We dedicate this newsletter to Miles Davis who died on October 2, 1991. You will be missed.

CD-CAAR is sponsoring a public program** on November 1, 1991:

** Mozambique **
On the Front Line
in the Struggle
Against Apartheid

With Hipolito Patricio, Mozambique Ambassador to the U.S. (schedule permitting)
and
Proxy Nesbitt, Senior Consultant for the Mozambique Government

** This program will take the place of our regular monthly meeting for October. For details see flyer included in this newsletter. We urge your attendance at this very important and informative public forum.

Please note that because of scheduling difficulties and Thanksgiving we will not have our November meeting at the Albany Public Library.

We are planning instead an expanded meeting of the steering committee to include activists who are interested in planning the CD CAAR agenda for 1992. If you would like to be part of this meeting, call 436-0562 for further details.

(Our next regular monthly meeting will take place at the A.P.Library on the 4th Thursday in January at 7:00 p.m.)
Decade of activism

Coalition notes origin in opposition to apartheid rugby

By Jay Jochnowitz
Staff writer

ALBANY — Ten years ago Sunday, on the morning of a rugby match that drew thousands of apartheid protesters to Bleecker Stadium, police converged on what they suspected was a den of armed communists.

Authorities didn't come away from Vera Michelson's apartment empty-handed. They reported finding eight firecrackers, a device used to load guns, ammunition and a small amount of marijuana, which Michelson said was mostly seeds.

It was hardly enough to turn a demonstration into a riot. But it was enough to make arrests, and Michelson and several friends would miss one of the biggest Albany demonstrations of the decade. Minor charges against Michelson and another person were later dropped and Albany would pay $47,000 in 1988 to settle a civil suit.

Two New York City men were cleared of felony weapons charges involving the speed loading device and ammunition and a gun police said was found in a car on the State University at Albany campus.

On Sunday, relaxing in her Arbor Hill home, Michelson was talking about a party.

The Coalition has made out against apartheid rugby, and racism. The Coalition should be congratulated for their commitment in the 10th anniversary of the protest of the game between the Springboks of South Africa and the Schenectady-based Eastern Rugby Union, and with it the founding of what is now known as the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. No arrests are expected.

The Saturday night concert starts at 7 at the State University at Albany's Page Hall and includes "The Last Poets," a 1960s group whose chanting with a social message has been dubbed the forerunner of rap. The money will go toward computers and other office equipment.
Apartheid has been only half the group's work; early on, founders decided that they would also tackle the domestic issue of police brutality and misconduct, which they see as local, institutionalized racism. The coalition is somewhat more mixed. Police Chief John Dale said that except for a certain "tunnel vision" he considers part of being an advocacy organization, "I didn't see the group as a problem at all."

Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III, on the other hand, has denied the group's charges of "a pattern of abuse" of minorities by police, while McArdle said the idea of departmental racism under a black police chief is "nuts."

Particularly irritating to City Hall has been one of the group's most visible members, Mark Mishler. The local attorney brought several police abuse cases while he sat on the city's Police-Community Relations Board, a situation that drew criticism of conflict of interest. Mishler, who moved to Albany one month before the Springboks game, shrugged off the criticism.

"Regardless of the sincerity of my interest and concern," he said, "I didn't think up the problem of police abuse and racism."

The coalition, whose dues-paying members number 100, has drawn both kudos and brickbats along the way. Members were booed and taunted to "go home, get a job," during a 1987 protest that briefly interrupted a match involving a white South African tennis player during the OTB-Nabisco Grand Prix Tournament in Schenectady. Fans of singer Ray Charles chided members distributing fliers at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in 1989 in protest of the entertainer's refusal to disclaim a 1980 performance in South Africa.

"We're proud of a history of agitation," said Michelson.

The last decade, which the group is setting down in written chronology to mark the anniversary, is also dotted with protests of a host of other entities, from department stores selling South African products to a January rally planned by the Ku Klux Klan, which drew only a few Klansmen who tried to blend into a crowd of counterdemonstrators estimated at more than 1,000.

Much of the coalition's concern now, Michelson and Simpson said, is that the United States and other nations are moving too quickly to end sanctions and accept the South African government's initial steps. As they see it, their responsibility is pointing out where real progress isn't being made.

"In this country, people expect everything to happen overnight, and this is going to be over the long haul," said Michelson.
On Saturday evening, September 21, 1991 the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism celebrated ten years of grassroots activism in the Capital District. The program "Taking Apartheid Apart" was held at Page Hall in Albany and was attended by a crowd of over 400 people.

The program was highlighted by the appearance of:
The Last Poets - Abiodun Oyewole and Felipe Luciano,
The African Connection - Ade Knowles and Druis Knowles, and
Oaziz - Azaam Hameed, Ron Mayfield, and Ray Harper.

Our sincere thanks to these artists and all the performers who helped to make the evening a great success.

Funds raised from the program will go to benefit the continuing work of CD CAAR and to a newly formed branch of the ANC in South Africa. (See opposite page for details)

There are countless other people to be thanked for the success of the program: the CD CAAR steering committee which includes Merton Simpson, Vera Michelson, Anita Thayer, James Bouldin, Mike Riddick, Eileen Kawola, Deborah Maxell, Mabel Leon, Roli Varma, and Mark Mishler. In addition to the steering committee, the Ten Year Anniversary Committee consisted of: Vijay Macwan, Dick Melita, Marc Morris, Dorothy Tristman, Naomi Jaffe, Carolyn Williams, Mark Anduze, Gustavo Santos and Carl Swidorski. Special thanks to: CSEA, PEF, Connie LaPorte, Dan Auerbach and our wonderful mistress of ceremonies, Pat Trowers-Johnson.

Thanks also to all those who advertised in the journal or who supported it as a benefactor or a patron. Two names were inadvertently left off one advertisement Schenectady Friends of the Coalition should have included Min and Ed Shapiro. Our apologies.
10 YEARS

A Chronology of Major Events
1981 - 1991

Times Union file photos

BLACK MAJORITY RULE
IN SOUTH AFRICA

Sept. 22, 1981
In the fall of 1981, the South African Springbok rugby team came to Albany. Prior to their arrival, a coalition of many groups and individuals came together to protest their appearance in what was a violation of the international sports boycott called by the United Nations against apartheid in South Africa. The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism was born and, as this chronology shows, has continued since that time to be a vital force in the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa and racism in the United States.

A CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR COALITION EVENTS
1981 TO THE PRESENT

1981
- Major demonstration against the Springbok rugby team in Albany.
- Vera Michelson arrested along with visiting anti-apartheid activists John Spearman, Mike Young and Aaron Estes.
- Gil Scott Heron gives benefit concerts in Albany to raise funds for defense.
- December 21 - Charges dropped against Michelson and Estes.

1982
- County court jury acquits Spearman and Young.
- Protest at Watervliet Arsenal where weapons were manufactured for sale to South Africa in violation of United Nations & United States embargoes.
- Participation in anti-Klan demonstrations in Southern Vermont.
- Anti-Klan program held in Albany featuring Renee DuBois.
- First demonstration against Chick Corea at Troy Music Hall for breaking UN supported cultural boycott.
- One Year Later anniversary program at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.
- Organized buses to Washington, DC for anti-Klan demonstration.
- Lawsuit filed on behalf of Coalition, Michelson and Estes against Albany City Police and F.B.I. challenging the "rugby" raid and arrests.

1983
- Picketed Caldors protesting sale of South African baby bonnets.
- Showings of The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith fund-raiser.
- Numerous demonstrations including a major walkout at the Saratoga Kool Jazz Festival against Ray Charles for breaking UN boycott.
- Co-sponsored New Patz Conference on New York State Divestment.
- Sponsored buses to 20 Year Anniversary March in Washington, DC.
- Co-sponsored with Albany NAACP a conference Racism: A National Policy.
- Fundraiser at Otis'.
- Coalition lawyers defeat motion to set aside "rugby" lawsuit.

1984
- Jesse Davis murdered - Coalition joins protest and demands for an Albany Police Review Board.
- David Ndaba of the African National Congress speaks at Coalition sponsored forum at Wilborn Temple.
- Numerous cultural boycott events. Statement obtained by Coalition and Unity in Action from the Temptations vowing never to return to South Africa until apartheid is ended.
- Testimony presented to Banking Committee of New York State Assembly on need for divestment.
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Testimony given at the United Nations to the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly.

Ardis Lee of the American Friends Service Committee speaks at Coalition co-sponsored forum at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Participate in conference on nuclear arms Reducing the Risk sponsored by Capital District Peace Power Network.

Murphy Morobe, leading spokesperson of the United Democratic Front of South Africa, speaks in Albany at a clergy breakfast, labor reception and open forum at Wilbom Temple.

SUNY students force SUNY divestment.

Picket line against Ray Charles at the Albany Palace Theater protests his adamant refusal to respect the cultural boycott.

Successful "walkback" protest at the Chick Corea performance at Kool Jazz Festival in Saratoga.

Film on Malcolm X co-sponsored with Malcolm X Study Network.

Neo Mnumzana, Chief Representative of the ANC Observer Mission to the United Nations, and Hinyagerwa Asheekee of SWAPO speak at Coalition forum at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Free South Africa demonstration in Albany co-sponsored with Albany NAACP - 10 community leaders arrested.

January conference in Albany to establish a network of anti-apartheid forces to work in the N.Y. State Divestment Campaign.

Picket line at Alfred E. Smith building against Ned Regan, State Comptroller for opposition to divestment.

State-wide Lobby Day for Divestment and demonstration at Legislative Office Building in Albany.

Overnight shantytown set up on State Capitol grounds to demand New York State divestment.

Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism established at State University of New York at Albany.

Nelson & Winnie Mandela movie at Metropolitan Baptist Church co-sponsored with Unity In Action.

Sharpeville commemoration From Sharpeville, South Africa, to Albany, USA held at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

Community Police Relations Board established as a result of actions on Jesse Davis case. Coalition holds seat.

Coalition becomes participant in Niebuhr Institute at Siena College.

Bus trips to demonstration against racism in Philadelphia and anti-apartheid march in New York City.

Federal courts deny information to Coalition lawyers about identity or activities of secret police informant working for the FBI during organizing activities in 1981.

Victory is Certain program commemorates fifth anniversary of Coalition.

Pro-Apartheid speaker sponsored by John Birch Society is picketed.

Coalition plays leading role in organizing New York State Coalition for Divestment.

Community Forum on Racism & Violence: Albany-Howard Beach-South Africa held at the Arbor Hill Community Center.

Weekend speaking tour by two women anti-apartheid fighters sponsored by broad array of women's and activist groups.

Apartheid is No Game protest of the OTB Tennis Tournament co-sponsored with Schenectady Branch NAACP.

Ray Charles Sold Out To Apartheid picket line at the Palace Theatre.

Vera Michelson attends international conference at Arusha, Tanzania as part of 14 member US delegation.
1988

• Coalition joins the annual Martin Luther King March under the banner "Don't Let the Dream Become a Nightmare."
• Stop Racist Violence Coalition forum held at the Wilborn Temple.
• Coalition organizes Soweto Day at the Arbor Hill Community Center.
• Sechaba, the African National Congress singers, perform at the Black Arts Festival. Fundraiser/party afterwards celebrates and honors Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday.
• Leafletting and placard protests OTB Tennis Tournament in Schenectady.
• City of Albany settles Springbok rugby lawsuit.

1989

• Panel discussion Crisis in Southern Africa held at Macedonia Baptist Church.
• Coalition leads OTB - You Can't Hide picketing of OTB Teletexter protesting their continuing invitation to South African tennis players to join tournament defying UN boycott.
• Party with a Purpose at Holidayz held to raise funds for "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign. Funds used to purchase computers for SWAPO in Namibia's pre-independence elections.
• Channel 17 agrees to air South Africa Now.
• Coalition holds Stop Police Abuse forum.

1990

• Rev. Allan D. Boesak, founding member of the United Democratic Front of South Africa visits Albany.
• Public Employees Federation and Coalition host breakfast for community and labor leaders.
• Have You Met Batman? Rally against police abuse at City Hall.
• NELSON MANDELLA RELEASED! The world celebrates.
• National campaign Vote to End Apartheid launched. Coalition joins efforts to gather symbolic ballots for freedom in South Africa.
• Namibia gains independence!
• Coalition Co-Chairs Vera Michelson and Mert Simpson attend activist meeting in New York City and meet Nelson Mandela.
• Coalition sponsors bus to Mandela reception at Yankee Stadium Mandela Released - But Not Freed.
• Coalition and Assemblyman Roger Green host reception for the ANC with authors William Kennedy and Ossie Davis.
• The Center for Law and Justice opens under the leadership of Dr. Alice Green.
• Vera Michelson and Les Davis attend international conference of anti-apartheid activists in Stockholm, Sweden to progress the international sports boycott against South Africa.

1991

• Coalition participates in the Martin Luther King Day March under the banner "If Martin Luther King Were Alive today, He'd Be Organizing."
• Stop Police Abuse Coalition forum and evening picket of Mayor Whalen's house on a very cold and windy night.
• Albany Branch NAACP and Coalition join forces to sponsor Anti-Klan Demonstration — only a few Klansmen appear.
• Coalition participates in community criminal justice conference Education, Mobilization and Change.
"The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has provided a forum for the voices of many oppressed people in our country and all over the world. It gives me great pleasure and honor to be associated with such committed and concerned individuals who seek to empower people with the human dignity and respect that all people are entitled to and deserve. As Frederick Douglass so widely stated 'If there's no struggle, there's no progress.' The Coalition must continue the struggle as long as necessary. Best wishes for continued success."

Barbara Allen, President
Albany City School Board

The Struggle to Eliminate Apartheid in South Africa Continues

In March 1991, the African National Congress opened a new branch in Inanda Newtown, a township of Durban, located in the Southern Natal Region of South Africa. This fast growing ANC branch is in need of financial assistance for office supplies, equipment and general operating expenses. Your assistance will enable them to mobilize the people against a repressive regime that is trying to hold on to power as long as possible.

In commemoration of our ten year anniversary and our continued solidarity with the ANC we pledge to support the work of the Inanda Newtown ANC branch by raising funds for a computer and general office supplies. Please Help! Your contribution will allow the ANC to continue the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa.

If you were unable to attend the event but would like to contribute, mail your donation marked "For ANC-Inanda" to:
CD CAAR
P.O. Box 3002
Pine Hills Station
Albany, N.Y. 12203
Messages of Support and Solidarity
Received on the Occasion of our 10th Anniversary
(Every message we received was one of encouragement. We wish we had room to print them all but space constraints permit us to just reprint a few.)

Message of Solidarity on the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

On the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of CD CAAR, the Government and People of the Republic of Namibia wish to congratulate the Coalition on this important anniversary.

Together, we have traveled on that long and thorny road destined for freedom and independence. Today, we have achieved our cherished objective and a free and independent Namibia has become a reality. Indeed, CD CAAR's vigorous campaign for Namibia's independence has been indispensable.

As we commemorate this important day, we urge all those who stand for freedom to continue the struggle against apartheid in South Africa until its logical conclusion. We call on all the anti-apartheid forces to continue to support the Government and People of Namibia in their second phase of the struggle for economic well being. Until Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands are reintegrated into Namibian territorial integrity, the struggle for economic independence in Namibia will continue. We look to the day when apartheid will be an anachronism in Southern Africa.

Selma Ashipala
Counsellor/Chargé D'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

"If every town had an organization with the Capital District Coalition's commitment to the abolition of racism and injustice, we would all be much closer to the world we want to see — Happy Birthday!"

Connie Hogarth, Director
Westchester People's Action Coalition

Selma Ashipala
Counsellor/Chargé D'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

"Congratulations to the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism for a decade of relentless struggle in opposition to a neo-nazi racist regime in South Africa as well as a continuing Afro-ophbic and growing neo-fascist order in the U.S."

Elombe Brath
Patricia Lumumba Coalition

"I applaud and honor the work of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, especially its consistency over the past ten years. Nothing is needed more in South Africa than friends and solidarity activists who are long distant runners and not sprinters. I also feel very humbled by CD CAAR's ability to work both on the home front and abroad and at the same time maintain a clear perspective — same struggle—same fight."

Prexy Nesbitt
Senior Consultant for the Mozambique Government

"We salute the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism in its successful fight to isolate apartheid sport, impose sanctions and oppose racism. You have been a model for U.S. grassroots action and an inspiration to us all."

Jennifer Davis, Executive Director
American Committee on Africa
Dear Friends:

The ANC is very happy to join you in celebrating your tenth anniversary. CD CAAR has earned a special place in our hearts as an invaluable contingent in the international struggle for the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa.

During the decade of your existence, through your tireless efforts, you have insured that the plight and struggle of the people of South Africa reached many households in the United States. Your ceaseless campaigns against apartheid contributed immensely to the promulgation of the sanctions legislation and thereby helped in isolating the apartheid regime. As a result of the efforts of the international community, of which you are an integral part, and the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa, the apartheid regime has been forced to give into some of the demands of the democratic forces.

While the pillars of apartheid have gone, apartheid is firmly in place. The people of South Africa are determined to transform the country into a democratic society. Your continued support can only help speed up the process. We salute the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. We look forward to working with you in the future in the pursuit of our common objectives.

Victory is certain — AMANDLA

Tebogo Mafole
Chief Representative of the African National Congress
Observer Mission to the United Nations

"CD CAAR should be commended and congratulated for their ten years of dedicated commitment in the struggle to eliminate apartheid and racism. The Coalition’s ability to lead, heighten awareness and change attitudes is a legacy that will live forever in the Capital District."

Joe Allen, President
Schenectady Branch, NAACP

"The Coalition has done an outstanding job—one of the few organizations in upstate New York that has consistently taken a stand against police brutality at home and apartheid in South Africa."

Reginald Knox, Publisher
The Scene

"One of the most significant contributions of the Coalition has been its ability to unite people of diverse backgrounds in friendship and struggle—we are family. Congratulations on your ten years of activism."

Dr. Alice Green
Center For Law and Justice

"Congratulations on ten years of very successful and committed service to the Albany area. I can recall when CD CAAR was founded ten years ago. I have not regretted being a part of the founding of the Coalition and am pleased to continue to support the vibrant activities of the group. I would like to underscore your unerring energy and I congratulate both Vera Michelson and Merton Simpson, the leaders, for their devotion to the Coalition."

Dr. Frank Pogue, Vice Chancellor
Student Affairs and Special Programs
SUNY Central Administration

"CD CAAR has taken the lead in linking the struggle against racism in the United States and Apartheid in South Africa. Educators Against Racism and Apartheid salute your efforts. Congratulations on your ten years of struggle."

Paula Bower, Co-Chair
Educators Against Racism and Apartheid
Save the date!!!
November 1, 1991

CD CAAR Program: Mozambique - On the front line in the Struggle Against Apartheid

South Africa's defense of apartheid requires that her neighbor Mozambique remain weak and vulnerable. Since 1980, this has mainly been accomplished by South Africa's support and control of the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO). RENAMO's campaign of terror and destabilization includes:

* demolishing schools and clinics
* burning and disrupting food supplies
* conducting raids for food and valuables--including murdering civilians who refuse to cooperate
* "recruiting" children through abduction and terror--an estimated 200,000 children have already been abducted

Although RENAMO/South Africa's campaign of terror is aimed at destroying the people, institutions, and economic resources of Mozambique, Mozambicans continue to build and rebuild their country. To succeed in freeing themselves from South Africa's stranglehold, they need international assistance.