Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203
518 436-0562
A Project of the Social Justice Center

Meetings:
Second Wednesday of each month
7:30 p.m. Neighborhood Resource Center
340 First Street, Albany, N.Y.

Arbor Hill Family Day

On September 22nd, the Coalition joined with other community organizations to take part in the Arbor Hill neighborhood celebration of Family Day. This festival highlights the pride and family spirit of Albany's black community.

Thanks to Jim Wright who organized the Coalition information table. We talked to many people and got the message out about apartheid in South Africa.

Several hundred signatures were collected on petitions for the release of Nelson Mandela. These petitions will be presented to the United Nations on October 11th as part of an international campaign for the release of Southern African political prisoners.

Campaign to free South African prisoners

You can join in the campaign to gain the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. Write a letter to Minister of Law and Order, Hon. Louis LeGrange, Union Bldgs, Pretoria, South Africa and ask for information about Nelson Mandela and urge his release.

You should also write your Senator and Congresperson urging them to use pressure for the prisoners' release. Names of other prisoners and addresses where you can write will be available at the Oct. Coalition meeting. If you would like other details, call Eileen Kawola.

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, an African National Congress leader, has been held in prison by South African authorities since August 5, 1962. He had been an important leader in many struggles against apartheid for almost twenty years before his arrest. Today he is a symbol of resistance to apartheid. He has dedicated his life to the cause of freedom for his people.

NO ONE IS FREE UNTIL EVERYONE IS FREE

A personal note of acknowledgement and thanks to Michael Dillard for giving of your time and ability to help make this newsletter possible.
MOTION ON ARBOR HILL - SWEET VICTORY!

Victories don't come often but when they do they should be celebrated. On September 11, primary night, a slate of insurgent Democratic committee candidates won 18 seats on Albany County's Democratic Committee. The candidates had been working tirelessly in the neighborhoods for months to get out the word that a change in machine politics was due.

A week after the election, former machine leader Homer Perkins was defeated by Sandra Rose Temple for the ward leader position. Our hearty congratulations and solidarity goes out to Sandra Rose Temple and her slate.

And a thank you to newly elected committee persons Gerry Smalls and Betty Sue Bynum for their spirited presentation at our last Coalition meeting.

The Slate

Ava Rhem, Donna Robinson
Shirley Temple, Ralph Redmon,
Willhelmina Bolden, Larry
Turner, Betty Bynum, Nebraska
Brace, Kent E. Goldwire,
Craig Van Devere, Thomas Keefe,
Sandra Rose Temple, Abbie Brace,
Issac Bracey, Vivian Fullard,
Gerelene Smalls, Paula Brace

all the victors

Remember - next Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism meeting is Wed., Oct 10, 7:30 p.m.

BOTHNA ON THE MOVE... U.S. NEXT STOP?

In South Africa, former Prime Minister P.W. Botha is now Executive President Botha. A new constitution created this new position which gives Mr. Botha authoritarian powers. It also created a three house Parliament - one house for whites, one for colored (mixed race), and one for Indians. The white assembly dominates in this racially segregated Parliament. The black majority of South Africa are totally excluded from representation in this latest plan by the racist, apartheid regime to hold control.

Botha has been traveling outside of South Africa seeking political audiences to give legitimacy to his illegitimate government. He has been received by the leaders of Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. In an article in The Black American, Norman (Otis) Richmond writes that Botha's greatest coup came when he met with Pope John Paul II and was given a silver medal by the pope. South Africa's foremost Anglican leader, Bishop Desmond Tutu, had urged the Pope to refuse to meet with Botha because such a meeting would lend credibility to apartheid. After the meeting with Botha, the Vatican issued a statement making it clear that the Pope's meeting did not imply approval of apartheid.

Despite such disclaimers, every time a prominent world leader meets with a representative of South Africa it indicates acceptance, if not approval, of the world's most racist government. The world community, through the United Nations, has called for the total isolation of South Africa as a means of weakening support for the apartheid state.

South Africa's government uses many means to convince the world that the situation in South Africa is not repressive. These trips by Botha are one of those means. The above mentioned trips all took place during 1984. For 1985, Botha has planned a trip to the United States. Rumors are that such a trip will be an official visit if President Ronald Reagan is re-elected.

A SOUTH AFRICAN PLEASURE TRIP!?

At the last monthly meeting of the Coalition, discussion was held on an article which appeared in a recent copy of the Motorist, a publication of the Triple A. This article painted a rosy picture of a trip to South Africa and made no mention of the apartheid system which pervades all of South African life. As a result of our discussion, the membership of the Coalition decided to pressure the AAA to print a reply to their article. We will keep you updated on our communication with AAA.
Civil Rights Lawsuit Continues...

$9M suit allowed in rugby arrests

A federal judge this Friday to dismiss a $9 million civil rights suit against federal, state, Albany County, and Albany city law enforcement officials who arrested two people protesting the local appearance of a South African rugby team in 1981.

Vera Michaelson of Albany and Aeroy Exia, now of California, and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, allege the pair was arrested on fraudulent warrants, denied bail and illegally detained, according Larry Walter, their attorney.

The FBI argued in U.S. District Court that federal agents were not responsible for the false arrest and the case against them should be dismissed. Walter said:

"We are happy about the decision because I think it indicates the strength of the case," said Michaelson. "We'll keep moving forward."

FBI spokesman Joseph Skrzat said the agency would not comment on the case.

In September 1981, the South African Springboks rugby team played in Bleecker Stadium despite protests against South Africa's policy of racial separation.

Michaelson had been charged with marijuana and fireworks possession; but those charges later were dismissed. She spent three days in jail before being denied bail, Walter said.

Kathleen was acquitted in Albany County Court of weapons possession charges stemming from an arrest before the game. He spent four days in jail after being denied bail, Walter said.

In July of this year, Jesse Davis, an Arbor Hill black man was shot to death by Albany police.

Albanity Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III has proposed the creation of a Citizens Advisory Council which would address city wide concerns. This is the mayor's answer to demands by several community groups for the creation of an independent civilian police review board. The mayor's proposed council would function to advise and would have no real power. Community leaders who are working to see that a tragedy like Jesse Davis murder doesn't occur again have rejected the mayor's plan and remain united in their original demand for an independent review board.

The Albany N.A.A.C.P., the Albany Coalition Against Police Abuse, the Black Pastors of Albany, the Capital Area Council of Churches and the downtown Albany FOCUS Churches have all made known their rejection of the citizens advisory council on the grounds that it does not deal with the continuing issue of police abuse in the community.
Reducing the Risk: Questions and Answers for the Nuclear Age

The week of October 15-21 has been designated National Week of Education on the Arms Race. A conference has been planned for Saturday, October 13, 1984 at Albany High School. The conference is free and open to the public but pre-registration is necessary. Entrance to non-registrants will be limited.

Major speakers include Governor Mario Cuomo, Albany Mayor Thomas Whalen, Albany County Legislator Sandra Rose Temple and Jerome Grossman, National President, Council for a Livable World. There are seventeen workshops planned which are centered around the conference theme - REDUCING THE RISK: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR THE NUCLEAR AGE.


Workshop 7. Minorities and the Peace Movement will be conducted by Rev. Earnest Drake, Vera Michelson and E. J. Josey. They will deal with the general problem in reform movements of the inability to deal successfully with the matter of racism. This workshop will address that problem and the relation of the program for change offered by Black and other third world peoples in our country for meeting their needs.

Workshop 13. South Africa: A Global or Local War will be led by Booji Jordan, Mary Anna Muntz, Gordon Molyneux. This panel of three ASAPFA members will discuss the possibilities of war and peace in South Africa through the process of poetry reading, statistics and discussion. Time will be allowed for questions and comments from the audience.

For more information call (518) 463-2356

Food: Lunch and dinner will be available or you may bring a bag lunch.
Registration 8:00-9:00 a.m.
After the afternoon workshops dinner will be available from 5:00-7:00 p.m. From 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. will be a play Alice in Blunderland. (Admission for the play is $1.00, $2.00 for families)

Registration Form

Name _____________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
Phone _____________________________________________________________

I will buy cafeteria-style lunch
I will buy dinner:
       Chicken $6
       Cafeteria Style
       Special Dietary Needs

Workshop Choices
Session A  1st choice  2nd choice  3rd choice
Session B  1st choice  2nd choice  3rd choice

I need childcare
I will attend the play
I enclose a contribution of $_

Mail form and make checks payable to: Capital District Peace Power Network, 196 Morton Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12202
SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER
OF ALBANY INC.
221 CENTRAL AVE.
ALBANY, N.Y. 12206