TIME RUNNING OUT
June 1989
Richard S. Gilbert, Editor

SOWETO MEMORIAL SERVICE PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 16

RCJSA, with the Rochester Anti-Apartheid Coalition, is sponsoring an interfaith memorial service marking the 1976 Soweto uprising. Government reprisal resulted in 175 deaths, thousands of arrests and injuries. The service will be held at The Church of St. Luke and St. Simon the Cyrene, 17 S. Fitzhugh Street, Friday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

ROCHESTER ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION PLANS ACTIONS AT U.S. OPEN

The Rochester Anti-Apartheid Coalition, which includes RCJSA, is planning a series of demonstrations at the U.S. Open to protest participation in the tournament of South African golfers. Protests will be held all four days, Thursday, June 15 - Sunday, June 18, with a major rally scheduled for Saturday, June 17, from 2-6 p.m. in the vicinity of the RTA Park and Ride site east of St. John Fisher College. For details call Metro-Act at 325-2560.

ANNUAL MEETING OF RCJSA MONDAY, JUNE 19, 5:30 P.M.

The meeting will be held at the Episcopal Diocesan House, 735 East Avenue. The Nominating Committee has selected the following slate: President, the Rev. James Rice; Vice-President, Katherine Jordan; Treasurer, the Rev. James Prichard; Secretary, Victor Yates. The past year's activities will be reviewed and plans made for future activities. All are invited to attend.

GOLF, POLITICS AND JUSTICE: DO THEY MIX? AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

In 1968 the UN General Assembly declared a "cultural, educational, sporting" boycott of South Africa seeking its cultural isolation and challenging its claim to be embodiment of western values. A register of entertainers and athletes who have participated in apartheid South Africa is maintained. Mark McNulty from South Africa is on that list. The Rochester Anti-Apartheid Coalition supports that boycott and wants him barred from participation in the upcoming U.S. Open Golf Tournament at Oak Hill Country Club June 15-18. Golf officials at all levels have turned a deaf ear. Why should he be barred? (see p. 4)
ROCHESTER REPRESENTED AT RELIGIOUS SUMMIT ON APARTHEID IN NYC

Four members of RCJSA attended the religious leaders Summit on Apartheid held April 4-6 in New York City. Over 100 delegates participated in a hearing before the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid, joined a candlelight vigil in front of the South African Consulate commemorating over 100 political opponents of the government assassinated between 1974 and 1989, heard speakers from Namibia and South Africa and developed strategies for action. Attending from Rochester were Alicia du Plessis, Katherine Jordan, and the Revs. James Rice and Richard Gilbert.

OUR THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of the following friends who have responded to our recent appeal for support: Estelle and Ed Badura, Gordon L. Calderwood, Bob and Nan Carlton, Thelma H. Caudle, Carol Crossed, Jane Conner, Pinny Cooke, Susan J. David, Thomas A. Domhoff, John Erb, Anne and George Exley-Stiegler, Nancy Eckerson-Fitts, Robert and Cheryl Franklin, Linda and David Friedman, Richard and Joyce Gilbert, J. E. Gramlich, Art Grimwood, Dr. Saifred Islam, Joan and By Lapham, Werner E. Lemke, Fritz Longabaugh, Tim Mains, Patricia Shea McKenna, Robert McKinney, Connie McVey, Isabel Morrison, Hugh Q. Morton, Ray and Ellie Newell, Diane M. Ostrander, Homai Patel, The Rev. A. Clair Potter, Linda B. Smith, Social Justice Committee (Sisters of St. Joseph), and Victor Yates. If you wish to contribute, please make your checks payable to GEM (RCJSA) and mail to GEM, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

DELLUMS-SIMON SANCTIONS BILL: A PROGRESS REPORT

The Dellums/Simon sanctions bill, H.R. 21/S. 507, mandates total disinvestment of all U.S. corporations from, and imposes a near total ban on all trade with, South Africa. There are 125 co-sponsors in the House and 8 in the Senate. Representatives Horton and Slaughter, who have previously supported sanctions, have not committed themselves. Senator Moynihan, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, supports the bill; Senator D'Amato opposes it. The Administration's new Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Henry (Hank) Cohen has indicated President Bush's opposition to sanctions. Your letters and calls to the above in support of sanctions are needed at this time.

Louise Slaughter (30th)
1707 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Frank Horton (29th)
2229 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato
520 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

John J. La Falce (32d)
2419 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Daniel Moynihan
464 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SOUTH AFRICA HOTLINE
1-202-546-0408
3.

THE ILLUSION OF REFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA

In an incisive article in the April 26, 1989, issue of The Christian Century, Demetrius Palo of the Methodist Church of South Africa, and Tom Soeldner of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, point out that apartheid is far from dead in that troubled land, as claimed in 1978 by Piet Koornhorf, South Africa's Ambassador to the United States.

The authors point out the five pillars on which apartheid stands, more oppressive than ever. (1) the Population Registration Act of 1948 still classifies persons by racial group and grants or denies social benefits accordingly; (2) the Group Areas Act of 1950, which separates the four racial groups socially and residentially, provides yet harsher penalties for integration (though the government has recognized certain de facto integration; (3) the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, which allocate 13.6% of the land for the 70% of the population which is black are still in force; (4) the Homeland Citizenship Act of 1970 denies blacks South African citizenship and forces them into the so-called "homelands;" (5) while the Influx Laws of 1945 have been repealed, new laws have the effect of dictating where blacks may live and work. Up to 7 million black people face removal; 3.5 million have been forcibly removed in the past 20 years.

Yet more ominous is the establishment of a National Security State which promotes the survival of "white civilization" and enacts an "end justifies means" ethic allowing imprisonment without legal safeguards. Since the State of Emergency of 1986, over 30,000 have been detained, some for three years without charge or trial, 67 have died and no one has been prosecuted for these deaths. Newspapers can and are closed at the whim of the government. "The sad fact is that the South African government can stifle any news that it does not want published."

The goal of this "reform" says former Black Sash president Sheena Duncan, is the "denationalization of the black majority, the strengthening of the power of the minority through the dismemberment of the country and the permanent exclusion of black South Africans from national political power and participation in a common society." The authors conclude "(Apartheid) is a systematic evil and a heretical system of a state that claims to be Christian. Far from being on its last legs, it is alive and well. It demands an active 'standing for the truth' on the part of all Faithful Christians in South Africa and around the world."

ON GOLF AND APARTHEID: MCKINNY LETTER TO THE N.Y. TIMES

Lee and Rose Elder's article "Education Fights Apartheid" appears to be an oblique challenge to the efforts of the Rochester Anti-Apartheid Coalition to bar South African golfers from participating in the U.S. Open at the Oak Hill Country Club on June 15-18.

(continued on page 4)
The coalition's 40-plus member organizations take sharp issue with the Elders' patient and generous indulgence of a system that allows a white minority of 5 million people to deny basic human rights to 28 million people of color. When 85% of a country's population are denied the right to vote, the right to own property and the right to self-respect and human dignity, we need to act against such a system in every possible nonviolent way.

When thousands of children and adults who voice their opposition to this oppressive system of modern slavery are imprisoned without charge, often tortured, and sometimes killed while in custody, the counsel of patience and a round of golf starring Lee Elder and Gary Player hardly constitute an appropriate response. Nor will a few private schools for blacks make much difference so long as their graduates are denied the right to vote.

The Elders' view of recent cosmetic changes in apartheid as signs of its imminent demise reflects their profound lack of understanding of the actualities in that troubled land. They should heed the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has frequently stated on behalf of the oppressed majority, "We are not asking that our chains be made more comfortable, we want them removed."

The gradualist approach of the Elders to the abolition of apartheid is altogether too characteristic of the American golf community and its network of mostly white country clubs. The affluent and comfortable prefer not to be inconvenienced by the intrusion of justice issues into their daily routines, especially a favorite pastime like golf.

The Rochester Anti-Apartheid Coalition believes, to the contrary, that it is time for the U.S.G.A., the L.P.G.A., and the P.G.A. to speak up for justice now on behalf of all American golfers and their dedication to fairness and democracy. The message would signal that golfers who are complicit in, or accept benefits from, the apartheid system will be denied the privileges and courtesies traditionally accorded golfers in good standing.

-- Robert McKinney, member and past-Chair RCJSA

EDITORIAL (cont'd from p. 1) Sports writers say politics and sports don't mix. Others say the church should stay out of politics. But is politics for politicians only? Is justice a concern for "do-gooders" only? Are athletes immune from such issues?

It is all very well for Rochester to gear up for the U.S. Open, which has enjoyed many times the coverage South African injustice receives in our local media. Rochesterians worry about the weather and the crowds and protesters more than the fact of continuing oppression in South Africa, children dying of malnutrition by the thousands, while other thousands languish in prison. But let us not disturb our tender consciences with such remote problems. Let's enjoy our golf in upper middle-class splendor, while we ignore the continuing suffering of Sharpville and Soweto. All are equal, but golfers are more equal than others. We cannot be bothered. Fore!!!!