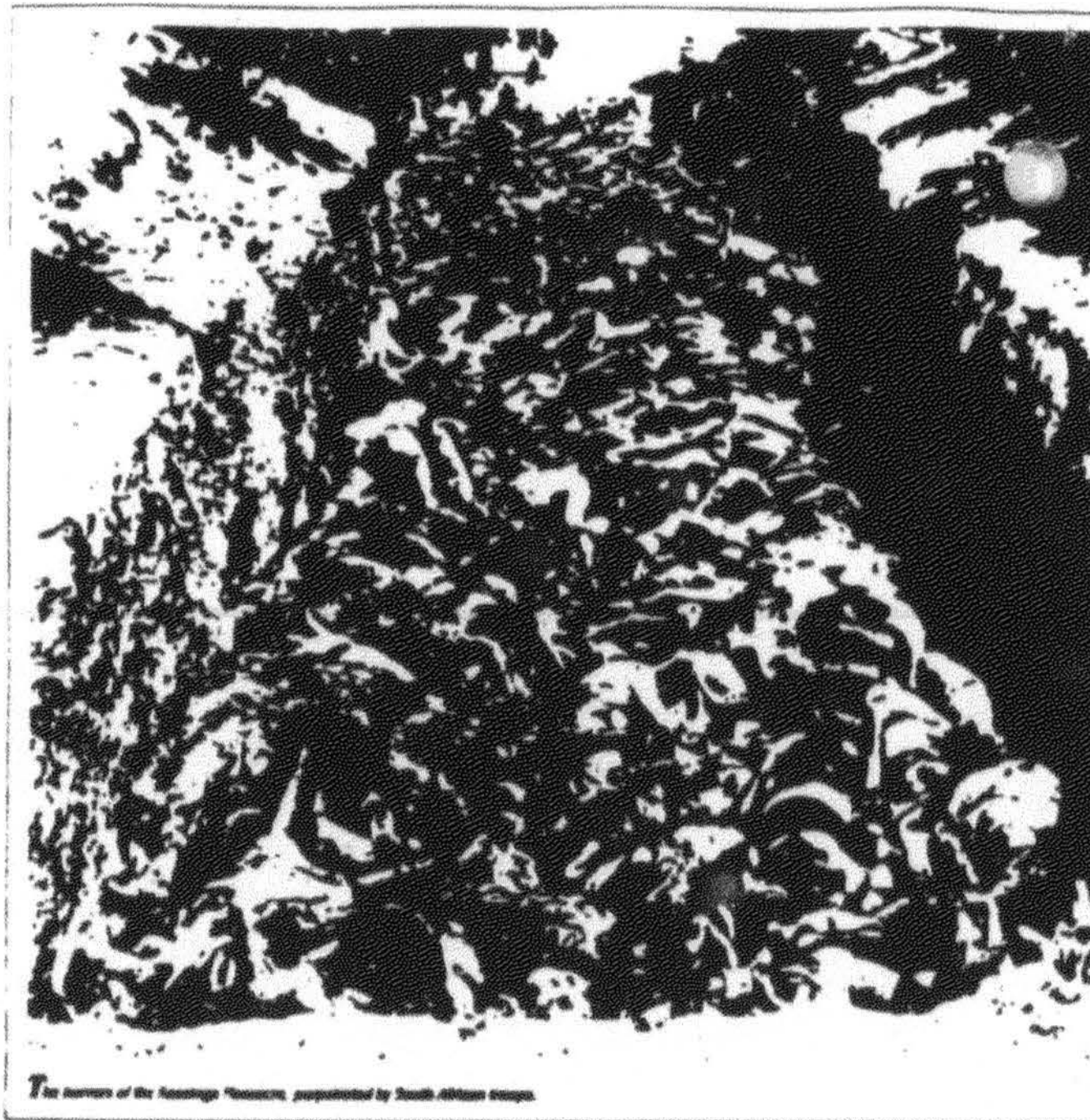
The South African government and media has this strange predisposition which is, not surprisingly, shared by the US government and media. That is this habit of describing the Cuban presence in Angola as an occupation by a foreign power. *This is a coldblooded and deliberate lie!* The Cubans came to Angola in 1975 in response to a call for help from the democratically elected government of Angola. They came at the invitation of Angola and they stayed at the invitation of Angola and they have been of great assistance not only militarily, but also in providing other services desperately needed by the embattled country.

The Angolan appeal was made to Cuba under particular conditions, which the South African government and media and their US counterparts, with their voluntary reactionary myopia, refuse to see. These are that the democratic government of Angola, under the leadership of the MPLA, was under siege from the South African Defence Force which had penetrated right to the outskirts of Luanda, the capital of Angola. The SADF was aided in this endeavour by UNITA, the contras in Angola under the leadership of the ultimate political chameleon, fraud and traitor, Jonas Savimbi, who at that stage was, and even today is receiving aid from South Africa, the United States and the CIA-installed rapist of his own people, Mobutu Se Seseko, prime minister of Zaire.

The South African and US governments and media deliberately attempt to mislead people with the use of emotive words like occupation, with respect to the Cuban presence in Angola. Occupation is when an army of occupation of one country forcefully enters the borders of another sovereign country and imposes its control over the people, the politics and the economy of the inhabitants against their will. This is the case with South Africa being in Namibia.

South Africa, in its greed for the immeasurable mineral, agricultural and fishing wealth of Namibia, has brutally, and unsuccessfully, I might add, attempted to crush all resistance to its barbaric and illegitimate policies of apartheid which it has imposed on the Namibian people. Bantustans, detention without trial, firing on unarmed crowds, officially sanctioned murder, etc are as common to Namibia as it is to South Africa. Add to that list though, police zones and curfews and you have the makings of a modern-day horror story. This exists today in Namibia and this has existed in Namibia since the Germans first colonised Namibia in the 1880s.

South Africa supposedly 'liberated' Namibia in 1919 as an extension of the First World War. This 'liberation' was for the Namibians merely a change from one greedy slavemaster to another. The Namibians did not take this lying down, but, just as with their resistance against the Germans 40 years previously, they were beaten by vastly superior technology. The South African government proceeded from there with a process of forcibly expropriating the land from the peasant farmers, forcing them into labour camps in the mines and into urban ghettos, to become expendable factory fodder. The expropriated land was then used as enticements



The borders of the Namibian Territory, surrounded by South African troops.

**free**  
**NAMIBIA**



### STIMELA

I know you, white man,  
I have lived  
in your shadow  
ever since my eyes  
met first light.

I remember the child  
in the twilight streets of Lenasia,  
watching your scowling face  
as the Blue Train cannoned past.

I recall the youngster  
in Klerksdorp and Potgietersrus,  
scrambling off the platforms  
when you came ambling by.

And many years later,  
I was the adult  
who rode the Empangeni Express,  
choking on your hot breath.

You were never just a man  
looking for ticket violators,  
but always the system  
coming back,  
time and time,  
to punch little holes  
in our heads;  
and then when,  
bit by bit, our dignity seeped through  
and ran onto the floor  
you ground your heel into it  
as you did so often  
for your spent cigarette.

I know you, white man,  
I have lived with you  
all my life.

Rajen Govender

to greedy boer settlers, who came, settled and became South Africa's second line of defence against the forces on Namibian liberation.

For years the Namibians appealed to the UN for help, presenting reams and reams of evidence of the atrocities and the injustice of the South African occupation force. It was only in 1945 that the UN declared South Africa's occupation of Namibia illegitimate and they spent years thereafter: passing resolution after resolution declaring South Africa's occupation of Namibia illegitimate. South Africa arrogantly ignored them. The South African attitude could be encapsulated in the classic Vorster phrase, "Do your damndest!", or even better in the American idiom, "Fuck you!"

The Namibians realising the UN's impotence and realising that peaceful protest would only be met by police and army violence and murder, formed the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) in 1960 to fight the occupation army on their own terms. The ever-intensifying military campaign of SWAPO's armed wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), was given a much-needed and deserved boost with the liberation of Angola from the Portuguese in 1975. Hence South Africa's attempted overthrow of the Angolan government. They had lost an ally and SWAPO had gained an ally to the north.

Finally the United States. The control of 95% of the production and export of Namibian mineral wealth is shared between three multinational companies, one US, one British and one South African. If you consider that Namibia is the world's largest producer of uranium for export, the world's largest producer of diamonds, and has a wealth of tin, copper, zinc, aluminium, you will see that the US and Britain have a considerable stake in a very large pie.

It is through greed for money and power that the United States, though it supported the passage of UN resolution 435 for South African withdrawal and the independence of Namibia, has not only refused to assist in its implementation but has also actively endeavoured to destroy all chances of its success. Hence the famous 'linkage' fraud-making the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola a precondition for the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia.

We have to know our enemies and recognise them for what they are. The US government, the US media and Chester Crocker are not our friends.





### CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIA

House Resolution 131 and senate resolution 254 have been introduced in the US congress, calling on the president of the US to support the implementation of UN resolution 435, which would lead to the independence of Namibia. It also calls for the president to reject linking Namibian independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Finally it calls for the end of US business in Namibia until resolution 435 is successfully implemented.

We can make people realise the importance of Namibian liberation and the sovereignty of the Namibian nation. We can also get anti-apartheid groups in our areas and on our campuses to include the following two things on their agendas, viz:

- contacting senators and representatives to co-sponsor and vote for H.res 131 and S.res 254 when they reach the floor.

- create a grassroots support network for the Namibian liberation movement (SWAPO). SWAPO runs refugee camps, schools and medical facilities in the Frontline states that desperately need your support.

Contact SWAPO at 801 Second Ave, Rm 1401, NY, NY 10017. Phone: (212) 986-7378

### PANIC IN THE IMPERIALIST RANKS?

Finally, if the US press can be believed (and they often can't) there is a possibility of an agreement being reached between Angola and South Africa, leading to the implementation of UN resolution 435. We must be aware of two things, ie:

- The South Africans are being forced to the negotiating table by defeats in the field of battle and the increasing demoralisation of their army.

- Reagan, after a disastrous eight years in foreign affairs, which saw the absolute failure of his much-touted "constructive engagement", is trying desperately to end on a high diplomatic note. Indications are that he might want to sell his old ally (Botha) down the drain if that means he does not go down in history as a total diplomatic disaster. More objectively, he and Botha seem to have tied themselves in a credibility knot with the "linkage" fraud because they did not seem to anticipate the Angolan and Cuban governments agreeing to a Cuban withdrawal.

- If the Angolans accept the Cuban withdrawal, it is not because there is any validity in the 'linkage' fraud, but because they see this compromise to be necessary to end the suffering and misery in Angola, which was caused by the actions of the SADF and their contra allies, UNITA.

- Contra supreme, Jonas Savimbi was in the US trying desperately to convince the democrats who threaten to withdraw aid to UNITA, that he was basically a nice, misunderstood guy, while trying to win over a proportion of the black vote to the Republicans, his allies.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### ACTIVISTS CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID

The New Haven Free South Africa Coalition has invited the SRC to participate in the above conference on September 23, 24 in New Haven Connecticut. They are also describing this as a north-east regional conference.

The conference has received the endorsement of the African National Congress, and the unifying theme of the conference is to be the Freedom Charter. It is the hope of the conference organisers that the conference will provide an impetus to the commencement of effective and united action in the north-east and hopefully in the larger United States which will contribute to the advancement to a liberated South Africa.

May we take this occasion to salute our N.American comrades on the initiative they are taking and extend to them both comradely greetings and the hope that the conference will go well.

#### STUDENT ACTIVISM IN NORTH-EAST

SASU (Student Associations of State Universities) has a dynamic new Third World Caucus for the 1988-89 academic year. The chair, Julius Davis, and the student intern responsible for South Africa have come up with some interesting, though at this stage still tentative projects.

The first is a material aid campaign for the ANC, which is to take the form of fundraising drives and other activities geared towards providing aid for SOMAFCO (Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College) the ANC school in Tanzania.

The second is an attempt to get Fox-tv to rescreen an unexpurgated version of the Freedom Fest that took place at Wembley Stadium in London this year. They want to have all the political content reinserted and screened. This idea is however still under consideration.

The third and biggest is, by working in close collaboration with the ANC and the International Union of Students, to get students all over the world to have a national march of protest against apartheid, with a united demand that each national government should create legislation imposing sanctions on South Africa and supporting the implementation of the UN sanctions resolutions. This is, of course is a very ambitious project. If anybody is interested in working on this at any level or just finding out more, please contact the editor of this newsletter. Don Lieber, the student intern responsible for Southern African issues requests as much assistance as is available.



## A STORY FROM NAMIBIA

by Ben Chavis

While I was in Zimbabwe I read a copy of the NAMIBIAN newspaper. A front-page article detailed a vicious atrocity that has become all too common in Namibia. It was the story of Rebecca, a young, 16-year-old Namibian girl who was riding her bicycle home from the market outside of Oshakati, in Namibia. Earlier that day there had been an explosion in town which had killed 23 Namibians. A truckload of South African soldiers stopped Rebecca and interrogated her. Then one of the soldiers shot Rebecca at point-blank range in the stomach. Rebecca had done nothing to provoke this attack.

After shooting her, the group of white soldiers stripped her naked and then drank beer and shot up into the air, while she was lying in the road, crying out for help. Four hours later a fellow Namibian passed by and attempted to respond to Rebecca's cry. The South African soldiers pointed their guns at the man and told him to "keep moving" or they would kill him. Other witnesses confirmed that Rebecca lay there and cried for her life all night long. As dawn broke the next day she cried out with her last breath, "Into your hands, oh God, I come."

## PRETORIA'S PROPAGANDISTS

*I hear South Africa  
Screaming  
Words you would not have me hear*

*I see South Africa  
Burning  
With rage you would not have me see*

*I hear your reasoned voice  
Soothing  
Those for whom the facts would disappear*

*I see your pink and dimpled hands  
Shooting  
Black skulls, raised fists, the truth, the light  
the free*

*I hear South Africa  
Singing  
Songs of peace, songs of life,  
With blood bought, without fear.*

Kenneth Klonsky,  
Toronto



UNTITLED

Ebony Child, African Child  
How can you blossom and flourish  
When you have been deprived of  
your childhood?  
You know not of ball and game  
Only of pain and fear.

Ebony Child, African Child  
How can you shine and glow  
When you hold not a pen in  
a classroom  
But sticks and stones in the streets.  
The cry "Mayibuye" from your  
tender lips  
A cry of anguish and sorrow

Ebony Child, African Child  
How can you love and care  
When your innocent eyes  
witness how your land  
drinks daily of the blood  
Of your brothers and sisters.  
You carry on your young  
shoulders a heavy burden  
of oppression and poverty.

You weep Ebony Child.  
You weep because you were  
robbed of your land.  
You were torn away from  
your mother, so you know  
not of Maternal Love.  
You weep for your beloved lost ones.

Yes Ebony Child, African Child.  
How can you know of love  
When only darkness and  
isolation surrounds you.

Desiree



### VICTORY FOR MPLA IN ANGOLA - IN SIGHT?

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle."

These are the immortal words of Frederick Douglas. And they spring immediately to mind when we see headlines of this sort: "U.S. mediates peace in Southern Africa". This is followed by an article which praises Chester Crocker, US secretary of state for his diligence and perseverance over the last seven years in bringing 'peace' to Namibia and Angola, which according to the report, takes the form of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola and a South African withdrawal from Namibia. The question immediately springs to mind, "Why, after forcefully and often brutally maintaining an occupation of Namibia for 69 years, raping the land and the people of valuable mineral, agricultural and human resources is the South African government now prepared to withdraw its 100,000 strong army of occupation and 'allow' the Namibians to take control of their country and their lives?"

An answer lies in reports that have been coming out from Angola, Namibia and South Africa. Reports like, "Cuban, Angolan and SWAPO troops have moved deep into Angola's Cunene province and are now pushing South African forces back against the Namibian border."

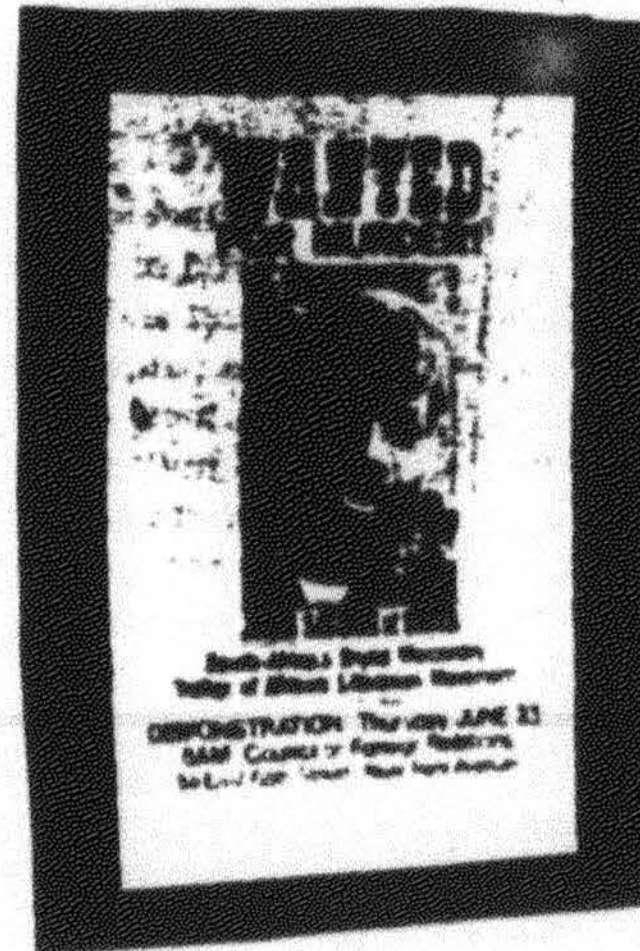
Also, "... liberation movement sources say that the southern part of Cunene province which has long been dominated by a South African military presence, is again coming under Angolan control."

The South African government and their powerful ally, the United States, through their spokespersons, Pik Botha and Chester Crocker respectively, has tried to create the impression that there is a stalemate situation in the Angola-Namibia situation.

"Hulle lieg!!!!"

They are being steadily beaten by the liberation forces in Angola. Their losses are mounting and they are in a state of such disarray, that they cannot even coordinate their lies properly and we find that while senior SADF officials claim 31 troops killed in action, their own battle bulletins give a total of 46 officially acknowledged deaths. And these in turn are by no means an accurate reflection of the losses the SADF is incurring, because most of the people who do most of the fighting and dying for apartheid in Namibia and destabilisation in Angola are black troops, and these are not reported in the official figures. These official figures in turn are carefully laundered. In the period 1987 to February this year, the SADF admitted to losing 50 SADF and SWATF soldiers in Angola. Angolan and other sources give figures around 400.

The SADF is also experiencing tremendous problems with conscription. A large number, approximately 25% of the conscripts simply fail to turn up. They run away. A study conducted at



Rhodes university last year revealed that 52% of the students who planned to emigrate were leaving because of conscription. A growing number of soldiers are also committing suicide.

The SADF troops are becoming increasingly demoralised and the mutiny of SADF troops in Namibia in March this year is a sign of that demoralisation and also a sign to us of victory for the liberation forces in Angola and Namibia, and ultimately, victory for us in South Africa.

To return to Frederick Douglas, if South Africa and the west is prepared to remove its occupation army from Namibia, it is not because of Chester Crocker and the racist, greedy, warmongering imperialist government of the United States and its sister government in South Africa, it is because of the hard and protracted struggle of the Angolan and Namibian people with the backing of revolutionary and democratic Cuba.

But the struggle is not over. We cannot depend on the boasting of a Chester Crocker and the US media or on the oft-broken promises of the South African government. South Africa is adept at making half-promises and playing for time. South Africa is also very reluctant to give up the fountain of endless wealth, which is what Namibia represents to it. The struggle must continue and intensify until the hold that South Africa and western imperialism has over Southern Africa is totally destroyed.

Forward to the struggles of the people  
of Angola and Namibia!  
Viva MPLA! Viva SWAPO! Viva  
Cuba! Viva ANC!



## JOURNEY THROUGH MYSELF

(an excerpt)

My Cry!

-Not just the cry of the oppressed  
but also the dispossessed

My anger!

-Not just the anger of the excluded  
but also the subjugated

My agony!

Not just the agony of the imprisoned slave  
- But the castrated brave

Can you ever understand  
How deep are my wounds  
You!  
The usurper of my land  
You!  
With greed that knows no bounds

How wide is the rift  
between master and slave  
between those who hate man  
and those who love man  
between those who spat upon woman -  
- violated her virginity  
- scarred her beauty  
And those who tried to protect woman  
How wide -  
How deep is that rift?

It is dark  
It is bottomless  
It echoes with anger -  
raw and stark  
spewed from restless thick lips  
How deep is that rift?

Silence

Silence can no longer be my companion  
I find no comfort in its embrace  
Its serenity no longer lulls my soul  
Its stench of cowardice -  
is repulsive to my flared nostrils  
Silence  
- Can no longer be my companion.

Oh sing me a lullabye mama  
Please sing me a lullabye -  
About great African warriors  
Fallen heroes  
whose rising spirits dwell within me.

Sing me a lullabye  
That will make me sleep lightly  
Hold my spear tightly  
And with pricked up ears  
Await the call  
Of the ancient lepatata horn  
the nostalgic rumble  
Of the war-drum  
Oh sing that lullabye Mama-Afrika  
Please -  
Sing me that kind of lullabye

Sello wa Loate



"Lullabye"

Agale '06



## LETTER

Comrades,

I enjoyed reading an article by Sello wa Loate in the SRC newsletter of May 1988. The article shows a global understanding of politics. It brings great pleasure to realise that among us there are people who understand the plight of a black man in a global perspective. Anywhere you find a black man there is always injustice practised against him because of the colour of his skin. Racial prejudice knows no educational standard, no economic standing in the community and no social class. It is therefore important that oppressed people in the world must fight the oppressive forces. It is a pity that they call our oppression apartheid just to make it look unique but we all know that it is just as bad as racism in America and in Britain.

I also got worried about the thinking which came out of the SRC report. On page 12 the article reads "a large number of politically naive students, especially from the bantustans ...". This statement, I think, shows a lot of political immaturity. Whilst I agree with what the report is saying, I do not think that the students from the homelands are necessarily politically naive. It is high time that we stop judging people by where they come from and consider what they are and what they contribute to our struggle. It is common knowledge that many people from the homelands have resisted the system and some have even died in the struggle. I do not think it is necessary to name some of them but the history of the struggle will stand testimony to that.

Comrades, we all know that the homelands system was imposed on our people. Blacks did not have a choice in the matter. It just happened that some of the people were used by the system but we should not lose track of the real enemy. If Matanzima and Mpephu were not there, there would be some other vehicles of the system. The students who come from the homelands should not be made to feel in any way inferior, because they do not want to be part of the homelands. In the homelands the mobilisation of all the people and the resistance to Botha's regime is going on and those who are involved in the struggle know very well who their enemy is. The struggle in our country cannot be regionalised but should present itself in one united front.

I think for those who claim to be political heroes, let the people anoint you. It may be better for us to educate each other than divide ourselves. The idea of dividing the black people comes from the imperialist forces. It is unfortunate that we are going to allow ourselves to be divided and perpetuate his master's voice. What the whites have divided we should try and unite and rebuild. Right now the division is location, next time it is going to be our ethnic grouping. Can't we see that we are actually killing ourselves because the more divided we are, the more easily will they be able to enslave us? There are so many things that unite blacks but many of us will ignore those

attributes and choose the few characteristic differences created by our masters.

The selection of the students for the scholarship is a very important point raised by the SRC. I suggest that the SRC invite deliberations and advice and then formulate resolutions to be adopted during the next conference. We have to look at some of the criteria for the selection processes. If the selections (*criteria? - ed*) are fair the EOC should make them available to the students and we can deliberate on them. The SRC can then make specific recommendations to the EOC. It is my belief that certain individuals will stand a better chance but the SRC can begin to specifically target people who are academically disadvantaged because of their political activities. Some of the students should be from the economically disadvantaged group. We should not allow the scholarship to distance us from the toiling masses and create an economically superior group. The same spirit which prevailed during the rejection of the alumnus organisation, should prevail now.

*Prins Nexhualu*

## A STORY TO BE TOLD

Today I have seen life,  
In its splendour and grim look contended  
For all those who lost it when they were still young.  
I have tasted the taste of something bitter,  
A pepper of sweet tears deliberately freed.  
In that moment of meeting, a face to a shadow,  
A child to its mother, a cloth was torn, worn fast.

Today I have heard that sound again,  
That is both muted and straining to hear.  
When mothers tear at their garments to heal the wounds  
That lie festering in every waking moment.  
A tearing that renders the heart obscene in its beat.  
An acknowledgement of a fly there, a smell there;  
A desperate and useless birth taking place.

Today I have seen life,  
Not in the children that play and make sounds,  
Not in the birth of a child, nor the pains of a mother;  
Life showed me its face in the lowering of the coffin.

Tomorrow I will tell my child a story.  
Not now, there are no more children left...

Enos Ned Banda



# Albany activist charges pattern of police abuse

8/3/81

By Jay Jochowitz

Staff writer

ALBANY — Bouyed by a \$47,000 settlement with the city in a \$9 million civil rights suit, an anti-apartheid activists said Tuesday that the case fit into a "pattern" of city police abuse.

"They are abusing the power and the authority that's been entrusted to them," said Vera Michelson, who was arrested during a 1981 raid the morning before she was to participate in a protest of a South African rugby team's match in Albany's Bleecker Stadium.

Albany has paid nearly \$330,000 in connection with five civil rights or police abuse cases in recent years. The city denies the cases are part of a pattern and the rugby issue must be looked at separately.

"I don't think there's been anything to indicate that there was any wrongdoing on the part of the department," police spokesman Sgt. Robert Wolfgang said.

Michelson's comments during a news conference at City Hall were based on a series of lawsuits against the city and police officers:

- A \$405,000 judgment in April was issued against the city and two officers by a federal jury which found police abused three Hispanic and black students during a 1982 arrest. A U.S. District judge later reduced the award to \$235,000.

- The city paid \$25,348 to a black couple arrested in 1982 after a federal jury found an officer, Detective Valerie Von Doilen Burke, conducted an unreasonable search while responding to a reported incident of child abuse.

- Burke also was held liable for allegedly hitting a black woman with a flashlight while arresting her son in 1980. The city settled for \$9,700.

- The city agreed to a \$12,500 settlement with a 32-year-old homeless man who claimed officers kicked him while he was handcuffed during an arrest last year.

"We don't know how much money the city has to pay out to protect the

cops before they realize there's a pattern," Michelson said. Her comments were echoed in a written statement by Vicki Smith, a representative of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III was out of town and unavailable for comment, but before the latest settlement — filed last Thursday — he said he sees no such pattern. Corporation Counsel Vincent J. McArdle Jr. said Tuesday that the rugby case "is impossible to put into any kind of pattern."

Michelson, Aaron Estis and Michael Young were arrested at 3 a.m. in her Central Avenue apartment Sept. 22, 1981, the day of a game between the Springboks of South Africa and the Schenectady-based Eastern Rugby Union.

City, state and federal officers obtained a search warrant on the basis of allegations by a confidential FBI informant that the apartment contained weapons and bombs. Police found only a small quantity of marijuana and a few firecrackers. The demonstration went ahead with no major incidents.

McArdle said Tuesday the tip appeared valid and the raid had to be viewed in the context of tensions at the time. He noted that Gov. Hugh Carey was so alarmed at possible violence that he ordered the game stopped, an action reversed only after the city and rugby union went to court.

Michelson and her attorney, Lanny Walter, contended that didn't excuse the city or state and federal officers involved in the arrests for reportedly holding shotguns to the heads of the suspects or taking papers from her apartment. The city's settlement gave Michelson \$12,000 and Estis who spent more time in jail, \$35,000.

Walter called the claims against the city "minor" and said a portion of the settlement will be used to pursue an appeal of court decisions that denied Michelson access to the FBI's informant. The FBI was originally named in the suit, but last fall a judge ruled the agency out because of lack of evidence.



8/1/88

## Albany to pay \$47G in civil rights suit

By Jay Jochnowitz

Staff writer

ALBANY — The city of Albany has agreed to pay \$47,000 to settle a \$9 million civil rights lawsuit brought by two would-be protesters arrested before the controversial 1981 Springboks rugby game.

According to an order filed with U.S. District Court in Utica, the city will pay Vera Michelson of Albany and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism \$12,000. Aaron Estis, now a Maryland resident, will receive \$35,000.

Michelson and Estis had charged that the city and four

police officers — along with the FBI and Albany County district attorney's office — orchestrated their arrests to keep them from peacefully protesting during the South African rugby team's game at Bleecker Stadium.

"The whole thing was very bizarre and we're encouraged by the settlement," Michelson said Monday. "To us, it says they blew it. You have a police force that feels they can suspend the Constitution."

In a telephone interview from Maryland, Estis said, "I came to Albany in 1981 to protest the denial of rights in South Africa and I found those same rights could be denied by police and the FBI."

See **SETTLE** / A-5

## SETTLE

Continued from A-1

However, Vincent J. McArdle Jr., city corporation counsel, said the settlement was not an admission that the city conspired to violate Michelson's and Estis' civil rights.

The city and police officers were the only defendants left in the case after a federal judge found in 1987 that there was either insufficient evidence or improper grounds for bringing charges against the FBI and district attorney's office.

McArdle said the settlement was agreed to after Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III and the city's legal staff decided that a federal jury might find against the city and officers because there was no one else left to blame.

The settlement, which came Monday, when the case was to go to trial, was based mainly on how much time Michelson and Estis spent in jail, McArdle said. Michelson was in jail three days; Estis, a week.

The case dates back to the Sept. 22, 1981, arrest of several people who planned to demonstrate at the Springboks game against the Schenectady-based Eastern Rugby Union.

Estis, then a Harvard University student and now an official in the federal Office of Management and Budget, had traveled to Albany for what Michelson and other members of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism claimed was to be a peaceful protest of South Africa's policy of racial segregation.

At 3 a.m. on the morning of the game, several local, state

and federal law enforcement officers broke through the door of Michelson's 400 Central Ave. apartment, which overlooks Bleecker Stadium. They arrested Michelson, Estis and Michael Young. A fourth person, John Spearman, was arrested that day, driving Young's car.

Police contended that the arrests were made after the FBI received a tip from a confidential informant who allegedly charged that some of the protesters were Communist Workers Party members and planned a violent demonstration.

About 1,200 people demonstrated that evening with no serious incidents.

Michelson, the coalition and Estis filed suit in 1982, charging illegal search, arrest and incarceration. Michelson, who admitted to having a small amount of marijuana and a few firecrackers in her apartment, compared the charges to a traffic ticket.

U.S. District Court Judge Neal P. McCurn last September dismissed the suit against the FBI because of insufficient evidence to prove a conspiracy. He also dismissed the suit against the county, which argued that district attorneys could not be held liable for actions they initiated as prosecutors.

McCurn, however, let the suits stand against the city. Police Chief John F. Reid, former Chief Thomas Burke, Capt. William Murray and Detective John Tanchak.

Michelson said she plans to appeal last fall's ruling which denied the plaintiffs access to the confidential FBI informant.



## SPRINGBOK SCORE SETTLED

ICE AGAIN THE CITY OF ALBANY paying a hefty price for the illegal actions of its law-enforcement officials. This time the price tag is \$47,000, to be divided between two anti-apartheid activists, Vera Michelson and Aaron Estes. The payout stems from police efforts to disrupt demonstrations planned to protest the visit to Albany nearly seven years ago by the South African Springbok rugby team.

At a Tuesday afternoon press conference on the steps of City Hall, Michelson discussed the settlement of the long-standing lawsuit against the city. "We are very pleased," she said. The settlement means the city has acknowledged that Albany police abused their powers when they arrested Michelson and Estes early in the morning of Sept. 22, 1981. That evening, more than 1,200 demonstrators protested the game, played in a drenching rain at Blecker Stadium.

The protest received national and international attention, in part because all other games on the Springbok schedule were canceled due to pressure from the anti-apartheid movement. Organizing for the protests led to the creation here of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, an organization of 12 local groups that today is represented on Albany's Police-Community Relations Board. And Michelson recently represented the Coalition in Arusha, Tanzania, at an international conference of supporters of the African National Congress.

"The police had absolutely no right to terrorize us in the middle of the night," Michelson said. "They burst into the apartment looking for an arsenal of weapons which they did not find." Instead they arrested Michelson and Estes on charges of possession of tiny amounts of marijuana and a few old firecrackers.

"The police ransacked my apartment, snoopied in all of my drawers... rummaged through my papers and confiscated material I and others were using to organize opposition to apartheid and the city's invitation to the South African team," said Michelson, who recalls waking up to find a non-uniformed police officer standing over her. With a shotgun to her head, she was forced to crawl to another part of the apartment, where she was handcuffed to a table.

According to attorney Lanny Walter, who represented Michelson during the long litigation that led to the settlement, the officers came to her apartment based on the false statement of an FBI informant. The report that guns were being stockpiled in the apartment, which was used to justify the search warrant, proved false. "That allegation was a lie," Walter said. But that didn't prevent the invading officers, including not only the Albany police but also the New York State Police, FBI and an assistant district attorney, from expanding their search. They took personal books and papers from Michelson. All were later returned, except for her address book.

The activists also are suing the FBI and have asked a Federal District Court judge to allow them to question the FBI's informant. "We feel confident that if we had access to the informant and were able to question him or her on these lies, that the suits against the FBI would hold," Michelson said.



(l-r) Walter, Michelson and Coalition members Anita Thayer, Merlon Simpson and Mark Miskler.

So far, access to the informant has been denied, the judge citing concerns for that individual's safety. Appeals of this ruling have been delayed until the resolution of the case with the city. According to Walter, this litigation can now proceed.

"We're persuaded there was a conspiracy to take the more vocal members of the Coalition off the street in order to prevent them from participating in the demonstration," Walter said. Two other organizers arrested the previous day on weapons-possession charges were cleared by a jury the following year.

When former Gov. Hugh Carey canceled the game on the grounds that there was potential for violence, the late Mayor Erastus Corning intervened on behalf of the South African team, terming it a civil-liberties issue. Although not a lawyer, Corning was allowed to speak in favor of the game before Federal District Court Judge Howard Munson. The judge ruled that the game should be played.

—Jeff Jones

## A civil wrong righted

*(Albany Evening Times with Editorial)* 11/7/88  
That the city of Albany has agreed to pay two persons a relatively hefty sum for the violation of their civil rights in 1981 is, in a sense, a victory for everyone.

Seven years ago on Sept. 22 at 3 in the morning, several state, local and federal law enforcement officers broke through the door of Vera Michelson's apartment and arrested her, Aaron Estis and a third person.

Police contended that the arrests were made after the FBI received a confidential tip that some who were gathering in Albany to protest a rugby match featuring the South African Springboks were planning a violent demonstration.

Miss Michelson and Mr. Estis, who were kept in a jail cell three days and one week respectively, denied that they were a part of any such plans. They subsequently filed civil suit against the several law officers involved charging that their arrests had been orchestrated to keep them from peacefully protesting.

In fairness to the police, whose responsibility it was to keep the peace and protect life and property, those were troubled times. Twelve hundred people

had congregated in Albany to protest the rugby game and government officials had reason to believe that violence could erupt. As it was, there were no serious incidents the night of the protest.

Since then, the courts dismissed the charges against the FBI and the county officials for either insufficient evidence or "improper grounds" for bringing such a suit. The suit against the city of Albany, however, stood, and this week the city agreed to pay plaintiffs a total of \$47,000 for violating their civil rights. The city continues to insist on its innocence.

The city must now have learned that preventive detention is not the way to handle civil protest — or even civil disobedience, when that arises. It has no place in American democracy.

The city must by now have recognized that those who can legitimately claim that they have had their civil rights denied can expect to seek and find redress in the courts. And though they were not political mainstayers in Albany, Miss Michelson and Mr. Estis both found justice here.



*People's Daily World - 8/18/88*  
**Anti-apartheid fighters  
settle suit with city**

Local civil rights leaders are holding the recent settlement of a lawsuit two anti-apartheid activists brought against the city of Albany, New York. The city has agreed to pay \$47,000 to Vera Michelson and Robert Estes to settle the suit.

Albany was the only city in the nation which permitted the South African Springbok rugby team to play in a public stadium during its 1981 tour. Activists "Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour" campaigned focused on a demonstration here, where the game was scheduled for Sept. 21.

Early that morning, federal, state and local law enforcement agents raided the apartment of Vera Michelson, one of the organizers of the protest. She was dragged out of bed at gunpoint and her apartment was ransacked.

Michelson, now co-chair of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, says officers "rummaged through my papers and confiscated material I and others were using to organize opposition to apartheid and the city's invitation to the South African team. This included personal telephone books, phone bills, a list of names and addresses of people who were active in the Springbok organizing effort and other community mailing lists."

The police claimed they were looking for weapons. They found none. Instead, Michelson and Estes were arrested on minor non-criminal charges of marijuana and firecracker possession. They spent several days in jail before being released. The charges were eventually dismissed.

The recent settlement resolves only part of the lawsuit. Michelson said the major claims against the FBI for planning the illegal raid of her apartment remain unresolved.

Her attorney, Lanny E. Walter, said lies by an FBI informant "were used as the basis of a search warrant which allowed the police to gain access to the apartment. This still unknown informant has been shielded from scrutiny by the federal district judge." An appeal is planned to challenge the denial of access to the informant.

Local activists view the settlement as proof of a pattern of misconduct and abuse by Albany police officers. The city has lost or settled at least five police abuse cases in recent years, but officials assert that there is no pattern of misconduct.

Vicki Smith of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism called on Mayor Thomas Whalen to "bring his police force in line so they will stop suspending the Constitution and expending taxpayer money to pay for their illegal behavior."

*By Jake Berman*





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hill Station  
Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

SEPTEMBER, 1988

**IMPORTANT FALL PLANNING MEETING**

Thursday, September 27, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. - Albany Urban League,  
corner of Livingston Ave. and Ten Broeck, Albany, New York

REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE COALITION  
AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE URGED TO ATTEND - THIS WILL BE  
AN IMPORTANT PLANNING SESSION TO SET THE AGENDA FOR FALL WORK.

**SUMMER UPDATE**

During July and August members of the Coalition took part in two actions aimed to educate the public about the international boycott against the apartheid regime. In July, the Coalition joined with the Schenectady NAACP to hold a placard demonstration against the South African tennis players appearing at the OTB tennis matches in Schenectady. In August, members of the Coalition demonstrated at the appearance of the cultural collaborator, Ray Charles, at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Both demonstrations were well attended and good opportunities to send the message to the community that South Africa is a pariah state that must be isolated until apartheid is ended.

The Coalition also had a booth at the annual Black Arts Festival in July at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Sechaba, the ANC cultural group, appeared at the Festival. Following the Festival, the Coalition sponsored a party at Page Three in Albany.

City of Albany settles for the violation of the civil rights of anti-apartheid activists in Springbok case.(see inside)



## DEMAND FULL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA!

On August 11, 1988, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1580, the Anti-Apartheid Amendments of 1988, by a vote of 244-132. Grassroots support was critical in this major anti-apartheid victory. The efforts of the anti-apartheid community were instrumental; formidable opposition was defeated.

Now the battle shifts to the Senate, where the companion bill, Cranston-Weicker S2378 is scheduled for line by line examination beginning September 8. It is crucial that we let our senators know that we want this bill passed, that sanctions by the U.S. are a powerful weapon in the struggle against the racist apartheid system in South Africa.

The Coalition is in receipt of a letter from Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, the representative who introduced the House bill, calling for this tough sanctions legislation. Dellums is asking anti-apartheid activists to again write letters - this time to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where the bill will first be examined. Letters are also needed to be sent to those senators who are considered "swing" votes on S.2378.

Below is a list of the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The two New York State senators, Daniel Moynihan and Alphonse D'Amato, are considered "swing" votes. Also note that Moynihan is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has not signed on as a cosponsor.

Visit or write your senator  
Time is short

### MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Claiborne Pell, RI, Chairman

#### DEMOCRATS

Joseph R. Biden, Jr., DE  
Paul S. Sarbanes, MD (cosponsor)  
Alan Cranston, CA (cosponsor)  
Christopher J. Dodd, CT  
John F. Kerry, MA  
Paul Simon, IL (cosponsor)  
Terry Sanford, NC  
Brock Adams, WA  
→ Daniel P. Moynihan, NY

#### REPUBLICANS

Jesse Helms, NC  
Richard G. Lugar, IN  
Nancy L. Kassebaum, KS  
Rudy Boschwitz, MN  
Larry Pressler, SD  
Frank Murkowski, AK  
Paul S. Trible, VA  
Daniel J. Evans, WA  
Mitch McConnell, KY

# Free

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

Nelson Rohlhlala, the African National Congress leader and international symbol of the anti-apartheid struggle, turned seventy years old on July 18 of this year. The Pretoria government had offered an unprecedented six hour birthday visit for Mandela and his family which would have enabled the entire Mandela family to be together for the first time since his incarceration nearly 26 years ago. Winnie and Nelson rejected the offer because they did not want to accept favors denied to the many other political prisoners and detainees.

Then on August 12, a statement by the ANC reported that Mandela lay sick in bed for days before South African prison were forced, due to his critical condition, to rush him to a hospital. South Africa's jailed leader is seriously ill with TB, a disease which is commonly associated with inadequate medical care and diet.

The apartheid regime has come under increasing pressure, inside and outside of South Africa, to free Mandela. P.W. Botha, the minority regime's leader, still insists, however, on a conditional release. Mandela remains firm on his insistence that he will accept no conditions, that all political prisoners be released, that he is not "prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free."

The dilemma that Mandela - free or imprisoned - poses for the apartheid rulers was captured well in a birthday message to Mandela from Fidel Castro: "With your unyielding attitude after more than a quarter of a century of unjust imprisonment, it is you who have confined your jailers to a prison without bars."



NELSON MANDELA

# Nelson Mandela!



# S. AFRICA FORCED TO SIGN ANGOLA CEASEFIRE

## Costly battlefield losses made S. Africa compromise

By PAUL FAUVET  
Special to the Guardian

MAPUTO, Mozambique—Speaking at a summit of frontline state leaders in the Angolan capital Aug. 8, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda got to the heart of the Angolan-South African ceasefire that had just been announced. It was the military blows dealt to Pretoria's invasion force by the Angolan army and its Cuban allies, said Kaunda, that had brought South Africa to the negotiating table. And these setbacks, he added, had finally wrung a pullout agreement from Pretoria.

The "courage and determination Angola has shown is beginning to bear fruit," said the Zambian leader. "This is indeed a time of joy for all of us."

But any celebratory mood in Southern Africa at the latest turn of events was tempered by some sober realities. In hailing the ceasefire, U.S. Under Secretary of State Chester Crocker stressed that the Reagan administration would continue to supply military aid to South African-backed rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and his Unita forces. And it is far from clear that South Africa has actually concluded that it must get out of Namibia and allow the territory its independence.

Kaunda spoke as the four parties to the latest round of talks, this time in Geneva, announced an immediate ceasefire on Angolan territory. Negotiations among the four—Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the U.S.—are to resume Aug. 22, with the timetables for a

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 1)

South African withdrawal from Namibia, and a Cuban pullout from Angola on the agenda.

Pretoria said it would remove its forces from Angola by Sept. 1, and, if the Cuban timetable is acceptable, cooperate at last in the implementation of the UN plan for Namibian independence. The UN plan—Security Council Resolution 435—calls for a complete South African withdrawal from Namibia, and UN-supervised elections leading to independence. The resolution will be 10 years old next month, and observers caution that Pretoria may still have considerable tricks up its sleeve to avoid complying with the plan.

Pretoria agreed to the 4-party talks as the number of whites coming back home from Angola in coffins mounted, as the Angolan anti-aircraft defenses proved that Pretoria had lost aerial supremacy, and as the South African attempt to seize the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale degenerated into a lengthy and futile siege. The main lesson of the past year in Angola is that force is really the only language that Pretoria understands and responds to. If Namibian independence is nearer now than ever before, it is thanks to Angolan/Cuban successes on the battlefield.

The ceasefire agreement reached at the talks in Geneva would have been unthinkable had the South Africans not suffered a severe mauling at Calueque, near the Angola-Namibia border, on June 27. The Cuban air strike at Calueque made it clear to South African generals that all Pretoria's positions in southern Angola were vulnerable to the Cuban and Angolan air forces. The Angolans and Cubans have said they are prepared to be flexible on the issue of a timetable for the Cuban withdrawal from Angola. They may therefore substantially reduce the withdrawal period from their initial proposal of four years. They are unlikely, however, to agree to the June 1989 final withdrawal date demanded by South Africa. But if Pretoria digs its heels in over its demand for a total Cuban withdrawal inside 10 months, it will be seen as sabotaging the talks.

The ceasefire declaration represents a serious defeat for Pretoria in the last round of talks. South Africa had insisted that a condi-



Angolan children: Time to celebrate?

tion for its withdrawal from Angola would be that Cuban forces pull back to positions at least 60 miles north of the Angola/Namibia border. Nothing of the sort was mentioned in Aug. 8 communique.

South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha made the mistake of going public with Pretoria's negotiating position at Geneva. In a clumsy attempt to seize the political initiative, he said that the independence of Namibia would be conditional, not only on full Cuban withdrawal by June 1, 1989, but also on the dismantling of seven bases in northern Angola of the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC).

The other parties to the talks—including the U.S.—publicly criticized Botha for breaking an agreement to maintain secrecy about the content of the talks.

But Botha's bluster did not work out in Pretoria's favor: The Aug. 8 declaration said nothing about the ANC. Botha himself did not bring up the subject at a press conference he held that day.

South Africa says that it currently has about 3000 troops in Angola; the Angolans hold that

the figure is nearer 9000. But whatever the true figure, it is certain that the troops still in the Cuito Cuanavale area are in serious difficulty. The Angolan and Cuban forces have virtually encircled them, cutting off their retreat to rear bases in Namibia. The grain of comfort in the ceasefire for South Africa is that it will be able to extricate these troops without suffering further casualties.

The issue of South African (and U.S.) support for the Angolan counterrevolutionary movement Unita was not addressed in the announcement. But if Resolution 435 really does get underway in November, it will be increasingly difficult for South Africa to continue using Namibia to supply Unita.

Meanwhile, the U.S. says it is sticking with Savimbi, and Washington has the means to supply Unita from the north, through a military structure already in place in Zaire. Crocker also stated Aug. 9 that Luanda's refusal to negotiate with Savimbi could "hamper or postpone" an overall regional settlement.

South Africa clearly hopes that something will happen to enable it to remain in control,

directly or indirectly, of Namibia. If Washington ceases to protect Pretoria's illegal occupation, it will certainly try to arrange for a surrogate successor regime. The difficulty here is that all sides acknowledge that in any free election, the Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO, would come to power. And if and when a UN team arrives in Namibia to begin implementing Resolution 435, it will provide an alternative pole of authority to the South African-imposed administrator-general and his puppet "transitional government."

South African President P.W. Botha has been holding urgent talks with leaders of the so-called "internal" Namibian parties. The intention is clearly to build an anti-SWAPO coalition. But no one can seriously expect such groups, deeply compromised with the occupation regime, could seriously challenge SWAPO for popular support. South Africa surely remembers the lesson of Zimbabwe. In the 1980 independence election they expected their stooge, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, to win. In the vote, he took just three of the 80 parliamentary seats open to blacks—one for each of the helicopters South Africa had provided for his election campaign.

But a host of delicate questions remain about Pretoria's intentions in Namibia. What, for instance, will be the fate of the South West Africa Territorial Force, the Namibian extension of the South African army? This force did not exist when Resolution 435 was adopted and is thus not addressed in the plan. Will the notorious police unit "koevert" (Afrikaans for crowbar), which acts as an institutionalized death squad, be dismantled? What guarantees will there be for the physical safety of SWAPO leaders when they return to the country?

And what will be the status of Walvis Bay, Namibia's only reasonable port? South Africa refers to faded colonial documents and argue that since Walvis Bay used to be administered by the British from Cape Town, it is not really part of Namibia at all. Therefore, argues Pretoria, South Africa should continue to control the key port.

Ultimately, questions such as sovereignty over Walvis Bay will be determined not legalistically, but by the balance of forces during the transition to Namibian independence.

article reprinted from the Guardian, Aug. 17, 1988



# City settles Springboks suit

## Michelson charges pattern of police abuse

By Jay Jochowitz 2/3/78  
Staff writer Albany Times Union

ALBANY — Bouyed by a \$47,000 settlement with the city in a \$9 million civil rights suit, an anti-apartheid activists said Tuesday that the case fit into a "pattern" of city police abuse.

"They are abusing the power and the authority that's been entrusted to them," said Vera Michelson, who was arrested during a 1981 raid the morning before she was to participate in a protest of a South African rugby team's match in Albany's Bleecker Stadium.

Albany has paid nearly \$330,000 in connection with five civil rights or police abuse cases in recent years. The city denies the cases are part of a pattern and the rugby issue must be looked at separately.

"I don't think there's been anything to indicate that there was any wrongdoing on the part of the department," police spokesman Sgt. Robert Wolfgang said.

Michelson's comments during a news conference at City Hall were based on a series of lawsuits against the city and police officers:

- A \$405,000 judgment in April was issued against the city and two officers by a federal jury which found police abused three Hispanic and black students during a 1982 arrest. A U.S. District judge later reduced the award to \$235,000.

- The city paid \$25,348 to a black couple arrested in 1982 after a federal jury found an officer, Detective Valerie Von Dollen Burke, conducted an unreasonable search while responding to a reported incident of child abuse.

- Burke also was held liable for allegedly hitting a black woman with a flashlight while arresting her son in 1980. The city settled for \$9,700.

- The city agreed to a \$12,500 settlement with a 32-year-old homeless man who claimed officers kicked him while he was handcuffed during an arrest last year.

"We don't know how much money the city has to pay out to protect the cops before they realize there's a pattern," Michelson said. Her comments were echoed in a written statement by Vicki Smith, a representative of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III was out of town and unavailable for comment, but before the latest settlement — filed last Thursday — he said he sees no such pattern. Corporation Counsel Vincent J. McArdle Jr. said Tuesday that the rugby case "is impossible to put into any kind of pattern."

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Walter called the claims against the city "minor" and said a portion of the settlement will be used to pursue an appeal of court decisions that denied Michelson access to the FBI's informant. The FBI was originally named in the suit, but last fall a judge ruled the agency out because of lack of evidence.

As part of its on-going campaign in the struggle against racially motivated violence, Vicki Smith serves as the Coalition representative to the Albany Community Police Relations Board. If you have any complaints or suggestions, contact Vicki in care of the Coalition, Box 3002 Pine Hills Station, Albany, N.Y. 12203.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING...

**ARBOR HILL FAMILY DAY** - Sept. 20th to Sept. 24th, sponsored by A Universal Being, at the Arbor Hill Softball Field, Lark and Colonie Streets, Albany, N.Y. **NOTE:** Sept. 21st has been set aside as a "Salute to South Africa" If you can volunteer to work on this night, call 462-0988.

**"TAKE BACK THE NIGHT"** - Rally and March sponsored by the Rape Crisis Center on Sept. 23rd. Beginning at the Capitol at 7:00 p.m. and ending at the Womens Building on Central Ave. in Albany. For more information, call 447-7100.

**"THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO"** - a talk by a representative of the Socialist Workers Movement of Puerto Rico on Wed., Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 283 Central Avenue, Albany, New York. Sponsored by CASA, the Campanera Project. For more information, call 463-0777.

**COALITION FUNDRAISER - "INTERNATIONAL PARTY"** The Coalition is having a party on October 28th. This will be a night of disco, reggae, calypso, Latin and African music. Our parties are always a great time so set aside the date - more details on place and price are coming... Invite your friends, bring your family - October 28th.

### Free South Africa Regional Conference

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, September 23-25, 1988  
In 1987, hundreds of delegates from throughout the world gathered at the invitation of the ANC in Arusha, Tanzania, to formulate a coordinated international program of support for the liberation of Southern Africa. This conference is a calling together of anti-apartheid activists to plan strategies in order to mobilize support for this movement. The Coalition is sending a delegation to New Haven. If you are interested in being part of the delegation, call 432-3594 for details. Trade unionists, civil rights and community activists, students and educators, religious activists - your participation is essential to the success of these efforts.



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

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 509  
Albany, N.Y.



AMANDLA!

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:  
Thursday, September 27, 1988

STEERING COMMITTEE

Vera Michelson, co-chair	Bill Ritchie
Merton Simpson, co-chair	Yvette Scarlett
Shobhna Gopal	Vicki Smith, representative to
Eileen Kawola, newsletter editor	Community Police Relations
Mark Mishler	Board
Roli Varma, treasurer	Anita Thayer

We are a Coalition of several community organizations and of individual members. We are supported by our members - you! We have no paid staff or overhead expenses so all funds go directly to lobbying efforts, education, printing and postage. **The struggle cannot continue without your support.** For more information, or to join the Coalition, call 518-436-0562. We desperately need contributions to the Coalition - send whatever you can afford today to:

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM  
BOX 3002 PINE HILLS STATION, ALBANY, N.Y. 12203

Victory to ANC of South Africa

Victory to SWAPO of Namibia



# Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

## BENEFIT PARTY

at PAGE THREE

CORNER N. PEARL ST.  
AND LOUDENVILLE RD.  
4 MINUTES FROM THE HILTON ON N. PEARL ST.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

9:00 PM

*HB*  
*1987*

FOOD PROVIDED

\$5 Donation

TICKETS AT THE DOOR  
OR CALL 436-0562



Music by Bill Bendleton



PARTY AND PLAY A PART IN THE MOVEMENT  
TO FREE ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA  
AND AROUND THE WORLD FROM THE OPPRESSION OF RACISM.

SUPPORT THE

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

A COALITION OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TAKING ACTION TO END APARTHEID



"Do The Right Thing . . ."

*Party  
With*



108 CENTRAL AVE

Support Freedom For **Namibia:**



*Africa's  
Last Colony*

*Labor Donated*

**DATE** :Friday August 25, 1989

**TIME** :Doors open at @ 9:00 p.m.

**COST** :\$5.00 admission (including Buffet)

**PLACE** :Holidaze, 108 Central Ave.

**MUSIC** :House Music, African, Latin, Reggae,

**ALL NIGHT LONG !!!**

**SPONSORED BY:**

*The Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid and Racism*

**PROCEEDS GO TO:**

*The Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network's  
DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY IN NAMIBIA Campaign*

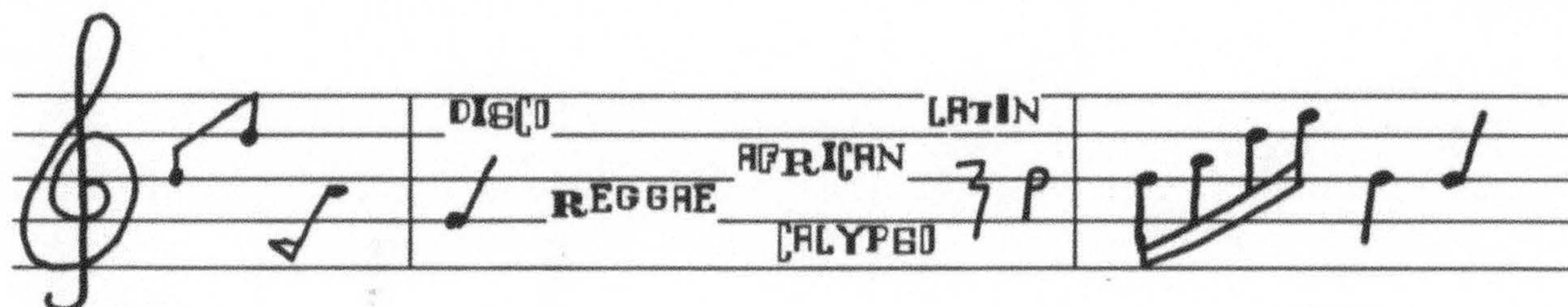




# PARTY



# INTERNATIONALE



**WHEN:** Friday, October 28, 9pm - 3am  
1988

**WHERE:** PAGE THREE

Corner of N. PEARL STR and LOUDONVILLE ROAD  
4 minutes from the HILTON on N. PEARL STR

**WHO:** D.J. Bill Pendleton

**HOW MUCH:** \$\$\$ \$5.00

**FOOD PROVIDED**

**WHY:** Fundraiser

(Proceeds go to the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism)

Sponsored by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station  
Albany, NY 12203

September 23, 1988

The Hon. Thomas M. Whalen  
City of Albany/State of NY  
Office of the Mayor  
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Mayor Whalen:

I am writing, on behalf of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, to request a meeting with you to discuss several concerns pertaining to the relationship between the community and the Albany City Police Department. This request is in follow up to your April 5, 1988 letter in which you indicated a willingness to meet with us at a mutually convenient time.

Since the time of your letter, the City has had to address and respond to several citizen complaints against the Albany City Police Department in court and through its Internal Affairs Unit procedures. The City has had to pay, either by court order or by settlement, for the improper conduct of its Officers.

The City has felt the cost of lost community trust as well. Although established to address and improve the relationship between the community and the Police Department, the Community Police Relations Board had not yet demonstrated its ability to do so.

These are some of the concerns that the Coalition would like to discuss with you at your earliest convenience. I would like to suggest that the week of October 17th is most convenient for the few of us who would attend. Please contact me at the following address and/or phone to arrange a specific date and time: Vickie Smith, 2 Putnam Street, Albany, NY, 12202, (518) 449-8875.

I thank you, in advance, for agreeing to meet with us to discuss these concerns of great importance to our community.

Sincerely,

Vickies A. Smith



## Split threatens membership of Albany police review board

By Jay Jochnowitz

Staff writer

ALBANY — Two members of the city's Community-Police Relations Board walked out of a meeting Monday and a third left the door open to quitting over comments from the board's chairman characterizing them as anti-police and "agitating."

The Rev. Robert Dixon, the board president who was quoted on the comments last month, stood by his remarks and dodged repeated demands for an apology, stating instead, "I'll pray on it."

Addressing Police Department unwillingness to discuss investigations of alleged officer misconduct in as much detail as the board would like, Dixon last month laid blame on NAACP representative Alice Green, Keith St. John of the Capital District Lesbian and Gay Center and Vicki Smith of the Capital District Coalition Against Racism and Apartheid, stating that their aim was to make the board and police

"look bad."

Dixon was also quoted as saying, "Sometimes you do better when you're not agitating."

"I made the remarks and I don't take them back," Dixon said Monday night. "That's the way I feel."

Dixon said the three questioned the board's meeting minutes in detail for errors and press the Police Department too hard in some areas.

Green said that while she and Dixon may disagree, "I am very disturbed that I have been characterized in that way." St. John, a normally soft-spoken attorney, several times shouted at Dixon. "How dare you say that my aim is to make the police look bad," he said.

Green and St. John both left the meeting early.

Smith remained, but told Dixon that his attack was unwarranted and expressed frustration with his handling of the board, which was established two years ago by Mayor

Thomas M. Whalen III to review allegations of police misconduct and work with the department to establish better relations with the community. Members have expressed frustration over their limited review powers and have observed that the board spends much of its time talking about its role rather than taking action on issues.

Smith echoed those sentiments Monday, stating that while disappointed with the board's progress over two years, she accepted an appointment this year because she felt it could play a role in working with the police and community. But, she said, "This may not be the angle in which to do it if I'm going to have to take this kind of abuse." Smith said she would discuss the matter with her organization.

The three were not alone in their remarks to Dixon. Emily Grissom, a representative from the Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations, chastised Dixon as a minister and president, and said, "I think the rest of the board should

ask for your apology." Dixon twice ignored her request.

The confrontation came at a meeting where the board, whose appointments expire in December, again tried to establish criteria for deciding which community groups to be represented. Green presented a list that Dixon noted did not include clergy members, who hold two seats on the board as representatives of religious organizations — Dixon and the Rev. Kenneth Doyle of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese. A third clergyman, Rabbi Martin Silverman, sits on the board as a representative of the city's Human Rights Commission.

Green, who earlier this year opposed Dixon for his seat as president, acknowledged the lack of clergy on her proposed list and said, "They just don't fit into my criteria for board membership." Green said she based the list on groups that experience bias-related violence, have frequent representation in courts, and are advocates for civil rights as defendants or convicts.



# Angry member resolves to stay on police board

10/4/88

By Jay Jochowitz

Staff writer

ALBANY — An anti-apartheid group whose representatives have been among the more vocal members of Albany Community-Police Relations Board will not quit the city panel after an argument with the chairman, but plans to meet with Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III regarding the incident.

The controversy between the board's chairman, the Rev. Robert Dixon, and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism are among several problems the coalition wants to talk over with the mayor, said Vickie Smith, the group's representative on the board.

"We felt that we are going to have to express our concern about the way this board is operating," Smith said Monday.

Smith, along with representatives of two other groups — Alice Green of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Keith St. John of the Capital District Lesbian and Gay Center — were incensed over comments Dixon made to *The Times Union* in August, when he was quoted as saying the three were anti-police and "agitating."

Dixon criticized their efforts to learn more about internal police misconduct investigations, and said he felt the board could accomplish its aims with a more conciliatory approach.

Dixon, at a board meeting last week, refused to apologize despite a demand from those three representatives and another board member, Emily Grissom of the Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations.

Green and St. John, after voicing their objections to the statements, walked out of the meeting early. Smith stayed but said she planned to meet with the coalition to review, among other things, whether the group should stay on the board.

Smith said Monday that the group will keep its membership but has decided to take Whalen up on an offer he made in April to meet with coalition representatives. The earlier discussions, Smith said, were to center on the Community-Police Relations Board's problems in improving the public trust in the police department.

In a letter sent to Whalen last week, Smith repeated that concern, alluding to civil rights, brutality or misconduct cases against police that have cost the city more than \$300,000 in decisions or settlements this year and last.

"The city has had to pay ... for the improper conduct of its officers," Smith wrote. "The city has felt the cost of lost community trust as well."

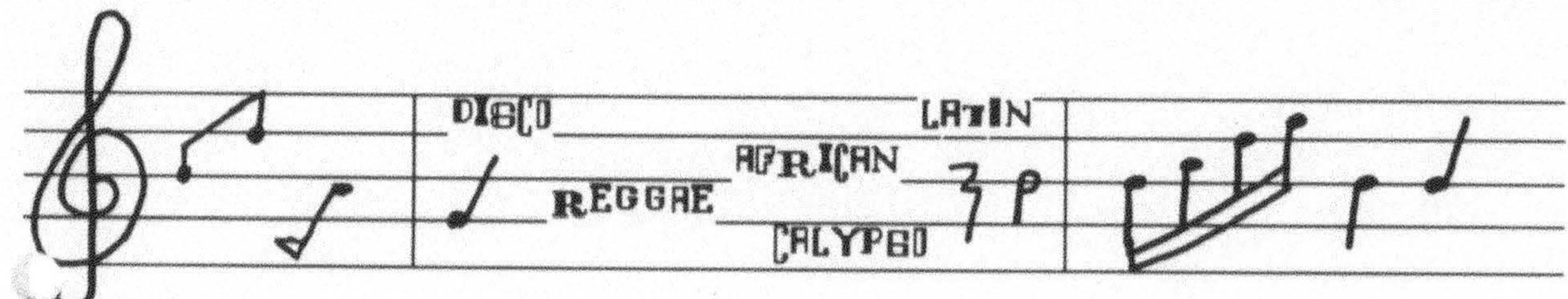
Smith also said the board, created two years ago by Whalen to foster better relations between the community and police, "has not yet demonstrated its ability to do so."

When it requested the meeting with Whalen earlier this year, Smith said, the coalition also planned to submit to the mayor a petition with about 1,000 signatures calling for stronger discipline against a police officer who was involved in two of the cases against the city, Detective Valerie Von Dollen Burke. The coalition, through its former representative on the board, Mark Mishler, had last year asked the group to side with it on the issue Burke's discipline.





**PARTY**  
**INTERNATIONALE**



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Corner of N. PEARL STR and LOUDONVILLE ROAD  
4 minutes from the HILTON on N. PEARL STR

**WHO:** D.J. Bill Pendleton

**HOW MUCH:** \$\$\$ \$5.00

**FOOD PROVIDED**

**WHY:** Fundraiser

(Proceeds go to the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism)





**Capital District Coalition  
Against Apartheid  
and Racism**

Box 3002 - Pine Hillis Station    **OCTOBER 1988**  
Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

**IMPORTANT:    monthly meeting**

Thursday, October 27, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. Albany Urban League, corner of Ten Broeck and Livingston, Albany, New York

**AGENDA:** • Planning for the continuation session of the Free South Africa Regional Conference. Albany has been chosen as the site for this very important meeting of activists from throughout the Northeast. (see below for details)  
• Albany Community Police Relations Board - update, future plans.  
**THESE ARE TWO VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS - WE NEED YOUR INPUT...**

• "I would like you people in the outside world to know that we need your support." Albertina Sisulu, co-chair of the UDF in South Africa.

These were the words, by telephone from South Africa, which helped to open the first Free South Africa Regional Conference, held at Yale University on September 23-25. In December of 1987, in Arusha, Tanzania, the African National Congress held an international conference calling for a program of action aimed against the apartheid system/regime of South Africa. The conference at Yale was in response to the call from the ANC.

Expanding grassroots support for the liberation struggles of the ANC and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia was a major theme of the conference. Specific organization campaigns were proposed and a consensus document from the conference was presented.

There is still more work to be done to finalize the document and to further develop organizational points. Albany was chosen as the site for a continuation session. This session will be attended by representatives from all the groups who were present at the Yale conference. This continuation session is crucial because it is an important next step in **building a northeast anti-apartheid movement that can work**. The Albany meeting has been set for November 19th at AME Zion Church in Albany. (For more information on the meeting, call 436-9234)

Twelve members of the Coalition attended the Yale conference. Thanks to the Albany NAACP, the Capital District Palestinian Rights Committee and the Albany Central Labor Federation for their financial support for this event.



## South Africa News



Murphy Morobe, one of the three activists who escaped detention, meeting with Coalition Co-Chairs, Vera Michelson and Merton Simpson, during visit to Albany in March, 1985.

## Three South Africa Activists Escape from Detention...

Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Valli Moosa and Philip Khanyile, prominent political detainees, escaped from a hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa on September 13, 1988 and sought refuge in the U.S. Consulate there. The three have been granted indefinite sanctuary by the U.S. Valli Moosa is acting Secretary General of the United Democratic Front (UDF), Khanyile is Chairman of the National Education Crisis Committee and Murphy Morobe, the most well known of the three, was acting

Publicity Director for the UDF.

Morobe was detained in July 1987. He had been operating underground since June, 1986 when the nationwide state of emergency was imposed by the apartheid regime. The three had been detained at Diepkloof Prison near Johannesburg but escaped from Johannesburg General Hospital while "receiving therapy."

The UDF, consisting of over 600 organizations and two million members, was formed in August, 1983. This broad based Front has been banned since Feb. 24th of this year. Most of the leadership are in jail, hiding or underground as a result of government oppression; that has put tens of thousands of people in detention since 1986.

*South African Government Bans "Congress of the People" in government attempt to wipe out all opposition to apartheid...* A "Congress of the People," planned for the weekend of September 23-25 at the University of Cape Town, was banned by the apartheid government. The regime detained 30 activists and placed heavy restrictions on progressive organizations involved in the planned Congress. "The conference was intended to build unity and give direction for a peaceful solution in the heightened political violence and economic disintegration," said COSATU General Secretary Jay Naidoo. This action by the government is just another chilling proof that the white minority government intends to give up nothing.

*Bizarre Practice of Banning, another example of sick Afrikaner mentality, taken one step further...* A new government measure enables the regime to now ban or restrict people without having to serve banning orders directly. As a result of this new order, the government only needs to publish the name of the affected person in a government gazette. This one act enables the government to both flush out activists who are underground as well as to silence those still at large.

# Peace Offerings

UNIQUE CRAFTS FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD

A project of the Social Justice Center 434-4037

**33 Central Ave.**  
(BETWEEN LARK & NORTHERN BLVD)

## Social Justice Center Fundraisers

**NOTE:** The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is one of the member groups of the Social Justice Center. The Center is a non profit organization which has been providing services and support to the progressive community of Albany for the past seven years.

The Social Justice Center Awards Dinner is an important fundraising and community event. Each year the Center honors activists for the work they are doing in the progressive movement.

Attendance at the dinner this year is expected to be about 300 people. It is a time to have good food (food this year is being prepared by CASA and will be Caribbean and Latino cuisine). It is a time to spend with good company. And it is a good cause.

Winners this year are Reszin Adams, Maud Easter, Donna DiMaria and the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. We are trying to fill three tables of friends and members of the Coalition. For tickets call 438-0304 or the SJC 434-4037.

Peace Offerings is a unique craft store in that the majority of the goods sold there are produced and bought from workers' cooperatives in developing countries.

We urge you to support this store when you are doing your holiday shopping. The goods are interesting and beautiful. The atmosphere of the store is calm and peaceful. And the profits go to an excellent cause - the Social Justice Center.

Call 434-4037 for store hours or more information.

## AWARDS NOT SWORDS

4TH ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER AWARDS DINNER

The Gala Event of the Fall Season featuring:

- ★ Caribbean & Latino Cuisine
- ★ Dessert by Dahlia's
- ★ Folk Songs with Lynn Miller
- ★ Clowns, Magicians, Jugglers, Klezmer Clarinet

SUN. OCTOBER 30TH  
5-9 P.M.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
215 LANCASTER, ALBANY  
CORNER OF LARK & LANCASTER

ADVANCE TICKETS RECOMMENDED!

\$25 SPONSOR  
\$15 WOULD REALLY HELP  
\$10 SJC & UDF  
\$5 CHILDREN (FAMILY SEATS AVAILABLE)  
\$1 EXTRA AT DOOR

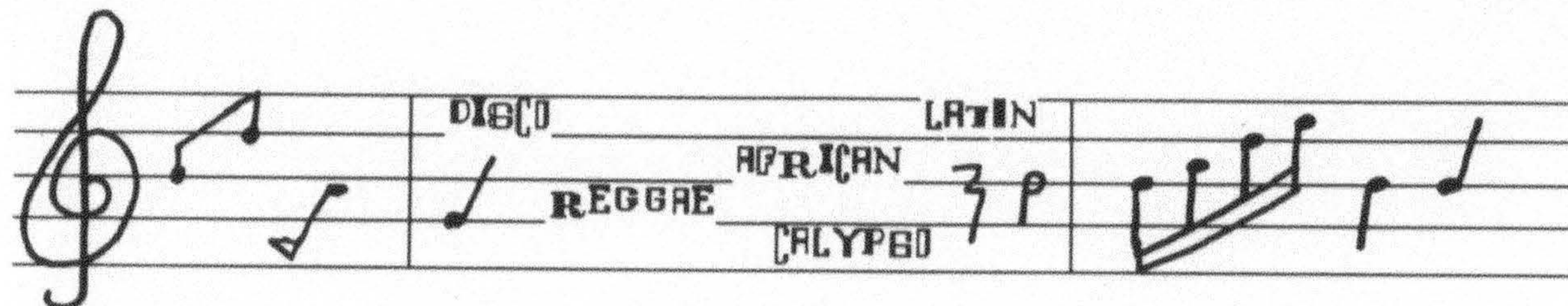
SOLD AT

DALEWARD BOOKSTORE  
HALF MOON CAFE  
HONEST WEIGHT FOOD CO-OP  
SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER





**PARTY**  
**INTERNATIONALE**



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**WHERE:**

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4 minutes from the HILTON on N. PEARL STR

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**FOOD PROVIDED**

**WHY:** Fundraiser

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

NON-PROFIT ORG  
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Albany, N.Y.

## Angry member resolves to stay on police board

10/5/88  
Times  
Union

By Jay Jochnowitz

Staff writer

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## Albany Angles

**BATTLE SECRETS** — Saturday Avatara Martial Arts Academy on Central Avenue in Albany is scheduled to hold a seminar and demonstration of a Filipino fighting style known as Arnis. The seminar, according to a news release on the event, promises to teach participants "the use of the sticks" and "basic body mechanics to defend oneself." Lest anyone laugh or smirk at this, let us inform you that Arnis was used more than 400 years ago to end the life of the man who first circumnavigated the globe. But rather than us telling it, let Avatara "Arnis is the Filipino martial art that was responsible for the defeat of the Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan in the year 1521," according to the press release. "Magellan was met by Chief Lapu Lapu and his warriors who attacked with fire-hardened sticks and repelled all who landed on their beaches. Magellan died in the battle."

**YOU NAME IT** — Albany County Executive James J. Coyne was playing a joke on the reporters in his office the first time he uncovered a piece of poster board at a news conference to announce the new name for the Albany County Civic Center Friday.

The poster said "Triad," the label that inspired such grumbling when it was announced as the winning name in August.

But the list of other names submitted to the contest, and published in the fall edition of the Albany County News, was for real. People actually did suggest that the civic center be named the Bowl Weevil or the Capital City Cicatrix, a word that means scar tissue.

Some of the names suggested are already taken: the Rose Bowl, for example, and The Hague.

Aaron Burr and Liberace, were they alive today, might be surprised to know that their names also were proposed as names for Albany County's 15,000-seat downtown arena.

The arena is on and on Beverwyck Boulevard, Even the Sprocket Civic Center or L.

Some folks just wanted to convey the good times they expect the arena to offer. If all their ideas could be used, it would be the Culture-and-Fun-Escape-to-Albany-Family-Delect-Jubilation-Fun-and-Games-Crater.

But one name raises only a question: Just what, we would like to know, is a Tepe-darium?

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, a tepidarium is a warm room where Romans used to gather. Note the different spelling.)**

### I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE

No one will ever get to see the "Alexander Hamilton memorial tree" planted with great pomp and circumstance in Academy Park in Albany last spring.

A tree may grow in Brooklyn, but this one is gone from Academy Park. The ceremony, part of a May 1st Law Day ceremony, included appearances by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, the fully robed state Court of Appeals, Orrin Lehman, state commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Mayor Thomas Whalen and a group of young school children.

Together they planted a tiny sapling of a sweet gum tree, to commemorate the 13 sweet gums planted by Hamilton at his Manhattan homestead upon hearing of the ratification of the Constitution.

But alas! Sweet gums do not do well this far north.

A check of Aacademy Park shows no trace of the tree. It is not known whether it withered and died, or if the tiny sapling was just mowed down. The state's Bicentennial Commission may try to find another more suitable location next year.

**THREE STRIKES, YOU'RE OUT** — The town of Colonie is hoping three will be a lucky number when it comes to finding a contractor to install a new backstop at Heritage Park.

The town has tried twice to find a contractor, but no one has responded. Last week, the Town Board decided to try again, hoping not to strike out this time.

Supervisor Frederick G. Field Jr. said possibly contractors are too busy with other projects and are not able to respond to the bid request for the project. The cost would be split with Albany County because Heritage Park, home of the Albany-Colonie Yankees minor league baseball team, is a



**HEALING EFFORTS** — Maud Easter, Donna DeMaria and Rezin Adams are congratulated by Merton Simpson of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism for their efforts at improving relations between groups.

## Social Justice Center Gives Awards For 'Repairing and Healing World'

By BARBARA SHEPHERD  
Gazette Reporter

**ALBANY** — Four activists and an anti-racism group were honored last night by a local organization for their efforts toward "repairing and healing the world."

During its "Awards Not Swords" dinner, the Social Justice Center, an umbrella organization for 18 social justice groups, presented plaques to Donna DeMaria of the local chapter of Educators for Social Responsibility and the Alliance for the Mentally III, Americans Against Nuclear War, and the former Albany Peace Center.

About 250 people attended the awards dinner at the Trinity United Methodist Church at Lark and Lancaster streets. Banners from the various Social Justice Center member groups hung from the walls and booths were set up to distribute information about some of the causes.

Members of the Central America Solidarity Alliance, which opposes U.S. intervention in Central America, cooked a meal featuring Caribbean and Latin cuisines. Clowns, magicians, singers and jugglers performed.

As for the award recipients, Adams, a 30-year Albany resident, became Albany's first elected Democratic county committee member in 1972 and has been a long-time member of Save the Pine Bush, which began its first court case in February 1978.

Adams is involved in putting together the monthly Peace Calendar, which publicizes activities for various Social Justice Center organizations. Also, she is involved in the Albany Area Housing Opportunity, the Capital Hill Improvement Corp., and the Center Square Association.

DeMaria, through her efforts with the Pledge of Resistance in Central America Since 1985, the St. Rose College graduate has organized about 50 rallies, demonstrations and exercises of civil disobedience.

Easter has been involved in the women's movement in the Capital District during the past four years through the Women's Building at 79 Central Ave. Also, she is coordinator of the Fellowship on Women and Public Policy for the Center for Women in Government. Easter devotes some of her time as a lobbyist for the National Organization of Women and is a co-director of the Committee for a New Korea Policy, which wants to eliminate outside intervention in the affairs of North and South Korea.

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was formed in 1981 by people who opposed Albany playing host to the South African rugby team, because of that country's treatment of blacks.

Recently, the group has distributed information about apartheid at the Schenectady Off-Track Betting Tennis Tournament in protest of the presence of South African players. Also, the group picketed outside the Saratoga Performing Arts Center against Ray Charles because the group believes he violated the United Nation's cultural boycott by performing in South Africa.

The Social Justice Center, based at 33 Central Ave., "is a lot bigger than the sum of its parts," observed Mickie Lynn of Deimar, who is involved in the center itself, along with the Pledge of Resistance, the Knolls Action Project and the Central America Network.

The center provides a way of sharing resources, experience, information, ideas and inspiration among the 18 member groups, Lynn said. "We are working to change our society for the better," she said. "Mainly, we're working to make sure everybody in our society has opportunities to have their basic needs met."

Lynn said helping out in such causes is part of her life; she wouldn't think of living any other way. "I don't consider it giving up my time and energy. I consider it part of why I'm alive. We're all connected in one way or another. Any way we can make life better for others, we make it better for ourselves."

Adams said the center provides valuable assistance for groups working toward social change, such as offering office space, telephone and mailing support. "They wouldn't get this kind of space and these kind of

American Bar Association's refusal to admit black attorneys and the association's lack of support for Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, Walter noted.

"We generally speaking, enjoy a good life in this country," he said. "In one way or another, we should give back, whether it's a food pantry, working for peace in Central America or fighting apartheid."

The co-ordinators of the Social Justice Center are a husband-wife team, Terry Dix and Lucy Pracher. The center runs on an annual budget of about \$40,000, Dix said. It relies on annual membership dues from its 18 member groups and from fund-raisers such as last night's awards dinner, he said.

The member groups are the Albany Peace and Energy Council, the Albany Sanctuary Committee, the Capital District Central America Network, the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, the Central America Solidarity Alliance, the Committee for a New Korea Policy, and the Committee for Palestinian Rights.

Also, the Democratic Socialists of America, the Environmental Planning Lobby, the Knolls Action Project, the National Lawyers Guild, the New Jewish Agenda, the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby, the Nonviolence Project, the Pledge of Resistance, Save the Pine Bush, the Society for U.S. Soviet Friendship, and the Upper Hudson Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign.

## Matt Named Siena Annual Fund Director

**LOUDONVILLE** — Siena College's development office has appointed Lori A. Matt as annual fund director and Ruth A. Kitter as director of corporate and foundation relations.

Matt, a Schenectady resident, is a 1985 graduate of Siena, earning a degree in English with a minor in international business. She was assistant director of alumni affairs

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Troopers spotted Hoffman driving down Route 143 and a chase ensued.

## Students to Hear From Experts Various Field

**COLONIE** — About 130 eleven pupils in the North Colton School will hear presentations from experts in various fields as part of the eighth Project WHEEL (Workshops High Exploratory Experiences in Learning)

The program, titled "Chart Your World of Money," will be held at the Colton Community Center on Avenue. The speakers include Coltonville Frederick G. Field Jr., a discuss zoning and planning, Mary I. Coltonville, the regional director for New York state, who discusses advertising, Christine Carrier and owner of Advanced Manufacturing Systems, who will discuss how to develop a high-tech company.

Also, Patricia Driscoll, an artist teacher with North Colton, will discuss how to create an advertising campaign. Aissa Quinn, a financial consultant, will discuss Wall Street, Susan Reynolds, deputy commissioner with the state Department of Agriculture and Marketing, will discuss "Down on the Farm Field to Market."

George Robertson, president of the North Colton Economic Development Commission, will discuss how to create an economy for a community. Dennis Scimec, accountant, will discuss taxation. Jimble, chairman of the economics department at Russell Sage College, will discuss "Banking and the Federal System — How? What? Why?" and Vawter, an associate attorney with Department of Law, will discuss frauds and protection.

The aim of Project WHEEL is to show children that "their exploratory variety of areas can lead to purposeful commitments such as their life's work compelling avocations," an organization. The participants in the program at Colton Community Center will choose 40-minute sessions to attend of their own choice.

Afterward, the children, led by a volunteer parent, will compare and summarize their observations about the workshops," the center said.

## NO GUILDERLAN WATERMAIN

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**CONTINUATIONS MEETING**

**NORTH EAST SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY NETWORK**

11 / 19 / 88

at Israel AME Zion Church, 381 Hamilton Street, Albany, NY

"South Africa is like an octopus. It's heart is in Pretoria and it's tentacles are in Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia"

Jesse Jackson

**Meeting co-chairs:**

Vera Michelson - Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Tim Johnson - Friends of ANC, SWAPO and the Frontline States

**Agenda**

1. Welcome / "How did we get from New Haven to Albany" - Vera Michelson
2. Review of the agenda - ~~Tim Johnson~~
3. Introduction of ANC and SWAPO representatives - Tim Johnson
4. Briefing: ANC - Fred Dube  
SWAPO - Helmut Angula (Chief Rep)
5. Campaigns:
  - A: People's Sanctions - a product boycott proposal
  - B: Legislative Sanctions - a proposal Tim Johnson
  - C: Material Aid Campaign - a proposal
6. Getting the Network Structure together - ~~proposal~~ Tim Johnson and Vera Michelson
7. Other relevant business (if time allows)

**Honorable mentions go to:**

- Rev James Lawrence and the Israel AME Church for the support and the hospitality

- SASU (Student Associations of State University) for the contribution of coffee and doughnuts and the lunch preparation

- CDCAAR members

Keke Tloti - Logistics

Celia Cotton - r.s.v.p coordination

Vicki Smith - press

- New Haven Free South Africa Coalition for initiating the Sept. 23 conference which started it all.





Anti-apartheid leaders leaving United States Consulate in Johannesburg where they had taken refuge after escaping from detention. From left were Mohammed Valli Moosa, Murphy Morobe and Vusi Khanyile. Reuters





**SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS** — Vickie Smith and Vera Michaelson, from left, representing the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism; Maude Easter, Women's Building, Reszin Adams of Save the Pine Bush and Donna DiMaria of the Pledge of Resistance, will be honored for making "significant contributions to social justice struggles in the Capital District" at the fourth annual Social Justice Center Awards dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 215 Lancaster St., corner of Lark and Lancaster streets, Albany.

## Social Justice Center dinner slated Sunday

The fourth annual Social Justice Center awards dinner will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 215 Lancaster St., Albany.

Titled "Awards Not Swords," the dinner will honor Reszin Adams of Save the Pine Bush; the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism; Maude Easter of the Women's Building and Donna DiMaria of the Pledge of Resistance. A special award in memory of Doris Trashen will be conferred.

The program will include Caribbean and Latino cuisine, dessert by Dahlia's, music by Lynn Miller, and entertainment by clowns, jugglers and a clarinetist.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children. Advance-sale tickets at reduced prices are available at Boulevard Books, 15 Central Ave.; the Half Moon Cafe, 154 Madison Ave.; the Honest Weight Food Co-Op, 112 Quail St.; and the Social Justice Center, 33 Central Ave.

For table and ticket reservations, call the center at 434-4037.

## Military ball planned at Empire State Plaza

The ninth annual Armed Forces Military Ball will be conducted Saturday, Oct. 29, in the Empire State Plaza convention hall. Members of the armed forces have been invited. The ball committee has set a limit of 1,000 guests. Requests for reservations may be sent to the New York State Military Ball Committee, PO Box 1012, Latham, N.Y. 12110.



## Albany Angles

**AN AT-BATTLE SECRETS** — Saturday Martial Arts Academy on Central Avenue in Albany is scheduled to hold a seminar and demonstration of a Filipino fighting style known as Arnis. The seminar, according to a news release on the event, promises to teach participants "the use of the sticks" and "basic body mechanics to defend oneself." Let anyone laugh or smirk at this, let us inform you that Arnis was used more than 400 years ago to end the life of the man who first circumnavigated the globe. But rather than us telling it, let Avatar, "Arnis is the Filipino martial art that was responsible for the defeat of the Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan in the year 1521," according to the press release. "Magellan was met by Chief Lapu Lapu and his warriors who attacked with fire-hardened sticks and repelled all who landed on their beaches. Magellan died in the battle."

**YOU NAME IT** — Albany County Executive James J. Coyne was playing a joke on the reporters in his office the first time he uncovered a piece of poster board at a news conference to announce the new name for the Albany County civic center Friday.

The poster said "Triad," the label that inspired such grumbling when it was announced as the winning name in August.

But the list of other names submitted to the contest, and published in the fall edition of the Albany County News, was for real. People actually did suggest that the civic center be named the World Weevil or the Capital City Cicatrix, a word that means scar tissue.

Some of the names suggested are already taken: the Rose Bowl, for example, and The Hague.

Aaron Burr and Liberace, were they alive today, might be surprised to know that their names also were proposed as names for Albany County's 15,000-seat downtown arena.

The arena is on and on Beverwyck Bowl, Pinkus, or Even the Sprocket Civic Center.

Some just wanted to convey the good times they expect the arena to offer. If all their ideas could be used, it would be the Culture-and-Fun-Escape-to-Albany-Family-Delect-Jubilation-Fun-and-Games-Crater.

But one name raises only a question. Just what, we would like to know, is a Tepe-darium?

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, a tepe-darium is a warm room where Romans used to gather. Note the different spelling.)

**I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE**

No one will ever get to see the "Alexander Hamilton memorial tree" planted with great pomp and circumstance in Academy Park in Albany last spring.

A tree may grow in Brooklyn, but this one is gone from Academy Park. The ceremony, part of a May 1st Law Day ceremony, included appearances by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, the fully robed state Court of Appeals, Orin Lehman, state commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Mayor Thomas Whalen and a group of young school children.

Together they planted a tiny sapling of a sweet gum tree, to commemorate the 13 sweet gums planted by Hamilton at his Manhattan homestead upon hearing of the ratification of the Constitution.

But alas! Sweet gums do not do well this far north.

A check of Academy Park shows no trace of the tree. It is not known whether it withered and died, or if the tiny sapling was just mowed down. The state's Constitution Bicentennial Commission may try to find another more suitable location next year.

**THREE STRIKES, YOU'RE OUT** — The town of ... is hoping three will be a lucky number when it comes to finding a contractor to install a new backstop at Heritage Park.

The town tried twice to find a contractor, but no one has responded. Last week, the Town Board decided to try again, hoping not to strike out this time.

Supervisor Frederick G. Field Jr. said possibly contractors are too busy with other projects and are not able to respond to the bid request for the project. The cost would be split with Albany County because Heritage Park home of the Albany-Colonie Yankees minor league baseball team, is a



**HEALING EFFORTS** — Maud Easter, Donna DeMaria and Rezin Adams are congratulated by Merton Simpson of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism for their efforts at improving relations between groups. — (Gazette Photo — Marc Schultz)

## Social Justice Center Gives Awards For 'Repairing and Healing World'

By BARBARA SHEFFER  
Gazette Reporter

**ALBANY** — Four activists and an anti-racism group were honored last night by a local organization for their efforts toward "repairing and healing the world."

During its "Awards Not Swords" dinner, the Social Justice Center, an umbrella organization for 18 social justice groups, presented plaques to Donna DeMaria of the Pledge of Resistance, Rezin Adams of Save the Pine Bush, Maud Easter of the Women's Building, and representatives of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Also, an award was given in memory of Doris Trachten, who helped organize a local chapter of Educators for Social Responsibility and was involved in the Mental Health Players, the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Americans Against Nuclear War, and the former Albany Peace Center.

About 250 people attended the awards dinner at the Trinity United Methodist Church at Lark and Lancaster streets. Banners from the various Social Justice Center member groups hung from the walls and booths were set up to distribute information about some of the causes.

Members of the Central America Solidarity Alliance, which opposes U.S. intervention in Central America, cooked a meal featuring Caribbean and Latin cuisines. Clowns, magicians, singers and jugglers performed.

As for the award recipients, Adams, a 30-year Albany resident, became Albany's first elected Democratic county committee member in 1972 and has been a long-time member of Save the Pine Bush, which began its first court case in February 1978.

Adams is involved in putting together the monthly Peace Calendar, which publicizes activities for various Social Justice Center organizations. Also, she is involved in the Albany Area Housing Opportunity, the Capital Hill Improvement Corp., and the Center Square Association.

DeMaria, through her efforts with the Pledge of Resistance, is involved in trying to stop U.S. intervention in Central America. Since 1985, the St. Rose College graduate has organized about 50 rallies, demonstrations and exercises of civil disobedience.

Adams said the center provides valuable assistance for groups working toward social change, such as offering office space, telephone and mailing support. "They wouldn't get this kind of space and these kind of

Easter has been involved in the women's movement in the Capital District during the past four years through the Women's Building at 79 Central Ave. Also, she is coordinator of the Fellowship on Women and Public Policy for the Center for Women in Government. Easter devotes some of her time as a lobbyist for the National Organization of Women and is a co-director of the Committee for a New Korea Policy, which wants to eliminate outside intervention in the affairs of North and South Korea.

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was formed in 1981 by people who opposed Albany playing host to the South African rugby team, because of that country's treatment of blacks.

Recently, the group has distributed information about apartheid at the Schenectady Off-Track Betting Tennis Tournament in protest of the presence of South African players. Also, the group picketed outside the Saratoga Performing Arts Center against Ray Charles because the group believes he violated the United Nation's cultural boycott by performing in South Africa.

The Social Justice Center, based at 33 Central Ave., "is a lot bigger than the sum of its parts," observed Mickie Lynn of Deimar, who is involved in the center itself, along with the Pledge of Resistance, the Knolls Action Project and the Central America Network.

The center provides a way of sharing resources, experience, information, ideas and inspiration among the 18 member groups, Lynn said. "We are working to change our society for the better," she said. "Mainly, we're working to make sure everybody in our society has opportunities to have their basic needs met."

Lynn said helping out in such causes is part of her life, she wouldn't think of living any other way. "I don't consider it giving up my time and energy. I consider it part of why I'm alive. We're all connected in one way or another. Any way we can make life better for others, we make it better for ourselves."

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American Bar Association's refusal to admit black attorneys and the association's lack of support for Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Walter noted, "We, generally speaking, enjoy a good life in this country," he said. "In one way or another, we should give back, whether it's a food pantry, working for peace in Central America or fighting apartheid."

The co-ordinators of the Social Justice Center are a husband-wife team, Terry Dix and Lucy Pracher. The center runs on an annual budget of about \$40,000. Dix said it relies on annual membership dues from its 18 member groups and from fund-raisers such as last night's awards dinner, he said.

The member groups are the Albany Peace and Energy Council, the Albany Sanctuary Committee, the Capital District Central America Network, the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, the Central America Solidarity Alliance, the Committee for a New Korea Policy, and the Committee for Palestinian Rights.

Also, the Democratic Socialists of America, the Environmental Planning Lobby, the Knolls Action Project, the National Lawyers Guild, the New Jewish Agenda, the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby, the Nonviolence Project, the Pledge of Resistance, Save the Pine Bush, the Society for U.S.-Soviet Friendship, and the Upper Hudson Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign.

## Matt Named Siena Annual Fund Director

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One of the passengers, Lance Tuohy of Pulver Avenue, Ravena, was in critical condition with head and neck injuries, and the other passenger, Andrew Sale, 19, of Wendell Street, Ravena, was taken to St. Peter's Hospital in Allentown for head and shoulder injuries. Casale mumbled, but his condition was not known yesterday.

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The participants in the program at the Colonie Community Center will choose 40-minute sessions to attend of the 18 available.

Afterward, the children, led by a volunteer parent, will compare, discuss and summarize their observations and opinions about the workshops," the center said.

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## NAACP Forum

By Michael J. Dollard

My apologies for there being no column in the September issue of The Scene Newspaper. The lack of a column is related to the problem of a community support newspaper. If you are interested in having this column and this newspaper continue, we need your support now! Be a subscriber—and, if possible—a sponsor of The Scene Newspaper: see information elsewhere in this issue.

### COALITION SETTLES (7) WITH CITY OVER 1981 PROTEST

Vera Michelson and Aaron Estes—participants in the Coalition Against Apartheid/NAACP led Springville protest in 1981—have settled the suit by the Coalition against Albany arising out of a police raid of Michelson's apartment the night before the protest. While Michelson and Estes both received cash payments from the city, the original demands of the lawsuit (and supposedly the real objective of the Coalition) were not met: the end of surveillance by city, county and federal law enforcement agencies of citizens and citizen-action groups engaged in lawful protest activities, and an end to "police infiltration" of such groups, and the use of police informers. It seems to me that the city got off cheap: \$47,000 is not much of a price for continued freedom to violate the civil rights of its citizens!

### NAACP SPONSORS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The NAACP, together with the Albany Public School Teachers' Association and Albany Citizens for Education are sponsoring a day-long conference on public education in Albany Sat., Oct. 15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. conference (Education 1989—An Action Agenda for Albany Public Schools) will focus on three issues:

- 1) raising public awareness of the condition of education in Albany's schools.
- 2) involving people from all parts of the community in defining the problems in Albany's public school system.
- 3) developing mechanisms by which the people of the community can become actively involved in improving Albany's public school system.

There is a \$3.00 registration fee for the conference. Contact President Ann Pope (463-5463) for further information on the conference.

### ARE YOU REGISTERED? YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT AND WILL HAVE AN EFFECT!!!

The National Urban League held their 78th annual conference in Detroit in early August. Interestingly, Republican presidential candidate George Bush refused an invitation to address the 15,000 people in attendance at the conference. If we

didn't have it before, this is a clear message from Bush and the Republicans as to what they think about Black people, their needs and their role in America. Both the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Democratic candidate, Michael Dukakis, addressed the conference.

Also addressing the conference was Owen Huber, President of the United Auto Workers Union. Huber said, "If we think for one minute the Republicans and their elite supporters are going to give up without a fight, the nation is lulled into a sleep. It's going to take a massive, unprecedented effort by the progressive forces—by the union, the civil rights movement, the women's movement, city and state organizations—to vote the Reaganites out of office this November." Huber pointed out the devastation in urban communities in Detroit and elsewhere, and held the Reagan-Bush policies at fault. According to Huber, the Reagan-Bush economic plan has cost this country 22,000,000 workers laid off through plant closings alone, and resulted in cutbacks in city services while at the same time causing increases in violence, cocaine use, homelessness and hunger.

### SCLC CALLS OUT THE VOTE

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) held its national conference in Washington at the end of August. Dr. Joseph Lowery, President of the SCLC, opened the conference with a call for people to vote in November. While the SCLC is non-partisan and does not support particular candidates, Lowery had some particularly harsh things to say about the Reagan-Bush administration: he criticized the Reagan-Bush administration for bring the appearance of prosperity but not the substance of it. Lowery pointed out while in 1957 the medium income of Black workers was 58 percent of that of White workers, 31 years later it is still the same: no improvement whatsoever.

### MEETINGS

The Board meets the Second Tuesday of the Month at 93 Livingston Ave at 7:30 pm. The Membership Meeting is the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Community. The Youth Council meets the first and third Tuesdays at the Albany Public Library. Call Anne Pope at 463-5463 for details.

### MEMBERSHIP

As we are writing this column, the NAACP National Radiothon is still a few days away. If you didn't join or renew during the Radiothon, why don't you do it today? Membership is a key factor in the success of any active organization. Without the help—and particularly the membership—of people in the community, the NAACP can't do its job. Why not call President Anne Pope at 463-5463 or Membership Chair Phyllis Frame at 465-3170. Membership is \$10 per year, and includes a subscription to the NAACP magazine, Crisis.